



SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

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Tim Raschko Steve Tift
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Kendra Smith, Staff

Minutes

October 9, 2019

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

Guest: Annette DeVoe and Dan Berentson

I. Minute: Moved by Al and seconded by Ken to approve. Unanimous.

II. Discussion:

- a. Forest Act of 2019: Al had sent information to the FAB regarding Cathy McMorris proposed bill for congress. FAB had read and discussed the nuances with their support. Gordy moved and Ken seconded to recommend to the BoCC that they support this legislation by contacting and following through with a letter. Al drafted a letter and Dave will sign and send to the BoCC. Approved unanimous.
- b. Follow-up on Open Space and Timber taxation programs: Annette DeVoe from the Assessor's Office returned to follow-up on the August discussion. The discussion included the liability of taking action to change a parcel from timber to open space designation. Once in open space-open space the land must be left untouched and activities like logging would be prohibited. One can't get out of this designation unless back taxes are paid, so the penalty can be significant for many. 4500-4800 parcels are considered small landowners (100 acres or less) and could potentially transfer over. There are 320 currently in OS-OS designation. Annette noted that the PBR system is generally used for qualifying 1000's of acres covered in timber. Suggested this system for Skagit County. She also noted that a Board would be needed (3 member) and felt a FAB member should serve on it due to their knowledge. FAB discussed the need and operations of a Board and how to make the oversight of such a body work affectively. There was also discussion as to how many landowners would go to OS-OS if there were no incentives. Talked about generating a document listing the required items, i.e. Forest management plan and a statement as to why they want to be in Designated Forest Land classification. FAB decided to table to the December meeting and Annette said she would be back.
- c. State lands Report: Kendra presented the FEIS for the MM Long Term Conservation Strategy and noted that the FEIS for the Sustainable Harvest Calculation was coming out Friday. Amendments to the proposed alternative, Alternative H, just came out and these are what are being called the HCP Amendment and sent to the Services. They should respond by the end of October. There appears to be a lot of confusion over the numbers and what the actual financial impact may be. Kendra noted that several of the timber counties will be getting together to talk about both of the FEISs and potential actions.
- d. Small-landowner template: Kendra reported on the subcommittee's work and the votes taken. Scott Swanson is not part of this group due work load so Kendra was responsible for the counties position. Trying to support the SML with smaller templates and ones that would be more site specific. As noted the SLO provide the majority of logs and are the most vulnerable for conversions, which are costly for counties and the forest practice industry

III. Adjourn: 9:15.