



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
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**Minutes
July 13, 2022**

Present: Kris, Chuck, Steve, Tim, Tom, Aubrey, Al, Dave Ken Absent: Lisa and Jamie Guest: Commissioner Janicki and Nick Kunz

- I. Introductions: There are two new FAB members, Kris Mcall and Jamie who are well known to all in the industry with their years of work and involvement. Commissioner Janicki noted that she was glad to be able to participate again now that the settlement agreement on the State Lands lawsuit with the DNR has been accepted.
- II. Minutes: Tim moved and Kris seconded to approve. Unanimous approval.
- III. Discussion:
 - a. Public Benefit Rating System (PBRs)- Ken had asked to have this as a standing item to ensure moving forward in whatever appropriate direction. Ken gave an update of his understanding noting that the Planning Department needs to be the department to take next actions. Commissioner Janicki said the Planning Department has so much on its plate that it would be a very long time before they could even consider looking at this and also said that it may not necessarily go to the Planning Department but rather another including the Commissioner's office. There has not been a decision by the Commissioners on how or even if this should move forward. Nick has done research on what other counties have done and most have done nothing. Those that have may have different goals and objectives for open space outcomes. It was again noted that there is a loss in potential revenue and good forest management when forest management plans are not being implemented as promised when the property was enrolled in the Open Space taxation program. Commissioner Janicki also noted the "stick" to implementation was with the State Department of Revenue. It was noted that a hammer or forcing folks to implement may not be a solution at all. Educating folks like with the WSU program is a great way to help move landowners into the direction of working on their management plan.
 - b. State Lands: Commission Janicki said she put her name in and was accepted to serve on the Encumbered Lands Committee, which in some respects piggybacks the Trust Land Transfer (TLT) projects. There is \$20 million allocated to the 5 counties with potential lands swaps available from any county, including Skagit. The TLT pilot project has a request of \$28 million and the question is where is all the money coming from? There have been 2 more TLT meetings to discuss the presented projects, but not the questions of concern. They ran out of time in order to get a report ready for the legislature. The

committee has been asked to rank and then determine if the process employed works. The FAB again discussed concerns about where replacement lands will be coming from.

- c. TFW- The Principles will be having their first meeting tomorrow to start discussions on the adaptive management program, commitments, and water typing. There are going to be many folks at the table. SLO have accepted a process for deciding the path to defining “relatively low impact” dispute. This will go to the FPB in August. The minority/majority reports for the SLO template specifically buffer widths is due by each caucus the 20th of July. The counties proposed an alternative for Type N that appears to satisfy and dissatisfy every caucus so will be used for the next discussions. It has a variable width buffer and continuous for varied lengths depending on stream width. Some caucus are still holding out for a continuous buffer the entire length of the stream. The anadromous Fish Floor has no consensus from the FPB so will be discussed at Principle’s meeting. Policy is recommending to the FPB to take back water typing and follow the AMP procedures. This will be presented at the FPB in August.
- d. FIT Nick gave an update noting that AFRC may be interested in partnering. It is being planned for next summer.
- e. Next meeting August 9th and it was suggested that Gene Phillips from the DNR be invited. He is their NW region program manager.
- f. Adjourn 9:00 a.m.

- I. Update on Settlement with DNR and County lawsuit on the Sustainable Harvest Calculation: Will Honea attended and explained to the FAB that AFRC has a settlement with the DNR and if the County agrees with it then they would be dropping their lawsuit. FAB was happy to see that it entailed getting better data on the DNR inventory. The lawsuit filled by Peter Goldman regarding the “trust status” (public verses fiduciary for beneficiaries) is still pending a decision from the Supreme Court.
- II. Trust Land Transfer (TLT): Currently 80% of transfers go to the common school account and this is an attempt to re-tool and have more money to pay for purchasing new lands. It is to also include the State Forest Lands, which have the issue of junior taxing districts. DNR has 11 projects they will bring before the committee to see how the new ranking system will work. The hard issues still have not been addressed but the DNR feels they must meet the mandate set by the legislators for a report this fall. Ken mentioned the smaller communities dependent on revenues and then noted the Rural Communities Partnership Program
- III. Adjourn: 9:00 a.m.