



#### SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

Dave Chamberlain, Chairman  
Lisa Cassidy      Ken Osborn  
Al Craney      Chuck Parker  
Gordon Iverson      Tim Raschko  
Aubrey Stargell  
Tom Nelson      Steve Tift  
Kendra Smith, Staff

### Minutes May 10, 2022

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

Guest: Nick Kunz FAB met via zoom

#### 1. Discussion:

- a. Updates: Letters of Interest to serve on the FAB: The Commissioners have made a decision and will be sending letters out soon. Ken giving a tour on the 9<sup>th</sup> to middle schoolers on forest technology. Deming Log tour the 10<sup>th</sup>
- b. Education Update: Nick updated the FAB on the progress of getting FIT here in Washington and hopefully located in Skagit. He presented a word document to the FAB on a possible agenda and asked the FAB to fill in names and potential topics. A week agenda made the most sense to get a well-rounded picture of forestry and the benefits of management. Pilchuck and WSU were mentioned as possible locations. FAB suggested more speakers from the DNR and a few less from the USFS. Debra, a leg assistant, has been working with Nick and suggested reaching out to the Leg as soon as possible to have them both hold dates as well as possibly help with some funding. Possibly too soon to talk to the Leg, need to iron out location and agenda. Al suggested Skagit Land Trust be involved as an environmental organization and Ken noted Society of American Foresters (SAF) and Washington Farm Forest Association (WFFA) be invited.
- c. State Lands- BNR: DNR The carbon credit pilot program was discussed at length. Again, Franz noted that she would remove the interim moratorium on harvesting trees pre-1900 (though sales of younger trees have also been postponed recently) to place them into a carbon credit pilot program of approximately 2500 ac initially all within four counties. The Pre-1900 report from the DNR shows a total of 12,550 acres, which is more than originally estimated but includes total acres that would be set aside for the project. At the May BNR meeting the BNR asked the same questions the FAB did. Where will logs come from in the future? What other materials will be used instead of wood for building? What about the housing shortage? How will 'state of the art' forestry be promoted and assured (like the Forest Practice rules in Washington). There will also be an environmental justice debate. What a carbon market can bring in per million board feet. Does this have the beneficiary's best interest at hand? There appears to be only about 25% cost benefit from carbon credit as compared to stumpsage (\$100/mbf vs \$400/mbf). They also asked if they should have been consulted first since this appears to be a break in policy and the SH level they approved not that long ago for the decade. Al noted that Jerry Franklin interview had him saying this would force shorter rotations.

The BNR wants more information especially on DNR staff claiming they can do this program through their leasing authority. No economic analysis has been completed. Does this open the door for setting up leases purely for recreation rather than harvesting? The FAB did some 'back of the napkin' estimates for the impacts to Skagit since there are approximately 2,000 ac of pre-1900 age class trees. At about \$30 million in standing timber times 2,000 with 50-year rotation, this would be about \$1,000,000 loss per year not including loss of jobs and impacts to the communities. Another way to look at it would be 10,000BF/ home which equals 1,350 homes that could be built and may now need to come from other building materials or bringing logs in with a very large carbon footprint. Not environmentally sound.

- d. TFW- the Forest Practice Board was flooded with letters from the small landowners regarding their situation regulating buffers and Policy's breakdown of no consensus. Everyone claims to hear their concerns. The meeting did not have any decisions due to all of the controversial issues being tabled to the August meeting with the promise of a workshop in between.
  - e. DNR NW region issues: Start of the discussion on how the NW region is making/interpreting regs on ID team meetings. Particularly on RIL (Rule Identified Landforms). Possibly call in Doug Hooks who has been working as a liaison with the DNR and WFPA. Is it the management's call or the new geologist? Rule should provide some latitude due to placement. More on this at the next meeting.
  - f. Deming Log Show and Tour- June 10<sup>th</sup>!
2. Adjourn 9:16 a.m.