



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
ADVISORY BOARD**

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Minutes
6/10/2020

Present: Tom, Ken, Dave, Gordy, Chuck, Aubrey, and Steve Absent: Fred, Lisa, Al, and Tim Guest: Kayla Schott-Bresler. Meeting was attended via Zoom as posted in the agenda.

- I. Minutes: Tom moved and Gordy seconded to approve March 11, 2020 minutes. Approved unanimous.
- II. General Updates: 1. Scott Swanson has resigned as the County rep from WSAC serving at TFW Policy and BNR meetings effective June 30th. Gordy suggested that the Fab should ask the BoCC to suggest Kendra as an interim since she has done both in the past, acts as alternate currently and is knowledgeable enabling her to step in immediately and not miss anything. Chuck agreed. Tom said it is very important we have a person in that position like Kendra who understands what the issues mean to our local area and be able to talk to all of the caucuses. He also noted that perhaps there may be some funding from WSAC, which might help. Kayla said she would mention it to the Commissioners in their briefing. 2. There was discussion between the FAB about the state of the State regarding the budget in light of the pandemic and what that might mean in the future as far as funding staff, ID teams, science and projects. What would this mean to the industry as far as obtaining FPAs for work.
- III. TFW update: Kendra noted that she had been briefing FAB members individually during April and May when they were not able to meet due to the Governor's Proclamation and other boards (Policy, FPB and BNR) had still had meetings. The AMP budget that required a \$1.9 million reduction was approved by the FPB accepting Policy's recommendation, which required several meetings debating where cuts should be made. Participation grants funding for SLO and counties will remain and projects already occurring will continue rather than taking on new work (both were fully supported by the counties). Water typing has been moving through an independent science team (ISAG) with little happening since there appears to be minimal direction and a lack of clarity on outcomes. Several caucuses have asked to get full clarity before proceeding so that everyone can be on the same page when study results are produced to move forward with any type of rulemaking. WFWPA proposed a PI to study temperature changes on Type N stream to help add information/data. It received support once all caucuses realized it would go through a science review. The SLO tried to call for dispute resolution since their science report was rejected by Policy. Due to the way the vote was taken they were unable to do this. Work is being done so that they can call for it at the July meeting. Most caucuses want site specifics or ID teams before they will concede to a small buffer than in Rule. Dave commented that water typing is a major issue in our region and this needs to be watched very closely. ID teams appear to be a good solution except for the time and costs. John Gold from Sierra Pacific presented a report as to how to cut costs. It is working its way up the chain of command.
- IV. BNR update: The BNR is facing another sale controversy like Blanchard and conservation groups are asking for the BNR to come up with alternative revenue sources to fund the Forest Purchase trust lands. The DNR presented their 3-year plan, which included Trust land Performance, Climate resilience and the SHC since the next one due by 2025 and the East side has not been done yet. Trust land management being done next year as they want to focus on modernizing the trust management and governance and funding sources.

Commissioner Franz wants to expand on recreational opportunities. The DNR has a subcontractor working on the recreational economic benefits. One BNR member wanted to know if the economic benefits from mills etc. were being included and the answer was no not now. All FAB members agreed that this needed to be considered and that the report would be “bogus” without such analysis. The FAB then discussed why the County should manage the lands within Skagit County. Aubrey noted that there are environmental trade-offs worldwide if they shut logging down here. Climate resilience discussions and how the DNR should take this into consideration when setting up timber sales will start this fall and policy established.

- V. Climate/Carbon: Can or should the FAB try to help educate the community on how good forest management is beneficial and helpful. Ken noted that there has been a lot of work done and that WFPA or AFRC or Bruce Lipke (associated with the UW Rural Institute) Elaine O’Neil with the SLO should lead the way. As the FAB pulls information together to share they should do so in concert with these other groups. Steve also noted that this is the time to start opening up better management on federal lands. Besides helping carbon for climate and fire resilience it could also help with the outstanding debt that will be forth coming due to COVID-19. Next meeting will try to get more folks to talk about the information they have. Dave said the FAB needs to educate and motivate for timber management and need to get before the BOCC. There is a positive story to be told in what the industry really does do, that helps.

- VI. Adjourn 9:20