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Forestry Advisory Board
Skagit County, Washington
Meeting #53, November 10, 2008
2021 E. College Way, Mount Vernon, WA

Members in Attendance:

Dave Chamberlain
Al Craney
Gordy Iverson
Paul Kriegel
Fred Loffer
Ken Osborn
Chuck Parker
Dick Whitmore

Guests:

John Cooper, Skagit County Planning & Development Services
Thijs Jacobsen, Washington Alder

Staff:

Kendra Smith
Zoe Parsons

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 am.

October Minutes and Meeting Agenda

The **October** meeting minutes were not reviewed. The agenda was rearranged slightly since Dave Chamberlain needed to leave at 8:40 am. Dave asked Gordy Iverson to chair the remainder of the meeting.

Introductions

No introductions were necessary since everyone knew John Cooper and Thijs Jacobsen.

Business:

I. NW Regional Planner's Conference

On October 22, there was a NW Regional Planners' Conference in Whatcom County where Tom Robinson presented on using forest practice regulations versus CAO regulations.

John Cooper reported that the one conflict from Tom's presentation to the Board of County Commissioner's last month was over who assumed jurisdiction over different areas. He said Tom Robinson was incorrect as to both who had jurisdiction and the size

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of the parcel within UGAs – it is the County. Kendra has a follow-up meeting regarding changing platted lands.

It was mentioned that this should now be referred to as the Forest Clearing Ordinance rather than Forest Practices. John Cooper needs information on forest road standards versus DNR standards. A question came up on the various circumstances that could affect these.

II. Climate Action and Sustainability Task Force

Gordy Iverson reported that not enough people have signed up for the Climate Action and Sustainability Task Force. The deadline has been extended until November 14. Gordy will be sending a letter of intent expressing interest in serving.

III. Future of Forestry Forum

Kendra attended the Future of Forestry Forum on October 30-31 (see attached brief of the meeting).

IV. FAB Assistance Through Grant Funding

Dave Chamberlain encouraged the group to try for grant funding. He feels it would be interesting to see what is available. Some of the topics mentioned: sorting good science from bad, green options, lands at risk, county resources available to forestry.

Ken Osborn suggested that forest data collection is step one and that endangered species should to be included in the data.

Al suggested Kendra talk to Carolyn Kelly at Skagit Conservation District on grants available.

Kendra and Dave will meet to narrow the focus. Therefore, discussion of grants will continue at the December meeting.

V. Miscellaneous

Discussion ensued on how the recent elections will affect forest practices.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

I. Rural Forestry Initiative (RFI)

Ken Osborn sent Kendra an email outlining his comments and recommendations (sent to FAB as a handout). He noted he already had separate meetings with Planning and the Department of Natural Resources. He feels that he has a good relationship with both and offered to be a liaison with them. In-depth discussion of this topic was postponed to the December meeting.

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II. Forestry Data Collection (Al Craney, Samantha Chang, Kevin Zobrist)

Al has been meeting with Samantha and Kevin. He reported that 20% of land in Skagit County is in national parks. He believes we need to look at all resource values not just timber, i.e., production, water, carbon credits, jobs generated. Paul Kriegel pointed out that what happens on federal forest lands will affect private lands.

A question was raised on whether a managed or unmanaged watershed is more valuable. Al pointed out the public benefit (in dollar amounts) that is received by managing the forests.

Al asked the group to give him other categories to include. Anyone with suggestions should email them to him. Fred Loffer asked if fisheries was included; if not, suggested it needs to be added.

III. Natural Resource Land Easements (NRLE)

Paul Kriegel noted that Dave has argued for any land regardless of size used for timber under DNR. Once again it was brought up that “Mills don’t know where the logs come from; need to keep the infrastructure”. Per John Cooper, outside of an Urban Growth Area, there are no acreage requirements unless they are platted lands. Gordy suggested the need to re-address acreage being considered.

MOU needs to be established with DNR as to who takes on what responsibilities.

According to John Cooper, currently all platted land is under the County.

The Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) has not been adopted. Until it is, nothing else can be done. The CAO should go before the County Commissioners in the next two weeks. FAB already offered an exemption to be included in the CAO which does not refer to specific acreage for forest practices. Ken Osborn’s proposal is to redefine this to specify acreage.

IV. Reconveyance of Trust Lands – Lake Whatcom

Dick Whitmore stated they are now pursuing a law suit since Whatcom County has not been listening to their arguments. There will be another meeting this week.

V. Blanchard Mountain

FAB is looking forward to hearing the position of the new Land Commissioner and especially his appointments. There are no changes as CEMR reviews information.

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ACTIONS:

- Review September minutes
- Anyone with information on forest road standards should send them to John Cooper
- Gordy to send a letter of intent to serve on Climate Action and Sustainability Task Force.
- Kendra and Dave to meet on ideas for grant funding applicable to forestry.
- Continuation of Rural Forestry Initiative (RFI) discussion to be added to December meeting agenda.
- Group to email AI their suggestions for categories to include in forestry data collection.
- December agenda should include continued discussion of NRLE.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 8, 7:00 am – 9:00 am at 2021 E. College Way, 2nd Floor Conference Room.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm

Submitted by: Zoe Parsons