

**Forestry Advisory Committee (FAC)  
Meeting Summary  
February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

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

Meeting Highlights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were 17 people in attendance (9 of the 11 voting members; 2 Whatcom County Staff, 6 members of the public).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Next meeting Date/Time/Location: March 7<sup>th</sup>, 4-6pm/ Zoom and Northwest Annex Conference Room</li> </ul>

Attendees – Members	Affiliation	Present
David New	Small forest landowner	
Holly Koon	Small forest landowner	X
John Gold	Commercial forest landowner	X
David Janicki	Commercial forest landowner	X
Matt McGee	Harvester	X
Quentin Dills	Harvester	X
Jed Dawson	Citizen w/ forestry expertise	X
Bagley Wright	Citizen w/ forestry expertise	
Aubrey Stargell	Forest product manufacturer	X
Susan David	Forest product manufacturer	X
Cory McDonald	DNR	X

<b>Quorum Present</b>	<b>YES: X NO:</b>
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Attendees - Staff	Present	Attendees - Staff	Present
Joshua Fleischmann, PDS	X	Chris Elder, PW	X

Others Present	
Max Perry	Carol Perry
Alan Chapman	Alex Harris
Eric Jacoby	Ellyn Murphy

**Meeting Notes**

**Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum**

A quorum was present.

**Approval or modification of meeting summaries (October 18, November 3, December 6 of 2022)**

Minutes approved.

**Presentation by Ellyn Murphy, Chair of the Whatcom County Climate Impact Advisory Committee (CIAC) on the ClearPath model for Greenhouse Gas calculations in Whatcom County and the county's Climate Action Plan.**

Ellyn began the presentation by discussing the ClearPath model for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) calculations in the forest ecosystem. She covered the background of how the project came to pass in Whatcom County and that it was one of three national sites to develop a protocol for assessing the net GHG flux. The study established a

baseline using Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) data from 2001 to 2011 and calculated that Whatcom forests are a net carbon sink.

Second, Elyn presented on the background of the development of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) which is a document that makes recommendations to the county on climate mitigation and adaptation. The expectation is that the CAP will be updated every five years. Current plan was accepted by Whatcom County Council resolution in November 2021. There are several objectives regarding forests within the CAP including ensuring a long-term forest resource and protection of carbon storage in forest ecosystems.

Elyn closed by asking where the FAC and the Climate Impact Advisory Committee (CIAC) can work together. Discussion centered around federal lands in Whatcom County and that they make up a large percentage of the forestlands in the county. Members agreed that an update of the ClearPath model for Whatcom County is needed but that there are challenges in obtaining data for that update.

The CIAC meets the third Thursday of every month from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in a hybrid format. Members of the FAC are encouraged to attend.

### **Open session to take public comment on forestry issues**

Max Perry of Perry Pallet addressed the FAC and commented that the carbon information is interesting and was not available in the past. Carol Perry spoke and expressed gratitude for Josh Fleischmann's support of the FAC over the years. She shared a document written to the WRIA I planning unit and expressed a need for forestry to be represented on the planning unit.

### **Phase II of the DNR Carbon Project**

John Gold, Chair, shared an update with the FAC on our feedback memo to the Council on Phase II of the Washington DNR's Carbon Project. Our concerns in the memo were incorporated into a letter that was sent to the DNR by Whatcom County Councilmembers.

### **State Lands/BNR update**

Cory McDonald, DNR State Lands, advised that a sustainable harvest calculation for the eastside of the state is being developed. There are lawsuits against the agency at this time from the city of Concrete, WA and Skagit County. He advised that there are more than 120 bills in the legislature right now that pertain to the DNR. In a previous BNR meeting, a public comment was made that there were leave trees cut on a timber sale in Jefferson County. The comment was investigated and it was determined to be misguided. There had been a documented change on which trees were to be left and that DNR staff had properly followed the change procedure.

### **2023 FAC work plan discussion**

John Gold, Chair, advised the FAC that he discussed work products and priorities with Councilmember Kaylee Galloway in a prior Climate Action and Natural Resources Committee meeting. CM Galloway would like guidance from the FAC on updates to the comprehensive plan in June or July of this year. In addition, there is money earmarked for management plans to be developed for the county-owned forestland and the FAC may be able to assist with finding a company that can draft a management plan.

John then introduced the following motions:

**Motion 1 from the Chair:** Move to create a FAC Forestry Profile subcommittee in order to develop a written document detailing the forest sector in Whatcom County, addressing but not necessarily limited to: geographic footprint; management strategies and regulatory framework by landowner class; manufacturing, market participants, and service providers; resource and product assessment; economic footprint, employment, tax revenues. The Forestry Profile Subcommittee shall work with the FAC Chair to develop an outline, identify existing sources of data, and determine any necessary resources. The Forestry Profile Subcommittee shall determine and meet on a schedule of its choosing and may additionally meet with staff and other outside experts as it deems appropriate. The Forestry Profile Subcommittee shall provide regular updates to the full FAC and aim to deliver a final draft report December, 2023. In order to adequately represent the diversity of the

forest sector, it is appropriate to include expertise representing small forest landowners, industrial forest landowners, and manufacturers. To that end I nominate members Holly Koon, David Janicki, Susan David, and Aubrey Stargell.

David Janicki, second. Amendment to modify membership, no second. Aubrey Stargell called the question.

**Motion passed: 8 for, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.**

**Motion 2 from the Chair:** Move to create a FAC Carbon subcommittee in order to review the Forestry Chapter of the Whatcom County Climate Action Plan, evaluate the Forestry Goals and Strategies and Key Priorities in light of Whatcom County Ordinance 2017-080, and report back to the full FAC regarding 1) effectiveness, 2) completeness, 3) obstacles to implementation, 4) missed opportunities, and 5) other recommendations the subcommittee deems appropriate. The Carbon Subcommittee shall deliver its draft recommendations to the full FAC by the June, 2023, meeting with regular updates. The Carbon Subcommittee shall determine and meet on a schedule of its choosing and may additionally meet with staff, members of the CIAC, and other outside experts as it deems appropriate. In order to adequately represent the diversity of the forest sector, it is appropriate to include expertise representing small forest landowners, industrial forest landowners, State lands, manufacturers, and harvesters. To that end I nominate members Dave New, John Gold, Quentin Dills, Susan David, and Cory McDonald.

Second, Jed Dawson. Friendly amendment, accepted and seconded: If David New is unwilling or unable to serve on the Subcommittee, member Holly Koon will serve. **Motion passed 9-0.**

Finally, John advised the FAC that he is working on scheduling a set of outside speakers to advise the committee on various forestry topics at future meetings.

**Miscellaneous Announcements:**

Josh Fleischmann, County Liaison, is moving to the River and Flood division and will no longer be supporting the FAC. This will be his last meeting with the committee. Unsure of what the support will be going forward but he will keep chair and vice-chair in the loop.

Western Washington University has an environmental speaker series with an upcoming speaker on a forestry topic Thursday, 2/9/23 at 4:30 p.m. Michael Feerer of Whatcom Million Trees will discuss a community project to protect rapidly disappearing forests and plant more trees in the county. Josh to share link with group.

**Adjournment:**

<b>Closing:</b>
End Time: 6:15 p.m.