



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
ADVISORY BOARD**

Dave Chamberlain, Chairman
Lisa Cassidy Ken Osborn
Al Crane Chuck Parker
Gordon Iverson Tom Nelson
Paul Kriegel Aubrey Stargell
Tim Raschko Steve Tift
Fred Loffer
Kendra Smith, Staff

**Minutes
May 9, 2011**

Present: Chuck, Dave, Fred, Al, Aubrey, Ken, Lisa

Absent: Steve, Tim, Tom, Gordy, Paul

Guest: Paul Wagner, Ron Brewer, Doug Couvelier, John Cooper

- I. Meeting opened at 7:12 a.m. Not a quorum so minutes will be held to the next meeting.
- II. Discussion Items:
 - a. Platted Lands Bill. Dave commented on how this bill moved forward to its final signing by the Governor. It involved educating many people, but in the long run that was a good thing. It is important for the community to understand what is happening in the natural resources. The next steps are to review the current County Codes and propose appropriate amendments so that there is consistency between the newly passed bill and the codes. This will help advance the FABs recommendations for the Rural Forest Initiative (RFI) stated two years ago. Dave also noted that thank you letters need to be sent to those who helped on the bill. Those present all agreed to have Dave take the initiative. Kendra said she would get an electronic version of the bill to the FAB.
 - b. Community Forest Bill was signed by the Governor as well. The FAB believes this bill will need some amending and that there is a need to start updating the legislatures about some changes. It was noted that Lake Whatcom and Blanchard would have automatically been put into a 'community trust'.
 - c. American Alps- Paul Wager brought a web page showing that there is still a very strong drive to have this action occur. The FAB noted that they had sent a letter to the BoCC stating why they were and still are unanimously opposed. It was interesting that in the Alps webpage they said that Snohomish County was supporting this action when in fact none of the lands are within that county.
 - d. County Code update: John said the codes were moving along with the Planning Commission, but that there was nothing related to forestry issues at this time.
 - e. RFI: County codes for critical areas have changed since the RFI was initiated so that there is now a 300' review area around a conversion/development. Dave asked a committee to work on this. It will be as follows: Ken, Dave, Paul, Al and Aubrey.
 - f. Finny AMA- This USDA forest has a mix of matrix (lands that should be available for harvesting, but have been subject to numerous lawsuits thus shutting down most sales), late session reserve (LSR- harvest to accelerate an older growth forest) and owl circle (no harvest) designations. Regardless of designation riparian and slopes still need to be protected. Is there opportunity for some harvesting to occur? There should be. To create roadless areas would take that potential away. Research and thinnings should be encouraged in this area so that actual science can be used in determining environmental protection and also maintaining a healthy forest.

- g. USFS Timber management- Ken talked to Kevin Morse about support and Kevin said he would pass it along to the director, Karen Anderson...it appears that she may have some interest. The FAB felt it might be good to touch base with Mike Janicki who is also on TNC board. Dave commented that he has not had time yet to talk to the BoCC about this project. Paul Wagner suggested a working group should be formed to work with the forest service to pick some project areas and work on it from a silvacultural plan perspective. Also, perhaps a UW Forest Engineering class could get it up as a project, especially if the FS doesn't have time. Washing ton trails may also want to get involved. Will discuss more at the next meeting.

III. Adjourned- 9:10 a.m.