

CORRECTED MINUTES

Forestry Advisory Board

Skagit County, Washington

September 8, 2008

Meeting #51

Members in Attendance

Lisa Cassidy
Dave Chamberlain
Al Craney
Gordy Iverson
Paul Kriegel
Fred Loffer
Ken Osborn
Chuck Parker
Tim Raschko
Aubrey Stargell
Dick Whitmore

Members Not in Attendance

Tom Nelson

Guests:

Samantha Chang, **US Forest Service**
John Cooper
Thijs Jacobsen, Washington Alder
Kevin Zobrist, **WSU Cooperative Extension**

Staff:

Kendra Smith
Zoe Parsons

Meeting Place: 2021 East College Way, Mount Vernon

Meeting Time: 7:00 am

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 am. The August meeting minutes were approved with one correction: Fred Loffer was not in attendance and should be deleted from the list of those attending. It was also requested to add Samantha Chang to FAB email notices.

The September agenda was also approved.

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Business:

I. Forest Practices

There was discussion on the article “Beetle takes bite out of forest” published in the Capital Press, Northwest’s AG Weekly. This article was about the mountain pine beetle which has destroyed more than 300,000 acres of lodgepole pine in Southern Oregon. Samantha Chang commented that the Forest Service is experimenting with pellets which emit a smell telling the beetles to go away. This MC8 is designed to spread out the impact of the beetle. While testing only began the week of September 1, so far no new infestations have been detected. There have also been no complaints by campers.

Al Craney announced a Workshop being held September 9 on forest health issues. It is sponsored by **SFEG** and Skagit Conservation District at **Concrete High School**.

Kendra Smith announced an October 29-31 workshop sponsored by the NW Environmental forum on the future of forestry, at Semiahmoo Resort.

II. RFI Path Forward

Dave, Paul, and Kendra attended a meeting on August 25 with the Planning Department, who appeared to not be supportive of the proposal. Gary Christensen, Planning Director, wants a public process requiring an Environmental Impact Statement rather than submitting an ordinance amendment to the Planning Commission. They want to do a limited scope EIS to get feedback from the tribes. Dave tried to explain that the forest practice rules have already gone through extensive review prior to adoption. Dave met with Commissioner Don Munks. The consensus of that meeting is that EIS doesn’t have any standing. Since Tom Robinson will present to the County Commissioners on September 23, FAB members were encouraged to attend. Dave asked the group to be thinking how they want FAB to proceed.

According to Paul, Planning doesn’t like what forestry has presented. Ken suggested talking to other County Commissioners for their opinions. Additionally, the opportunity will be available to ask the Commissioners to amend the ‘Critical Area Ordinance’ and hold their own public hearing. It was noted that King County has been successful by using the definition of a non-conversion Class IV permit. FAB may want to look more closely at their codes.

The group wants the Commissioners to open the ‘Critical Area Ordinance’ to public discussion.

Gordy agreed with Dave’s suggestion that FAB go to the Commissioners to state they don’t agree with the direction the Department of Planning is headed. He also asked if FAB can discuss this issue with a County Attorney. Fred suggested talking to a different attorney since the attorney assigned to work with Kendra is also Planning’s attorney. Jack Swanson’s (attorney) name was mentioned as someone to discuss this issue with. Ken suggested firming up what can/can not be developed under the Forest Practices Act.

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MOTION: Dick moved that FAB talk to the County Commissioners and also talk to a lawyer(s) on the legality of Planning's recommendations. The motion was seconded by Fred and unanimously approved.

IV. UGA Open Space (Gordy, Paul)

Kendra circulated an AG letter regarding the UGA Open Space issue. (Gordy and Paul will talk to Randy Good regarding trails.) Kendra will re-send the AG Letter to Gordy and Paul to review on whether to adapt it as is or modify it for forestry.

ACTION: Kendra to resend UGA Open Space AG letter to Gordy and Paul.
Gordy and Paul to develop UGA Open Space letter from FAB using AG's letter as a sample or recommend using the AG letter as is.

V. DOT Highway Plan

DOT just started the process but is still taking opinions on 'expanding the I-5 corridor and roundabouts.'

VI. Skagit FP Ordinance (Aubrey, Ken, Dave)

Aubrey, Ken, and Dave to review the last plan and review the ordinance. Kendra will re-send the draft.

ACTION: Kendra to re-send FPA program draft.
Aubrey, Ken and Dave to review FPA draft and report back.

VII. Forestry Data Collection Subcommittee (Al, Kevin, Samantha)

Samantha, Al, and Kevin will be on a standing committee on Forestry Data Collection.

Samantha distributed charts on 'MBS Harvest & Sold Level'. She will try to separate the information by county. The following requests were made:

- Showing the potential acreage available.
- Breaking down by managed/non-managed
- Old growth versus non-old growth
- Showing percentage of Skagit County that is forest
- Breakdown of old growth (no touch) and sustainable forest
- Jobs per million feet of harvest

Kevin can provide the statistic on the number of jobs per million feet of harvest.

Thijs mentioned that small landowners are collecting data but it is not yet ready. UW is also collecting data but it is also not yet available.

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III. Forest Practices

a. Science-Based Adaptive Management -CMER

Dick believes the entire process is a failure. Paul stated that the issue must be driven from science and not be policy based. Gordy pointed out that establishing a baseline is critical. He recommended that if Policy feels forestry is destroying land, they should put a two-year moratorium on all harvesting until a baseline can be established. Dick wants a leader –Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Aubrey recommended FAB put something in writing. Several members of the FAB will be meeting with Vickie Christenson to discuss the FFP/TFW problems at hand.

b. Forest Practice **County Subcommittee (Ken, Aubrey)**

Kendra recommended looking at all projects and auditing what exists. Also make comments on what Kendra sent to the FAB from work done at FFP (Policy). This is the time to add stuff or make comments.

MOTION: Ken made a motion that FAB write a short letter signed by FAB Chair Dave Chamberlain stating:

- Program is off track on progress on science-based adaptive management
- Need a baseline adjusted to forest practices

Tim seconded Ken's motion. It was unanimously passed.

X. Miscellaneous

Al noted an Annual Report is prepared by the Conservation District comparing agriculture streams to forest streams. It shows various measurements and has 100 volunteers collecting water samples on a weekly basis. However, **data is not as complete** on forest streams.

ACTIONS

- Kendra to resend UGA Open Space AG letter to Gordy and Paul.
- Gordy and Paul to develop UGA Open Space letter from FAB using AG's letter as a sample or recommend using the AG letter as is.
- Kendra to re-send FP Ordinance program draft.
- Dick moved that FAB talk to the County Commissioners and also talk to a lawyer(s) on the legality of Planning's recommendations. The motion was seconded by Fred and unanimously approved.
- Aubrey, Ken and Dave to review FPA draft and report back.

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MOTIONS

- Dick moved that FAB talk to the County Commissioners and also talk to a lawyer(s) on the legality of Planning's recommendations. The motion was seconded by Fred and unanimously approved.
- Ken made a motion that FAB write a short letter signed by FAB Chair Dave Chamberlain stating:
 1. Program is off track on progress on science-based adaptive management
 2. Need a baseline adjusted to forest practices

Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting will be **October 6** from 7 – 9 am at the regular location (2021 E. College Way, 2nd Floor Conference Room).

Adjournment

Chair Dave Chamberlain adjourned the meeting at 9:00 am.

Submitted by: Zoe Parsons