



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

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

### Minutes March 8, 2007

Present: Paul, Lisa, Gordy, Fred, Aubrey, Chuck, Dave, Al, Tom, Ken, Dick.  
Staff: Kendra.  
Absent: Larry.  
Guy McNally from PDS present.

- I. Minutes from the February 5, 2007 meeting. Paul moved, Ken seconded to approve. Approved.
- II. Discussion on the FAB's Talking Points. Gordy pointed out that the work from the Future of Forestry Conf held last November was very similar to what his subcommittee was presenting. There were four studies from that report 1. Timber Supply and Forest Structure 2. Competitiveness 3. Economic Contribution and 4. Land Conversion threat. Two things that the FAB should further address is the long term viability of the industry and the forest health. The report only addresses the health on the eastern side of the mountains. Al agreed that we should still keep the health as part of the talking points. He read what was shared with Mark Rey when he visited here last fall. It is important to not forget about the CWPP for Firewise and to also acknowledge the threat to public safety due to dead trees. Tom suggested that the FAB add language "to also utilize the wood" instead of letting it rot. The FAB questioned whether or not they should go before the BoCC again and present these concerns and ask for their direction. Paul asked for a motion to send the message to the BOCC that lumber needs to be sent to the mill rather than to have it rot or be burned.
- III. Blanchard. Discussion on all of the letters in the paper and how was the whole process to play out with compensation to the trusts.

Not much new, except a group is asking the Senate and the House for substantial appropriations in their budgets.

- IV. Timber Open Space Tax. Gray Rowe has indicated that this is not a priority at this time and leave it to the Accessory's Office. Paul commented that we don't have Extension Foresters to help small landowners and Al said there is a Bill going forward to help that. Dick noted how important those properties are now that more and more large areas are being locked up by the Feds or regulations.
- a. Ken Summarized what he felt the talking points should include:
    - i. Conversions as more land out of production i.e. parks like Blanchard
    - ii. Managed forests employs many in the County whereby a park is for white, well educated, above average income...more elitist.
    - iii. Supply diminishing but demand still there so buyers go elsewhere, Keep it local.
    - iv. It is GREEN to use wood verse steel
    - v. HCP is in place and it is a dynamic document
    - vi. Volume of biomass in trees is as high as it has ever been in the US and Washington should follow the rest of the County.
    - vii. GMA supports resource based industries...they are green and good for the economy. Conflicting land uses should be eliminated.
    - viii. Global warming – carbon sink.
- Paul pointed out that this is a SOCIAL issue...How to point out the hypocrisy???? Dick mentioned alternative building products. In Nicaragua there are no forest left so all buildings are out of steel. Tom noted Future Forests – need to be managed – Federal lands in order to have health, forest products industry and forest health should be together and to look at the tax comparisons.
- V. Lake Whatcom. No new news
- VI. Conversions. Aubrey gave a briefing of HB1408. He felt it was a good bill because it only affects those who are doing something wrong and doesn't penalize the good guys. Gordy moved and Aubrey seconded to ask the BoCC to support this Bill. Approved. HB1409 is about having the counties take over conversions. The county will run the whole permitting process. May cost the applicant less money with only one jurisdiction involved.
- VII. Type N waters. Dave talked to Gary Graves who will be coming to Mount Vernon on March 28 to discuss the NW region proposal. No other news about other proposals on the table, but what ever is adopted needs to meet the Forest Practice Boards requirements and most of the proposals on the table today DO NOT do that.

- VIII. Comp Plan. Guy gave an update. Master Plan Resorts, Mineral in the Rural Resource area is now in and Open Space up for discussions. Critical Areas public Comments are due by May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- IX. Meeting Adjourned at 8:57. Next meeting April 2<sup>nd</sup>.