

**Whatcom County Forestry Advisory Committee (FAC)**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**April 2, 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		√ (Y)
Holly Koon	Small forest landowner	√	
John Gold	Commercial forest landowner	√	
David Janicki	Commercial forest landowner	√	
Matt McGee	Harvester		√ (Y)
Quentin Dills	Harvester		√ (N)
Jed Dawson	Citizen w/ forestry expertise		√ (Y)
Tracy Petroske	Citizen w/ forestry expertise	√	
Aubrey Stargell	Forest product manufacturer	√	
Susan David	Forest product manufacturer	√	
Cory McDonald	DNR		√ (Y)
<b>Quorum Present</b>			
<b>Electeds</b>			
<b>Staff</b>			
Cliff Strong	W/C PDS	√	
Chris Elder	W/C PW	√	
<b>Public</b>			
Alex Harris	ReSources	√	
Alan Chapman	AAC	√	
Jessica Espy		√	

**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 Chair Gold adding a discussion of attendance, and Vice-Chair David adding a discussion of forming a CompPlan subcommittee.

**Approval of Minutes**

The meeting summary of 3/5/24 was approved.

**Open Public Session**

Alex Harris introduced himself. Josh Kursky, the new Whatcom Conservation District Forestry Stewardship Specialist, introduced himself. Josh’s contact info is [jkursky@whatcomcd.org](mailto:jkursky@whatcomcd.org) or 360.526.2381 x124.

**Administration**

N/A

## Guest Speaker(s)

Dan Rankin, Mayor of Darrington, and Taylor Luneau, the Wilderness Society, spoke about the [Darrington Collaborative](#), an organization set up in 2015 to help implement the Northwest Forest Plan on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. It is comprised of diverse stakeholders including forestry industry and conservation representatives. Their goal is to help the USFS achieve its goals under the NWFP, specifically increasing acres treated with ecologically sustainable timber harvests, creating rural jobs, and restoring the health of forests and watersheds. The Collaborative also has youth education goals as part of its mission. The Collaborative helps develop and fund projects in the MBSNF to promote these objectives. They have started small, and have had to build a lot of trust amongst themselves and the USFS staff, but have shown to be successful and are being asked to expand the geographic range of their projects, including into Whatcom County. So they are looking to expand their Board from the current 8 members to 12 and are looking for likely candidates from Whatcom County.

Dan's contact info is [dan.rankin@darringtonwa.us](mailto:dan.rankin@darringtonwa.us) or 360.436.1131 or 425.210.6572 and Taylor's is [taylor\\_luneau@tws.org](mailto:taylor_luneau@tws.org) or 802.274.0864 (cell) or 206.705.7696 (office).

## Subcommittee Reports

### Forest Practice Board Update

John Gold reported that the FPB received a petition for rulemaking regarding the Western Grey Squirrel, and decided to create an advisory committee. Petitioners have initiated litigation against WDNR for the failure to designate critical habitat. This doesn't directly affect Whatcom County, as the squirrel is located more to the southwest of Washington, but it may have ramifications on how rulemaking is done in the future. WDNR anticipates that Water Typing (Type F) rulemaking will come before the FPB (CR-102) in August, 2024, and for final decision in November or February, 2025. WDNR anticipates that Type Np buffer rulemaking (one alternative) will come before the FPB (CR-102) in November, 2024, if a SEPA Determination of Non-significance is signed in October; otherwise an EIS will be required, adding 12-24 months to the process. The public comment period will likely be October-November. Draft rule language was released February 14 for each.

### Whatcom Forestry Profile Subcommittee

Will talk about under New Business.

### Legislative Update

John Gold provided an update on the capital budget: \$15M for the Deep Woods acquisition; \$10M to DNR for burn area restoration; \$11M for 9 trust land transfers; \$25M for the Quinault transfer; \$10M for wildfire mitigation; and \$5.8M to two community forests. If the Climate Commitment Act is repealed by voters this fall, all but the \$10M to DNR for burn area restoration is in jeopardy.

### Forest Resilience Task Force

Tracy Petroske reported that it hasn't met yet. In process of hiring a facilitator. Looks like May or June before they meet. Chris Elder reported that they received two proposals, interviewed them and chose one, and a contract will be taken to Council soon.

### Stewart Mountain Community Forest

Chris Elder provided a brief update. Received an "almost final" grant agreement from the Department of Ecology for the streamflow restoration grant, hoping to get it to Council in April/May. Will also provide Council with a project update at that time. The core planning teams have been discussing ownership and governance framework. Whatcom Land Trust is working on the roads and land inventories.

## Old Business

None.

## New Business

### **Review of 2<sup>nd</sup> section of the draft Whatcom Forestry Profile**

Susan David reviewed her draft portion of the Whatcom Forestry Profile regarding the timber industry in Whatcom County. It was well received by the FAC, though some suggestions for additional information were proffered. She will continue to work on it, addressing the suggestions, and bring it back later in the year. Aubrey is up next month to present his section.

### **Comprehensive Plan Review**

Susan David inquired as to whether anyone wanted to be on a CompPlan Review subcommittee. Holly Koon volunteered so long as there wasn't any independent writing required. Cliff Strong suggested that there shouldn't be, that the committee would be tasked with suggesting specific policy edits/additions and helping him extend the background info up to present date. Susan will set up a meeting via email.

### **Attendance**

Chair Gold raised the issue that there are members of the FAC who haven't been participating fully, missing several meetings. The FAC agreed that participation is important, and that if they can't keep that commitment should be replaced. John said he would try to contact any members who might be affected and discuss it further at the next meeting.

## Announcements

Susan David re-announced the Woods Tour coming up on Friday June 7<sup>th</sup> and that all spots are taken already. Interested parties should still sign up for the tour as there is good potential that people will be taken off the waitlist.

## Adjournment

Chair Gold adjourned the meeting at 6:03 PM. Next meeting is on May 7, 2024, 4-6pm; Zoom and Northwest Annex Conference Room.