



#### 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 March 19, 2012

Present: Chuck, Paul, Fred, Al, Dave, Ken, Tom, Gordy, Lisa and Aubrey  
Guest: Doug Couvelier

I. Meeting opened 7:02 a.m.: Moved to add the USFS Planning Rule to the agenda and discussion on allotment of staff hours for forestry issues. Passed.

II. Minutes: Paul moved and Ken seconded to approve the minutes with the correction of a typo. Passed unanimous.

#### III. Discussion Items:

a. Staff hours: Paul and Tom voiced concern about not having Kendra go to Forest Practice Fish Policy monthly meetings especially with topics being about Type N and F streams and clean water assurances all of which impact the county. After much discussion about the minimum amount of staff time necessary to properly keep the County Commissioners informed on topics affecting forestry, (the industry, the community and the resource) it was agreed upon that an average of 17 hours per month was far from enough. After the FAB did some estimating of time required for all of the topics related to forestry including federal (USFS Planning Rule, forest health, wildfires, Secure Rural Schools (SRS), Title III contracts, American Alps and Illabot Creek for example), state forest board lands (the implications to the trust and junior taxing districts), forest practice rules (as they impact small and large landowners, the mills, the resources, the county revenues, the HCP and county codes) they believed the hours were more realistically closer to 40-50 a month. Kendra explained the 17 hours were based on trying to respect the general fund dollars knowing that funds were low especially during the economic times. The FAB noted that 80% of the county is in forestry and that huge revenues come to the county as a result of forestry through, property taxes, timber excise taxes, state trust lands, federal subsidies like the SRS as well as numerous jobs from logging, hauling, maintenance, road building, the mills (they reflected on the fact that many counties are losing their mills) as well as from secondary markets. They also noted that there is a lot of staff time given to the other resources (ag and water related). They did not want Kendra to use up all the hours and then have to go back asking for more later. They felt they needed to let the Commissioners know right away so that the budget would be accurately reflected for the year and that there would be no surprises toward the end. It was also noted that other counties have their commissioners sitting on the state forest boards or are very active with lobbying at the state and in D.C. and also have staff support as did Ted Anderson when he was on the BNR.

b. Illabot Creek: FAB requested Dave to write a letter to the BoCC recommending that the BoCC write a follow-up letter to Jon Vanderheyden, Mt Baker Snoqualmie District Ranger, supporting the appeals to his decision of closing the road. The BoCC is on record asking that the road not be closed as one of the alternatives presented by the USFS in their environmental assessment. Dave will send the BoCC a letter making this recommendation.

c. Forest Service Planning Rule (FSPR): The USFS has just adopted the FSPR, which talks about the need to manage the forests for health, recreation and revenue while at the same time fully protect the resources. Al explained why he thought it was so important the FAB and the County keep the pressure on the Forest Service to do the right management. This is the first foot in the door since the shutdown of the USFS lands due to the spotted owl. The Forest Service has spent large amounts of money in their environmental studies, which in part has been due to continual litigation. The new FSPR appears to have addressed this to some degree. The problem will be in what little staffing the FS now has left to put up a timber sale. Within the last month there was a competition between the University of Washington and University of British Columbia to develop a silvicultural plan for the Finny. This area has been a topic of consideration even during the Blanchard Mountain Strategic Plan agreement. This can be an example of what can be done and how to move forward. All of this relates back to the discussions the FAB was having several months ago on how to ensure forest management within the federal lands.

d. TDRs: Kirk Johnson presented that a contract is now being signed with the Department of Commerce for doing the TDR work. He noted that there is a lot of work putting a contract together. The contract included tasks, deliverables and timelines. He believes that by the end of May a kick-off may occur with all of the committee members, staff, the BoCC and other participants. There are several phases to the grant. It will be determined after the first phase (collect information) whether or not to continue to the second, which is actually creating a TRD program for adoption. This is about 2/3 s of the way through the contract. He is developing a contract for an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Burlington to help generate more incentives for the city to take greater densities. Anacortes and Sedro Woolley may also be interested. Fonterra, the consultants, will only be there to gather the information but not be part of any recommendations. There will be meetings every 4 to 6 weeks and the grant is over in 2014. Ken moved and Tom seconded to elect Paul to sit on the TDR committee. Passed unanimously.

e. RFI: Dave asked Kendra how this is now to move forward. Kendra said she would look into it.

f. FF Policy: Kendra gave a report on the last meeting that included discussions about monitoring for the State HCP annual and 5 year reports, the Type N amphibian study, the CMER work plan and follow up on the results of the Type N hard rock study on the temperature and sedimentation. The debate was whether to continue the studies any longer to see determine timing of recovery. It was already starting to be observed after year 2. The environmental caucus did not want to spend more money on this since there are other studies that need to be done. Kendra will give this synopsis to the BoCC as well.

III. Meeting Adjourned. 9:10a.m. Next meeting April 9, 2012.