

**WHATCOM COUNTY**  
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**Mark Personius, AICP**  
Director

# **Forestry Advisory Committee** **Meeting**

## **LOCATION**

**Hybrid Meeting: Zoom (details below) and  
Northwest Annex Conference Room  
Whatcom County Planning and Development Services  
5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226**

**Date: March 5, 2023**

**Time: 4:00-6:00 P.M. Pacific Time PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

Whatcom County PDS is inviting you to a scheduled in person or Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87106867064?pwd=b0NLTIZnTTZqOHBGQk1mY2FQbWFKQT09>

Meeting ID: 871 0686 7064

Passcode: 722152

One tap mobile

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## **Forestry Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda**

March 5, 2024

4:00-6:00 P.M.

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1. Roll call/Determination of Quorum
2. Agenda Review & Approval
3. Approval of 2/6/2023 meeting summary
4. Open Public Session
5. Administration
6. Reports (20 minutes)
  - DNR/BNR (McDonald)
  - Whatcom Forestry Profile Subcommittee (David)
  - Legislative Update (Dawson)
  - Forest Resilience Task Force (McDonald/Petroske)
  - Stewart Mountain Community Forest (Elder)
7. Old Business
  - Comprehensive Plan 2025 Update – Review and approval of a list of major issues that should be addressed in the Forestry Lands section of Chapter 8, Resource Lands (60+ min)
8. New Business
  - Review of 1 section of the draft Whatcom Forestry Profile (Janicki, 30 minutes)
9. Announcements
10. Adjournment

**Attachments:**

- Draft 2/6/2024 meeting summary
- Draft list of major issues to address in the CompPlan
- Approved 2024 FAC Work Plan

*Individuals who require special assistance to participate in the meetings are asked to contact us at least 96 hours in advance. The staff contact at Whatcom County Planning and Development Services is Cliff Strong, [cstrong@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:cstrong@co.whatcom.wa.us), 360-778-5942.*

**Whatcom County Forestry Advisory Committee (FAC)  
Meeting Summary  
February 6, 2024**

Start Time:	4:00 p.m.
Location:	Northwest Annex Central Conference Room/Zoom

<b>Attendees – Members</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent (Excused?)</b>
David New	Small forest landowner	√	
Holly Koon	Small forest landowner	√	
John Gold	Commercial forest landowner	√	
David Janicki	Commercial forest landowner		√ (No)
Matt McGee	Harvester	√	
Quentin Dills	Harvester		√ (No)
Jed Dawson	Citizen w/ forestry expertise	√	
Tracy Petroske	Citizen w/ forestry expertise	√	
Aubrey Stargell	Forest product manufacturer	√	
Susan David	Forest product manufacturer	√	
Cory McDonald	DNR	√	
<b>Quorum Present</b>			
<b>Electeds</b>			
<b>Staff</b>			
Cliff Strong	W/C PDS	√	
Priscilla Drewry	W/C PDS	√	
Bennett Knox	W/C P&R	√	
<b>Public</b>			
Lauren Sheehan		√	

**Meeting Summary**

Chair Gold opened the meeting at 4:00 PM.

**Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum**

Roll was called and a quorum was present.

**Agenda Review & Approval**

The agenda was approved with 0 amendments.

**Approval of Minutes**

The meeting summary of 1/3/24 were approved.

**Open Public Session**

No public comments.

**Administration**

**Review & consideration of adoption of 2024 Work Plan**

Chair Gold presented the FAC with a draft 2024 work plan, which the FAC reviewed and amended.

*Motion to approve the 2024 work plan, as amended, carried unanimously.*

## Subcommittee Reports

### DNR/BNR Update

Cory McDonald reported that, regarding the CCA chosen sites, DNR is considering next steps after receiving the counties' responses, including that from Whatcom County Council regarding Anderson Creek and Brokedown Palace. The BNR also heard a "State of State Lands" at their last meeting.

### Whatcom Forestry Profile Subcommittee

The subcommittee met and have agreed to bring the report to the FAC in 4 sections through June, with editing to be done in July.

### Legislative Update

Jed Dawson provided an update on the legislature. Those of interest to the FAC that are progressing include HB 2489, HB 2207, SB 6121, SB 5667, HB 2446, SB 6281, and HB 2201. Those not progressing include HB 2243 and HB 2333. He also informed the FAC of the Nooksack adjudication process and urged folks to get involved if they want to protect any water rights they believe they may have. Info can be found at <https://ecology.wa.gov/water-shorelines/water-supply/water-rights/adjudications/nooksack>

### Forest Resilience Task Force – Appointment of FAC Representatives

The FRTF has not yet met, but should by the end of March.

## Old Business

### Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update

Cliff led a discussion on what the FAC thinks may need to be amended. David and Tracy had provided some ideas ahead of the meeting and others were developed during the meeting. Cliff announced that they will have time at their March meeting to continue the discussion. He will compile a list of what he's heard so far and have these available for that meeting, though additional ideas are welcome.

Chair Gold nominated Susan David to be in charge of coordinating with Cliff on this process.

*Motion to appoint Susan David to be in charge of coordinating with PDS on this process carried unanimously.*

## New Business

### Review & consideration of approval of letter to send to the Whatcom County Treasurer, requesting summary of 2023 timber sale distributions to beneficiaries, and summaries of Timber Excise Taxes

Chair Gold reviewed a letter the Holly Koon and he wrote, on behalf of the FAC, to the Whatcom County Treasurer requesting a summary of 2023 timber sale distributions to beneficiaries, and summaries of Timber Excise Taxes. He will give the County Executive a heads up before sending.

*Motion to approve and send the letter carried unanimously.*

## Announcements

Chair Gold made mention of the excise tax map and distribution info he included in their packets.

David New played a video of a surprising find of spawning Chinook salmon in an intermittent stream on his tree farm near Stanwood.

## Adjournment

Chair Gold adjourned the meeting at 6:00 PM. Next meeting is on March 5, 2024, 4-6pm; Zoom and Northwest Annex Conference Room.

# 2025 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update

## Forestry Advisory Committee Recommendations

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### General Comments

1. The Forest Resource Lands section should address the role of forests in carbon sequestration, and how climate change may affect forestlands.
2. The history in the Process subsection ends in March 1994. If such a history is provided, it ought to be updated to now, including a description of the current Forestry Advisory Committee and what it does; either that or get rid of old history.
3. The Background Summary subsection should address the current discussions on developing a Forest Management Plan for County-owned forests and the creation of the Forest Resiliency Task Force.
4. The FAC is creating a forestry profile document that will provide updated stats on the forestry industry in W/C. It's data and descriptions should be incorporated.

### Specific Comments

1. Add the following new policies:
  - 1.1. Support policies that recognize the local timber industry as a part of the global economy, cognizant of the impact that the local timber industry has on the world supply of timber products, and how changes in the local timber industry might affect the GHG emissions and environmental impacts of the timber industry in other parts of the world.
  - 1.2. Support the use of wood products in building construction wherever possible as a replacement for steel and concrete.
  - 1.3. Implement policies that encourage forest landowners and stewards to use best management practices to maintain and improve the forest health the lands they manage.
  - 1.4. Recognize the ability for sustainable forest practices to produce a wide variety of benefits, and identify opportunities to optimize the wood production and carbon storage capacity of forestlands and wood products in Whatcom County.
2. Modify the following language as shown:
  - 2.1. **Chapter 8 > Background (Page 17):** ~~With a growing population,~~ there is a genuine need to promote conservation of productive forest land and associated public resources through a balanced combination of regulatory protection as mandated by the Growth Management Act, and the provision of incentives for maintaining lands in long-term commercial timber production. ~~Premature~~ conversion of those productive forest lands to other land uses that are incompatible with the management of forest resources is recognized as a threat to the forest industry. Such conversions include changing the use of forest land from commercial timber production to incompatible residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural land uses, or parks and preserves that exclude forest production management. Once forest land has been converted and roads, utilities and other infrastructure have been constructed, the land is not ~~as~~ useful for long-term commercial forest production.

2.2. **Policy 8H-5:** Consider surface mining, along with rock crushing, washing, and sorting, when done as part of conducting forest practices within the forestry zones, as compatible uses.

2.2.1. Does this it need more clarification? Should it be more directly linked to road-building, etc., as part of a harvest exercise? Otherwise, it seems too wide-open and vague.

2.2.2. **Policy 8G-9** addresses conversion outside the Lake Whatcom Watershed Overlay District. Shouldn't the policy apply countywide?

2.2.2.1. Discourage inappropriate conversion of designated forest land to incompatible non-forest uses. It is the intent of this policy not to allow conversion of GMA designated forest lands of long-term commercial significance **outside the Lake Whatcom Watershed Overlay District** if the proposed use is incompatible with the maintenance of long-term forest management. Incompatible uses include those that:

...

## Individual's Suggestions

### David New

- Chapter 8, Resources Lands > Forestry Lands > Implementation Strategies and Actions
  1. NEW: Support policies that recognize the local timber industry as a part of the global economy, cognizant of the impact that the local timber industry has on the world supply of timber products, and how changes in the local timber industry might affect the GHG emissions and environmental impacts of the timber industry in other parts of the world.
  2. MODIFY: Recognize the ability for sustainable forest practices to produce a wide variety of benefits, and identify opportunities to optimize the wood production and carbon storage capacity of forestlands *and wood products* in Whatcom County.
    - Note: I can't find such an existing policy.
  3. NEW: Support the use of wood products in building construction wherever possible as a replacement for steel and concrete.
  4. STRIKE: the "Encourage uneven-aged forest management practices" section.
    - Note: I can't find such language.
  5. NEW: Implement policies that encourage forest landowners and stewards to use best management practices to maintain and improve the forest health the lands they manage.

### Tracy Petroske

- Chapter 8 > Background (Page 17): We can discuss why I propose striking these words... possibly not an option but they are trip-points for me.
  - **With a growing population,** there is a genuine need to promote conservation of productive forest land and associated public resources through a balanced combination of regulatory protection as mandated by the Growth Management Act, and the provision of incentives for maintaining lands in long-term commercial timber production. **Premature** conversion of those productive forest lands to other land uses that are incompatible with the management of forest resources is recognized as a threat to the forest industry. Such conversions include changing the use of forest land from commercial timber production to incompatible residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural land uses, or parks and preserves that exclude forest production management. Once forest land has been converted and roads, utilities and other infrastructure have been constructed, the land is not **as** useful for long-term commercial forest production.
- Policy 8H-5 bears discussion; does it need more clarification? Should this be more directly linked to road-building, etc., as part of a harvest exercise? Otherwise, it seems too wide-open and vague.

- Policy 8H-5: Consider surface mining, along with rock crushing, washing, and sorting, when done as part of conducting forest practices within the forestry zones, as compatible uses.
- Resolution 2022-036 (Council Priorities), #7.1 is TOO VAGUE... it needs specifics about how to support a thriving forest products industry!
  - 7. Build resilience to climate change in forests that enables, both a thriving timber economy and healthy sustainable forest ecosystems for wildlife, carbon sequestration and storage, production and storage of cool, clean water, and environmentally safe recreation.
    - Support a thriving local forest products industry and sustainable local resource economy including living wage jobs.
- Resolution 2022-036 (Council Priorities), #7.10 – We should evaluate... BEFORE rezoning, not WHEN rezoning.
  - Evaluate the net loss or gain in carbon emissions and ecological function when rezoning forest lands for other uses.
- Resolution 2022-036 (Council Priorities), #7.12. A minimum number of working forest land... ???... acres? What unit of “minimum number” ...
  - Consider development pressures on working lands and work with partners on the possibility of establishing a Whatcom County goal of maintaining a minimum number of working forest land that is required to sustain local forestry infrastructure.

**WFAC WORKPLAN AND DELIVERABLES 2024 -- 2/8/23**

ITEMS	TASKS	Add date	Committee Action	PROGRESS / STATUS	KEY ASSUMPTIONS	MEETINGS (2024)																				
						JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC									
<b>Ongoing</b>																										
monitor Board of Natural Resources issues						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
monitor / evaluate proposed WDNR timber sales of high public interest						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
review annual report from Whatcom Treasurer regarding distributions to Trust Land beneficiaries								X																		
review annual report from Whatcom Treasurer regarding Timber Excise Tax receipts									X																	
engage with FRT taskforce										X																
updates to CNRC						X				X						X										
engage with CIAC																										
public input / new business						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
<b>Short term priorities</b>																										
2024-2025 Comprehensive Plan review		2/6/2024	designate Susan David as point person and subcommittee		adoption by 6/25	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
develop profile of the Whatcom County forest sector (confer 2019 Rural Land Study)	final draft to full FAC 12/23==>7/24	2/7/2023	create subcommittee	not completed, reschedule	final draft 7/24			David J	Aubrey S	Susan D	Holly K	X														
request information and accountig system changes from Whatcom Treasurer regarding Timber Excise Tax receipts		2/6/2024	approve letter to Treasurer					X	X																	
<b>Medium term priorities</b>																										
develop position paper on role of the forest sector / working forests in mitigating carbon pollution: state of the science, policy recommendations																										
5-year update of 2017 GHG inventory (forests/trees)				pending recommendation from CIAC																						
review Forestry Chapter of Whatcom County Climate Action Plan (2021)	recommendations to full FAC 6/23	2/7/2023	create subcommittee	approved full FAC 7/23 presented to CIAC 12/23	CAP review initiates in 2025																					
<b>CNRC priorities</b>																										
Compliance Monitoring by Interjurisdictional Committee (IJC)																										
Forestland Management Plan for Lake Whatcom Reconveyance lands (8700 acres)				RFP distributed 11/23					X	X																
Forestland Management Plan for Stewart Mountain Community Forest (500 acres)																										
Forestland Management Plan for Canyon Lake Community Forest (2200 acres)																										
Lake Whatcom Landscape Plan revisions																										
Policy recommendations for improving outcomes on properties assessed under current use taxation (RCW 84.33, 84.34)																										
<b>Parking Lot</b>																										
mitigating illegal activity on forestland	consider motion to designate subcommittee																									
educational tours				interested members to bring proposal back to FAC																						
Phase II Carbon Project parcels / evaluation		1/3/23 memo to council		waiting for response from DNR to Council	legislature failed to authorize WDNR to proceed with program in 2023 session																					
<b>Other</b>																										
Presentation: Comprehensive Plan							Cliff Strong																			
Presentation: Nourse Tree Farm salmon video								Dave New																		
Presentation: USFS Collaboratives									TWS (invited)																	
Presentation: Stewart Mtn CF									Chris Elder																	
Presentation: State Lands fiscal year workplan										Chris Hankey																
Presentation: State Lands HCP implementation												X														