



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
ADVISORY BOARD**

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Tim Raschko Steve Tift
Fred Loffer
Kendra Smith, Staff

Minutes 2-17-15

Present: Ken, Chuck, Aubrey, Dave, Al, Paul, Tim, Fred, Tom Gordy

Absent: Lisa, Steve

Guest: Commissioner Janicki and Doug Couvelier

I. Minutes: Paul moved Tim seconded to approve. Unanimous

II. Introductions: Commissioner Janicki was introduced and the roles of the FAB were explained regarding local, state and federal issues.

III. Discussions: They discussed how tours are beneficial to really understand the operations in the woods. It's the best way to educate the public and public officials. Some of the main issues at this time are county forest lands, RFI, Secure Rural Schools, Healthy Forests, trust lands (Blanchard), TDRs , timber open space taxation and Forest Practice Rules. It is important to get the truth out about how practices really take place. Commissioner Janicki believes education is critical.

IV. Finny bridge: Discussion as to whether or not this bridge is still needed. It provides access to federal lands. It was suggested that a partnership be formed to help pay for the cost of repairs so that log trucks can again go across it. It could involve the County, landowners and the federal government. Dave C mentioned Mill Creek salvage- the coho rearing so perhaps synergies could occur.

V. Blanchard: Kendra gave update on funding request to the legislature for the remainder. Both the County and the Burlington School Board have drafted some possible scenarios for outcomes if funding is not received and sent to Commissioner Goldmark. If Core area not funded then harvests should be considered in that area to compensate the trusts. The trusts have waited 7 years (agreed to extend 2 years due to a lawsuit).

VI. Forest Practices: Kendra gave updates on the update of the Board manual on Section 16, Mass Wasting. The next step will be to look at delivery. TFW policy has been working on how to resolve the debate on electro-fishing as a means to find fish to determine stream type and off channel habitats.

VII. Next meeting: It may be delayed until April.

VIII. Adjourn 9:00