



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
ADVISORY BOARD**

Dave Chamberlain, Chairman
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Fred Loffer Aubrey Stargell
Tom Nelson Steve Tift
 Kendra Smith, Staff

Minutes

February 11, 2021

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

- I. Minutes: Minutes moved by Ken, seconded by Fred, and approved with a typo change in the word tribes.
- II. Discussion: Kendra Gave updates on the following:
 - a. Extensive Monitoring workshop- TFW held a 1-dsay workshop to discuss the aspects of doing extensive monitoring vs intensive or compliance. Most studies have monitoring that is associated with the immediate action. TFW was set up so that long term effects could be understood. This was done since the forest practice rules were put into place without having science. The question is whether or not the rules work, are necessary or some variation might be better. This type of monitoring is costly and takes years to implement. Industrial landowners, small landowners, tribes, and the counties probably would not have supported TFW, the FFR and HCP if this was not included. Several caucuses do not believe it is necessary now. The workshop was very educational.
 - b. Adaptive Management Program Audit Report- A report was to be done every biennium since 1999. This was the first. Very welcomed by all to finally have the report. Unfortunately, the Auditor's office does not fully understand the AMP (it would be a large learning curve) so some of their observations leading to recommendations were questionable. They concluded that the consensus-based voting does not work since so few rules have changed and very decision moves at a snail's pace. If it were not by consensus the vast majority of the votes would be unfavorable to industry and counties due to the makeup of the caucuses. An AMP is a slow process. The fact there have been so few rule changes may be due to an insignificant amount of study data showing a need for a change. Incorporating many of the recommendations may prove beneficial, like establishing a "net gain" for all caucuses in a recommendation to the FPB. Also, defining the performance targets before settling on a study design. More audits, more transparency, more in-boarding and more user-friendly web access we all proposed and acknowledged by the FPB to review more closely.
 - c. BNR – More information from the DNR staff on the Trust Lands Performance Assessment. Many conservation minded folks testified to stop harvesting and modernize the trust finding alternative revenues. It was pointed out that the numbers comparing harvest yields of years ago to today were of those both pre-export limitations and NSO regulations. (1994). Staff will continue to make presentations.
 - d. FPB- Besides the audit and Policy updates the FPB was given the SLO 10-year trends presentation from the UW Rural Technology Initiative (RTI). Acreage has decreased, the number of very small landowners decreased. Conversions near roads and UGAs. Study

- e. was concluded prior to COVID so the researchers acknowledged that the 2019 results may change drastically as people move away from cities, do more telecommuting and not want to see clear cuts close to them. GMA, was probably beneficial in reducing conversions over the past decade.
 - f. Policy- the type N study is within months of completion, CMER is arguing over the proposal put forth by WFPA, Changes to meet clean water assurances are supposed to be done by December without consequences. Policy and FPB probably won't make that date. Some just want more restrictive rules developed and others want to get the science right and see if new rules are really necessary. There was discussion on the Auditor's report.
- III. Educational Updates: Dave shared the Video bites made by Oregon Forest Resource Institute sent from AI. They are 35 second cartoon clips on carbon sequestration. He noted it would be valuable to make some of these, possibly not cartoon, and share them on TV21. FAB discussed. The thought was to see what educational video clips may be available and who would be willing allow other networks to display. Clearing houses of past media work, like WFPA OFC and UW Rural Technology Initiative (RTI) should have some good information. FAB suggested Kendra investigates videos. She said she would ask the BoCC if there was budget for her to investigate.
- IV. Will need to address other agenda items next month.
- V. Adjourn 9:10