

**Forestry Advisory Committee (FAC)  
Meeting Summary  
September 13, 2022**

Start Time:	3:30 p.m.
Location:	Northwest Annex Conference Room/Zoom

<b>Meeting Highlights</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were 12 people in attendance (6 of the 6 voting members; 1 staff members, 5 members of the public).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Next meeting Date/Time/Location: October 18 at 4:00 p.m. – NWA Conference Room/Zoom</li> </ul>

<b>Attendees – Members</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Present</b>
David New	Small forest landowner	X
	Small forest landowner	
Quentin Dills	Commercial forest landowner	
Susan David	Commercial forest landowner	X
Matt McGee	Harvester	
	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

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

<b>Others Present</b>	
John God	Matt Comisky
Judith Akins	Alan Chapman

Meeting Notes

**Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum**

A quorum was present

**Approval or Modification of Minutes**

The meeting summary from the March meeting has not been completed for review.

**Open Session to Take Public Comment on Forestry Issues**

John Gold spoke and thanked the committee for reconvening to discuss important issues.

Chris Elder of Whatcom County Public Works spoke to invite the FAC to a future Climate Impact Advisory Committee meeting.

Matt Comisky of American Forest Resource Council spoke, stating that his organization represents timber mills and that they are glad to see the FAC meetings resume.

**Comprehensive Plan Update**

Staff provided an update on the comprehensive plan update. Staff mentioned that work will begin in spring/summer 2023. Staff will provide an adopted County Council Resolution which highlights priorities for the update, as well as the Washington State Department of Commerce checklist, to the committee.

**DNR Timberlands – Current Issues**

The committee discussed their concerns with DNR timber management, stating a concern over the loss of the forestry land base and concerns that DNR may be following the direction of the National Forest Service and reducing timber available for harvest.

The committee stated their interest in determining the minimum acreage necessary for a viable local timber economy, similar to the 100,000 acre minimum land base identified for agriculture.

**Stewart Mountain Community Forest Initiative**

Chris Elder of Public Works provided background on the Stewart Mountain Community Forest Initiative (SMCFI). Initial discussions that ultimately led to the SMCFI were related to how forestry management may impact stream flow. Phase I of the SMCFI includes acquisition of ~550 acres of forestland. Management decisions on this ~550 acres would help inform decision makers on whether to move forward with Phase II and the acquisition of an additional ~5,000 acres.

The FAC voiced concerns on a number of topics, including but not limited to:

- How data will be collected to inform the decision on Phase II
- Whether the initial purchase price was
- How the forest will be managed?
- What happens if forestry activities generate surplus revenue? Who benefits? If it doesn't generate a surplus, who has the liability?
- Historical community forests have not followed through on promises.

Christ stated his desire for the FAC to be involved to help alleviate concerns

**New Business**

No new business was discussed

**Dismissal**

<b>Closing:</b>
End Time: 5:01 p.m.