



PORT OF SKAGIT COUNTY

At Work for You

www.portofskagit.com

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Our Mission

"Jobs for our Community"

Commissioners:

Kevin E. Ware District 1

Jerry Kaufman District 2

Glenn Allen, Jr. District 3

Port of Skagit County

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Executive Director

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The Port Commissioner's Job

Truly capable public leaders think and plan today for the public's needs of tomorrow. This essential activity is not at all easy, and for an elected official entails considerable risk.

Think of the Interstate system in this country. It was planned and built during the Eisenhower era over 50 years ago. At that time it was considered by many to be a huge and unnecessary public expense. The elected officials who favored it faced no end of criticism. But, today it would be almost impossible to build at any cost, and it has become a key part of our transportation system and economy.

Similarly the National Park system. Over 100 years ago, some very dedicated and forward thinking elected officials set aside huge areas of wilderness as parks, when most of the country itself was still a wilderness. At the time, it seemed to many of the public that this was a complete and wasteful folly. Yet, today we think of the National Park system as our heritage, set aside by very wise and forward thinking forefathers.

On a much smaller scale the current port commission needs to be thinking about what can be done now, so that the Port of Skagit can continue to be able to make significant contributions to the local economy for the next generation.

A specific example includes the property surrounding the La Conner Marina. In addition to working as a recreational boat storage facility, it has developed into a maritime construction and maintenance area that is already producing several hundred jobs and has real future potential to create more. The port commission needs to be planning for expansion of this public facility. This involves purchasing additional land as it becomes available, and constructing buildings now that will produce recreational and economic benefit for the public over the next several decades.



Kevin E. Ware
Commissioner, District 1

The Skagit Regional Airport has become a key asset in the region's economic development. Future thinking on how this key facility can best serve the public involves planning and building structures today that can be used for aircraft service, maintenance, and storage over the next 20 years. The purchase of surrounding land when it becomes available (something this commission is already doing) seems expensive today, but will be considered a wise and cheap purchase by the next generation.

The buildings in the Bayview Business and Industrial Park surrounding the airport are essentially full today. In a way this is a very good thing and speaks well of the staff's capability in running things on a day-to-day basis. But, a truly forward thinking commission must consider planning and constructing new buildings, so that the staff always has space available for bright new businesses that were unable to find a location in the private sector but nevertheless have great economic potential for our community's future.

The easiest and safest thing for an elected official to do is nothing. Nothing is rarely controversial, and in the short term, very cheap. But, doing nothing also involves immeasurable loss of future public opportunity, and deprives the next generation of benefits that they may never be able to regain. Like other great ports the Port of Skagit needs to consider planning and investing for the future as one of its highest priorities.

Greetings from Patsy Martin



*Patsy Martin,
Executive Director*

As you know I have recently been appointed to the position of executive director for the Port of Skagit County by commissioners Allen, Kaufman and Ware. You may find it helpful to know a few things about me, my background, and the direction I see the port heading. First, I am a Skagit County native. I grew up in Mount Vernon and graduated with Mount Vernon High School's Class of 1979. I then attended Western Washington University (WWU) and studied geology. I received my Masters degree in 1993 from WWU in Political Science and Environmental Studies. I have two children, Nick (18) and Gabe (16). Nick recently graduated from Burlington Edison (BE) High School and will attend Whitworth College in Spokane this fall. Gabe will be a junior at BE High School next year. My husband owns and operates a small heating, air conditioning and refrigeration business here in the valley. We live near Alger. I love living in Skagit County.

I began working in the port industry for the Port of Anacortes in 1987 as their property manager and eventually became their environmental manager. I left the Port of Anacortes in 1994 and started work for the Port of Skagit County in 1995. For the previous 12 years I have worked in a variety of capacities for the port. I began as the port's environmental manager and worked also in managing the port's properties and performed operational duties for the airport and La Conner Marina.

When Jerry Heller moved to the Port of Everett in April of this year, commissioners Allen, Kaufman and Ware, port staff and I began working on planning the port's next steps. We developed goals in the following areas:

- Strategic planning ~ Develop a guide for future port growth.
- Communications ~ Increase communication with port tenants, customers and port district constituents.
- Environment ~ Manage all port properties in an environmentally responsible manner and expand public access opportunities.
- Operations ~ Implement Skagit Regional Airport Master Plan Update (2005-2025) and complete the La Conner Marina Master Plan Update.
- Finance ~ Plan for the port's long-term financial stability.
- Leasing ~ Update the port's leasing policy and plan for future leasing opportunities.

The goals are designed to support the port's mission statement of "Jobs for our Community." It is the port's purpose to support businesses in Skagit County to grow and prosper thereby creating stable, healthy and viable jobs.

Over the coming year port staff will be focusing on accomplishing the goals developed during the planning process. We will continue to evaluate and adjust according to their progress. We will also be forming citizen advisory committees at the marina and airport to help us along this path.

I look forward to meeting with each of you and listening to your thoughts, concerns and suggestions. Together we can make the Port of Skagit County successful in fulfilling our mission and helping Skagit County continue to be a place we love to live.



September 15, 2007

The "La Conner Classic Yacht & Car Show"

at the south basin of the
La Conner Marina
celebrating La Conner's
maritime and automotive
history!

A fun filled weekend for the
entire family!

More Information:
www.laconnerchamber.com



**Skagit Valley Farm Tour
2006**

The Port of Skagit County is a proud
sponsor of Skagit Valley's

9th Annual Farm Tour

October 6 & 7, 2007

Further Information:
www.festivaloffamilyfarms.com

