



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
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Minutes

May 7, 2018

Present: Gordy, Chuck, Fred, Lisa, Aubrey, Ken, Paul, Tom, and Al Absent: Tim, Dave and Steve

Guest: Bill Blake from the Skagit County Conservation District

- I. Introductions: Al introduced Bill Blake, the new District Manager.
- II. Misc.: Gordy commented on the Capital Budget and the sawmills, allowing Bend to get back on their feet. Is it fair to use public money for manufacturers infrastructure? Isolated communities rather than the public good as a whole. Needs logs to put into the mills and not mills until then.
- III. SCCD: Al had requested that Bill Blake come and meet the FAB and talk about the District and their need for funding sources. Bill and Al noted that there is no money for forestry projects at the District now. That means forest plans, like what Al has been doing will not be continued. The District is looking for a replacement for Al since he has retired. Had to find someone at the proposed pay scale. They really want to help the SLO with management plans. Al and Bill feel they are best qualified to help incentivize smalls to continue doing forest management. The FAB agreed that they are a useful source. There were questions from the FAB regarding WSU's involvement and funding as well as relationship with the DNR. Al said Kevin received \$20,000 from the County/year. They are wanting to do a property assessment to gain \$450,000 (\$5/parcel) and \$50,000 of that would go to a staff forester. The remainder would go to farming and cost share programs. The District can only advise, they will not regulate. There was more discussion about the Assessor's office and the requirement for management plans. SCCD is the liaison between WSU and the Assessor to try and educate the landowner.
- IV. Ken moved to have the FAB endorse funding the Conservation District for a forester through an assessment and Tom seconded the motion. Passed unanimous. The FAB's understanding was that the assessment would go to forestry.
- V. Adjourn 9:00a.m.