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## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

January 22, 2026, 5:00pm

### **In attendance:**

Members of the Board:

#### Public Sector:

**Melissa Beaton – present**

**Ron Wesen – present**

**Danny Hagen – present**

**Ash Gregorius – present**

**Elli Haddick - present**

#### Private Sector:

**Kate Bennett – present**

**Silvia Reed – present**

**Gregg Davidson – present**

**Morgan Curry – present**

**Carl Young – present**

#### Client Sector:

**Kati Ortiz – present**

Heather Wallace – not present

**Loly Gomez – present**

**Tina Tate – present**

Vacant

Staff: Bill Henkel, Sandi Phinney, Ayumi Orthmeyer, Melissa Self

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Danny Hagen called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

### **QUORUM PRESENT**

### **II. CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes from the December 18 2025 Board of Directors Meetings

Correspondence:

Elli Haddick Board Application & Resume (3 & 3a) Email: Skagit Community Foundation Invitation to Serve as a Trusted Referral Partner – Skagit Disaster Relief Hotel Lodging Program Email: Skagit Valley Food Coop- Growing Good Fund Award Letter Email: Northwest Regional Council 2026 Skagit Senior Nutrition RFP Information Session Division Reports: Melissa Self, Jazmin Flores and Sandi Phinney, Elizabeth Jennings, Taylor Babcock, and Michele Metcalf

**Motion to approve the consent agenda (items 1 and 2) made by Morgan, seconded by Tina. Passed unanimously.**

### **III. DISCUSSION AGENDA**

#### **6. Finance; Hagen, Orthmeyer**

Melissa starting her report from January Finance (through November) with a big smile. Ayumi presented the good news about very positive month. It does not include FCS billing, which was about \$28,000. YTD net gain is now \$484,681. Next month she may have to move some deferred revenue from 2025 to 2026, which would reduce the amount in the December report. Great news and exciting things upcoming, too. Bill reminded everyone that a year and a half ago, we had to take cash out a portion of our investments to protect cash flow, and now we're intending to replace those investments strategically over the next months, assuming all remains positive as now.

**Motion to approve the January Finance Report (thru November) made by Tina, seconded by Carl. Passed unanimously.**

#### **7. State of the Agency; Henkel**

Bill welcomed and thanked Melissa Beaton in her new role as Finance Chair and Danny is starting as Board Chair, and happy that we are in a much better state than two years ago. This includes community support. In addition to a historic level of fundraising this year, we've recently gotten a lot of generosity around food and flood donations. We are also celebrating a \$100k grant from the Skagit Valley Food Coop to support local farms with their infrastructure needs, which would be considered loans to be repaid through the donation of produce. On our Kulshan View initiative, we are excited to announce we recently received our last capital funding needed for the first phase (the first 24 apartment units) of the project – a total of \$10.2 M. Lots to celebrate this month. Want to plan an event for that groundbreaking. In terms of flood response, our team has really gone above and beyond to respond to the need. They've gone into the emergency shelters, actively participated in DACs, and provided flexible voucher support to flood victims, as well as been instrumental in connecting impacted people with community resources and support, including victims with limited English. We'll also be supporting people with some ongoing case management, and we're likely to partner with Skagit Community Founding in supporting households in the county identified as being substantially affected by the floods.

On the federal level, we understand that many of the funding streams are still looking fairly strong, such as for CSBG, LIHEAP, WIC, and Section 8 vouchers. Our federal lobbyist David Bradley thinks there will be a deal before Jan. 30, except perhaps around homeland security. As the short legislative session begins in Olympia, flexible funding, housing, food security, energy assistance and transportation high on legislative priorities.

US Bank invited us to present at a statewide meeting of their leadership team, which also included a presentation to a larger group of employees. They have a special interest in supporting our financial empowerment work. We also met with Angela Ramirez, the new head of DSHS.

Ron gave kudos to Bill for putting together a good team. We've got years of experience and good performance, and people are noticing.

#### **8. Senior Nutrition & Meals on Wheels contract**

Bill shared that a few board members have already been part of a few discussions regarding the MOW/Senior Nutrition RFP. We wanted to draw up a memo to explain why we're researching this. We recognize it is mission oriented, but there are also major challenges. Rob, our Mobility and Senior services manager, has been collecting

as much information as possible. Sandi has pulled together some initial budget scenarios. We understand that the County, which signaled it would not continue as the contractor for this program starting July 1, is in a financial predicament and needed to significantly trim its support from its current \$1m/year, down to \$250k the first year and zero thereafter. The timing of the rapidly approaching deadline is challenging, especially for such a complex program. There are so many components to it. 300 volunteers, drivers, cooks, multiple cities, etc. Nevertheless, we've devoted significant staff, as well as Board time, on analysis. All organizations looking at it are intimidated by the financial reality. We met with Renee, who's on the county team, and was very helpful. Whoever does it will need a different business model, as well as new funding commitments, to make it doable and sustainable.

We also recently met with Elena Poppel, the Board Chair of SCOA. They are the only other local provider expressing interest. SCOA is passionate about it, but they are all volunteers. We wanted to have an open conversation with them. They had similar overwhelm about timeline. We said that if they have the capacity to do it, we would be happy to support in some way. If they took it on, they would have to build all the structure of an organization. They are approaching a similar organization in Whatcom County to see if there is the possibility to be supported until they can put the many pieces in place, including all the staffing.

Sandi went over the assumptions in the scenario budgets. Ash brought up alternative models for food delivery that are paid by Medicaid or insurance providers, which might at least help with food support.

Bill also discussed the latest in our housing development, including our analysis of the feasibility of purchasing Cascade Landing. We now have onboard contractors to analyze the feasibility, capital needs, and a potential capital funding plan. More to come on that. We need to have a plan for what we would do with the building, how to raise funds, and then negotiate a purchase price. Bill also mentioned our partner conversations with the Home Trust of Skagit, to analyze the feasibility of a potential housing development project in eastern Skagit County. We have a draft MOU with them to define partner roles, and where Home Trust would take the lead in a purchase and sale agreement on the property, based on feasibility.

**Motion to approve MOU with Home Trust of Skagit made by Tina, seconded by Kate. Passed unanimously.**

**Executive Session; Hagen, Reed**

Entered executive session to review the Executive Director's contract and compensation proposal from Board Executive Committee at 6:20 pm.  
Exited executive session at 6:31 pm.

**Motion to approve the Executive Director contract and compensation made by Silvia, seconded by Loly. Passed unanimously.**

**IV. ADJOURN:** Meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm.

<b>BOARD REVIEW &amp; APPROVAL:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved as submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved with changes noted below
x _____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Board Secretary <input type="checkbox"/> Acting Board Secretary		Date Signed