



SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

Dave Chamberlain, Chairman
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Al Crane
Gordon Iverson
Paul Kriegel
Fred Loffer
Ken Osborn
Chuck Parker
Tim Raschko
Aubrey Stargell
Dick Whitmore
Larry Mitchem
Kendra Smith, Staff

Minutes August 7, 2006

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

Guests:

Guy McNally from PDS

Mary Heinrich, Ag Prospects

I. Minutes: Paul moved and Fred seconded to approve the July 10th minutes. Approved.

Paul moved and Fred seconded to approve the May 1st minutes. Approved.

II. Discussion:

1. Forest Practice Board meeting Aug. 9th. PIPs and the adoption of the Board Manual will be discussed and action will be taken to move it forward. FAB discussed the implications of the current proposed Board Manual with the current proposed rule change. Major concerns were expressed centering on the term 'intermittent dry portions' as they relate to perennial flow and the elimination of the default basin to be replaced by a numeric that is based on 'intermittent dry portions'. The FAB agreed by consensus that the proposals both for the Board Manual and rule change as it is proposed would have significant negative impacts on the industry and accurate science needs to be imposed and until such time the Board Manual should not be moved forward. Several FAB members will go to Olympia and testify. (Dave, Dick and Paul).
2. No news on Hydro-electric (PSE) and their proposal to buy up timber land to set aside as a means of mitigation.
3. Water quality standards: Al presented information on new water quality study and reversals to the surface water quality. Whatcom

Co. has been successful in starting to protect low gradient streams with 35' buffers (10' shrubs and 25' grass strips). NRCS national standard is 35 feet buffers. Hedgerows are used for 2-5 feet. Streams are narrow enough that shrubs such as willows are able to create a canopy over the top when planted on both sides and offer shade and leafy material. Also found that there was a reduction in canary grass. The grass filters sediment and minerals. Paul asked if the science has been published and if not how soon. Bob Barker is doing the work. Perhaps the legislators need a tour and the Skagit Co. or Whatcom Co. Conservation District needs to take this information to CMER (Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research) or before the FFR Policy and ask them to take a look at the study. George Boggs from Whatcom Co. Conservation Dist. would be the one to ask for more information.

4. Mary Heinrich, from Ag Prospects and the County's consultant to determine if TDRs (transfer development rights) are appropriate in Skagit County, presented information on the subject to the FAB . She questioned the FAB whether or not there would be any interest on their part in having such a program. She gave a briefing on what, where and how a TDR program would work. The FAB responded by saying they were interested in something, but it didn't sound like a TDR would be the right thing for the current situation (population, economy, land distribution) for the timber industry. However, they don't want to exclude any possibilities for the future. It is the 'rules' that are taking most of the land base today with the encroachment of people something that will be coming. FAB discussed the 50% buffer concept with Mary as a possible tool.
5. CAO update. Paul gave an update. Planning working on the revisions and he has not seen them yet. One issue still unresolved were conditions added for hazardous tree removals. Paul commented that it was unfortunate that the group was unable to try to think out of the box and be supported in doing so. Seemed to have just capitulated to what the State wanted.
6. Comp Plan update. Guy reminded the FAB that the Planning Commission will be deliberating on the forest issues on Aug 22 at 6:00. It may carry over to Thursday night the 24.
7. Blanchard Mt. Update. Ken and Kendra gave an overview of the meeting on the 3rd of August. Ken summarized the tour as providing the medium to physically address all of the issues that were brought before the appointed committee. After each issue was addressed there appeared to be no further questions and the whole crutch of the matter was one of 'feelings' i.e. it just felt good to stand in a place and have it be there.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01