



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
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**Minutes
July 12, 2017**

Present: Chuck, Gordy, Ken, Al, Dave, Steve, Tim, Tom and Paul

Absent: Fred, Lisa, Aubrey

Guest: Randy Good and Kathy Mitchell

Introductions: Randy Good past AAB and Farmland Legacy member. Kathy Mitchell, Planning Commissioner.

Minutes: Tom moved, and Ken seconded to approve the March and May minutes (no April/June meeting).

Updates: Commissioner Janicki wanted the FAB to know that a proposed code change on Industrial lands was being proposed. The change would be to make the building of non-motorized trails a permitted use rather than requiring a Special Use Permit. The DNR is building a trail outside Darrington that would go into Skagit County. County. FAB members had a quick discussion resulting in several questions and concerns. Would like to have this as a discussion item next meeting. Staff has not yet put out a staff report. Kendra will email to FAB when available.

Discussion Items:

RFI: Dave C gave testimony before the PC last month. He noted that there is very little overlap in what the FAB proposed and what Planning is proposing, making it very confusing. The RFI proposed by the FAB was very simple keeping the Planning Department out of Forest Practices and allowing simply for following the forest practice rules. Planning did not distribute the information Dave had provided to the PC, so Tim did it. It appears to the FAB that the Planning Department does not have the same intent on what this proposal was to be. Planning has added other code revisions to the RFI to include grading and clearing land disturbance (this is not part of the forest practice rules), stewardship plans (not part of the forest practice rules), and an action for the County to take over forest practice applications within the UGAs and under 20 acres outside UGAs (not in the RFI). Some FAB members suggested going directly to the BoCC, others suggested sending memo to Planning. Tim noted that the PC got the staff report the day before the meeting (43 pages) not much time to understand it. Ryan told Kathy Mitchell the PC version would make actions enforceable. Discussion around the RCWs that already allow for entities (Planning) to take actions (enforcement and mitigation) for not declared conversions. This was part of the change in the legislation Kendra worked on in concert with getting rid of the "lands platted after 1960..." being considered a conversion. FAB members are hoping that Planning is just confused and that this is not deliberate intentions to desensitize forestry. Just keep educating is important using examples as to what RFI IS and what is IS NOT. Paul noted that the County can always be involved if they want to invoke an ID team for a particular harvest. Planning is already fully involved with conversions, including SEPA. FAB will continue to discuss how to explain the simplicity of what they proposed vs what Planning has proposed.

Adjourn: 9:09