



330 Pacific Place
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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

February 26, 2026, 5:00pm

In attendance:

Members of the Board:

Public Sector:

Melissa Beaton – present

Ron Wesen – not 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 – not present

Tina Tate – present

Vacant

Staff: Bill Henkel, 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 January 22, 2026 Board of Directors Meetings

Correspondence:

Sedro-Woolley Mayor resigns, effective April 3; Sedro-Woolley City Council rescinds North Star interlocal agreement; Letter: Kudos to Trisha from Tri Parish Food Bank; Board Memo: Senior Nutrition/ MOW contract from NWRC

Division Reports: Melissa Self, Jazmin Flores and Sandi Phinney, Elizabeth Jennings, Taylor Babcock, and Michele Metcalf

Motion to approve the consent agenda (January Board minutes) made by Gregg, seconded by Melissa. Passed unanimously.

III. DISCUSSION AGENDA

6. Finance; Hagen, Orthmeyer

Melissa and Ayumi reviewed the February Finance report through December 2025. Ayumi said there was overall good news for December, which was positive \$49,995 for the month, and positive \$484,665 for the year, after depreciation and unrealized gains/losses. This positive position was after subtracting \$220,000 in deferred revenue (funds we received in 2025 but won't spend until 2026). Note that these are still unaudited numbers, as there are often end of year adjustments after the auditor reviews all of our Financials. Cash flow also remains relatively strong (30.21 days' cash on hand, 2820 days' cash in investments). Because we were in a stronger financial position, we were able to move \$150,000 back from our operating account into our investments with Baird, and even after that move, our current operating balance is over \$1 million. We hope to move another \$150k in the next month or two, if trends remain positive, which would allow us to backfill the \$300,000 we had moved into cash back in 2024 when our cash flow was tight. Ayumi also expressed some optimism that the timing of this year's Audit would be moved up from last year, and our Auditor confirmed he plans to begin in May.

Motion to approve the February Finance Report (thru December) made by Gregg, seconded by Tina. Passed unanimously.

7. State of the Agency; Henkel

Bill reviewed the Board dashboard (item 7 in the Board packet). Under new enterprises and revenue, he highlighted our request for Medina Foundation "transformational" funding, which, if successful in this highly competitive grant, would yield \$1-\$5 million in funding meant to make a lasting impact on the community and agency. We are looking at the feasibility of purchasing Cascade Place, which would free up significant monthly revenue (approximately \$34,000/month in master lease and commercial lease costs) to help us expand our capacity in housing development, fund a Housing Opportunities Fund, expand our employment services, and potentially expand our own footprint of co-located services, or invite in partner service providers. It may also allow us to expand housing onsite on the first floor, and potentially configure a portion of the second floor as family oriented units. Though this grant is highly competitive, it comes at a good time, as we are already conducting feasibility on this purchase, and creating different scenarios for the footprint, housing and services, and a capital fundraising plan. Bill also gave a heads up that there will likely be a public release on the potential project in Hamilton, where we have MOU to partner with Home Trust of Skagit, the lead on the project, in the feasibility stage. Bill had shared the draft press release with Gregg, Danny and Tina. Flood Recovery work is also continuing, as we deepen our relationship with Skagit Community Foundation to support flood recovery victims. About 180 "severely impacted" families have identified that we will support with deeper financial assistance (about \$4k on average), and some of the families we are supporting in motel stays will get ongoing case management support. We also had a positive conversation with Skagit Regional Health, about the potential for a Food Rx pilot program that would serve a small portion of their approx 500 patients with Degenerative Heart Disease. We purchased an E-van with PSE support to create essentially a mobile Community Action (especially energy assistance, the focus of the grant) to under-served and remote populations. Bill also praised Sandi, Ayumi and the finance team for providing Finance 101 for Leadership Team to help them grow in their ability to understand and manage their budgets. Board will receive a similar "Finance 101" opportunity at Board Planning & Engagement's March meeting

8. CREAT and State level advocacy; Davidson, Henkel

Gregg and Bill provided an overview of our meetings with our state legislators in the 10th, 39th, and 40th, which thus far include Senator Wagoner, and Reps Eslick, Ramel, Shavers, Lekanoff, Paul and Low. (We also are trying to arrange a meeting with Sen Lovelett.) As the legislature is near the end of the biennial "short" session, meetings are short and sweet, though it is positive to touch base on priorities and keep our relationship as strong as possible. Our legislative agenda for Skagit is attached in the Board packet (item 4c), and includes thanking them for their support on the Kulshan housing project, pitches for Statewide Food Security and Statewide Energy & Utility

Assistance, and a quick overview of our role in flood response and recovery. We also let them know that Senior Nutrition and Meals on Wheels may be facing challenges in Skagit, with the transition away from County management and the reduction in funding support.

Senior Nutrition & Meals on Wheels contract

As this was the subject of our February 18 special Board meeting, Danny and Bill provided a much briefer overview and reminder of the status of the Senior Meals and Meals on Wheels service, and RFP from NWRC to manage the program in Skagit. Following the consensus of the Board Exec and participants in the Feb 18 meeting, we will not be pursuing the RFP due March 4. Bill thanked the Board members who shared their perspectives, wisdom and expertise, and Sandi, Rob and Melissa, who put countless hours into research and scenarios to see if there was a feasible path for successfully managing the program, given its size, complexity, funding gap, and quick timeline. Those factors, as well as perceived uncertainty of senior centers future, led to the decision – which is a sensible decision, even if it creates a heavy heart, and deep concern for impacted and often isolated and vulnerable seniors. Though we will not pursue this RFP at this time, we will make every effort to sustain and expand the reach of our current services to seniors, as we anticipate that many would be impacted if there is a pause in this vital service. We have sent out an email and an explanatory memo to Northwest Regional Council, Commissioner Browning and Jennifer Johnson (who we had recently met with), the Skagit Council on Aging, and Skagit Community Foundation, to let them know we would not be applying. In all of our communication, we want to stress that we want to actively participate in any future multi-partner conversations about how to support seniors, and how to sustain this service

9. Board Planning and Engagement and Donor Development; Young, Bennett

Carl outlined Board Committee opportunities and membership: He recently sent an email to the board to make sure we were listing members in their chosen committee, and to recruit Board members to new committees. He reminded the Board that the expectation is each Board member joins at least one committee. Carl listed the Chairs for each committee and strongly encouraged board members to join, and to reach out if they have questions. He also said we still have one opening in our Board Client sector, and we are expecting a nomination from the Head Start Policy Council, hopefully by next meeting. Board of Directors: 1 opening in Client Sector.

Kate then provided an overview to Spirit of Hope, which will be at the Swinomish Casino, March 19th and opens at 5pm. It will include networking time, games to learn about Community Action, delicious dinner and fun program. We'll have two inspirational videos, the first highlighting partnerships with Skagit Food Distribution Center, Skagit Valley Food Co-op and local farms. The second highlights two participants in our Education and Employment programs. Kate asked the Board to let her know if anyone wanted to help sell "hearts" at the start of the event (Ash volunteered!), and also encouraged everyone to get their tickets now, and to help invite guests with a heart for our mission.

IV. ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 6:26pm

BOARD REVIEW & APPROVAL:	<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