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**Mark Personius, AICP**  
Director

## **Forest Advisory Committee Meeting**

**4:00-6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 6, 2026**

**In person:**

Planning & Development Services, Northwest Annex Conference Room  
5280 Northwest Dr, Bellingham, WA

**Or join by Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87106867064?pwd=b0NLTlZnTTZqOHBGQk1mY2FQbWFKQT09>

Meeting ID: 871 0686 7064

Passcode: 722152

One tap mobile: +12532050468,,87106867064#,,, \*722152# US

*If you require special assistance to participate, contact the meeting facilitator:  
Alexander Harris – 360-922-2318 – [aharris@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:aharris@co.whatcom.wa.us)*



## **Forest Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda**

January 6, 2026

4:00-6:00 p.m.

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1. Roll call & Determination of Quorum (5 min)
2. Review and approve agenda (5 min)
3. Review and approve December Meeting Summary (5 min)
4. Open Public Session (5 min)
5. Announcements (10 min)
6. Reports (15 min)
  - a. DNR/BNR (McDonald)
  - b. Legislative Session (who will fill this role?)
  - c. Forest Practices Board (who will fill this role?)
7. Business (50 min)
  - a. Elections: Chair and Vice-Chair
  - b. Review FAC applications
    - i. Citizen with forestry experience (Dawson outgoing)
    - ii. Small forest landowner (New outgoing)
    - iii. Task: identify who will write memo to Council re: FAC applicants. Vote on the memo content?
  - c. FAC 2025 Work Plan Draft
    - i. Set up work plan subcommittee (draft workplan before Feb meeting)
8. Sawmill presentation: Adam Ellsworth (20 min)
9. Adjourn

**Attachments:**

- Draft December Meeting Summary

## Whatcom County Forest Advisory Committee (FAC)

### DRAFT Meeting Summary

**December 2, 2025**

Start Time:	4:00 p.m.
Location:	Zoom and in-person at the NW Annex Conference Room

Members	Affiliation	Present	Absent (Excused?)
David New	Small forest landowner	√	
Holly Koon	Small forest landowner	√	
David Janicki	Commercial forest landowner	√	
Rob Janicki	Commercial forest landowner	√	
Shelby Beam	Harvester or silviculturist	√	
VACANT	Harvester or silviculturist		
Jed Dawson	Citizen w/ forestry expertise	√	
Tracy Petroske	Citizen w/ forestry expertise	√	
Aubrey Stargell	Forest product manufacturer	√	
Adam Ellsworth	Forest product manufacturer	√	
Cory McDonald	DNR	√	
Brandy Reed	Whatcom Conservation District		√ (Y)
Rachel Vasak	Whatcom Land Trust	√	
Frank Bob	Lummi Nation	√	
UNFILLED	Nooksack Indian Tribe		
UNFILLED	U.S. Forest Service		
		<b>Quorum Present</b>	
Electeds			
Ben Elenbaas	Whatcom County Councilmember		
Staff			
Alexander Harris	WC PDS	√	
Public			

### Meeting Summary

Chair David Janicki opened the meeting at 4:05 PM.

#### Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Roll was called and a quorum was present.

## Agenda Review and Approval of Meeting Summary

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Tracy made the motion to approve meeting minutes from October, Dave New seconded. Passed unanimously, with Rob abstaining.

## Open Public Session

Kaia Hayes provided brief comments on the Lake Whatcom Forest Management Plan. She is the Land & Water Policy Manager for RE Sources, local non-profit. Kaia said the plan was a good example of how active management can accomplish multiple objectives. Kaia said she thought the plan bridges the divide between no-touch management and more active management. Kaia said in her conversations with staff and consultants who developed the plan, it was clear that there was a need to build public support for more active management in the Lake Whatcom watershed. She said the plan doesn't shy away from cutting trees, which will likely cause some community members to express opposition to future forest management. She said the FAC will need to play an important role in that conversation to educate the community about more active forest management.

## Announcements

Tracy shared that DNR is recruiting for community members to apply to be on [DNR's Ecosystem Services Work Group](#).

Rob said he toured the Makah Tribe's operation. He also said that he had heard wood chips will be going to the Port of Bellingham. Adam chimed in, saying that about less than half of their chips are going to the Port of Bellingham, with those chips eventually going to Vancouver Island. Adam said their mill only burns the smaller chips in their co-gen facility.

Holly said she presented to the Planning Commission. She only got 3 mins to present. The Planning Commission heard her comments and discussed them. Alex flagged that a question came up during a County Council meeting earlier in the day about forest collaboratives. There was confusion, with council members weighing in to say they were not in support of convening another advisory committee or task force for forestry issues. Tracy asked if Alex could send along the details from those questions so the FAC could address these questions to clarify that the FAC was asking to convene a "forest collaborative" similar to the collaboratives elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest.

## Reports

### **BNR**

Cory said he wasn't able to attend the BNR meeting. He brought up DNR's legislative priorities, and specifically flagged DNR's proposal to "Capitalize on Ecosystem Services to Diversify Agency Revenue." The current administration is trying to look at new ways to manage state trust lands.

Holly flagged that this a good first step to begin assigning a dollar value to ecosystem services. This study was ordered by the legislature to assess if there are other ways to make money on state trustlands. Cory highlighted that carbon markets need to demonstrate additionality. Rob said that he knows of carbon markets that pay landowners to extend harvest rotations from 35 years (standard rotations) to longer rotations (55 years). Jed asked whether these new ecosystem services programs will require new laws. Cory said these are emerging markets so they may require new legislation.

### **Legislature**

The legislative session convenes January 12. Even years are short sessions.

### **Forest Practices Board**

Jed shared that the board met and voted 7-5 on November 12 to adopt new protections for perennial non-fish streams (Np streams). This will affect private and state land. Washington Forest Protection Association and Washington Farm Forestry Association filed a lawsuit over the changes. Aubrey said it was his understanding that this rule extended protections for the whole Np, whereas the original rule only applied to a portion of the stream. Plus the

protections went from 50 feet to 75 feet. Tracy flagged that the FAC will need to identify someone to fill Jed's role, since he's planning to resign the FAC.

## Old Business

### Forest Resilience Plan

Tracy said the FAC should develop an outline of how they plan to update the Forest Resilience Plan. Holly said one of the biggest problems the FAC identified with the FRP was the fact that it didn't separate recommendations by land ownership type. She said that in order to do this, the FAC should pick up their previous work to understand the numbers for each ownership type. Tracy suggest that the FAC should develop a work plan at the January meeting of what they plan to cover the 2026 work plan

Holly said she wants the FAC to be made up of experts who know a lot about the landscape. She said she had a list of things she thinks should be included in the Forest Resilience Plan. Holly will circle back with her list of questions.

Rob said he has a lot of questions too. He wants to know the demographics of small forest landowners. He said if you know the audiences, then you reach them more effectively. Cory said it's important to know what problem we're trying to solve before picking apart the FRP. Rob said the first step will be to have a meeting to establish their 2026 Work Plan (January). Then he said the next step will be to tackle FRP. Rob suggested that the FAC invite presentations from Whatcom Land Trust and RE Sources to hear their priorities. He said the FAC will be more productive if it's a table with loggers, mills, land managers, and environmentalists discussing forest-related topics.

## New Business

### Membership

- Jed's term is up and he won't be renewing.
- Dave New's term is also up but he'd like to stay on the committee. Application period closes January 6. Dave New has applied for Jed's position.
- Jill Nixon will send applications to Alex, David J. and Tracy.
- Dave New's email address is wrong on the WCC document
- FAC will vote on chair and vice chair in January

### Lake Whatcom Forest Management Plan (LW FMP)

- [HERE](#) is the draft plan and [HERE](#) is the draft "Property Descriptions & Management Recommendations" document.
- Alex shared that this plan is for county and city forestland in the Lake Whatcom watershed. Alex shared that Parks provided an opportunity for members of the public to submit comments.
- Cory brought up RCW 79.22.310. Alex said he would flag for Parks.
- Holly reviewed the plan and said there was a lot of non-commercial thinning, road abandonment, and other forestry actions. Holly said it was a thorough plan that did a good job identifying a long list of what work was needed in the future. Holly said she was worried the county wouldn't have enough money to implement these actions.
- Rob said there currently isn't anyone at the county equipped to implement a plan of this scale. He mentioned that the City of Everett watershed delegates the entire forest management plan to a consultant to implement.
- Cory said this particular geography was complex because there's a primitive road system in steep terrain, which means it needs regular maintenance. Aubrey said they warned the county of the road maintenance responsibilities back then during the reconveyance process. He said the lands were going to turn from producing revenue to requiring public subsidy. Cory said he has heard that the county didn't have sufficient resources to support forest management expenses, and therefore the county will likely have to rely on grant funding.
- There was agreement amongst FAC members that the LW FMP should be part of the workplan of the coming year (2026). Rob said he would like to circle back to this conversation so FAC members can become more familiar with the plan.

- Alex shared that he had reached out to the Parks Department and made the request for the FAC to be more involved in the implementation of the plan. He said the FAC would have good insight into how to advance the restoration and road abandonment prescriptions while generating sufficient revenue to cover management costs.
- Rob said there are many plans out there that don't get implemented. There was agreement amongst FAC members that the FAC needs to be involved in the implementation of the plan, and that Parks should present to the FAC.
- Holly and Rob said they'd like for the FAC to be looped into the county's implementation of this plan.
- Rob said the City has hired them to thin 160 acres of city-owned land on Galbraith.
- Rob said community engagement is really important – this was important for their project on Galbraith.

### Next Meeting

- Develop the work plan for 2026.

### Adjourn

Chair David Janicki adjourned the meeting just after 6pm.

DRAFT