



SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

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Kendra Smith, Staff

MINUTES July 10, 2006

Present: Ken, Paul, Chuck, Larry, Tim, Gordy, Lisa, Al, Dave, Dick and Fred.
Absent: Aubrey. Staff: Kendra

Guy McNally representing Planning present.

- I. Call to order at 7:00 a.m.
- II. Discussion on "Talking Points" Gordy, Tim and Dick committee.
 - a. 5 major points were identified- 1.the values of forest lands decreases with each new buffer set aside; 2. operating costs increase with new rules therefore evaluation of markets needs to be taken into consideration; 3. fires are a major threat and need to be properly addressed and forests managed accordingly; 4. public safety needs to be considered when leaving trees for aesthetic reasons; and 5. Blanchard Mountain must continue to be managed to provide optimum revenues to the trusts while continuing to provide recreational opportunities.
 - b. Al wants FAB to acknowledge and include the Firewise Program in #3.; Gordy commented on the fact that gov't is not as good as they use to be in fighting the fires. Also add stewardship programs to #4. The increase of non-industrial landowners buying up productive lands and then not managing them is growing concern. Need incentives to keep in management.
 - c. Larry suggested that the Talking Points hit some positive points as well, i.e. how many culverts fixed, how many dollars spent on roads, new types of equipment and logging practices...
 - d. Ken pointed out that the industry is GMA compliant and all of the things that the industry has done to achieve that state goal. Forest practices are under the natural resource protections in the GMA

and it is mandated to manage for long-term commercial significance. This would include viability. The discussion of providing open space followed.

- e. QUESTION: who is the audience???? Commissioners. FAB should express viewpoints to the Planning Commission, Commissioners, GMA boards and resource committees and other boards.
- III. FERC relic. Paul – Is it too late to comment on PSE buying forest land for mitigation purposes and preservation. Large amounts of land being taken out of management. Kendra looking into comment time period.
- IV. Shared Strategies. Have heard nothing back.
- V. CAO update- Paul- Suggested Skagit follow what Whatcom Co. passed, but not sure what the final recommendations will be. Don't want to just fall over for the DOE standards. Needs to be room for local conditions.
- VI. Forest Practices- Kendra report on PIPs. Many members of the FAB plan on attending the Forest Practice Board's **AUGUST 9th** meeting. The hope is to delay any decisions until the definition of perennial flow is corrected and to protect what is needed to protect. To establish a default that is based on protecting perennial flow, fairly and acknowledging that different geology's require different standards of protections. Economics must play a role as well as accurate science where the correct questions have been asked. Dave suggested a letter to the Commissioners to ask for their support and in a letter to the FP Board. Time is tight!
- VII. Blanchard Mountain- Ken reported on the committee meetings. Jury is still out as to how the process is going. Another all day meeting occurring today (July 10th). Ken left for meeting.
- VIII. Board of Nat'l Resource- Kendra reported that the BNR will be signing the Policies for Sustainable Forests tomorrow...July 11th. This will support what the BNR passed late 2004, the Sustainable Forest Management, increasing yields from 480MMBF to 586MMBF. The BNR did good work getting this accomplished.
- IX. Comp Plan update- Guy reported on the time schedule. Kendra and Guy passed out comments that were received on the proposed comp plan amendments. Guy noted that many of the comments were the same regarding some of the forestry issues and it looked like they had a script from which they wrote. Encouraged the FAB to be present for the PC deliberations. Forestry will probably start its round of discussions on Aug 22, 2006.
- X. Meeting adjourned at 9:10.