



SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

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Minutes December 2, 2014

Present: Chuck, Fred, Al, Tim, Aubrey, Tom, Paul and Dave
Absent: Gordy, Lisa, Steve, Ken
Guest: Doug Couvelier
Staff: Kara Symonds

I. Call to order: Following presentation to the Board of County Commissioners approximately 10:00 a. m.

II. Minutes: Moved Chuck and seconded Paul. Approved

III. Discussion:

A. Presentation to the Board of County Commissioners on forest issues pertaining to federal, state and local issues. Kendra gave the presentation and the BoCC asked if there were any comments from the FAB members present. Tom, Aubrey, Al and Dave all thanked the commissioners for their support and reiterated the importance to have a presence at the Forest Practice policy meetings and the Board of Natural Resources. The noted the slide in the presentation showing the revenues to the county and after discussion it was determined that the secondary revenues were much higher that was what in the WFPA findings for Skagit County. The Commissioners thanked the FAB for their work.

B. Firewise update; Al discussed the fires within Washington State this past year and that the Secure Rural School (SRS) has not been reauthorized for this coming year. Title III money to pay for Firewise comes from the SRS authorization. AL told the FAB that the conservation districts sent folks over to the east side this fall to help the communities in need.

C. Working Forest: The FAB suggested that it would be good to have the newly elected commissioner, Lisa Janicki come to a FAB meeting in the near future. It was suggested to have Tom Westergreen come as well to talk about healthy forests at the same time. Tom's involvement with the Farm Forest and small landowners gives an important perspective.

D. TFW Policy: the Riparian bird study was just completed by CMER. Upon review of the results, which showed that the birds were non to minimally affected from harvests the TFW Policy voted to take no further action. Kendra sais she would send the report when she got a pdf copy.

E. Blanchard Settlement Agreement and funding: Kendra met with Mitch Friedman and Bill Wallace to discuss the best approach for making the funding request (\$5.5 million) to the Governor and legislators. This is the final year to get the funding as provided in the agreement. They then had a meeting with the governor's chief of staff and finance to ask that he include the funding in his budget. Commissioner Goldmark has indicated that this is one of his top priorities for State lands in the DNR budget. If funding isn't secured then the agreement is null and void unless the original group comes to a new agreement. DNR will then put sales forward in the manner that they are mandated to do as their responsibility as the trustee for the beneficiaries. The fear is that the sales will be challenged.

F. Planning Commission agenda: Comments from FAB members indicated that they had heard that the Rural Forest Initiative is on schedule with the Planning Commission.

G. Elections: Scheduled for next meeting.

III. Adjourn: 11:00 a.m.