



SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

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Minutes

November 9, 2023

Present: Tim, Gordy, Aubrey, Jamie, Dave, Peter, Al Absent: David, Chuck, Steve, Kris and John Guest:
Jessica Espy, Hampton, Matt Comiski, AFRC, Nick Kunz, Conservation District and Tom Weller, Skagit
Public Works.

1. Minutes: Tim moved, Jamie seconded. Approved unanimous.
2. Updates: Jessica Espy will be taking over Susan David's job. Jamie, Peter and Steve have accepted another FAB term.
3. Discussion Items:
 - a. Skagit Road Projects: Tom Weller presented to the FAB and shared about *imap* as a map tool to look up future road work. He discussed past, present, and future projects. He noted that there are 3200 culverts in Skagit County and 11 are in design/build phase. He welcomed any concerns and knowledge of occurring problems. Talked about funding for roads. FAB members will submit a list to Tom with roads and bridges of concern. Fab would be appreciative if PW could let them know 2 years in advance of potential road and bridge closures since they plan that far in advance for operations. Tom noted that would not be easy. Tom would like a distribution list of FAB members to send them information. Peter will start spreadsheet.
 - b. Education Updates: Nick shared what is going on i Skykomish School District. He also attended the Pacific Logging Conference and noted the kids seemed really interested in the harvest equipment simulators. WA Tree Farms Fall forestry was held at Padilla Bay last Sep, was well attended. He has been co-leading the Fall Forestry Seminar for the last four years and will be facilitating next year's program with the new lead, Margaret Kreder (Mason CD). Based on Fall forestry feedback there is some interest in biochar and perhaps an opportunity for presentation on wood residues. He asked if the members of the FAB had any thoughts on guest speakers. Nick is setting up 2 workshops early next year for small forest landowners, in part to promote the NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) cost share program. They are also working on simulators for kids to get them interested in forestry applications. PEI working with WFFA/Tree Farm folks will probably do the 2-day workshop in Whatcom County next year. Discussion with last year's Teacher's tour is beginning later this month, no set plans at this point. The annual NW regional Envirothon is in the process of revising their question pool for the coming up with a forestry station. Nick asked what kinds of questions might be good to highlight the forest practice rules. Members suggested questions paired with aerialphotos, particularly of riparian buffers would be good to demonstrate how the rules are applied and what they look like. There will not be a family forest day with the WSU extension this year. The district does not have a fire resilience person at this time so it appears they will not be prepared to go for Title III Firewise funding. They are working on a Post Fire

component to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan update, that should help identify important with preparedness work.

- c. TFW- The FPB will have a special meeting. One day a marbled murrelet field trip (to explore the emergency rules) and the second to discuss how to better scope for projects that will identify the issue, how the outcomes are expected to applied and how to have differing caucuses have a win-win from a proposed study design. the short falls found from the SAO report. TFW working on rule language for Type N. It had been suggested that the language be expanded and to “all activities” within the buffer. That got changed.
 - d. BNR- All sales approved. The largest purchase and trust exchange was approved in Wahkiakum for 9,000 acres as part of the leg proviso funding for the 3 (carbon/legacy/encumbered lands) programs. The cost will take most of the money from the account established. DNR is not sure yet how they will divvy up what portions of the sale go towards each of the 3 competing programs.
 - e. Regional Meeting: Those who attended felt is was a good meeting with progress since last Spring. It appears there are some TFW partners demonstrating some aggressiveness making Id meetings uncomfortable. Quarterly meetings needed.
 - f. Grizzly Bear: Comments due Nov 15th. Al and Dave shared information. Dave noted that the EIS reflected back to habitat in the 1930’s, which is not a logical comparison.
4. December meeting: Zoom only.
5. Adjourn 9:10