



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

October 13, 2021

Present: Dave, Ken, Al, Steve, Fred, Chuck, Aubrey, Tom Absent: Tim, Lisa, Gordy

Guest: Nick Knuz, Skagit Conservation District

- I. Minutes: Al moved and Ken seconded to approve the July minutes. Passed unanimously. Tom moved and Al seconded to approve the September minutes. Passed unanimously.
- II. Discussions:
 - a. Kendra briefed the FAB on the meeting with Dr. Watson, DOE Director, Commissioner Browning, Rich Doenges, DOE Water Quality Supervisor, regarding the Adaptive Management Program (AMP), the Clean Water Assurances and CR-101 rule making to change the Type Np buffers. It was very clear that DOE believes the AMP is broken, that the science shows that the buffers are not working, that the clean water assurances, which were extended in 2019, would absolutely not be extended if CR-101 was not initiated by the Forest Practice Board (FPB). They believe that DNR is not showing leadership. DOE's buffer proposal is for 75' buffers both sides full length, but did indicate that they may not be full vested to this. They do not feel progress has been made towards protecting the aquatic resources and even though the stream temperatures stayed below and in the range for the anadromous species, the slight warming of .3C degrees could have a cumulative effect downstream and this was not tolerable. Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) is also planning on meeting with Dr. Watson. The FAB was very pleased Commissioner Browning had met with Laura Watson and spent the time to understand and discuss the issue at hand.
 - b. The FAB had a long discussion on buffer size verses function. Size does not matter, the site does. Agriculture argued "one size does not fit all" and that is true on the forested landscape as well. They noted that Jackman Creek (northeast to southwest) is a perfect example of showing what is being left as responsible forestry today. Logged first in the 60-70's and now again working with RMZ and unstable slope buffers a completely different landscape is present. The discussion continued noting that the Industry has not received credit for putting in all of the culverts and road maintenance at the cost of over \$400,000,000. A public benefit was provided, and no credit given and the land uses below are not successful in doing their share as indicated by all of the streams on the TMDL (total minimum daily load as specified by EPA) list. Extensive monitoring should have been on-going as promised and the science and the AMP followed as envisioned in the TFW negotiations. Extensive monitoring would have shown if the forest practices were working and if not why and what needed to be changed. It was tough for the FAB to support studies where the scope of inference was limited to 3 specific sites all primarily investigating salamanders.
 - c. TFW Update: Along with above, a briefing was given on proposals brought forth by Counties, East side tribe, DOE/WDFW and Industry. Meetings will start up again even though the science studies have not been fully accepted by CMER yet.
 - d. BNR Update: Discussion on legacy trees are emphasizing that they are not special, just that they did not come from a planted and managed unit. Most of these trees were

from areas that were harvested right before or after the DNR took over the county lands that were in default. The FAB acknowledged that Trust Land Transfers need to be done correctly and that any new policies need to be thoroughly vetted.

- e. Education Update: Nick and Al noted that Kristy Carpenter at the District will be retiring soon, and she is the one who leads the educational programs. The FAB noted that if the County has any type of educational outreach, it should be viewed by the FAB first for content and accuracy.
 - f. Zoom will continue until further notice
- III. Adjourn 9:02 a.m.