



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
ADVISORY BOARD**

Jamie Hillery, Chairman
Peter Janicki David Nielsen
Al Craney Chuck Parker
Gordon Iverson Tim Raschko
Kris McCall Aubrey Stargell
John Gold Steve Tift
Dave Chamberlain
Kendra Smith, Staff

**Minutes
5/15/24**

Present: Dave, Gordy, Aubrey, Peter, Al, Kris, John Absent: David Nielsen, Steve, Tim, Chuck and Jamie. Guests: Nick Kunz and Emmett Wild Conservation District

- I. Introductions: Nick introduced Emmett Wild the SCD Director
- II. Minutes: Peter moved and Kris seconded to approve. Passed unanimous.
- III. Update on USFS Plan: Kendra reported on an email she received from Commissioner Laura Osiadacz regarding the advisory committee's work plan. There had been concern regarding the dropping of the "Communities Economic Considerations" objective from the Plan's Amendment. She said that the letter from Skagit County helped and that it appears that may stay intact. She asked that we keep on sending in comments to ensure going in the 'right' direction.
- IV. Darrington Collaboration: A continued discussion on the Pros and Cons of joining. Kris noted that it is defiantly a time commitment and County would need to make sure stay present and active if joining. The timber sales in the federal forests are important both directly and indirectly and will become more important as more State lands are taken 'off-base' for harvests. FAB noted again that the log volume is in "our" backyard, trees are renewable and grow well in NW Region pf Washington, and this significantly limits the carbon footprint for a product so necessary for our housing situation. The condition of the forest roads in federal areas (and access to) need maintenance. No harvests, no money for roads. Finny is ok but not on the other side of Cumberland gap. Roads are only good due to private landowners working on them. It does appear the USFS wants some sales to occur. FAB noted that the USFS needs to be pushed to be accountable.
- V. Rate Request from the Conservation District: Emmette, from the SCD, reported on the work that the district accomplishes with the funding they receive from Skagit County (\$260,000 - \$5/parcel). The Rate and Chage Renewal is about to sunset and the ask is to have the FAB support it again as it comes up for renewal. Emmette will send the last one to the FAB for its review and a hopeful vote next month to support. The rates will not be increased. It was noted that WSU extension did not have funding for the Small Landowner coaching program in its budget this year. Nick noted the teacher's workshop is coming together and will send info out to Commissioners. NOTE: Demming Log show coming up and it appears it is booked.

- VI. Title III: The scope of work for the proposed use of the funding was shared with the FAB. The Conservation District is the contractor.
- VII. State Lands: Carbon workgroup- The scenarios to model were decided upon (increased rotation age, increased silviculture, increase thinning and increase in temperatures and variations were put together for 8 models to be run. Lots of discussion on running a model without any harvesting at all to see what the carbon sequestration and storage would be. That is not a viable alternative and would have wasted a scenario to be modeled so voted down. Group will meet in July again. Timber sales- all sales sold, with Sup of Schools sending in a letter asking that all sales be postponed. He was not there for the vote. The ask from those opposed to timber harvests is to set aside 'mature trees' that they believe may now start at 1960 (due to what a tree might now look like). June is the last month of the decadal SHC. No work on the next one, so will be left with what is currently in place. The arrearage continues and again discussed.
- VIII. TFW- Discussions about the timing of introducing the cost benefit analysis into a decision for changing the rules has started to occur. There has been very little direction from the FPB since taking over water-typing and now the Board is faced with the potential of a greater lag time and costs. Question on what alternatives to evaluate since they only accepted the majority report for Type N based on what the DOE wanted. There will be a short fall in funding and decisions will need to be made on various studies. This will impact local companies and landowners. Western Grey Squirrel- an appeal was filed by conservation groups on the expedited rule (agreed upon by all caucuses at TFW).
- IX. Bridge: No new except to note the new WADOT site is frustrating and can't navigate with restrictions.
- X. Land Commissioner race: Talked about who is running and where to find information.
- XI. Grizzle Bears: Some questions still unanswered. Are they open for management purposes since they are not native?
- XII. Adjourn 9:00