



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST  
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Minutes  
April 13, 2009

Present: Ken, Chuck, Tom, Tim, Fred, Paul, Gordy, Dave, Lisa, Al, Aubrey and Dick

Guests: Carolyn Kelly, Thjis, John Cooper and Samantha

- I. March Minutes were amended to say Matt Rourke was from King Co Rural Forest Commission and fix the hanging clause in V. Minutes then approved.
- II. RFI – Discussion. Gary Christensen was here last meeting and it appeared at that time that everyone was on the same page and aligned in recommends of the necessary code change. Now after talking to John Cooper it appears that it is not again. FAB members clarified with John the following:

Forest practice rules should be used whenever there is not a conversion, which would be more than on just CaRDs (and PDS only agreed to CaRDs with lands in IF and SF).

Discussion:

Dave's concern was that this is too small of a portion of the whole amount of trees that go to the mills and feels that the PDS version does not get the Industry where it needs to go. He wondered why we were talking zones with it is an issue of practicing forestry. Ken commented that quite a bit is missing in PDS proposal. John was asked why other designations were dropped and he said it was because all other designations were slated for development. John did indicate that PDS may include Rural Resource under CaRDs. Ken suggested that the subcommittee work and try to narrow the gap between what PDS was offering and what the FAB had presented.

\*\*Fred moved and Gordy seconded the motion to have the FAB subcommittee work on closing the gap between the FAB and the PDS version before taking a proposal before the Planning Commission. Passed unanimously.

Continued discussion resulted in the following clarification from John:

1. PDS would not be reviewing any forest practice applications on properties that already currently have a house (or development) on them. That would be up to the DNR and it would be a Class IV General non-conversion.
2. PDS would support Forest Practice Rules would be used for the open space portion of CaRDs in IF and SF. (He would ask Gary if PDS would consider Rural Resource lands.)
3. PDS did not know if they would consider using Forest Practice Rules on large lot subdivisions. The question is how to ensure that forest management will truly occur and that the critical areas will not be harmed. The FAB's concern is that a large disincentive would occur and landowners would then choose to not to manage their forests and ultimately lose more wood that would go to the mills.

John stated that he felt the newly passed legislation provides a loophole. Kendra stated that all caucuses were at the table when this was drafted and passed. It gives the local jurisdictions greater teeth when dealing with a conversion and not just a 6 year moratorium.

- III. Community Wildfire Protection Plan- Carolyn Kelly is sitting in for Jenny Hinderman, who coordinates the CWPP for the Conservation District. Handouts were distributed on the county-wide plan. Skagit County is ahead of most jurisdictions both nationally and at a state level in preparing a comprehensive plan. Lots of input from numerous partners is given during development of the plan (DNR, USFS, fire districts, DEM, Conservation districts, county and communities). There are 6 firewise communities in Skagit County already.

- IV. Alternative Futures. Paul gave a brief update. Group didn't meet last month. There is debate as to what to do with forestry. It may be put with the Ag trend but it appears to be an 'after thought'.
- V. Bills in Legislation: Paul noted that HB 1483 Right to Practice Forestry passed and HB 1797 A study to determine how to maintain the character of rural lands; and (b) how to conserve agricultural and forest lands of long-term significance.
- VI. Biomass- what is a good definition. Tom Robinson from WSAC sent e-mail asking. FAB noted that it was simply nothing more than what creates energy in forest lands, regardless of the landowner. Better said as "Biomass includes any forest derived matter regardless of the landowner."
- VII. Outreach. Kendra was asked by the Commissioners to respond to a boy scout who had asked "why cut a tree at all on Blanchard?" This prompted a discussion on what type of outreach needs to be provided and who should do it. What is the roll of the FAB. What materials are available? FAB members were asked to e-mail Kendra with any of the following and something may be assembled from the materials.
- Curriculumms
  - USFS pamphlets
  - AFRC/WFPA handouts and ASF materials
  - Tours...Grandy Lake and Women in Timber.
- VIII. Wild and Scenic River designations as they affect Forest Practices. FAB members felt Labott Ck proposal by TNC (The Nature Conservancy) is bigger than originally explained to the FAB. The FAB did not support because they worried that it would have long term affects. When the FAB had questioned TNC they had said it was all to stop hydro. TNC had said that harvest in the watershed would not be affected.
- IX. Future topics: geology, permitting, watershed analysis, regulations...
- X. Meeting adjourned 9:00 a.m.