Board of Health Record of the Proceedings – Skagit County, Washington

Date: **June 16, 2026**

The Skagit County Board of Health met in regular session on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, with Chair Peter Browning, Commissioner Ron Wesen, and Commissioner Joe Burns present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Browning called the proceedings to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. AGENDA:

a) Approve Record of Proceedings:

A motion was made by Commissioner Burns to approve the Record of the Proceedings for Tuesday, February 10, 2026. Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve the Record of the Proceedings for Tuesday, March 26, 2026. Commissioner Burns seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

1. Record of the Proceedings February 10, 2025.

2. Record of the Proceedings March 26, 2025.

b) Public Health Director Remarks

Public Health Director Monica Negrila reviewed the agenda and provided additional information.

c) Proclamation - Men's Health Month

Program Coordinator with United General District 304 Seth Kasanovich provided information about Men's Health Month and noted that United General District 304 had developed a new program called Skagit Dads Connect. The program aimed to provide a fatherhood initiative with dedicated parenting support groups and a support network tailored specifically for dads. The program also builds community around father-focused needs.

Commissioner Wesen read the Proclamation recognizing June as Men's Health Month and June 15 - 21, 2026, as Men's Health Week.

d) Retirement Recognitions:

1. Ellen Schweigert- Sedro-Woolley Senior Center Coordinator

Senior Services Manager Renee Nelson provided information regarding the tenure of Sedro-Woolley Senior Center Coordinator Ellen Schweigert.

The Board of Health presented Ms. Schweigert with a certificate of commendation and a challenge coin.

Ms. Schweigert expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to build her career at Skagit County.

2. Dorothy Epps- Environmental Health Tech

Environmental Health Manager Dale Patrick provided information regarding the tenure of Environmental Health Technician Dorothy Epps.

The Commissioners presented Ms. Epps with a certificate of commendation and a challenge coin.

Ms. Epps expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to build her career at Skagit County.

3. Cherri Mollerstuen - Accounting Technician

Ms. Negrila noted that Ms. Mollerstuen was unable to attend today's event, and her certificate and challenge coin will be presented at a separate retirement celebration.

Accounting Division Manager Jill Scott provided information regarding the tenure of Accounting Technician Cherri Mollerstuen.

e) New Staff Introductions:

Ms. Negrila introduced the following new staff members:

1. Dale Patrick - Environmental Health Manager
2. Stephanie Wear - Environmental Health Specialist
3. Gabe Adams - Environmental Health Specialist
4. Kathleen Larsen - Accounting Technician
5. Astha Patel - Julota Data Specialist
6. Cori Bryant - Veterans Specialist

The Commissioners welcomed the new staff members and extended their best wishes for success in their roles.

f) Strategic Plan

Assistant Public Health Director Sarah Hinman provided a PowerPoint presentation which outlined Public Health's 2026 Strategic Plan.

Purpose: Support the health needs of the whole community.
Mission: Lead partnerships to prevent disease, promote wellness, and protect community health.
Vision: A thriving, collaborative, cohesive community where everyone has the opportunity to reach full health potential.

Ms. Hinman noted that Skagit County Public Health's 2026 strategic planning built on the 2023–2027 framework emphasizing the following:

- Strong partnerships and communication.
- Expanded behavioral and homelessness services via the North Star Project.
- Preparedness for health emergencies.
- Data-driven decision-making.
- Advancing equity across all operations.

Ms. Hinman also outlined the following goals and priorities and introduced the champions of each one.

1. Employee Experience.
2. Public Service.
3. Internal Business Processes.
4. Financial Stewardship.
5. Community Health.

Discussion focused on aligning the 2026 Public Health Strategic Plan with the 2022-2032 Skagit County Strategic Plan, establishing a system to track and measure progress, and supporting the champions for each goal and priority.

Link to PowerPoint presentation:
https://www.skagitcounty.net/CountyCommissioners/Documents/AgendaPackets/06152026.zip

g) Health Officer Update

Public Health Officer Dr. Howard Leibrand provided information about kratom, noting that it was considered an herbal supplement or herbal medicine. He explained that in low doses it was used as a stimulant to increase energy and alertness, while in higher doses it acted as a sedative or produced opioid-like effects for pain relief and relaxation. He also addressed concerns that kratom was unregulated in Washington State and may be addictive. Dr. Leibrand highlighted both the traditional uses of kratom and the potential public health risks associated with its unregulated status.

Discussion followed regarding how products containing kratom were labeled and how they were marketed.

h) Public Comment

None provided.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Browning adjourned the proceedings at 11:18 a.m.

*Note, to obtain an audio or video recording of this meeting; please contact the Skagit County Commissioners' office.

BOARD OF HEALTH
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Peter Browning, Chair

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Ron Wesen, Commissioner

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Joe Burns, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Clerk of the Board
Skagit County Board of Health