



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST  
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**Minutes July 13, 2009**

Present: Dave, Aubrey, Paul, Ken, Al, Lisa, Gordy. Ken left at 8:00.

Guest: Gary Christensen -PDS (left at 8:00), Toby Rogers (soil scientist) and John Cooper (PDS)

- I. Introductions.
- II. Minutes. No Quorum
- III. Discussion

- a. **Skagit County Code Changes:** It was noted that the Planning Commission extended the public comment period to July 21 and they won't deliberate until September. Another public hearing is not scheduled. Dave started the discussion by saying there were changes proposed that the FAB was not informed about that related to the forest practice industry. He wondered why PDS had not shared the proposed amendments with the FAB and why they had been called 'housekeeping' changes. Gary C replied that there were 119 amendments and that the word Misc. was probably the wrong word to have used when they noticed the changes. PDS is to do an annual review of the code and make changes on a regular basis. Do to staff cuts from budget this year it had not been done for the last 5 years and that was the reason for so many code changes. He stated that most were clerical changes. Gary said that they have now set up a web page for everyone to go to see what changes have been made. He said there was also TV 21 where one can click on list serve and information as to updates can be sent to folks. He will show Kendra how that works and she can then pass that on to the FAB. Gary said he was meeting with the AAB on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> (the day after tomorrow) to discuss their concerns and invited the FAB to join if they wished. He wanted to have a list of the FAB's concerns that could then be discussed. Paul commented that the changes were not minor and questioned how they could have gotten in without the input of the FAB. Gary said that John may not have known about the changes. He said that if the proposed changes were not ripe then PDS would consider dropping them until later. PDS was not on a required timeframe for adoption. FAB suggested that especially since this supposedly only affected a few landowners then notice should be sent to them as a heads up that their property value may be changing. Other counties send a direct notice. Gary said it can be done by putting it in the paper as well and the costs are high to send out. He also said that people would still say they didn't receive sufficient notice.

John Cooper said the Swinomish tribe was the only one who responded to the letter and indicated that they would be appeal. The County does not have the finances to enter into a lawsuit so more than likely the FAB request would be pulled.

Some more discussion continued on how best to review the rest of the proposed code changes.

- b. **Soil Scientist Licensing**: Toby Rogers, soil scientist, wanted to update the FAB on why their profession is seeking a professional license. They have tried for several years and have continued to modify the legislation to appease opposition. Major concern has been over competition for jobs. Toby said that this is solely to identify those people who are certified and that it will help consumer as well. It is not a practicing license. They have included the wetland scientist as well. There are 80 members state wide.
  - c. **RFI record**: Al presented more information that can be added to the record from WSU and Farm Forestry. He reviewed the information with the FAB. It included work on riparian buffers. It has been shown that 90% of the functions and values are retained with 100' and less. This is a 35 year old study. Consideration was given to asking Darin Crammer from the DNR who heads up CMER why more of this information can't be used in the future since the CMER budget is in jeopardy. The PAC forest experimental forest is another source of information.
  - d. **Clean Water Assurance**: DNR working on this at Policy. Need to keep updated because the FPB will be making some decisions in the very near future. This goes before them at their August meeting.
- IV. Adjourn 9:00