



**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

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April 14, 2021

Present: Al, Fred, Dave, Steve, Chuck, Aubrey, Ken, Tom, Lisa, Gordy and Tom. Absent : Tim Guests: Commissioner Browning, Cory McDonnell (DNR), Besty Stevenson (PDS)

- I. Introductions: Cory McDonald from the DNR introduced himself. Betsy introduced herself from Planning wanting to give a briefing on the Shoreline Master Program.
- II. Minutes: Al moved to approve, Aubrey seconded with change to Ken's involvement contacting the Assessor's office and 5% over 20 years for request to move lands from harvest. Approved unanimously.
- III. Discussion:
  - a. Shoreline Master Program- Betsy gave some background on the progress of the County's update. It stated in 2009-2010, with an update due in 2016. That was delayed for various reasons. It will go before the Planning Commission May 11<sup>th</sup>. Comments will be received until June 7<sup>th</sup>. She noted that some of the requests the FAB and PDS made to the DOE were not accepted regarding forest applications in shoreline jurisdictions. Permits will be required and accompanying fees (subst5ainal development permit). The FAB had suggested that since the Forest Practice rules were in place, forest applications should follow those rules and pay those fees and not have to pay twice. This would be for bridge and road building primarily. There was discussion and Cory from the DNR noted that WAC 173-26-241 should apply, and that SB 5381 excepts out fish passage projects and also appears to be a blanket exception. There was more discussion on lack of communication within departments and even within departments. This carried into clean water assurance discussion and the requirements pending on type N buffers. Suggested looking into WAC 222-50-010 (agencies need to work together) also.
  - b. 2021 FAB goals- The FAB still believes education is fundamental, but can't educate the whole world. Make sure our commissioners are informed and in cases, the Skagit community. Carbon education and what the forests do for the community are the top topics. FAB noted that the DNR was supposed to have education as part of the Blanchard agreement, which has not been done. Lack of funding available. Ken wants to spend time on the County's tax parcels designated forest lands, to make sure they are fulfilling the intended obligations. Ken then presented the results of his meeting with the Assessor's office and Commissioner Browning. (This was a follow up from the meetings the FAB had with them a year and a half ago.) A public rating system still needs to be in place before landowners are asked to change their designations or they will just move to another designation allowing them to continue to pay significantly reduced tax rates. Several other counties already have one in place and Skagit is looking into them. Once in a designation, then engage the obligation to manage the land per designation. A forester will need to be retained to ensure the management is occurring. The question of enforceability is still pending.
  - c. Updates: 1. SLO dispute resolution: It failed so there will be a majority/minority report. Waiting for CMER to conclude the science evaluation. Kendra will be participating a week-long conflict transformation workshop funded by the adaptive management

program. TFW Principles will be taking (if not already) this as well. It is hoped that the adaptive management program will be able to move in the intended direction and not get bogged down. 2. The proposed SB 5141 (environmental justice bill), includes DNR needing to spend state land revenues if not exempted. FAB recommended asking the BoCC to weigh in on this. 3. A state land sale accidentally included some old growth trees. It was amended, but environmental groups concerned and want a full discussion the policy defining old and older growth at the next BNR meeting. 4. Debate on amount of carbon retained in trees and the age. 5. Trust Land Performance audit was discussed. DNR used numbers (1994) pre-spotted owl and HCP to conclude that timber was not a strong revenue source anymore and that other avenues should be pursued, i.e. commercial real estate. Also, a report on revenue from recreation was included suggesting more research into this activity for the trusts rather than harvesting. 6. Leg request from former public lands commissioners Goldmark and Belcher and Peter Goldman asking for a new forest designation on State lands to be "special ecological reserve" to sequester carbon and remove harvesting all together at a rate of 5% /year over 20 years was not acted upon!

IV. Adjourn 9:10 a.m.