



#### SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

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

#### Minutes November 13, 2025

Present: Gordy, David N., Aubrey, Joel, Jamie, Al, Kris, Tim, Dave C., Steve, and John Absent: Peter  
Guests: Commissioner Janicki and Commissioner Browning, Nick Kunz and Matt Comiski

- I. Minutes: John moved and Tim seconded to approve. Passed unanimous
- II. Correspondence and updates: None
- III. FAB future: County Commissioners sent a letter to FAB members informing them that the contract with Kendra Smith will not be renewed after the end of the year. The Commissioners noted that they had contracted with Eric Johnson and Josh Weiss to staff the FAB in the future. FAB members noted the importance of working on the on-going issues in the future. Kendra recalled approaching County Commissioner Ted Anderson in 2004 asking to establish a Forest Advisory Board after he pushed for her into the role as the County Natural Resource Policy Coordinator and he said ABSOLUTELY and that I was to fully engage with the timber industry.
- IV. State Lands: Skagit County had 2 sales with one, Atonal, not approved at the last BNR meeting. With Dan Brown absent, the two nay votes stopped the sale. Chris Reykdal, and the new WSU board member Raj Khosla, opposed the sale due to age and structural complexity. The County Commissioners had written a letter supporting the sale. The PLC had said he was in favor of the sale since DNR staff had already spent time putting it together and the Department needed the revenues. FAB discussed the state of the DNR management funds and the impacts as sales continue to be pulled or not approved. During the DNR staff presentation on what guiding documents (rules, policies, adopted strategies, HCP etc.) are used to ensure compliance when laying out a sale Board member Khosla noted that he thought **Sustainable** Forest policies was an oxymoron. FAB questioned what briefing and education he has received from DNR. Matt noted AFRC has not to date been able to get a meeting with him.

- V. Forest Practices: The FPB voted to finalize the Type np Buffer rule with a 6-5 vote with the new County rep, Heidi Eisenhour, abstaining. This was met with disappointment and some disbelief by industry, small landowners and counties. Department of Ag voted along opposing the rule however, DNR, DOE, WDFW and Commerce voted in favor of the rule with Tribes and conservation caucus. The projected economic hit can be up to \$8 billion. This will go into effect Aug 31, 2026.
- VI. USFS: Kendra was contacted by USFS to see if there were next steps to be taken. FAB did not discuss any.
- VII. Education: Nick talked about the coaching work and program the Conservation Dist does with WSU Extension helping SLO. He noted the funding for Kevin Zosbist (?) who had been helpful but was now in question was worrisome. He asked if the FAB would send a recommendation of support “to the keep WSU Extension Program alive and viable with less funding in Skagit County.” Commissioner Janick noted funding was there for the program but that she had not seen Kevin as an involved player as of late and didn’t want to fund him specifically. The FAB moved by Aubrey and seconded by Jamie to let the Commissioner know they wanted to keep the WSU Ext coaching program alive and viable even with less funding from Skagit County. The motion passed unanimously. The Commissioners will be given the recommendation.
- VIII. Next meeting December 10, 2025. It will probably be a zoom only meeting.
- IX. Adjourn: 4:50 pm