

**Whatcom County Forestry Advisory Committee (FAC)**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**October 3, 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	√
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	√
<b>Quorum Present</b>		
<b>Staff</b>		
Cliff Strong	W/C PDS	√
Bennett Knox	W/C Parks	√
<b>Public</b>		
Alex Harris	ReSources	√
Kaylee Galloway	County Council	√
Judith Akins		√
Alan Chapman		√
Eric Jacoby		

**Meeting Summary**

Chair Gold opened the meeting at 4:01 PM.

**Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum**

Roll was called and a quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes**

The meeting summary of September 5 were approved.

**Open Public Session**

Judith Akins introduced herself as a member of the public interested in forests.

**Subcommittee Reports**

**Whatcom Forestry Profile Subcommittee**

Committee members reported on what progress they made. It was acknowledged that the report probably won't be completed by December, which was their goal. Holly Koon expressed concern about anomalies in the financial data, though acknowledged that the Treasurer is still finding additional info that might clear things up. Quentin Dills volunteered to assist with this task. Cliff mentioned that their work will greatly contribute to updating the Resource Lands – Forestry portion of the CompPlan.

**DNR/BNR Update**

Cory McDonald reported:

- NW Region will do a prescribed burn of about 35 acres in the Middle Fork area to reduce fuel loading, etc. First in a while in this region.
- The BNR approved 7 timber sales (not in NW Region) 35M BF, \$9.2M.
- The BNR approved a 170-ac acquisition (M 1100) in Pacific Co., Trap Creek block.
- The BNR Chair, Duane Emmons, gave a presentation on the Natural Climate Solutions project to find 2,000 acres of carbon rich stands to use for carbon storage.

John Gold:

- reported that 2 lawsuits filed against DNR are being withdrawn
- Gave an update on progress on the Climate Commitment Act

**Carbon Subcommittee**

John Gold reported that he was not able to attend the last CIAC meeting as planned due to illness. He'll work with their Chair to reschedule. He also suggested that the FAC members listen to the recording of the CIAC's Climate Action Plan subcommittee, as it was quite interesting.

**Old Business****Council's proposed Forest Resilience Task Force**

John Gold mentioned that there is a revised proposed ordinance. CM Galloway confirmed that only dates have been updated.

**Blanchard Forest Tour**

As no one from the FAC attended there was no discussion.

**Action Item – Lake Whatcom Fire**

John Gold discussed his proposed motion alerting W/C Parks and the Council of the steps the County, as property owner of the re-conveyed DNR forestlands that burned on the east side of Lake Whatcom this summer, must take to secure the property. The members conveyed the urgency of this matter to Bennett Knox, Parks Director, who said they plan on assessing the area this month. No action was taken, but will be included on the November agenda.

**New Business****2024 Legislative Session**

John Gold asked for a volunteer to follow pending forestry bills during the State's 2024 Legislative Session. No one volunteered.

**Adjournment**

Chair Gold adjourned the meeting at 6:01 PM. Next meeting is on November 7, 4-6pm; Zoom and Northwest Annex Conference Room.