



**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
November 17, 2021**

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

- I. Minutes: FAB members reviewed and made edits to the October; Steve then moved and Ken seconded to approve. Passed unanimously.
- II. Discussions:
 - a. Forest Practice Board (FPB) Update/TFW: Both Tom and Kendra briefed the FAB on the meeting and future action items and timelines. The major topics were the initiation of CR-101, Rule -making for Type N buffers, Type F water typing including the tribal proposed Anadromous Fish Floor (AFF) update. The FPB voted to start CR-101, but from input from both Tom and the County representative, Vicy Raines, (who received the letter from Commissioner Browning that was sent as a follow-up to his meeting with DOE Director, Dr. Watson,) kept a timeline and buffer proposals from being included. Dr. Watson noted that she was not yet ready to make a call on whether or not to extend the Clean Water Assurances but would make a decision by the December 31st deadline. If DOE does not extend, they will be responsible for doing TMDLs on the streams. The DOE may not have the time, but litigation could occur resulting in the legislators taking some sort of alternative action. The FAB noted that it was unfortunate that the FPB decided to move out of sync of the Adaptive Management Program but understood the need to try and work in a collaborate direction with fellow caucuses. The most important outcome was no timelines so the work could be done correctly verses without completed science, which otherwise would only lead to future grievances. The AFF subcommittee has been meeting with a completed report scheduled for December 3rd. The committee will be recommending gradients based on a consultant's report for the placement of "last fish". Several caucus, including the tribes, believe a 10% gradient should be used, while others believe that 5% would be ample. The proposal has been to make this point becomes the point that electro-shocking can start in order to identify fish presence. The debate being that this would also mean that all waters below the top of the gradient point would be fish bearing and where Type F buffers would be placed verses any ability to show fish may not be downstream of that point. Pesticide and owl work moving along. State Auditor's recommendation being worked on.
 - b. BNR Update: Discussion on Sustainable Harvest Calculation and the start of the scoping for the next decade. Comments should include a need for accurate verified field inventory and then fix the model to accommodate it. Ensure that it is completely understood how important revenues are to the beneficiaries, the Jr. taxing districts, to maintaining jobs. FAB also discussed the impacts of no harvest for 10 years and longer rotations, as proposed by some commentators. Mills can't take the larger timber, jobs would be lost, mills closed and to reopen close to impossible in the future.

- c. Neilsen Bros Inc rezone request: Darcie Neilsen, presented their application to the Planning Department. She noted that they had also been asked to propose a code amendment so spent time on that only to have the Planning Department change their minds due to input from the Ag Advisory Board. They are asking to change from Ag-NRL to Natural Resources -NRL to allow an equipment cleaning area, meeting DOE requirement, to be built. They have been on this property since 2001 and sold a portion for Hanson Creek restoration project, which they had in agriculture. They hoped they could get FAB support for the re-zone. The FAB noted that they make recommendations to the BoCC and generally don't make direct comments to the Planning Commission. The FAB does in fact support the project and understands both the desire for a no net loss to any resource land, but this has not been in ag for many years and is located appropriately for necessary forest infrastructure verses the Port area, which is a distance away and better suited for ag infrastructure being in the delta. This project would provide cleaner water back into the environment. Infrastructure is necessary for the sustainability of the natural resource-based industry.

III. Adjourn 9:15 a.m.