



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
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Minutes

June 13, 2011

Present: Dave, Gordy, Aubrey, Fred, Lisa, Chuck and Steve

Guest: John Ravnik, Roger Mitchell, Doug Couvelier, Sam Chang, John Cooper

I. Welcome and Introductions: 7:07 meeting opened

II. Minutes: No quorum but minutes were reviewed by the members present and found to be accurate. FAB will hold until the next meeting.

III. Discussion Items:

A. County Code Updates- Dave expressed concerns and some disappointment over the fact that the FAB had not been informed about potential changes to the code regarding pipes lines, which would have affects on logging forest lands. John Cooper said he didn't know anything about this until he saw it on the agenda and talked to Carly about it at that time. There was a Planning Commission hearing the week before on the requirement to add buffers alongside pipes lines. Dave had heard about the public hearing and invited John Ravnik and Roger Mitchell to this meeting to give some more background. The Planning Dept applied for a federal grant for \$50,000. There were 20 of these given around the US and they were primarily for outreach and educational purposes. There are approximately 121 miles of pipeline in Skagit County and the proposal is for up to 660 feet of buffer on each side. The Hearing Examiner can grant variances, but that is very costly. Some of the points brought up were: education is very important and ensuring knowledge of where the pipelines are located is essential; regulating with this size of buffers may be a taking; is this intended to shift the liability from the pipeline owners to the public; treats all lines as though they transport the same materials; there is a gap between state and federal regulations; there is no mandate for this- why is this such a big issue for Skagit when only 20 of these grants were distributed for \$50,000 each throughout the US; 'significant incidents' have declined over the last 10 years; pipelines do not float up; there has been a 1 ½ years of work and May was the first time anyone had hard about these new regulations; public comments have been extended to June 24 with Planning Commission deliberations on the 19th of July. Grants end July 31st, 2011.

Aubrey said he would write a letter and circulate for the FAB to review. The FAB will then send a letter to the Planning Commission.

B. Envision Update- The Citizen's Advisory Committee met with the original Steering Committee last week to go over their recommendations. There will be an open meeting Thursday June 16, 2011. The recommendations will be on-line for review.

C. Fish Forest Policy- Review of the upcoming budget and projects. They are getting close on finishing one of the original studies on buffers widths as they pertain to the salamander and frog. These were easier to study than the salmonids. Some questions at Policy meetings regarding whether there could have been a different science and what do the results really tell. Most of the caucus thought this was good information.

D. Finny Update- Sam noted that the recommendations for a portion of the Finny were up for comments. It would be called the Queensgate Environmental Study.

IV. Adjourn 9:09 a.m.