



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
ADVISORY BOARD**

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Minutes
10/9/24

Present: Al, Jamie, Aubrey, John, Dave C., Gordy and Kris Absent: Steve, Tim, Chuck, David N. Absent: Peter, Steve, and Chuck Guest: Nick Kunz (SCCD) Matt Comiski (AFRC)

1. Minutes: Gordy moved and John seconded to approve. Passed unanimous.
2. Discussion:
 - a. Comments- None
 - b. Updates: Tim updated the FAB on the work being done at the Planning Commission on the Comprehensive Plan, which included adding a climate element that will look at mitigating greenhouse emissions and building community resilience. The transportation element is also being updated in the Comprehensive Plan.
 - c. Comment letter to the USFS regarding the DEIS on the NOGA. FAB talked about the letter the BoCC sent that contained the recommendations provided by the FAB to the BoCC.
 - d. BNR and State Lands: All sales were approved with discussion by the Board and DNR staff providing detailed information on layout and protections of each sale. It was noted that prices are falling. There was discussion about the Eastside SHC and noted by the FAB that sales on the east side have impacts to the Darrington mill and possibly SPI. Arrearage was discussed and noted that it was probably going to be close to impossible to make up the difference at this time, though the statutes require it. Kris noted that the Forest Health sales should not have been included in calculating volume from the FIT sales (by doing this, it makes it appear to be closer to the adopted SHC) on the eastside. It appears that though there is debate about how to proceed with the calculations for a model, it will be more transparent this time around. Jamie made comments during the public comment period noting the expertise on the FAB and the impacts the timber sales make on the community, jobs and the taxing districts. Next month will probably have a large number of controversial sales.
 - e. Education: Nick gave an update on the progress of the partners and the 2025 Teacher's workshop. He noted the partners making financial contribution, the format and the potential curriculum. There was discussion as to what would be the best issues to have the teachers learn about and the need to have this as a base to offer yearly. There was

talk about more classroom style verses in-the-field lessons and the need for more basic forestry 101. The PEI is supposed to help provide a forum for issues of local importance. It was noted that both Lisa Perry (SPI) and Clare (DNR) are on the Board of PEI now and there may be some shifts now in leadership. Nick noted that to become accredited to have workshops for credits the applications had to be in by Sept 1st, which takes the Conservation District out for this coming year as a potential source. The first year of the workshop had \$12,000 in funding and year two had \$10,000. There will be a scout for new partners. All in all, it is hoped that the FAB will be able to provide some guidance on issues to be presented. It was noted that Cindy Mitchell at WFPA is a good source to tap.

- f. TFW- Rule making for the water-typing and board manual underway. Dispute resolution for the SLO thinning alternative pilot (experimental) plan underway. Heated discussion on how to incorporate outside science into CMER and Policy. Conservation Caucus is opposed to a pilot alternative plan noting there's not enough science showing an impact won't be created and also to including outside science being utilized since it is hard to assure CMER standards are met.
- g. USFS- There is a conflict with the timing of the issuance and context of DEIS on the NOGA, and the NWFP FAC recommendations. The FAC recommendations are delayed due to some miscalculations by the USFS on existing stands and treatments. It is still not clear how the NWFP (and any amendments) will fit into the NOGA. There is also discussion as to where any of these will go with a new administration takes place. It will be important to be ready to make comments when the DEIS for the FAC is announced.
- h. Candidate forum for Public Lands: It was noted that it could be viewed on the SAF website.
- i. District NW Region DNR meetings: On hold will get information for the next FAB meeting.

3. Adjourn 9:12