

Whatcom County Forestry Advisory Committee (FAC)
DRAFT Meeting Summary
June 4, 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	√	
Matt McGee	Harvester		√ (no)
Quentin Dills	Harvester		√ (no)
Jed Dawson	Citizen w/ forestry expertise	√	
Tracy Petroske	Citizen w/ forestry expertise	√	
Aubrey Stargell	Forest product manufacturer		√ (yes)
Susan David	Forest product manufacturer	√	
Cory McDonald	DNR	√	
Quorum Present			
Electeds			
Staff			
Cliff Strong	W/C PDS	√	
Bennett Knox	W/C P&R	√	
Lauren Templeton	W/C PDS	√	
Public			
Alex Harris	ReSources	√	
Alan Chapman	AAC	√	

Meeting Summary

Chair Gold opened the meeting at 4:02 PM.

Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Roll was called and a quorum was present.

Agenda Review & Approval

The Chair added two items to the agenda, moved public comments to after subcommittee reports, and it was approved.

Approval of Minutes

The meeting summary of 5/7/24 was approved.

Subcommittee Reports

Added: Parks & Rec Forestry Planning

Regarding the Lake Whatcom Forest Management Plan, Parks & Rec Director Knox reported that though consultant interviews were held, an opportunity has arisen to partner with the City of Bellingham by including their 3,000 acres into the project. So now they're revising the project and it will have to be rebid. A new RFP should be issued within 2 weeks, and a bid awarded by end of July. Chair Gold offered the FAC's expertise in reviewing the RFP and/or sitting on the interview panel. Director Know said he'll

send them the current RFP, which should be similar to the new one, for comment. And he'll consider the offer to help interview.

Regarding P&R's new forester position, they should have that filled within the next 2 months.

DNR/BNR

Cory McDonald reported that the BNR just held their meeting today, and he didn't attend, so not much to report. John added that their meeting was held on the eastside, and concentrated on eastside issues, especially fire, and they received over 1,000 public comments. David added that he actually testified. There was a large showing of junior taxing districts.

Forest Resilience Task Force

Tracy Petroske reported that the facilitator contract has been approved by the Council, but that the TF hasn't met yet.

Open Public Session

Alex Harris reported that he's leaving RE Sources as he has taken a job with Planning and Development Services to help with the conservation easement program. He'll be focusing on forestry resource lands and expects to continue to be involved with the FAC.

Old Business

ADDED: FAC Attendance

Following last month's discussion about one of their members no longer being able to participate and the FAC wanting to refill the position, Cliff had notified Council staff, but they insisted on receiving a resignation letter before they open the position. However, the FAC's business rules clearly state that upon missing four consecutive meetings, unexcused, the FAC may inform the Council of a need for a replacement.

MOTION: Approve Chair Gold to send a letter to the Council informing them of the situation and requesting that the process for refilling the position commence. Seconded. Approved 6-0-5.

Review of 4th section of the draft Whatcom Forestry Profile

Holly Koons reviewed her updated draft portion of the Whatcom Forestry Profile regarding the state of forestry in Whatcom County.

(A 12-minute recess was called due to technical issues.)

Discussion ensued, with Holly focusing on recent updates to her paper, though there is still a lot to accomplish.

Holly also raised the issue that while the Treasurer has provided the timber sales revenue data requested, she still has not received the excise tax data, which is also needed for her report. There was discussion as to how to handle this and it was suggested that Cliff attempt to set up a meeting with Karen Thomas, John Gold, and himself to discuss. If not accomplished by mid-July, Holly will file a PDR.

New Business

ADDED: July Meeting

Chair Gold suggested canceling the July 2nd meeting, since it falls within the holiday week. Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Cancel the July 2nd meeting. Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

- Holly asked about reorganizing the documents hosted on the FAC webpage, aligning them to the meetings at which they were presented. Cliff agreed that this should be done, and in fact had already discussed it with admin staff. He will move it forward.
- John reminded everyone about the Woods Tours this Friday and the Deming Log Show this weekend.

Adjournment

Chair Gold adjourned the meeting at 6:04 PM. The next meeting is on August 6, 2024, 4-6pm; Zoom and Northwest Annex Conference Room.