



#### SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

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

### Minutes 2/13/2012

Present: Dave, Gordy, Fred, Al, Chuck, Tim, Steve, Paul, Lisa, Aubrey, Tom  
Guest: Carolyn Kelly

- I.        Called to Order
- II.       Minutes: Paul moved and Fred seconded to accept the December 2011 and the January 2012 minutes. Passed.
- III.      Discussion Items:
  - a.    Legislative actions and reports. HB 1192
  - b.    FFP- Kendra reported on the Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. The main topic was the soft and hard rock Type N report. Policy was briefed on the results of years of field work and studies on the affect of buffers on streams on the western side of the Cascades. There were three studies. One with no buffer (complete harvest); the second was with a 50 foot buffer and the third was status quo. The data is still raw and in the process of being fully summarized by the science body of policy (CEMR). Form a general perspective it appears that within the first year of a harvest there are temperature increases and some minor sediment, which is expected. After the first two years there then appears to be a recovery with temperatures decreasing. This was the first time the information had been shared and there were many questions from everyone at FFP as well as the need to start and understand how this will affect the current Rules. The Industry caucus was cautiously optimistic. The environmental caucus pointed to the data right after the harvest asking what the universal 'we' was willing to live with and they wanted to jump to immediate rule making to increase what is presently in place. Next month will be the report on the amphibian studies. Discussion among the FAB noted that any more increases in buffers will be the final straw for the remaining mills. Word is out that one more mill is close to closing. Carolyn offered to talk to the legislators about this when she has her meetings.
  - c.    Contract: Kendra informed the FAB that she would be going on contract but that Tim Halloran had emphasized that it would be a seamless process and that the FAB (and other board) should not see a difference in attention given to issues or output.
  - d.    Firewise Presentation: Follow-up discussion on the video presentation given by Al in December. Al asked for feedback. There are 485 people in Cascade Park that will benefit from this and the video will help educate those that did not get the initial briefing. There are more demonstration projects that can be done as well. The video will also help educate others in the county when it comes time to build in forested areas. It will empower communities to take care of themselves. Wanted to know if there were any ways the FAB thought they may be able to get involved. There will be follow up as they think about it.
  - e.    RFI report: Dave gave an update on what has been proposed for code changes as he has continued to work with John Cooper. Ken has also been working with John. Al moved and Paul seconded to approve and accept the work Dave has done on this over the last

couple of years. There was a huge round of applause for Dave and many thanks! Now that the Planning department has the fundamentals it should be up to them to write the draft code and have the FAB review it as it moves forward.

- f. Illabot Creek: Jon Vanderheyden with the Mt Baker Snoqualmie USFS has issued a determination to remove the road. This is in opposition to what the Commissioners had requested in their letter to him last November and to what many uses want to have happen. There is an appeal period and the FAB will be recommending the BoCC write a follow up letter. Al pointed out that the US Forest Planning Rule just came out and the words from Vilsack were to support keeping areas like this open. It was also noted that the USFS will be encouraged to have some harvests for revenues and the lack of healthy forests. Al handed out the press release. An appeal (actually several) has been filed. They may also be a legal problem with Vanderheyden's call. Tom asked that we recommend that the BoCC send a letter opposing the recent decision to close Illabot Creek and also ask them to elevate it to the next level. Fred seconded the motion. Passed unanimous.