



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
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Minutes June 8, 2009

Present: Dave, Chuck, Lisa, Fred, Ken, Gordy, Aubrey. Guest: Betsy Stevenson, Linda Christensen, John Cooper. Absent: Paul, Tim and Tom

- I. Introductions
- II. Minutes: Dave noted that Illabot was miss-spelled. Moved to approve with change. Passed.
- III. Discussion Items:
 - a. RFI – John was asked to report. John reported that Gary, Betsy and he worked together of determining the number of parcels in each zoning designation, specifically the Rural Resource, Ag and Rural Reserve.



GIS Forestry Memo
1.doc

The information is to help provide an understanding on how much impact there would be on forested lands from the CAO verses using the Forest Practice Rules. It took into consideration how much of the land was encumbered by wetlands and Type N streams and if each lot subdivides and then has a NRLE placed on it. By John's calculation the amount appears to be small. See the attached memo.

Dave made 3 points: 1. Some lands will go from pasture back to forestry (a recent article verified this information) 2. Wetlands and Type N stream data is very inaccurate and 3. It costs more and takes more time for county permits verses getting the small landowners permit from the DNR.

John said that this offer from the Planning Department is a start to take to the Planning Commission. More would be done at a later date. John said it would go beyond a misc. code change as a stand alone if more changes were to be made. John said there would be a two track system.

Dave said he was ok with that as long as it was a 'start'. Ken agreed with Dave and said he too wanted to see Ag-NRL lands added. Having all resource lands makes sense.

Discussion followed on putting easements on the forest lands that would be in perpetuity. Some members of the FAB had problems with this because it may limit their ability to leverage the property and what happens if the rules continue to become more burdensome and it no longer is feasible to practice forestry. They shouldn't their rights removed from making some income. Ken said he was in favor and would contact at least one Commissioner.

Since there was no quorum, a node of heads gave indication that those present would support what Planning was proposing at this time as long as it was a 'starting point'.

Table a vote for a special meeting

- b. Platted lands amendment to the RCW: Dave gave background but feels that there may be some other avenues besides what WSAC/Tom Robinson may be pursuing. He wants to make sure that Farm Forestry is involved. Kendra said she would keep them posted of all updates.
- IV. Special meeting 6/25/09 7:00 a.m. to get a quorum on supporting PDS version of the RFI
- V. Adjourn 9:00.