

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

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

Attendees – Members	Affiliation	Present	Absent (Excused?)
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	√	
Quorum Present			
Electeds			
Staff			
Cliff Strong	W/C PDS	√	
Priscilla Drewry	W/C PDS	√	
Bennett Knox	W/C P&R	√	
Public			
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.