



#### **SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD**

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### Minutes March 6, 2006

Present: Dave, Al, Ken, Lisa, Aubrey, Gordy, Fred, Tim, and Dick. Absent: Chuck and Paul  
Staff: Kendra  
Guest: Carol Ehlers, Carol Macelroy, Sheriff Rick Grimsted, Andrea Xavier, Chuck K, Gary Christensen, Oscar Graham

- I. Meeting opened at 7:05 a.m.
- II. Minutes approved for both January and February meetings
- III. Introductions
- IV. Discussion:
  - a. Planning Commission workshop on Comp Plan changes to the Forestry Element. Dave briefed the FAB on Carol Ehlers constructive criticism. It is very hard for the lay person to understand what a professional tries to express...need handouts and graphics. Also on Bill Schmidt's presentation and the fact that a Planning Commission member was also a panel member giving his viewpoint.
  - b. Shared Strategies Salmon Recovery Plan public meeting: Kendra testified on behalf of the FAB's comments in front of NOAA. The public comment period will be extended to March 17, 2006. The FAB should write a letter and individual members were encouraged to do the same. Gordy and Dick will work on the FAB letter with Kendra.
  - c. Planning Dept. (PSD) discussion: Oscar stated that the first Critical Area (CAO) meeting will be March 29<sup>th</sup>, but don't know who is on the committee...Paul submitted his name. Planning Commission will hear proposed map changes to the Comp Plan, including Planning Dept, FAB and individual requests. 106 requests made...does this mean that things are really in pretty good shape

within the County? Gary not sure. Gary C. thought that his staff had run proposed changes by Kendra...this has not happened. Gary will check with his staff. Gordy questioned where the proposed FAB recommendations stood, i.e. CIP, bonus density, and conversions of lands due to conservancy buy-outs and taxation parcels not fulfilling requirements for reduced tax rates. Gary C. said they are on Track B, which means that they will go forward with the recommendation that they receive more study and review. The County does not want to be subject to any more lawsuits. Gordy asked how it could have been presented so that the PSD would have put it on Track A. Gary said that a record needed to be developed. The FAB replied that there was one for the density and that could also be used to support the CIP. Other counties, such as San Juan is already implementing compliance monitoring for conversions and misused taxation standings. Gary commented that the BoCC did not want a potential lawsuit...wants to continue to analyze the situation.

- d. Carol Ehlers gave feedback to the FAB on presentations and what she thought she understood from the workshop. She noted that some people visualize different things, i.e. arborist vs. silvaculturist and some are better at graphics and other at handouts to read. Bottom line is the need to talk to the level of the audience. Make several bold points and support. Suggested another work session and the FAB suggested a tour, which was met with great enthusiasm.
- e. Sheriff Grimstad attended at the FAB's request. He reported on the state of the jail/man power/funding. He understood and sympathized with the concerns of the forest practice industry regarding vandalism. Need to let all but the violent crimes off since the jails are so full and the courtrooms packed.
- f. Kendra gave an update on FF Policy, CMER projects and upcoming meeting...4/7/06 (someone should attend since Kendra will be gone) and the Compliance Monitoring workshop that the DNR held. Need to keep this under the radar screen, but it appears that the DNR is still trying to determine what they are doing. DNR would like to fast pace if possible, but all attending interests felt that would not be practical.
- g. Carol Macilroy from the Shared Strategy for Salmon recovery attended by mutual agreement. Wants to help advance forestry issues and work at finding some projects that they can help fund that would support the industry. Not sure what but want to start the dialog and get a smaller working group together to pursue it further. Education would be good as well as some scientific studies to support what the industry has done to date. Build on work that has been done. Look for incentive programs. Offer a tour. Perhaps do a joint project with the Nooksack, Stilly and Skagit watersheds. Al C

commented that a lot of time was put into the FF and TFW process and now it is time to stabilize the industry. Dick wanted to know if this process has been started anywhere else. Carol...NO. But Lummi's seem to be interested.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10. Discussions continued.