



#### SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

Dave Chamberlain, Chairman  
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Paul Kriegel             Aubrey Stargell  
Tim Raschko             Steve Tift  
Fred Loffer  
Kendra Smith, Staff

#### Minutes 9-11-19

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

- I. Minutes: The FAB noted the following change Nookachamps to Nooksack. Fred moved to approve, and Tom seconded. Passed unanimous.
- II. Updates: Commissioner Janicki told the FAB she put her application in for the Mount Baker RAC (Resource Advisory Committee) regarding Title II project funding. Applications due 9-12-19
- III. Discussion:
  - a. Forest Act 2019- Al brought to the FAB's attention work that Cathy McMorris Rogers has proposed in the Forest Act of 2019 and sent information to the FAB a couple of weeks ago. It is about active forest management to reduce impact of catastrophic fires and ensure healthy forests using science-based management. It is also an attempt to promote a sustainable timber yield. The hope is to help with the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools Act. FAB discussed and voted to recommend to the County Commissioners to support this legislation. Al offered to draft up a letter for review. Prompt action is required.
  - b. TFW Policy update- Policy is trying to get a charter passed on the Type N workgroup, who will be evaluating and making recommendations to Policy on the individual CMER studies and their combined effects on stream morphology, temperature, sediment primarily. Policy will be hearing numerous reports on studies coming to conclusion for CMER and then required to determine if action should be taken.
  - c. DNR asking for ways to help offset their management costs. One way is to increase trust management fees again. Ken asked if the County should investigate taking over the management of the trust lands within the county like Grays Harbor has done. He asked if the FAB should take this on as a project. FAB decided to continue the conversation.
  - d. SLO template- Kendra report on the work of the committee and how they are evaluating buffer widths of 75', 50' and 25' with respect to stream size and the associated science for each. Thinning and buffer averaging are being discussed as well. WSAC is supporting 75' and on the fence for 50', but 25' is too hard to support as a one size fits all. In many cases it would be appropriate, but this is to be a template. Both thinning and averaging need to have some sidewalls for the counties to support. Kendra noted that she has been working with the various caucus to see if there are opportunities with pilot projects and trying to find funding to do some in each region. A final report will be given to the full Policy group at their November meeting scheduled for October 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - e. BNR- The FEIS for the marbled murrelet will be released September 20<sup>th</sup>. The DNR staff gave a presentation to the BNR on the MM and the work they have been doing to date. They stressed that "ultimately, the applicant must develop a conservation program that includes both minimization and mitigation measures in a manner that fully offsets the impacts of the taking". Debate is over why anything outside of the nesting area (which is already protected) needs to be so substantially mitigated. AFRC brought a biologist up to Skagit to evaluate the lands newly put into SHA s and found that they will not even grow into habitat within the life of the HCP. The costs to Skagit County would be \$455,000 if Alternative H is chosen (\$2.3 million if alternative G is selected). FAB discussed. WSAC is asking timber counties to contribute to a financial study that will help evaluate impacts to the beneficiaries and junior taxing districts as more lands are taken off base. Study will cost approximately \$100,000 and be ready September 2020. Late for the MM, but good for future references. Report will be beneficial, however it will have all stakeholders involved in developing the scope (DNR, timber counties, conservation groups).

Adjourned: 8:30