



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
ADVISORY BOARD**

Dave Chamberlain, Chairman
Lisa Cassidy Ken Osborn
Al Craney Chuck Parker
Gordon Iverson Tim Raschko
Fred Loffer Aubrey Stargell
Tom Nelson Steve Tift
Kendra Smith, Staff

Minutes

March 10, 2021

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

I. Minutes: FAB asked that acronyms be spelled out in the minutes. February minutes moved and approved.

II. Update:

- a. Washington Supreme Court will hear Constitution Writ on the State lands Trust. The question is the beneficiaries and who they are.
- b. Environmental Justice bill- A bill, SB 5141, is moving quickly through the houses that could affect revenues to State trust lands. There was discussion to recommend to the Commissioners to ask WSAC to request the bill to be amended to drop state lands.
- c. American Forest Resource Council (AFRC) is launching new webpage.

III. Discussion:

- a. Board of Nat'l Resources- DNR is continuing their "lightening talks" on implementation processes. It was on land transaction appraisals. There were many public comments on carbon emissions, loss of revenue to the trusts and importance of maintaining the trust lands, and forestry and what could possibly happen if forestry is taken to other areas without protective rules. happen. It was noted that tress sequester the most carbon between the ages of 40-80 years. Some studies show that carbon is sometimes emitted from trees after that. Approximately 50% of the DNR forests are set a-aside. The DNR had accidentally put up a sale with 2 ac of "old and older growth" tress that they quickly amended but generated a response from the environmental community (along with 2 prior Public Land Commissioners) asking for a bill to create a new trust. Within 20 years at (putting 5% a-side each year) the new trust would be in place to protect all of the DNR lands virtually from being harvested.
- b. TFW- SLO Dispute Resolution (DR). Meetings for Phase II underway. A full report next month once the DR is over. There has been on-going debate on the large landowner proposal for a smart buffer study. Does it fit for a study has been the question for the Adaptive Management Program Administrator.
- c. Educational clips- Kendra talked to Brian Young who said they could put educational media on TV Skagit if approved by the authors and commissioners. FAB discussed the amount of good information available but needed it to be short and sweet. It might be worth while to try and get something into a school program. Ken volunteered to talk to the Assessor's office regarding tax parcels with a forest land designation. This is a voluntary (approved by the BoCC) designation with the obligation for management the lands for forestry. To determine the next steps necessary for land owners to retain this tax designation. He will report back to FAB next month.
- d. OTHER: Hope to have in=person meetings in the near future.

IV. Adjourn 9:00.