



SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

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

Minutes

June 16, 2021

Present: Al, Tom, Dave, Gordy, Lisa, Ken, Aubrey, Chuck, and Steve Absent: Tim and Fred Guest: Commissioner Browning and Nick Kung Skagit Conservation District

- I. Introductions: Al introduced the new forester working for the Conservation District. Nick Kunz. FAB can reach him at Nick@skagitcd.org.
- II. Minutes: Steve moved to approve Chuck seconded. Approved. Note- May meeting only had 3 attendees. No minutes or voting.
- III. Discussion:
 - a. Board of Natural Resources (BNR): Kendra noted that she made comments for Skagit County and the Commissioners also submitted comments on the Board's "Old and Older Growth" policy. The comments were to acknowledge the prior work and keep the adopted policy. In 2006, when Commissioner Anderson was on the BNR, they approved a policy as part of the Sustainable Forest Policy defining Old and Older Growth for State lands. There had been research, data collected, and evaluated and hours of board discussion to develop the policy. Some of the public wants to change the policy, stop harvests, and find new revenues for trust beneficiaries. Their belief is that cutting trees exacerbates climate change. The FAB discussed numerous studies showing this not to be true and noted that the push from the Trust land Performance Assessment was also toward finding other revenues (like commercial real estate) rather than harvesting trees. The bigger discussion for the FAB was on the value of working forest for healthy forest, sustainable communities (rural communities having family wage jobs), carbon sequestration, schools, and infrastructure. Healthy forests also provide important social needs for the local communities and local tribes. Some of the public believe state lands should just be solely for the public's enjoyment. FAB discussed how this was a deflection from the topic of climate change, the real issue.
 - b. Timber Fish Forest-Forest Practices (TFW):
 1. Mark Hicks, the Adaptive Management Manager, will be retiring the end of June (he has been involved with TWF for 20+ years).
 2. Dispute Resolution (DR) was called over the non-consensus vote to take action to perform a study looking into the basin impacts from Type N buffers (as proposed by Industry caucus). After doing a preliminary investigation, Industry believes that impacts from harvesting type N streams as seen in the Hard Rock Study may not warrant increased buffering. It appears that the scope of inferences within the study only amount to about 2% of the landscape within a basin. Several caucuses believe buffers need to be wider, longer and on all sides of type N streams for harvesting. This has been a topic at TFW for several years as studies are being conducted. This investigation would supplement current work being done and it appears that both cost and time would be minimal and not impact the adaptive management program budget or time schedule. Tribes, conservation caucus and DNR don't want to do the study for various reasons. DOE is concerned about their commitment to the Clean-water assurances with a December deadline.
 3. Conflict transformation- the re-commitment to TFW- had the contractor resign stating that it not going to be possible for her to help find a resolution. Lots of questions about the Adaptive Management Program and how to move forward.

- IV. DNR sustainable harvest calculation lawsuit: FAB asked what was happening with the lawsuit. They talked about different scenarios if the County were to take over the management of the State lands from the DNR. There was discussion about the HCP on state lands and the need for an HCP. FAB asked if Will Honea could attend the next meeting and give an update. Kendra will check. FAB also noted that the GMA supports the conservation of on-going forest management by requiring forested lands providing long-term commercial significance be protected (RCW 36.70A.060).
- V. Next meeting may be in person. Adjourn 9:06.