



Learjet N542SA takes off Oct. 19 on the ceremonial commissioning flight for newly rebuilt Runway 11-29 at Skagit Regional Airport.

## Port Improves Runway at Skagit Regional Airport

The most expensive capital project in the Port of Skagit's 48-year history wrapped up this fall at Skagit Regional Airport. The airport's main runway reopened to traffic on October 10 after three months of reconstruction.

The Crown Conversion and Longitudinal Gradient Adjustment project was the second of two construction phases on Runway 11-29 to bring the surface to Federal Aviation Administration standards for business jet operations. The 2012 construction work raised the east end of the runway about five feet and converted the surface of the runway to a crown section. The runway was not lengthened; it remains 5,477 feet long and 100 feet wide.

The project makes Skagit Regional Airport more compatible with larger business jets that already are operating on Runway 11-29. Operations of these aircraft exceeded 300 in 2010 and are increasing. The Airport Master Plan trend analysis indicates that operations of larger business jets will reach 500 per year in the next three to eight years.

The Port of Skagit received grants totaling \$14.4 million from the Federal Aviation Administration for design, engineering, environmental review and construction of both phases of the Runway 11-29 project, and the Washington State Department of Transportation contributed an additional \$311,333. The port's matching funds totaled \$461,672, or 3.2 percent of the project cost. Federal and state grants are funded by user fees on aviation fuel and airline operations.

The engineer's estimates for this year's project include the following volumes of material:

- 38,000 tons of asphalt (enough to pave 9 miles of freeway)
- 124,820 cubic yards of excavation
- 6,435 cubic yards of imported structural fill
- 15,700 lineal feet of pipe (various types and sizes)
- 108,878 lineal feet of cable and wire for the electrical system
- 276 new lights (runway and taxiway)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Strategic Planning
- Channel dredging
- Signage Face-lift
- Marina Buildings
- WSU Extension
- Hexcel Expanding
- News Briefs

### MEETING CALENDAR:

- **NOVEMBER**  
13 Regular Meeting  
20 Special Meeting
- **DECEMBER**  
11 Regular Meeting
- **JANUARY**  
8 Regular Meeting

Meetings start at 3 p.m. in the Port of Skagit Hearing Room  
15400 Airport Drive,  
Burlington, WA

# Strategic Planning Sets Path to the Future for the Port of Skagit



As I sit here in my office, I can look out the window and see dozens of large, yellow machines rebuilding our main runway at Skagit Regional Airport to better accommodate business aircraft. New wayfinding signage is going up at the La Conner Marina, Bayview Business Park and the airport to help our customers get where they are going.

On my desk are contracts for building leases, construction work, personal services and a dozen other items. My calendar is overflowing with meetings, both here at the port and out in the community.

In short, things are hopping here at the Port of Skagit – not just for me, but for the entire port staff. It's all part of the effort to accomplish our mission of providing good jobs for the Skagit Valley.

This doesn't happen by accident. Careful planning yesterday made us busy today. And the strategic plan approved by the Port Commission this summer will help to ensure that we will keep moving forward well into the future.

Our strategic plan for the Port of Skagit addresses four important goals:

- Communicating with the public
- Spurring economic opportunity growth
- Creating premier destinations
- Ensuring long-term financial stability

A wise person once said that failure to plan is a plan for failure. We're not making that mistake at the Port of Skagit. We know where we need to go, and we know how we expect to get there.

The strategic plan is our road map. It involves more than simply building out our properties and maintaining them properly, though that's certainly an important component. We also will continue to work with all communities in the port district toward a future when prosperity enhances the quality of life throughout the Skagit Valley. Good jobs are a critical element to realize that prosperity.

*Patsy Martin, Executive Director*

## Swinomish Channel Dredging Starts

A public ceremony in La Conner on September 18 marked the kickoff of the long-awaited project to dredge the Swinomish Channel.

The channel, first cleared more than a century ago, is overdue for maintenance dredging. Due to heavy sedimentation, the channel must be dredged at least every three years to maintain navigable depths for commercial and recreational vessels. It is authorized to a depth of -12 feet MLLW. The last partial dredging took place in 2008.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has awarded a contract for the work to American Construction Co. Inc., of Tacoma, on a low bid of \$1,884,000. The contract calls for the contractor to perform maintenance clamshell dredging of approximately 200,000 cubic yards of sediment from the channel. Most of the dredged material will be disposed of at the Rosario PSDDA open-water disposal site. The job is scheduled to be completed by mid-February, in plenty of time for the 2013 boating season.

## Port News Briefs

- Coffee With a Commissioner – An interested group of citizens met with District 1 Port Commissioner Kevin Ware in the Skagit Valley Co-op in Aug. 16 to discuss topics related to port business, including site selection for the new county jail and the future of Skagit Regional Airport.
- Port employee milestone anniversaries – Dorothy Walker, office/accounting assistant, 10 years; Debbie Hamilton, marketing coordinator/public records officer, 10 years; and Sara Young, manager of projects, planning, and environmental services, five years.

# Wayfinding Signage Gets a Face-lift

There's a new look at the Port of Skagit's properties in La Conner and Bay View.

Berry Sign Systems recently completed a project to reface all of the wayfinding signs at the La Conner Marina, Skagit Regional Airport and Bayview Business Park. Schell Design was responsible for the design of the signs and oversight of the installations.

The project not only gave the port the opportunity to refresh the condition of its aging signage, which had begun deteriorate in the weather, but it also provided a chance to update the graphics with the port's new logo, which was adopted in 2009. Berry provided a seven-year warranty on the vinyl facings.

One interesting aspect of the project was the repositioning of nine monument signs in the business park to locations on the port's trail system. The signs were ineffective for wayfinding because they were too small and too close to the ground to be read from moving vehicles, but they will work well for displaying maps of the trails for walkers, said Steve Schell, project designer.

The port added three new signs along Higgins Airport Way to help direct drivers as they approach the airport and business park from north and south, and a new sign at the corner of North Third and State streets in La Conner marks the arrival at the La Conner Marina. Illuminated signs were installed on the port's administration building/airport terminal as well.

## Port Buys Two Buildings at La Conner Marina

The Port of Skagit acquired two buildings at the La Conner Marina in June from Westport Shipyard Inc. The purchase price was \$2.75 million.

The port has leased the buildings, which total 59,000 square feet, to two current marina tenants that are expanding. The facilities will enable Mavrik Marine and Maritime Fabrication to create and retain 103 jobs. The funding for the purchase includes a \$150,000 grant and \$1.35-million low-interest loan from the state Community Economic Revitalization Board.

"This was a great opportunity for the Port of Skagit," said Bill Shuler, port commission president. "We really appreciate the help that CERB is giving us to buy these buildings so we can put people back to work in them."

Westport had used the buildings to manufacture the Pacific Mariner line of pleasure boats from the early 1990s through mid-2010, when production ceased.



## Know Your Port

- The Port of Skagit is the steward of approximately 1,915 acres of land within the port district. These lands comprise light industrial property, heavy industrial property, agricultural land, high-value wetlands and open space.
- With a permanent staff of 24 employees, the port manages and maintains Skagit Regional Airport, the Bayview Business Park and the La Conner Marina.
- Local voters approved the creation of the Port of Skagit in 1964, realizing the need for an independent governmental entity that would serve the economic needs of Skagit County by helping to create jobs.
- The state estimates the value of the economic activity generated by Skagit Regional Airport at \$86 million per year.
- Overnight boat visits on the guest docks at the La Conner Marina boost local tourist spending by about \$1 million annually.
- Fiber optics – There are now 23 subscribers receiving data communications on the port's Bay View fiber optics system. A similar system is being developed for the La Conner Marina.
- Facebook – The port has established pages on [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) for the La Conner Marina and Skagit Regional Airport to give interested parties up-to-date news about these facilities. Please consider "liking" these pages.

# WSU Extension Celebrates 90 years of Service to Skagit County Residents

A big crowd turned out on August 30 to help celebrate the Washington State University Skagit County Extension office's 90th anniversary of serving the local community. The office is located in the Port of Skagit's Bayview Business Park at 11768 Westar Lane Suite A.

The event gave members of the public a chance to meet the WSU staff and learn about the many programs offered by the extension office.

Displays of local programs included 4-H, Beach Watchers, Master Gardeners, Livestock Advisors, Commercial Crops, Horticultural Pest Control, Youth Food Sense Nutrition, Ideas for Living and Forest Stewardship Education. The event also featured a petting zoo and Chicken Drop Bingo; free hot dogs and hamburgers; and a display of historic photographs.

WSU Skagit County Extension's community development, leadership, and agriculture programs leverage the research base of the university to create new economic opportunities in communities throughout the county.



## Hexcel Expanding at Bayview Business Park, Adding 100 New Jobs

Local dignitaries hefted their gold shovels on June 28 to break ground for the expansion of the Hexcel Corp. manufacturing facility at the Port's Bayview Business Park.

The new 63,537-square-foot, two-story building will give Hexcel space to add about 100 jobs after the construction is completed in January 2012, said Jim Collins, plant manager. The project team includes Chad Fisher Construction LLC, contractor; Carletti Architects,

Ravnik & Associates Inc., civil engineer; and Lisser & Associates PLLC, surveyor.

Hexcel designs, manufactures and sells a broad range of finished composite components used in commercial aerospace, space and defense and industrial applications. Its existing Burlington plant comprises two buildings totaling approximately 90,000 square feet and employs about 130 people.

### CONTACT US:

15400 Airport Drive  
Burlington, WA 98233  
Administration (360) 757-0011  
La Conner Marina (360) 466-3118  
[www.portofskagit.com](http://www.portofskagit.com)

### INFORMATION:

Is there information you would like to see in At Work For You, or do you have questions related to a story that was featured? Please contact Carl Molesworth, Community Outreach Manager, (360) 757-0011

### PORT LEADERSHIP

Kevin Ware, Commissioner District 1  
Steven Omdal, Commissioner District 2  
Bill Shuler, Commissioner District 3

Patsy Martin, Executive Director



# Port of Skagit

*Inspiring Success  
Delivering Excellence*