



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
ADVISORY BOARD**

Dave Chamberlain, Chairman
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Tom Nelson Steve Tift
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Minutes

February 16, 2022

Present: Al, Steve, Dave, Gordy, Tom, Ken, Al, Aubrey, and Tim Guest: Commissioner Browning, Nick Kunz

1. Minutes: Al moved, and Ken seconded to approve. Unanimous
2. Discussion Items:
 - a. State Lands – For the Sustainable Harvest Calculation for the next decade the DNR has put together “small work groups” to start informal conversations. The first were only like-minded. The increased outcry to not cut any trees because they are ‘legacy’, the SHC lawsuit, impacts to climate change has continued to ramp up. The Board of Natural Resources meetings are now limiting public comments to 1 hour so first come up to the hour will be heard. The Trust Land Transfer Phase II committee has started to meet to discuss how to implement the TLT. Areas of concern are impacts to Jr taking districts, lands removed from one county to another, lands being taken out of production and not meeting the required strict definition of what is allowed today to be transferred out of trust status. The TLT will now be available for State Forest Lands. FAB discussed the need to organize and noted that both AFRC and WFPA had good PR skills. DNR staff pulled 7 sales with trees pre-1900. There will be impacts to this current SHC and beneficiaries. BNR was not involved in the action.
 - b. Legislation- The Keep Washington Evergreen bill died due to uncompromising amendments added and comments from groups opposing cutting trees for the reasons listed above. Funding for silva-culture and fire suppression will most likely be in the budget provisos. Gordy offered to talk to Todd Meyer at the Washington Policy Center to see what information he may have.
 - c. Educational Outreach- Nick gave a report and will offer more at the next meeting on the FIT (Forest Institute for Teachers) Program in California. It’s a week-long course and has numerous sponsors with a large amount of support. It is cab be expensive to put on, but has an in-depth curriculum. Lisa Perry from SPI has done some initial worked trying to grasp the full knowledge of doing this in Washington State. Al noted that the UW Pac Forest Building would be a great place to hold this. Nick noted that being a weeklong event it needed a lot of capacity. Next steps would be to get a Coordinator, line up speakers and field sites. The FAB asked if the first one (FIT) in Washington could be a single day workshop to break it in. Nick wanted to comment more but needed to leave so it will be continued next month. Commissioner Browning said he would look into credits for ESD for teachers. The atmosphere is to ASK Questions. FAB noted the WFFA agenda last fall was possibly valuable to look at again for a workshop.
 - d. Planning Commission- Tim noted that there was very little, if any input at the PC from the forest industry. Sometimes they need to be there so the community can hear their

concerns on issues. The Shoreline Master Program does allow a temporary road to be built for harvest. FAB thanked Tim for all of his work.

- e. Forest Practice Board Update- Tom gave an update on the Type F subcommittee work. All of the results have been delayed. There are 4 alternatives being evaluated with 3 gradients in each. He noted that it was a fast meeting because the action items were all extended to the May meeting.
- f. Nielsen Brothers Inc Comp Plan Amendment request- Planning Department supported the request, the Planning Commission voted to recommend approval so it will move forward to the Commissioners with a staff report. The FAB voted in favor of support and at the appropriate time notify the Commissioners of the recommendation.
- g. Adjourn- 9:00 a.m.