



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST  
ADVISORY BOARD**

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Kendra Smith, Staff

Minutes  
December 4, 2006

Present: Lisa, Tim, Paul, Larry, Al, Dave, Gordy, Fred, Aubrey, Ken, Chuck, Dick  
– a full house! Staff: Kendra

- I. Paul moved and Aubrey seconded to approve the November minutes. Approved.
- II. Kendra found a needed correction as to who was present for the September meeting and asked for a motion to correct. Paul moved and Aubrey seconded. Approved.
- III. Agenda Items:
  - a. Skagit County budget public hearing today at 10:00. FAB discussed the importance of the Natural Resource Policy position and wanted to convey that to the Board of County Commissioners.
  - b. Discussion on the forest practice moratorium. Confusion as to how the Planning Dept is handling moratoriums when a forest practice permit has been issued. Dave presented RCW's showing support for a past policy decision made by Planning. It indicates that when the County has a legitimate interest, which would be in the case of development, that a moratorium should be used. But not for forest practice related activities. Al commented that this has been a problem for small landowners and needs to be fixed. Dave shared that it costs \$800 just to get the permit. Ken suggested that since there were often two parcel numbers that may trigger the problem. Paul doesn't feel that County standards should be imposed on forest practice permits...they are already regulated. The issue of lands already platted was discussed. It is hoped that this language in the law can be changed now that the GMA is in effect. Gordy stated that there was a policy in place (he and Dave held up that policy for FAB to see) and the problem is that some time in the last year or two that was changed and NOT brought before the FAB for

discussion. The FAB is where policy should be considered. Did Planning do this on their own? It was decided that a meeting needed to be set with Oscar from Planning to discuss. Al suggested that may it should be based on parcel size, like in some other areas.

- c. Guy gave an update on the Comprehensive plan update and next PC meetings. He said that the last PC meeting was a feat of proposals. Two that may have been moved to go forward are:
  - i. To remove the “no greater than 200’ off a county road requirement” within IF designations to build a house; and
  - ii. Notification of setbacks next to resource lands.

It was believed that Bill Schmidt proposed both. Need to see the PC final recorded motion so that the FAB can review. The FAB may need to go directly to the BoCC, but concern that neither of these proposals were ever brought up for public comments. Dave then questioned whether or not Tract B proposals brought by the FAB could then also receive a second look. Answer...yes if BoCC decides to hold its own public hearing. PC is in the middle of policy deliberations. Forestry map issues won't be discussed until late Jan or Feb.

- d. Update on Forest Practice. Meet with Vickie Christenson and Lenny Young right after the FF policy meeting on Thursday to discuss how Forest Fish/Policy/subcommittee etc are all to work. Process! Equal representation important! Make representatives accountable!
- e. Blanchard update. Last meeting is supposed to be Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. Debates on the size of the set aside ‘core’ and the principles to be incorporated as part of the plan.

IV. Adjourn 8:55. Next meeting January 8<sup>th</sup>.