



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
ADVISORY BOARD**

Dave Chamberlain, Chairman
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Gordon Iverson Tom Nelson
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Larry Mitchem Dick Whitmore
Fred Loffer

Kendra Smith, Staff

**Minutes
April 2, 2007**

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

- I. March minutes. . Fred moved and Gordy seconded to approve. Approved unanimously.
- II. Discussion Items
 - a. Larry announced his resignation to the FAB effective after this meeting. This is due to relocation of work to southern Washington. Larry has been an asset to the Board and has represented the large land owners. He was a Commissioner Munks appointment.
 - b. Talking Points Paper: Gordy presented the draft and shared why it was important to keep it to 3-4 categories with everything falling into one of the three. FAB members were pleased with the work and discussed some minor modifications for clarity purposes. Kendra will clean up and send back to Gordy/Lisa for final approval. This is to be used and submitted by FAB members to the Commissioners, during public talks, legislatures and may be distributed to the public as a first means of a public education effort.
 - c. CAO: Paul reported that none of the FAB's comments were taken into consideration on the CAO proposal. FAB wants to know why....Guy from PDS was unable to attend today's meeting so the question will be forwarded to Oscar. There will be specific comments forthcoming with Paul taking the lead. Comments are due by May 11th. Gordy moved and Dick seconded to get a list of the specific comments together. Passed unanimously.
 - d. Salmon Heritage Plan: FAB feels it is important to send a letter to the BoCC asking for clarification as to who is to be taxed. They assume that it did not include forest land owners otherwise that would be a 'double dipping' of taxes. Timber lands are currently being managed under the Forest Practice Rules and large buffers are imposed they are no touch buffers. These lands are taken out of production at the cost of the land owners with no compensation, to then tax those lands would be an unfair tax. FAB suggested a mechanism to fairly compensate for the removal of lands for buffers without having to raise taxes or come up with tax payer's money...the CIP. Perhaps they should present this to the BoCC. The Washington's Forest Future Report dated November 9, 2007, <http://www.nwenvironmentalforum.org/documents/4thprogressreport.pdf> On page 6 demonstrates the increase in changes of lands taken out of production. The BoCC needs to consider what the affect to the County residents will be if these lands are removed from the tax equation.
 - e. Blanchard Mountain – nothing new to report
 - f. Lake Whatcom - nothing new to report

- g. Legislature bills 1409 appears to have made it through still waiting to see what happens to 1408.
 - h. Comp Plan - nothing new to report
 - i. Gary Graves visit; Mr. Graves stated that it is a level playing field and all proposals are being considered, with some outstanding questions that still need to be resolved. All proposals will be put on a matrix and shipped around for review. It appeared that he did listen and was respectful to the NW concerns. Emphasis from NW that it has to work in this region. It will be strongly endorsed that there should be more than one option available given the differences in geology, and topography around the regions and circumstances within those areas.
- III. Adjourned at 9:06
- IV. Mr. Bob Dick joined the group at the end of the meeting and had some informal discussions and updates. He announced that Dr. Carolyn Dobbs will be a new board member on the Forest Practice Board. Sutherland wants the 30% fee increase for DNR management and said May will have a 100m in sales and will strive for a more even flow of the sales. Won't happen overnight, but the DNR will catch up.

Next meeting May 7th

IMPORTANT:

1. Be prepared to have CAO comments ready to send to PDS.
2. Forest Fish Policy Meeting May 3rd.. TYPE N will be the big item...I will NOT be able to attend !!!!!!!