



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST  
ADVISORY BOARD**

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Kendra Smith, Staff

**Minutes  
July 7, 2014**

Present: Steve, Chuck, Al, Dave, Tim, Paul, Gordy, Aubrey, Tom  
Absent: Lisa, Fred  
Guest: Doug Couvelier

- I. Meeting opened 7:00 a.m.
- II. Minutes: Tim moved and Ken seconded to approve the March meeting minutes. Approved unanimous. Tim moved Ken seconded to approve the May meeting minutes. Approved unanimous.
- III. Discussion:

A. County Forest lands- Commissioner Dillon had requested the FAB look into the parcels of land owned by the county to see if any of it would be acceptable for forest management. Kendra worked with Josh to develop a set of maps of those parcels and that appeared to have no concerns by a pre-existing committee for some sort of forest management. The FAB created a sub-committee to review the maps and report back to Commissioner Dillon. The committee decided to meet on the 18<sup>th</sup>. They requested that the maps be sent again for those who did not receive them.

B. Right to Forestry- At the last FAB meeting Ken brought up his concern about not having a Right to Forestry ordinance similar to what Ag has. This was brought to his attention when he was doing a land transition and had to sign for ag but not for forestry. Ken then made a request to Planning (Kirk Johnson) to look into this and to hopefully add it to the codes. Kirk got back to Ken and said it is in fact in the codes. This therefore means that the realtors and title companies need to be made aware of this. Ken will be asking Kirk to follow up.

C. Board of Natural Resources Report – Kendra reported that the Sustainable Harvest Calculation adoption has been delayed pending the Board getting more information. The County wrote a letter noting that some additional information on marbled murrelets was needed, calculations on arrearage and not to leave out riparian management calculations. WSAC has asked that counties with pending sales speak to the Board showing support for the sales and how these revenues are used.

D. TFW Policy Report – Note the name has returned to TFW (Timber Fish Wildlife) for the Policy committee. Kendra reported that the two large agenda items with mandated timelines are the mass wasting and master program schedule that dictates the budget request. The Type F deadline has been extended and the Bull trout overlay has been moved to September.

Mass Wasting – The Forest Practice Board (FPB) requested TFW Policy 1. Complete the process review related recommendations resulting from the Mass Wasting Effectiveness study, including the threat to Public Safety and report back to the FPB by the August meeting; 2. Identify the potential gaps in information about location of glacial deep seated landslide (GDLS) and recommend measures to close the gaps;

and 3. Evaluate existing mitigation measures under current rule pertaining to groundwater recharge areas associated with glacial deep seated landslides (GDSL). DNR staff has provided guidance in a memo sent out in May and have distributed their flowchart for the review process. A technical team has been established to review the Board Manual and help determine gaps. They will probably do a literature review. This group does not include Policy members. There were lengthy discussions on the role of Policy regarding public safety. The rule and guidance already have this included. This is an issue that goes beyond Forest Practices and other agencies, including the counties need to step up. Policy identified several areas where other tools may be a possible help in closing the gaps. Conservation caucus has distributed a proposal for a moratorium. Due to procedure Policy did not take any action. Due to the short timeframe DNR is not able to research all of the geo- reports (we are in the middle of fire season as well) and their data base only goes back to 2011. A request was made to try and get any FPAs and geo-reports from landowners done on GDSL. It is believed that the numbers are very low for any Class IV specials. The DNR has also updated their FP application form. TFW Policy will be having several additional meetings to meet the deadline.

Master Program Schedule – A \$4 million dollar line item budget is the targeted goal. Policy has been going through study by study, proposal by proposal to determine need, possibility for combining with other work, completion and other criteria to try and reduce what started as a \$7 billion dollar budget. This has to be to the FPB by August for the following budget. CMER has been present their work and the various caucuses have been inserting their views and concerns. A very expensive project is the extensive monitoring, which has been both a request of the FAB and supported by the commissioners. This is the one way to determine trends and whether the rules (applications from the rules) are making a difference in the landscape. Other monitor only shows compliance or if the application is doing what it is suppose to at that place in time. The large landowners made a proposal to substitute the extensive monitoring with remote sensing. The Federal, conservation and one state caucus were not sure they supported this. A pilot program was suggested. There will be more discussion at the next meeting.

IV. Change of meeting days. There was a brief discussion but no action taken. Tuesday appear to be a better day.

V. Adjourn. 9:10 a.m.