



SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

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Minutes January 7, 2013

Present: Al, Dave, Tim, Tom, Lisa, Chuck, Gordy, Ken, Fred, Paul, Aubrey and Steve
Guest; Commissioner Wesen, Marc Engles (Forest Practice Division DNR Olympia) and Doug Couvelier (Upper Skagit Tribe) doug@upperskagit.com

I. Introductions. Dave welcomed Commissioner Wesen and other guest.

II. Minutes: Gordy moved to approve and Tim seconded to approve the September, October and December minutes. There was no meeting in November. Passed unanimous.

III. Discussion Items:

a. Revenues: Al handed out the latest report of sales and revenues for the FAB to review. There will be more discussion on this at the next meeting due to the presentations from guest Marc this month.

b. County Code updates: the FAB asked Commissioner Wesen if the Planning Department had provided their work plan for 2013 yet and whether or not the RFI was on it. Wesen noted that it had not yet been submitted. He said it should be coming in the near future.

c. FFP update. Kendra gave a brief update on the January 3rd meeting and noted that Marc Engles would be following up the discussion on Type N and the perennial initiation point (PIP) work that has transpired. She reported that the Conservation caucus was probably going to invoke dispute resolution on Type F because they were concerned about how long the process was taking. There is agreement among most participants that the guidelines for finding the PIP in the dry season are the most preferable to follow and that should be the method of choice. It was the industry and the county that pointed out that this is often not an option and even though the proposal allows the forest practice application (FPA) to be amended if at a later date if a dry season calculation can be made there are many times that harvests need to occur prior that timing. It has been suggested that since many FPAs have involved an ID team made up of the various interest groups that the distances that were found from these observations should be averaged and then those numbers used as the default buffer for the wet season determinations. The Type N subcommittee said they may consider this and Kendra asked that if anyone had this information to get it to her and/or Doug Hooks at WFPA immediately. The timeframe for doing all of this is only a couple of months. The results of the east side study will be coming in within the next few months. Work on Type F will be immediately following the Type N work. It will also have a fast timeframe.

Marc Engles, Assistant Division Manager for Policy and Services, reiterated what Kendra had said and encouraged all FPAs with an ID team involved on determining the PIP should be brought forward to see if it could be used. Marc said the board manual will need to be amended to make this work. He also said that the requirement at task right now is to have a Type N strategy not necessarily develop the final Board Manual. He took note that the NW Region already has greater buffers that in some cases actually go higher than the PIP due to the inner gorges. He talked about how the Np and Ns streams are different and there was discussion on how effective LiDAR can be in getting some accurate information. Paul reminded everyone about the amphibian study conducted about 15 years ago by the Hardwood Commission and said that should be 'dusted off' and information from that study used in today's work in determining buffers etc. FAB said they would work on finding FPAs.

IV. Adjourn 9:05 a.m.