



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
ADVISORY BOARD**

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Minutes
December 13, 2023

Present: Kris, Al, Jamie, Peter, Aubrey, John, Dave, Steve and Gordy. Absent: David, Chuck, and Tim
Guests: Commissioner Browning, Nick Kunz and Jessica Espy with Hampton

- I. Minutes: Jamie moved, Aubrey seconded to accept the minutes with the additions from Nick on Education. Approved unanimous.
- II. Discussion Items:
 - a. Bridge Repairs: A spread sheet was circulated containing a list of bridges that need to be repaired in Skagit for logging operations. The FAB agreed the 5 on the list were accurate and will send this to Public Works as requested. Lake Creek was discussed because a permit can't be pulled for access. It is an old wood bridge off Starbird.
 - b. DOE Tier III Designations: No news from DOE on rule-making for the Cascade. PEW Charitable Trusts has prepared a report identifying many rivers throughout the State, including the Sauk, the Baker and the Skagit. Kendra circulated the report and has shared with the Commissioners.
 - c. Education: Nick gave an update on the work between PEI and the DNR and the setting of goals working together. DNR is focused on the classroom approach, but the PEI offers the training to the educators and there are STEM credits that teachers need to obtain. Kendra presented a spread sheet of all the DNR Lightening Talks that provided links to the presentations as well as to the TVW recordings. She made the first slab at prioritizing which ones should be aired first and asked the FAB for input. She would like to have it to the BoCC by January 1st.
 - d. BNR Update: Sales and arrearage were discussed. In prepping for the SHC on the eastside, DNR staff is asking what factors should be included in the calculation. This will most likely carried over to what they do on the west side. Kris cautioned that there needs to be a close watch that the lands in arrearages don't get calculated for future SHCs...similar to what the USFS ended up doing.
 - e. State Lands Carbon Workgroup A handpicked group is tasked with addressing the following: Conserving and managing older, carbon-dense, structurally complex forest stands located on DNR-managed lands; Increasing carbon sequestration and storage in forests and harvested wood products from DNR-managed forestlands; Generating predictable beneficiary revenue; Maintaining timber supplies that support local industry; and Addressing economic needs in rural counties. The DNR staff is to write a report to the Legislature by next December. At the last meeting a DNR staff person stated that there is more carbon stored in the old growth trees than what is sequestered by the younger forests. With that statement Kendra asked the DNR to put together a literature review/spread sheet noting all of the science being quoted, including the pages, and talk

to the academics, the conservation groups, Elaine Oniel etc. to get it all in one place so that the conversations can be factual and robust. Duane Edmonds has agreed.

- f. TFW: New listings- Western Grey Squirrel and Wolverine. WFPA will be sending an RFP for a scoping document to do Extensive Monitoring since it's moving so slowly at Policy. Issues around this were discussed. FPB special meeting to examine new Marbled Murrelet emergency rules and to discuss how to have better conversations around project proposals and scoping. Most FPB members not present. Several members didn't see a reason for doing this. Jim Peters will replace Dave Herrera on the FPB.
- g. Priorities for the FAB: Based on the future requests of the BoCC Jamie lead a discussion to see what the most important items were for the FAB to be involved with for Skagit forestry. Several members said they wanted to get together to discuss more.
- h. Grizzly Bear response request: FAB was asked for its response. Jamie will respond stating the FAB is a recommending body to the BoCC. It has not taken a position only that it had general discussions. This will be up to the Skagit County Commissioners to give Skagit's position. The FA should not be the body giving positions to news groups.
- i. Quarterly TFW: Curt Veld Husen will be retiring. He talked at the meeting from a historical perspective and how it there were commitments to look for agreements when in field and pursuing the adaptive management program of TFW. He noted how things had come regarding landslides. Meetings at Padilla Bay.
- j. Future FAB dates: All dates have been posted on webpage. BoCC wants to have all FAB in person. FAB talked about whether it would be better to have meetings late afternoon versus mornings for Wednesdays. They would like to try that.

III. Adjourn 9:02