



SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

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Minutes

October 14, 2020

Present: Dave, Gordy, Tom, Ken, Chuck, Fred, Steve, Al, Aubrey Absent: Tim and Lisa Guest: Kayla Schott-Bresler

- I. Minutes: The September meeting was cancelled due to quorum and materials. August minutes were reviewed and approved.
- ii. Updates/Correspondence: Gordy brought up an information paper Dick Whitmore prepared regarding forest management. It had been circulated to some, but not all the FAB members, and due to its relevance and importance with respect to the fires this will be circulated to everyone and a topic at the next meeting. There was follow up discussion regarding information circulated amongst the FAB in late September on maximum annual growth (MAI) with respect to rotation cycles (follow up to the FAB's previous discussions on carbon storage). There has been debate within the industry on what the point a of stand rotation operates at maximum capacity. Of interest is the roll of the wood products and at what times are the best to extract (harvest) for specific by-products. The following article was shared:
https://res.mdpi.com/d_attachment/forests/forests-11-00194/article_deploy/forests-11-00194-v2.pdf
- III. Discussion:
 - a. TFW Policy: Most of the discussions at policy have been on updates to subcommittees. Type N work is moving along and is anticipated to meet the deadline to fully report back on data analysis to Policy by the first of the year. The SLO dispute resolution Phase I has been extended due to all caucus believing progress has been made over the past month and that several more meetings may result in some significant agreements from all. This will be beneficial if (and it most likely will) Phase II is invoked. It is clear from some of the caucus that they would not be able to agree to buffers less than 75'. The SLO are still maintaining their impact is minimal due to the amount they harvest. How does one ensure the watershed is not impacted and a group of SLOs do not harvest all the same year? How does one measure whether the protections are the same or greater? Can there be management within 75' buffers. What is the science (depends on who is reviewing!) CMER has had their 1st meeting reviewing whether they will accept the science offered by the SLOs and reviewed by Temply. WFPA is continuing to offer assistance in exploring "smart buffers". Progress is being made at the subcommittee on an alternative plan for the SMOs regarding hardwood conversions.
 - b. BNR: The first part of the meeting was an update on the impacts of the state fires. The most in the month September and they had limited resources due the fires in the other states. The aircraft suspension units were unable to fly due to the hurricane type wind forces, so it left only ground firefighters. 600 acres in 72 hours burned. 90% of the fires were human caused. Several public commenters asked the DNR not to harvest tress for a minimum of 10 years due to the fires, they did not comment on what this would do on

- c. fuel loading. Timber sales were high with \$450/mbf as the average bid. The fires have caused prices to go up and this is based what mills will offer. The staff presentation was on a Climate Resilience Strategy they have working on since 2014. It was released in Feb 2020. The 3 basics are to tweak what is currently being done, coordinate with others look for new things to do to offset and educate. The Lands Commissioner talked about their leg priorities which are: 1. Post COVID recovery, 2. Community resiliency and job creation 3. Agency Efficiency. DNR is pushing for alternative revenue generators especially in the area of commercial real estate, which is proposed in most presentations. They have asked for \$12.5m for silviculture. Total ask is \$54.1 million, which will add 400 jobs.
- IV. Next meeting will be Nov 18th due to FPB meeting
- V. Adjourn 9:10 a.m.