



SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

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Gordon Iverson Tom Nelson
Paul Kriegel Aubrey Stargell
Tim Raschko Steve Tift
Fred Loffer
Kendra Smith, Staff

Minutes 8/19/20

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

- I. Minutes: Tom moved, and Tim seconded to approve the June and July minutes with typo-change. Approved unanimous.
- II. Discussion: Follow up discussion on July's climate and carbon sequestration agenda item. Time was spent catching those FAB members absent at the last meeting up on what the guest presenters had to say and what the next steps should be. The key points made were: 1. the overall economy right now may play a large role in the speed at which new policies will be made due to work load, potential layoffs at the State level, and costs of COVID. 2. Debate was over whether it would speed up or delay policies. 3. The BNR may be moving a policy forward more quickly due to pressure from the environmental community (presentation by DNR staff on this at the next BNR meeting) and at a state level for things like a carbon tax it may be in the forefront as supported/passed legislation. 4. There was discussion about the ability of large companies who want longer rotations to buy up in the carbon account to push harvests to 100-year cycles. The flip to that would be to have shorter and increased harvest rotations, which would sequester more carbon over the time and more wood products could be produced. 5. There are numerous companies producing structural wood products equal in strength to concrete (for example CLT-cross laminated timber). Carbon is retained by using these products. 6. Incentives should be provided to plant more trees and have more forest lands- the FAB's RFI proposal would help do that. It is still being vetted in the Planning Department. FAB talked about the need to stop conversions. Site 85 or higher or pay a carbon fee may be a potential policy. This would recoup for carbon sequestration. More work and education regarding managed forests on the USFS lands and National forests. 7. Recommend to the Commissioners to work within the "Good Neighbor" policy. 8. Dave said FAB needs to continue this as an on-going FAB topic; and if folks believe in climate change than they must believe in managed forests are the best for the environment. Patrick Moore, the former Green Peace president/co-founder, noted the importance of forest management. Tom agreed that the timing is right to work on this issue.
- III. Updates:
 - a. Forest Practice Board- Tom noted that the water typing committee had met again and were discussing type and amount of data to be used on the eastside to contribute to the potential habitat break (PHB) analysis. Standards appear to change depending on what information caucuses want to bring forward. All but landowners were ok with minimal sites and not using some of the CMER ones. The question will be what money will be available in the future for the analysis. The problem still exists that a standard for fish habitat has not been defined and agreed upon so it's impossible to move forward. DNR is still reviewing potential contractors to do the anadromous fish floor special analysis.
 - b. TFW Policy- The Np workgroup (a subcommittee for the hardrock study has been meeting. The workgroup is currently discussing several RMZ alternatives of varying lengths and widths, as well as opportunities for management within the RMZ. Two meetings planned this month are intended to finalize RMZ alternatives and establish the

process to be used in evaluating the effectiveness of these RMZ alternatives at meeting the objectives. Subsequent meetings are currently being scheduled to begin RMZ alternative evaluations. There was an extensive presentation on the NSO as discussions are moving forward on what to do with the continued decline in numbers. Right now, DNR and WFDW are still only monitoring. Policy will move forward into dispute resolution on the SLO template. There will be 3 meetings prior to the September TFW meeting for Phase I of DR. It was decided to make individual charters for the deep-seated landslide strategy.

- c. BNR meeting was a virtual tour of a sale and presentation on commercial real estate. The FAB discussed their concern over the DNR has continuing to push for purchasing commercial real estate. FAB members said government would be illegally competing with the private sector. They also said by reducing harvests changes many rural communities' incomes. Building will occur and wood products will come from somewhere...and that may mean far less environmental protections leaving a greater carbon footprint around the world. There would also be an economic affect on public assistance of infrastructure.
- d. CLT- AI shared an article about a \$2 million grant to Darrington. This shows new markets for wood products.

IV. Adjourn 9:20 a.m.