

**Forestry Advisory Committee (FAC)
Meeting Summary
March 15, 2022**

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

Meeting Highlights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 12 people in attendance (6 of the 6 voting members; 1 staff members, 5 members of the public).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next meeting Date/Time/Location: TBD

Attendees – Members	Affiliation	Present
David New	Small forest landowner	X
	Small forest landowner	
	Commercial forest landowner	
	Commercial forest landowner	
Matt McGee	Harvester	X
	Harvester	
Jed Dawson	Citizen w/ forestry expertise	X
	Citizen w/ forestry expertise	
Aubrey Stargell	Forest product manufacturer	X
Eric Jacoby	Forest product manufacturer	X
Cory McDonald	DNR	X

Quorum Present	YES: X NO:
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Attendees - Staff	Present	Attendees - Staff	Present
Joshua Fleischmann, PDS	X		

Others Present	
Rob Lewis	Todd Lagestee
John Gold	Alan Chapman
Brel Froebe	

Meeting Notes

Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

A quorum was present

Business Rules

Agenda topics were rearranged to facilitate committee functionality, with Business rules moved towards the beginning of the meeting. The “Quorum – Decision Making” section of the business rules was amended so that decision making is made by majority vote, with a simple majority required, rather than a minimum of 6 votes.

Approval or Modification of Minutes

The February 22, 2022 meeting summary was passed 5-0-1.

Open Session

John Gold of Sierra Pacific Industries spoke. He thanked the County for getting the FAC up and running. Stated the importance of Commercial Forestry Landowner position being

filled, but that most commercial forestry landowners are not residents of Whatcom County. Suggested discussion on ability of non-residents to fill these positions.

Alan Chapman spoke to balancing working lands and environmental processes. Asked if there have been studies on the combined Skagit/Whatcom critical mass of acreage necessary to maintain a viable forestry sector. Staff noted they are unaware of any studies. Cory McDonald stated the sustainable harvest has dropped substantially in this region but it is not known what the critical mass is.

Officer Elections

Aubrey Stargell was nominated as Chair. Aubrey stated he would accept the Vice Chair position if no one else was willing to fill the role. Nobody was nominated for chair. The committee decided to wait for electing Chair and Vice Chair positions until the committee membership positions were more fully appointed

DRAFT Zoning Code Amendments – Transfer of Jurisdiction

The FAC discussed the draft zoning code amendments and recommended approval by a vote of 6-0.

Bessie Sorts Timber Sale

Three members of the public spoke in favor of protecting the Bessie Sorts timber sale from harvest.

The FAC discussed the Bessie Sorts Timber Sale, voting to send a memo to the County Council encouraging them to support for the sale.

Correspondence from County Council

The FAC discussed inviting the Council to attend a FAC meeting

New Business

No new business was discussed

Dismissal

Closing:
End Time: 6:01 p.m.