

**Whatcom County Forestry Advisory Committee (FAC)
Meeting Summary
September 5, 2023**

Start Time:	4:00 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	√ (joined at 4:15)
David Janicki	Commercial forest landowner	√ (left at 5:30)
Matt McGee	Harvester	
Quentin Dills	Harvester	
Jed Dawson	Citizen w/ forestry expertise	
Bagley Wright	Citizen w/ forestry expertise	
Aubrey Stargell	Forest product manufacturer	√ (joined at 5:20)
Susan David	Forest product manufacturer	√
Cory McDonald	DNR	√
Quorum Present		Yes, at 4:18
Staff		
Cliff Strong	PDS	√
Chris Elder	PW	√
Public		
Alex Harris	ReSources	√
Kaylee Galloway	County Council	√
Steve Harell	CIAC	√
Alan Chapman		√

Meeting Summary

Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Roll was called and though a quorum was not present at the beginning of the meeting, there was at 4:18. No actions were taken when a quorum wasn't present.

Open Public Session

The three members of the audience introduced themselves.

Subcommittee Reports

DNR/BNR Update

Cory McDonald reported:

- The BNR held their annual retreat in August and it was well attended. They focused on recreation.
- DNR will present to the County Council Natural Resources/Climate Change Committee on 9/12. Topic will be collaborative decision making.
- BNR meeting held yesterday. 4 timber sales, about 9MBF, approved. Got 5 bids.

Forest Practices Board

John Gold reported:

- The FPB held their meeting on 9 August.
- Working on buffer standards. Had to vacate a previous vote due to an OPMA irregularity.

- Decided to move forward in rulemaking w/ a single recommendation for buffer configurations rather than a set of alternatives.

Approval of Minutes

The meeting summary of August 1 were approved.

Subcommittee Reports (cont.)

Whatcom Forestry Profile Subcommittee

- Susan & Holly discussed in more detail their request for staff support. They estimate they could use 30 hours on data entry ASAP, 20 hours on linking source materials (and the ability for the County to host these materials on its website), and 30 hours on editing the final draft of the report (in late to early winter), for a total of 80 hours. Cliff will pass this on to Steve, and call Holly with response.
- Holly distributed copies of here draft chapter and requested that the FAC members review and provide edits.

Old Business

Follow Up on Carbon Subcommittee's proposal – Next Steps

John G reported that Elyn Murphy, CIAC Chair, requested that the FAC present they recommendations to the CIAC, which he'll do at their 9/21 meeting (@ Garden Room, 5-7 PM). Cliff will send their agenda to the FAC once it's published.

Council's proposed Forest Resilience Task Force

The FAC reviewed Councilmember Galloway's proposed ordinance to create a FRTF, and CM Galloway responded to questions. Holly suggested that part of the TF's charge be fire planning and suggested Jenny Coe as a resource. Susan wondered why 2 FAC members, and CM Galloway responded that it was due to the diversity of interest on the FAC. Aubrey expressed concern that with a committee of 22 it will be difficult to reach consensus, and that timber sales might be held up; GM Galloway responded that the FRTF will not be making decisions on individual sales, but developing protocol for how and when Council would react to such sales. Chair Gold suggested that it might be good to have a fill-time forester on County staff.

New Business

Chair Gold spoke to the forest fire on the east side of Lake Whatcom, informing the FAC that it was now 90% contained. He also wondered whether County staff knew of what property owners need to do once DNR closes out a burn.

Adjournment

Chair Gold adjourned the meeting at 6:10 PM. Next meeting is on October 3, 4-6pm; Zoom and Northwest Annex Conference Room.