

**Whatcom County Forest Advisory Committee (FAC)**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**January 6, 2026**

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

<b>Members</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent (Excused?)</b>
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	√	
<i>VACANT</i>	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		√ (Y)
Brandy Reed	Whatcom Conservation District	√	
Rachel Vasak	Whatcom Land Trust	√	
Frank Bob	Lummi Nation		√ (N)
<i>UNFILLED</i>	Nooksack Indian Tribe		
<i>UNFILLED</i>	U.S. Forest Service		
		<b>Quorum Present</b>	
<b>Electeds</b>			
<b>Staff</b>			
Alexander Harris	WC PDS	√	
<b>Public</b>			
Kaia Hayes	RE Sources	√	
Alan Chapman	WCD Board of Supervisors	√	
Maia Walston	Darrington Collaborative	√	

**Meeting Summary**

Vice Chair Tracy Petroske 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 a few suggested edits to the December Meeting Summary. Dave made a motion to approve the December meeting summary as amended. Shelby second. Passes unanimously.

## **Open Public Session**

Maia Walston with the Darrington Collaborative introduced herself. Maia met with some members of the FAC to discuss the Darrington Collaborative. She is hoping to learn more about how the FAC operates so we can learn how the Darrington Collaborative can work together in the future.

## **Announcements**

Tracy said she wanted to recognize how helpful it has been to have Alex as county staff help administer FAC meetings.

Rachel provided an update: Today, WLT closed on the Phase 2 acquisition of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest. This adds 1,616 acres to the Phase 1 acquisition, which was 550 acres. Now that's over 2,100 acres. Partners involved are: Whatcom Land Trust, Nooksack Indian Tribe, Evergreen Land Trust, and Whatcom County. WLT is working with partners to develop a subsidiary non-profit model that will own and manage the land.

## **Reports**

### **DNR/BNR**

- DNR has decided to pull a bill relating to creating an ecosystem services marketplace that would value water resources. DNR held this bill due to tribal concerns.

### **Legislative session**

- Jed is resigning from the FAC, so he will be vacating the role of reporting to the FAC on legislative updates. Tracy asked if anyone was interested in filling this role of reporting on legislative updates. Dave New said he can take on this role.

## **Business**

### **Elections**

- David and Tracy have agreed to continue serving as Chair and Vice Chair.
- Tracy nominated David J. to continue in his role as Chair. Holly seconded. Passed unanimously.
- David J. nominated Tracy to continue as Vice Chair. Rob seconded. Passed unanimously

FAC had two new applications for open FAC seats. One is Dave New applying for one of the seats for Citizen with Forestry Experience. Another application came from Mallore Weinheimer for the open seat for a Harvester or Silviculturist. FAC members reviewed both applications and decided by consensus that Tracy and David should send a note to Whatcom County Council to voice support for both applications.

## **FAC Workplan**

Kaylee shared her ideas of what else the county could work on:

- Upcoming update to the Climate Action Plan. Lauren Clemens is the county staffer
- How can afforestation help with flood mitigation.
- Ordinance that protects working forestlands from the risk of wildfire started by fireworks.
- Conservation easements, open space, or Whatcom County Assessor.

Alex proposed an idea for the FAC to have a standing presentation every 6 months to present to the Whatcom County Council's Climate Action and Natural Resources Committee. Opportunity to give updates and ask what Council needs from the advisory committee. FAC members and Councilmember Galloway agreed this was a good idea. Agreement to discuss at the next meeting what format these presentations should follow.

Holly shared her draft document to help with the development of the FAC Work Plan, which included the following bullet points:

- Review FAC responsibilities related to forestry and forestland issues in the following:
  - Whatcom Lake Watershed Plan
  - Forest Resiliency Plan
  - Comp Plan
- Review any known or anticipated ongoing work requested or likely to be requested by WC Council.
- Review any known or anticipated FAC priorities for work –other than those listed above
- Brainstorm potential items for a “2026 FAC Continuing Education Plan.” What do we want to learn more about, visit, have presented to us etc.?
- Request Staff or FAC execs to reach out to the County Council to see if they have anything they want to put on our 2026 radar or workplan.

FAC members had some discussion on the format the work plan should take. Adam shared that prioritizing will be essential. Brandy requested that these bullet points be emailed out to FAC members.

## **Presentation: Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI)**

Adam Ellsworth is the Log Procurement Manager for SPI's Burlington mill. Adam presented on SPI's operation in Burlington, as well as the lands they manage throughout western Washington. Adam made it clear that their mill depends on logs that come from their own lands as well as state public lands managed by DNR.

Tracy asked if a tour of the SPI Burlington Mill would be possible. Alex offered to help schedule two separate tours with FAC members (to avoid quorum).

### **Next Meeting**

Agreement to discuss Work Plan.

### **Adjourn**

Tracy adjourned the meeting at 6:05pm.