



SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

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Minutes March 14, 2011

Present: Aubrey- Chair, Tom, Al, Chuck, Paul, Fred, Gordy, Ken

Absent: Tim, Lisa and Steve

Guest: Cindy Pierce Conservation District, Paul Wagner-Forester, Doug Couvelier- Upper Skagit Tribe and John Cooper- Skagit Planning

I. Minutes- No quorum

II. Discussion Items-

- a. By-laws for a quorum-: FAB discussed the need to maybe change the by-laws to a different number for a quorum. Will need to take this up when there is a quorum.
- b. Skagit County Code Update- John C: John told the FAB that the BoCC had heard the concerns of the FAB and directed Planning not to change the codes regarding permitting of gravel pits. There had been discussions as to what the consequences would be as well as if it actually applied to the pits used by the foresters to build roads.
- c. Legislative Actions Update:
 - i. SB 5211 and HB 1960- Kendra reported that both bills were moving along and that the HB had made it through Rules. Commissioner Dillon had been instrumental in working the bill and big thanks should go to her. Also, Rep Lytton, Sen. Ranker and Sen. Haugen. It will be going to Senate Rules.
 - ii. HB 1421- Community Forests: This was introduced by the DNR and allows for trust lands to be taken out of their current status and placed into a 'community trust' after a onetime compensation to the original trust. This may be a good bill for urban forestry but NOT for the Trusts. There are no parameters as to size and they do not need to generate income except to maintain recreational activities.
 - iii. HB 2008 and SB 5862- FPA and HPA fees: Bill introduced by DNR. The increased fees are to off-set DNR costs. The increases were enormous and would create negative impacts to industry, the hopes of keeping small landowners wanting to do forestry and violations of not getting permits.
- d. Conservation District Update in their forest programs- Cindy Pierce: Cindy talked about Soil and Water Stewardship annual poster contest with theme "Forests for People, More than You Can Imagine". 6th Grade Tour, Arbor Day in April.
- e. USFS Timber Management Update- Ken Osborn: Ken made the suggested amendments to the original outline for addressing USFS management with Congressman Larson. Strategies were discussed. Will discuss more at the next meeting.

III. Adjourn 9:05