

**Whatcom County Forestry Advisory Committee (FAC)
Meeting Summary
August 1, 2023**

Start Time:	4:06 p.m.
Location:	Northwest Annex Central Conference Room/Zoom

Attendees – Members	Affiliation	Present
David New	Small forest landowner	√
Holly Koon	Small forest landowner	√
John Gold	Commercial forest landowner	√
David Janicki	Commercial forest landowner	
Matt McGee	Harvester	√
Quentin Dills	Harvester	
Jed Dawson	Citizen w/ forestry expertise	√
Bagley Wright	Citizen w/ forestry expertise	
Aubrey Stargell	Forest product manufacturer	√
Susan David	Forest product manufacturer	√
Cory McDonald	DNR	√
Quorum Present		Yes
Staff		
Cliff Strong	PDS	√
Chris Elder	PW	
Bennett Knox	Parks	
Public		
Alex Harris	ReSources	√
Kaylee Galloway	County Council	√
Amy Mower		√

Meeting Notes

***Note:** Due to a technical problem, the meeting started 6 minutes late. Because of this, the agenda was reorganized. Apologies to those who did not see the new Zoom link that was sent out in time.*

Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Roll was called and a quorum was present.

Subcommittee Reports

State Lands/DNR Update

Cory McDonald reported on the latest Commissioners’ meeting:

- DNR is starting an outdoor recreation and access plan for our region, and the Commission is having a field trip on 8/24-25 to view some of the issues.
- This month was the Twayblade timber sale auction (Stewart Mt.), which sold for \$415K to Sierra Pacific.
- DNR is also working on an MOU with tribes so that tribal officers can help patrol DNR lands.

Whatcom Forestry Profile Subcommittee

- Susan David reported that for the Forest Products and Infrastructure section she has data on the state level, but is trying to break it down for Whatcom County. Will be contacting operator in this next week.
- Holly Koon reported that she has made great strides with obtaining revenue streams from the County Treasurer, but could use some staff support with aggregating the data (est. 80 hours through November). She would also like to store background documents on the County's website so that her report could link to it.
- Aubrey Stargell said he's 75% done with his section.

New Business**Discussion of Council's exploration of joint management of forestlands**

Chair Gold summarized the 3 letters between the County Council, DNR, and the Mount Baker School District. Councilmember Galloway spoke to her preliminary vision and next steps in addressing potential co-management of forests in Whatcom County. She wants to form a task force—to be comprised of various agencies, W/C depts., and people with forestry expertise—to develop a strategy and overarching policies. The Council wants to focus on the big policy picture, rather than commenting sale-by-sale. Next step is for her to draft a strategy, which will be shared with the FAC for comment, in September, when the Council's Climate Change/Natural Resources Committee will discuss it.

A question was asked about the Council's stated commitment to make junior taxing districts whole, after the pause in the Brokedown Palace sale, to which CM Galloway responded that there are several funds from which monies might be made available.

Aubrey Stargell expressed that he wouldn't want this process to bog DNR down with another review committee, to which there was general concurrence.

Open Public Session

Alex Harris spoke to and expressed his hope for CM Galloway's proposal.

Approval of Minutes

The meeting summary for 7/10/2023 was approved

Old Business**Follow Up on Carbon Subcommittee's proposal – Next Steps**

This item was postponed due to lack of time.

Adjournment

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