

Forestry Advisory Board
Skagit County, Washington
Meeting #54, December 8, 2008
2021 E. College Way, Mount Vernon, WA

Members in Attendance:

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

Guests:

Lisa Cassidy, Skagit Bank
Samantha Chang, US Forest Service
Thijs Jacobsen, Washington Alder
Carolyn Kelly, Skagit Conservation District
Paul Wagner, Atterbury Consultants, Inc.
Peter _____

Staff:

Zoe Parsons

I. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 am.

II. Introductions

Paul Wagner was introduced to those he did not know.

III. Planning Department Update

Since no one from Planning was in attendance, there was no update on the forest practices project.

IV. New State Lands Commissioner – New direction and expectations

No one had any comments on the new state lands commissioner. However, Paul Wagner mentioned that State Lands wants to push FSC on forest lands. Paul Kriegel pointed out that while the cost is higher for smaller land owners, not too much else is different except for some of the language. It is felt the economy will override everything in the coming year.

V. October and November Minutes and Meeting Agenda

The October and November meeting minutes were approved once a quorum was reached.

VI. FAB Assistance Through Grant Funding

Kendra and Dave have not had a chance to meet to narrow the focus of FAB's interest in grants. The group wants to continue gathering statistics. Samantha Chang pointed out that her group does not have the staff resources to acquire additional statistics. The information available is only on a broader scale and not specific to forest lands. However, she will pass along what she has. Dave Chamberlain hopes once the statistics are assimilated they can provide information to the public so they have a better understanding of the challenges facing the forest industry. Al Craney suggested looking at the broad categories and then get a grant to refine the information for federal, state, county and private lands. Ken Osborne agreed with Al and asked Samantha to provide numbers for "non old-growth" timber in Skagit County. Once this number is known, Ken suggested looking at how these numbers apply to Skagit County taxes, etc. Samantha pointed out she can not get what is available for 'harvest. Paul believes the public needs to understand what is reserved – the LSR versus matrix. Samantha will send Al what she has and links to documents.

Paul Wagner feels we need harvests per year and growth per year. Al did note that they are gathering stream information.

Samantha announced that growth is twice what harvest is. She suggested we look at:

- Here is where we are
- Here are the trends we see
- This is what we recommend.

We need to show that forest lands are not different from AG land – it is growing a crop.

Aubrey asked Samantha about sequestration in soil. She noted above ground biomass has been looked at; below ground needs to be researched.

Gordy pointed out that old growth is a static environment. Carolyn Kelly remarked that forest cover is preferable to impervious surfaces and that with the tight budget ahead, the group needs to look at where the county can get the biggest bang for their buck.

VII. CAO/RFI – Ken Osborn

Ken feels it is important to bring together DNR and Planning staff. He has been meeting with both groups and feels the county shouldn't be regulating forest practices. According to Ken, the DNR doesn't want to regulate forest practices. The following categories have been agreed to by DNR and Planning:

- Platted lands
- NARLIES
- Unincorporated UGA's

According to Ken, there is no real disagreement between DNR and Planning. On the other hand, Carolyn Kelly believes there is NOT agreement between the two groups. Furthermore, she believes some staff want more stringent regulations.

Dave Chamberlain encouraged the FAB to attend the public discussion on December 9. Dave believes if the CAO goes through as it currently is written, it will then go through an EIS. Carolyn hopes the FAB will let the County Commissioners know that forest practices does NOT need nor want another layer of bureaucracy.

VIII. Deep-Seated Landslide Study – Proposal by Jeff Grizzel

Dave Chamberlain informed the group that Jeff Grizzel with State Lands would like to speak at the January FAB meeting to discuss a proposal he is preparing on the subject of 'Deep-Seated Landslides' and how they affect forestry. He would like the group's input on both the subject and how he might raise the \$75-\$80,000 needed since he recently lost his funding. While he is welcome to present his project at the January meeting, it was suggested he should seek funding from Snohomish County since that is where his project will take place.

IX. Future of Extension Forestry in Skagit County

This topic will be moved to the January meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Samantha circulated an article on trends: Overview – Interim Update of the 2000 Renewable Resources Planning Act Assessment.

B. Climate Action and Sustainability Task Force

Gordy Iverson has not yet sent a letter of intent expressing interest in serving on the task force for Climate Action and Sustainability. Zoe Parsons will check on whether applications are still being accepted.

NOTE: Since the County has received more than enough applications, they are not accepting additional ones.

C. Alternative Futures

Paul Kriegel announced he was asked to represent the forestry industry by serving on the Steering Committee on Alternative Futures, a consensus-based organization. Paul will update FAB once the group gets to substantive matters. Right now they are still agreeing on procedures.

D. Skagit FPA Program

The committee hasn't met, however, Dave Chamberlain expects more direction after tomorrow's hearing in the Commissioner's Office on the Critical Areas Ordinance.

Following today's meeting, an email was sent to FAB members letting them know that while the Commissioner's would be discussing the CAO at 2 pm on December 9, this is not a hearing. If they want to make any comments, they need to appear for the 11:30 am Public Comments time frame.

E. Reconveyance of Trust Lands – Lake Whatcom

Aubrey Stargell stated a lawsuit has been filed by Nielson Brothers challenging reconveyance of lands from DNR to Whatcom County under the 'Land Use Petition Act.' An agreement for \$300,000 for the reconveyance is what initiated the lawsuit.

F. Miscellaneous

Dave mentioned an interesting study Paul sent him on the migration of salmon. The study, done by a Canadian non-profit, reported that salmon were being injured in the ocean not in areas with dams. Dave believes this study could be very positive for the timber industry.

Aubrey pointed out the Bellingham Herald had an interesting article on habitat restoration.

Ken Osborn asked about the Skagit Watershed Council. Carolyn Kelly, a member of their board, stated it was a volunteer organization to rank and rate projects for funding; they do not take policy positions.

Thijs noted that a major problem at the Bonneville dame wasn't their practices but sea lions eating the salmon.

NOTE: Thijs Jacobsen volunteered to substitute for any FAB members who can not attend a meeting.

ACTIONS:

- Kendra and Dave to meet to discuss grants possibilities.
- Samantha to provide numbers for “non old-growth timber in Skagit County”.
- Update on December 9 Commissioners discussion regarding CAOs.
- Dave to invite Jeff Grizzel with State Lands to speak at the January meeting.
- Dave to add ‘Future of Extension Forestry in Skagit County’ to January meeting.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 12, 7:00 am – 9:00 am at 2021 E. College Way, ^{1st}
Floor Conference Room.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:03 am

Submitted by: Zoe Parsons