



SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

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Minutes

March 13, 2023

Present: Gordy, David, Jamie, Dave, John, Al, Aubrey, Steve, Kris Absent: Tim, Peter, Chuck Guests: Commissioner Janicki, Matt Comiski, Nick Kunz, Dan Rankin (Mayor Darrington), Anjolene Ngari (Hampton Lumber) and Tom Uniack (Washington Wild), Jessica Espy, Tara Satushek and Robbie Eckroth from Skagit Planning Department

- I. Introductions: Tara and Robbie from PDS and Anjolene and Tom from the Darrington Collaborative
- II. Minutes: David moved and Dave seconded to approve. Approved unanimous.
- III. Discussion Items:
 - a. Comprehensive Plan Update- The PDS has its update to finish by June 2025 and has to have Climate Resiliency addressed. They may be asking for FAB input as the process proceeds. The FAB noted that they would probably have some feedback on climate and the role of forestry. Dave asked if this update may include provisions for the Rural Land Initiative (RLI) the FAB has brought before Planning several times. The answer was possibly. The FAB is considering a subcommittee to offer feedback to PDS.
 - a. State Lands- BNR. Commissioner Janicki gave an update on a letter sent to the BNR from Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Education, also on the Board. He would like to make changes to the BNR make up adding several positions for folks who are not beneficiaries (public, conservation organizations, tribes) and to give weighted voting to those on the BNR. He would also like to have timber sales presented and then voted on late and do it on a quarterly basis. The BNR is send Thurston County noting that they delayed the timber sale for Thurston Co to come up with a plan by fall to acquire the lands or the sales will be moved forward. If the units within the sale are pulled apart the sale will not be viable. All timber sales for April approved. FAB discussed how to counter the "emotional" input to the BNR and noted the frustration of not being able to make public comments with the current DNR setup. Jamie moved Dave seconded recommending to the BoCC that write a letter to the BNR acknowledging both the work of the DNR staff on it's timber sale program and the Board's continued commitment to the trust and junior taxing districts. They further noted that these sales take many hours to put up and are extensively reviewed to meet the HCP and sustainable forest policies. Motion passed. Jamie moved and Dave seconded recommending to the BoCC that they allow the FAB to be able to write a letter from the FAB to the BNR with the same message. Motion passed.
 - b. Darrington Collaborative- Dan, Tom and Anjolene addressed the FAB explaining the Darrington Collaborative goals and outcomes. They noted that they thought it might be beneficial to have all of the Mount Baker National Forest involved so talking to northern counties, like Skagit, to join the collaborative. They only work on sales in the USFS and the dollars made go back to

stewardship projects on the landscape. They noted that they went from zero MBF harvested to about 23 MBF with the collaborative. They are hoping for sales on matrix and LSR areas. FAB will discuss it more and could discuss with thoughts on the NW Forest Plan.

- c. Education- Nick said the Envirothon was successful, and they took some of the FAB's suggestions. Anacortes Forest Lands are now in need of some management for health and fire resilience. Nick asked the FAB to review, consider and offer feedback on what should be required for a conservation easement on forest lands. He noted this is not for many, but for some who don't want to lose forest lands and want to do some minor management for health and possibly some wood to the mills. The question is how would this be structured to contain the option for 'working forests'? And what does 'working forest' mean- definition needed. The FAB said they would look at this and offer feedback. This would be funding from the RCO, like what the Farmland Legacy Program gets.
- d. Bridges- FAB still compiling list
- e. Adjourn: 9:15