



SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

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Minutes June 8, 2015

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

Absent: Steve, Tom, Fred and Lisa

Guest: Dale Reagan from Mount Vernon City Council, Matt Comisky, Gary Christensen PDS and Doug Couvelier Upper Skagit Tribe

I. Introductions: Councilman Reagan from Mount Vernon City Council.

II. Updates:

1. State Lands : Matt Comisky reported on the BNR meeting. He noted that the May meeting was a marathon while they discussed several issues including the Sustainable Harvest Calculation, specifically as the DNR has continued to miss their targets for volume. AFRC believes something needs to be changed. To finish the SHC a Purpose, Needs statement needs to be done in order to move into the EIS phase. As a note, 1.2 BF/year can be grown 550BF cut so only ½ of what they are growing is harvested. The marbled Murrelet Strategic Plan is waiting for some research to be concluded that is taking place in Wisconsin. It is looking at the number of acres necessary for a certain number of birds. This data should be back by soon, may be even by the end of July. Matt was told that the USFWS feels this is the correct next step. If USFWS believes the DNR has met this step then they can go on to the next step in the process to keep the HCP. DNR following everything the feds are requesting. There was also some discussion on the Trust Land Transfer account. This is where the DNR receives money to buy and transfer the lands out of trust status. Unfortunately it erodes the value of the Trust.

2. Women in Timber Tour- June 12th at Deming Log Arena. Gary Christensen was invited to come and the FAB said they would make sure there was a seat for him on the bus. The FAB spent time explaining the benefits of this tour.

III. Discussion items:

A. FPAs within Mount Vernon UGA- The FAB and Councilman Regan had a discussion about the Mount Vernon Resolution regarding forestry. Mr. Reagan said there had been some confusion and that he understands the regulations and how they do protect. He noted that others needed to also be educated. There was discussion on mechanisms on how to do that type of education. The timber tour is a good start. There was discussion on how it appeared that a certain group with their own agenda may have blown this situation beyond what should have been.

B. County Code Update: Gary Christensen relayed that the Planning Department will be working on taking over the FPAs on Class IV conversions. He had been in touch with the DNR and some of the PSD staff will be working on a code. He also reported on the RFI that the FAB had worked on 2 -3 years ago and said that this will go hand in hand with taking on the Class IV conversions. He said the Department heard what the FAB wanted as far as retaining as much forested lands under the regulation of the DNR and FPAs rather than being subject to the CAO if it was in fact not going to be converted. There was discussion from the members.

C. TFW meeting:

1. Type F and electro-fishing: Conservation caucus has presented the argument that adaptive management process does not need to be followed for this anymore. Generally all other caucuses disagreed. Unfortunately this type of debate takes time away from working on the issue. DNR made a proposal for off-channel habitat (OCH) to clarify what is already in the Board Manual, which everyone agreed upon during our field trips. The conservation caucus believes that areas will be excluded. Type N: Landowners are not supporting some studies that will be very costly since they would not be interested in ever using the applications. All but one caucus agreed and wanted to move on.

2. Small Landowner Proposal for Template: SLO has a group put together and will report back to Policy in September.

3. Legislature closely funded all of the DNRs requests.

IV. Adjourn 9:00 a.m.