



SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

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Minutes 3/11/20

Present: Gordy, Lisa, Fred, Tom, Ken, Dave, Steve and Chuck Absent: Al, Aubrey and Tim Guests; Paul Wagner, Will Honea and Commissioner Dahlstedt

- I. Minutes: Fred moved, and Tom seconded to approve February's minutes. Passed unanimous.
- II. General Discussion: Introductions and Overview of the upcoming meeting. The next couple of meetings will be on forests and their relationship to climate change and carbon sequestration. Kendra noted that she has been collecting studies from around the country (along with help from Al) to help aid in future FAB discussions. There was some discussion about Section 13 as it applies to Type 2 waters verses ponds. This may need to be a topic in the future.
- III. Forest Practice Board Water Typing Subcommittee and FPB meeting: Tom Nelson serves on the FPB subcommittee and reported to the FAB that the group has gotten a lot accomplished since the fall FPB meeting. They had recommended to the FPB to approve a tentative budget up to \$75,000 (but may only be \$68,000 with Terrainworks) and a tentative timeline to contract for developing GIS model and analysis. The subcommittee will oversee a small technical group to share available fish habitat data and assess the feasibility of the data to supplement existing data for inclusion in a spatial analysis for an eastern Washington rule. This group will inform the Committee if data gaps exist and options for collecting additional data if needed. Tom said the Anadromous Fish Floor (AFF) workgroup is continuing to refine how the GIS analysis will be performed. They will further discuss the most appropriate natural fish barrier definition for streams. The workgroup is struggling to understand the differences between using a **threshold** versus a **gradient** change, which will affect the AFF outcome. Kendra can send more information on the FPB meeting due to time constraint. WFPA is also submitting a request for a PI to the FPB on what they are calling "smarter buffer". Kendra will send more information out on this as well. Ken asked about the progress on including eDNA studies. Tom responded that it still needs a lot of work before it would be acceptable to use.
- IV. Sustainable Harvest Calculation (SHC): Will Honea, Skagit County deputy prosecutor, and Paul Wagner, consultant with Atterbury Consulting, jointly presented to the FAB the outline of the complaint the County filed against the DNR adoption of the SHC decadal plan, the model used and the current inventory. Paul explained why using the NPV in the model becomes circulatory and can't really predict future markets (basically because it is too large with inputs). Paul presented questions that need to be asked and data that needs to be obtained. He also pointed out weak points in the SCH process. He said he would send the presentation to the FAB and asked for input. Discussion continued with Commissioner Dahlstedt noting that perhaps working with the 4 neighboring counties (Whatcom, Snohomish, Island and San Juan) on regional issues it would make sense to also consider taking back the State Forest and Transfer lands and managing ourselves. FAB members agreed there would be benefit in taking back the lands and self-managing, but they did not think it was a good idea to include the other counties since two didn't really have State Forest lands and the other two have different beliefs on how they should be managed. There was more discussion on the market and then on the carbon bill moving forward.
- V. Adjourn: 9:30 a.m.