



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 7/2/25

Present: Aubrey, Jamie, Dave C, Peter, Al, Steve, Absent John, David N, Tim, Chuck, Kris and Gordy
Guests: Commissioner Janicki, Matt Comiski

- I. Minutes Peter moved and Jaie seconded to approve the May minutes. Peter moved and Jamie seconded to approve the June minutes. Approved unanimous.
- II. Discussion Items:
 - a. Update: Peter Burns Rd Commissioner Janicki noted that the commissioners are working on this. A large concern is that perceived lack of maintenance will cut off access for others that live beyond the 1,110 feet in question.
 - b. Update: Matt noted that the FAB may want to look at the federal Explorer Act. County and tribal revenue generating work and the dollars can be used in forest work.
 - c. Good Neighbor Authority and USFS Relationships: Matt noted that both Clallam and Skamania counties are utilizing this relationship to support a forester. The counties now have the ability to have an agreement with the USFS outside of working through the DNR. Any projects, however, must be conservation work in nature and the revenues reapplied into forest work. This could include the roads that access the USFS lands. The FAB discussed and agreed that good messaging was essential. There was discussion about what the new direction would be regarding harvesting in federal lands i.e. amount of volume or acres. DNR does post it's harvest volumes from federal sales on its webpage (about 15-20%, mainly eastern side). Al noted that the last time the USFS lands were harvested in our area was the 60's, so now it is time to harvest again. To be noted that only 8% of the MBSFS is available for harvest. Another revision to the NWF Plan and MB will need to be developed. The FAB voiced that a letter should be sent stating that Skagit County supports the INTENT of the amendment and that all of the goals need to be satisfactorily addressed. The Plan is in the development phases of the FEIS. Steve noted

the USFS brushing roads has not occurred in a long time. Private landowners are having to do this for fuel reduction next to both federal and county roads. The FAB discussed having the Mount Baker – Snoqualmie Supervisor come and talk to the FAB and commissioners and to start a working relationship. Commissioner Janicki said she would work with Kendra on setting up a meeting. Peter noted they were present at the Deming Log Show. Major topic will be the wild land interface and keeping up maintenance for fire. And then appropriate potential harvesting. There appears to be some disputes over property lines and surveys creating issues. Note: Update: DNR is has the Forest Health Advisory Committee trying to work on the wildfire plan. This is a 20-year plan as done on the east side. Possibly look into this.

- d. BNR: Lisa gave an update noting that the “paused” timber sales were NOT on the agenda and that the BNR has had no briefing about what the DNR is going to do. The 6-month timeframe is up with no BNR meeting in August. There has also been nothing done on the SHC for either side. Matt shared graphs he put together on sales/revenues over the past 20 years. Revenues/harvests going down and showing vulnerability to the DNR stability. The carbon workgroup concluded with no specific directive to the legislature only reports from various interests. Unfortunately, the economic data model did not include sawmill closures, which one has closed this year) and therefore the full carbon footprint is not shown in the results. The make-up of the BNR will be changing substantially this fall. New Gov office, new WSU and new County rep. Lisa announced she will be stepping down immediately for personal reasons. An issue to be watching is Ecosystem Services and how the dollar amounts are calculated and how they relate to actual revenues obtained from sales.
- e. Education: The teacher’s Workshop is next week. Peter Browning will address the group the first day and Ron Wesen will do it the second. Kendra will be on a panel discussing the Blanchard Agreement and what State lands mean to the beneficiaries.
- f. Resignation: Chuck Parker has resigned from the FAB. The Commissioners will appoint a new member with consultation from the FAB.
- g. Adjourn: 8:50 a.m.