



King County

**King County Rural Forest Commission
 DRAFT Meeting Minutes
 Thursday, March 21st, 2019 – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
 Preston Community Center, Preston**

Commissioner	Present?	Commissioner (Ex-Officio/Non-Voting)	Present?
Monica Paulson Priebe, academic forester (Chair)	✓	Kelsey Ketcheson, WSU Extension	
Amy LaBarge, forest ecologist (Vice-Chair)	✓	Brandy Reed, KCD	✓
Laurie Benson, WA DNR		Martie Schramm, USDA Forest Svc.	
Jeff Boyce, rural cities/professional forester	✓		
Andy Chittick, forest product user/forest landowner	✓		
Wendy Davis, private forest landowner	✓		
Wyatt Golding, non-timber values of forest land	✓		
Daryl Harper, forest landowner			
Steve Horton, forest product user/forest landowner	✓		
Li Hsi, forest landowner	✓		
Bernie McKinney, forest landowner/conservation advocate	✓		
Steven Mullen-Moses, affected Indian tribe			
Grady Steere, large forest landowner	✓		

County Staff Present	Guests Present
Eric Beach, DNRP	Steve Braun, Green River College
Connie Blumen, DNRP	Tom Franz, WDNR
David Kimmett, DNRP	Carter Manning, GRC
Bill Loeber, DNRP	Gene McCaul, GRC
Richard Martin, DNRP	Trevor McConchie, WDNR
Daphne Payne, DNRP	Andrew Wilmoth, GRC
Wendy Sammarco, DNRP	
Kathleen Farley Wolf, DNRP	

Chair Monica Paulson Priebe called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Motions

- **01-0321.** That the January meeting minutes be amended to reflect Amy LaBarge and Grady Steere’s preferred titles, and approved as such. Bernie McKinney motioned, Li Hsi seconded; the motion carried unanimously.
- **02-0321.** That a phone meeting of the RFC be scheduled for April to discuss concerns relating to the Enumclaw recycling plant. Wyatt Golding motioned, Wendy Davis seconded. This motion was amended to state that regular phone meetings between scheduled in-person meetings should be added back to the RFC meeting calendar. Mr. Golding and Ms. Davis accepted the amendment, and the motion carried unanimously.
- **03-0321.** That the RFC concur with DPER’s recommendation to allow two (2) 400-square foot permit-exempt accessory structures per parcel. Amy LaBarge motioned, Li Hsi seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
- **04-0321.** That the RFC support KCD’s current rates and charges proposal, weigh in affirmatively and support KCD in going forward, and recognize there will be room to grow and evaluate priorities and needs in the future, and other focus areas including forest cover and its relationship to social equity. Amy LaBarge motioned, Grady Steere seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
- **05-0321.** That the RFC adjourn the March 21, 2019 meeting at 12:03 pm. Grady Steere motioned, Amy LaBarge seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

I) Chair Report – Monica Priebe

- January 2019 Meeting Minutes: Amy LaBarge asked her listed title to be corrected to “forest ecologist.” Grady Steere asked his title to be corrected to “large” forest landowner. Bernie McKinney motioned to approve the

minutes with the suggested corrections. Li Hsi seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

- **Field Day Update:** Kathleen Farley Wolf said the next full RFC meeting will convene in Renton for one hour, followed by two site visits, Taylor Mountain and Henry's Ridge. The focus will be forest management goals, and challenges.

II) Little Lake Forest Stewardship Plan – Andrew Wilmoth & Carter Manning, Green River College

Monica Priebe introduced Mr. Wilmoth and Mr. Manning, students at GRC, who completed this plan for the County as a capstone project. The Little Lake Forest site is on 153 acres just west of Enumclaw, in a transition zone between the Cascades and Puget lowlands, with class 2 and 3 soils. It is located in two different Watershed Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs), the Duwamish/Green and Puyallup/White. Features include a small lake, pond, wetland, with flat areas in the southwest portion.

General management objectives for this plan include:

- Provide buffer between Enumclaw and working forest lands.
- Provide public access, and maintain recreational trails.
- Provide refuge and habitat for the variety of active wildlife in the area.
- Create a forest characteristic of a late seral forest: bring back multiple canopy layers, more structure, native herbaceous tree, and shrub layer.

Three general management recommendations were made:

- Some stands need thinning;
- Some type of invasive species control, as lots of blackberry and other such species are present;
- Replant native species. Native species planting would help remove some blackberry long-term.

Several follow-up questions were asked, regarding best methods for invasive species control and concerns for making the area more suitable for recreational users

III) Enumclaw Recycling Center – RFC Executive Committee, lead: Amy LaBarge

Monica Priebe and Ms. LaBarge raised the issue of a recycling center near Enumclaw, currently going through the County permitting process. Ms. LaBarge said this has a nexus with RFC in that it's their mission to conserve forest land in King County, and be aware of property uses that may impact forest zone or adjacent areas. She noted an area of similar focus near Maple Valley, involving a new asphalt plant which has caused concerns about environmental impacts there. Ms. Priebe and Ms. LaBarge cited a history of code violations, some ongoing, by the recycling center's landowner, and voiced concern about County ability to enforce such violations.

Several RFC members agreed more information is needed for context to recommend a next course of action. It was suggested past RFC stances on similar issues be researched to ensure consistency with any position the RFC may take, and that it should also be asked how prevalent apparent lack of County code enforcement is.

Due to urgency of this issue and meeting agenda time constraints, it was suggested a phone meeting of the RFC be scheduled in April to specifically discuss this topic. Wyatt Golding made a motion for this, seconded by Wendy Davis. A friendly amendment was suggested to add regular phone meetings back to the RFC meeting calendar, to be available as needed. Mr. Golding and Ms. Davis accepted the amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

IV) Code Change Update – Eric Beach, DNRP-WLRD

Mr. Beach announced the land use tables approved last year are moving forward through the County, and will be transmitted to Department of Local Services, Permitting Division (DLS-PD) tomorrow. He specifically praised the RFC's suggestion to make structures sized less than 400 square feet a permit-exempt accessory building. DLS has accepted this change, stipulating a limit of two (2) such structures per parcel. Mr. Beach said he sought confirmation from the RFC that this is an acceptable stipulation.

Amy LaBarge motioned that the RFC concur with DLS's proposed recommendation, to clarify the allowed number of 400-square foot permit-exempt accessory buildings per parcel to two. Li Hsi seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

V) 2009 Report Update – Monica Priebe

A) **Voting Exercise Follow-Up:** Ms. Priebe reviewed the compiled results from a voting exercise by the RFC at its last meeting, prioritizing issues to address in their update of the 2009 Forest Report. The results were grouped into several topics/categories. Ms. Priebe asked RFC members to pair up and choose a topic to compare with

the 2009 plan, flesh out ideas and/or possible changes, and perhaps draft new language to incorporate into an updated plan. The results would be compiled prior to the July meeting for easier Commission review. Each pair would present its results in July.

The following pairs volunteered or were chosen for each topic/category:

- **Profitability:** Grady Steere, Wyatt Golding
- **Community Forest Fire Hazard Reduction:** Wendy Davis, Jeff Boyce
- **Managing Open Space Lands:** Andy Chittick, Steve Horton
- **Land Conservation:** Li Hsi, Bernie McKinney
- **Tribal Issues:** Amy LaBarge, Steven Mullen-Moses
- **Landowner Assistance & Education:** Kelsey Ketcheson, Brandy Reed

Ms. Priebe agreed to field any questions and help facilitate this review process. She said these topics should be examined as part of a 10-year plan.

- B) KCD Rates/Charges Update: Brandy Reed discussed KCD's coming update to its rates and charges system. The current system of rates/charges launched in 2015 and is set to expire the end of this year. By the end of April, KCD will be submitting its updated five-year rates/charges proposal to KCC via the County Executive, and so this is the final chance for the RFC to weigh in on this proposal.

She said the current proposal for forestry programs is largely a continuation of what was packaged in 2015, with a few changes: mainly, adding another technician to the rural program, and bringing several community fire risk management resources under the umbrella of both programs. She distributed a handout summarizing the proposal. She stressed that Jeff Boyce, as the RFC's representative on KCD's advisory committee, needs to be informed of the RFC's stance in regards to urban and rural forest stewardship in time for the advisory committee's meeting and vote on the third Wednesday of April. Ms. Priebe and Mr. Boyce suggested reviewing the handout over break, and getting quick feedback from the RFC at the end of this meeting.

----- **BREAK** -----

VI) Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) – Trevor McConchie & Tom Franz, WA State DNR

GNA falls under the 2014 federal Farm Bill. It authorizes states, counties, and tribes to work as agents of the federal government to conduct watershed, rangeland, and forestland restoration services on behalf of the USFS and DNR. It allows states to use their own contracts to conduct work on federal land. Also of note is a funding mechanism created by the Stewardship Authority, to keep any unused funds on a commercial restoration project from being diverted back to the Treasury, instead keeping that money to be used locally for forestry work. GNA has this mechanism, but a difference is that the state holds the money for USFS and spends it in partnership with them. There are many diverse funding sources for GNA, such as private third parties, federal grants, etc.

Mr. McConchie explained the GNA "life cycle," noting GNA does not work everywhere. First, seed funds come in from the state legislature and federal partners. Then, signed Supplemental Project Agreements (SPAs) initiate a projects, such as timber harvests, that generate income. The state may recover operating costs from project income, but the majority of generated funds is available for restoration projects that do not generate income.

The motivation for GNA comes essentially from a large number of "shared priorities" among jurisdictions. WA Commissioner of Public Lands, Hilary Franz, has called out many of her own priorities that are symbiotic with USFS priorities. One such priority being strongly encouraged is collaboration/partnership, and a more "outward" focus for DNR. The health of Puget Sound, salmon recovery, and other environmental issues are all important conversations for the USFS. Forest action plan documents are also key.

Mr. McConchie said USFS is currently being directed to do more, but with no additional resources. Five-year plans must have GNA in them, and a key focus now is on the concept of "shared stewardship." GNA is a key part of shared stewardship and covers a broad, diverse, and multi-faceted array of projects, including watershed, forestland, and rangeland restoration.

DNR and USFS reached their master agreement in March 2017, with six (6) SPAs now in place, covering all national forests in the state. The federal lands program works closer with the forests, and the GNA coordinates with DNR regions and provides opportunities for them to engage.

Tom Franz reviewed two GNA projects underway in King County, both in their "draft" phase. One is a small acreage next to Snoqualmie Point Park; the second, much larger, is the Bandera site near Snoqualmie Pass:

- **Snoqualmie Point:** This is a mix of patch cuts and thinning on about 6 acres, to maintain viewsheds and provide wildlife forage. For the patch cuts, DNR is working with USFS to identify appropriate native species to plant after the harvest, primarily low shrubs/grasses. The project is expected to generate about \$20-30K in revenue.
- **Bandera:** This site covers several hundred acres, and is very complex. After several unsuccessful attempts to bid the work as a single project, USFS asked if DNR could manage the sale in multiple units. The sales are anticipated to generate \$500K in revenue, which will be invested back into local restoration projects. A large public outreach on this project is underway.

Lengthy discussion followed with several clarifying questions posed by RFC members, largely on contract specifics. Further discussion followed with questions addressing funding specifics, and how projects are identified.

Mr. McConchie offered to provide updates on Bandera and other projects if the RFC wished. Interest was voiced by several RFC members in hearing GNA project updates, and how best the RFC can collaborate formally with the GNA. Ms. Priebe suggested Julie Sackett of DNR be brought in to provide the RFC an overview on points of collaboration on forestry stewardship in the state, including KCD and GNA, and where RFC might fit in to this.

Mr. McConchie offered his contact information, and that more information about GNA is on its website.

VII) Public Comment Period

- **Amy LaBarge** suggested, for future meetings, moving public comment to earlier in the meeting, to respect the public's time. Richard Martin noted the Agriculture Commission's meetings have two public comment periods, one for specific agenda items and another general comment period at the end.
- **Li Hsi** suggested a certified herbicide expert come to the RFC to present on the topic. Mr. Martin advised asking King County's Noxious Weeds program staff to touch on the topic in their scheduled May RFC presentation first, then decide whether to go deeper from there. Dave Kimmitt noted that the County's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy is very expansive with lots of information available online.

VIII) Agency Reports and Announcements

- **KCD (Brandy Reed):** The RFC returned to the topic of the KCD rates/charges update and the feedback requested by Ms. Reed to inform Jeff Boyce in his vote as RFC representative at April's KCD advisory committee meeting.
 - Wyatt Golding said his commissioner orientation included data about forest cover accessibility relating to race, class, and income in King County; he wishes to see this addressed in stewardship programs.
 - Dave Kimmitt noted urban forests in King County are not just in incorporated cities, but in urban unincorporated areas such as Skyway and White Center, where the County is the jurisdictional authority.
 - Monica Priebe praised KCD's work model, saying it has served many people and dovetails well with the RFC's work. She offered endorsement of the current proposal, as well as issues voiced by Mr. Golding.
 - Amy LaBarge motioned that the RFC support KCD in going forward with their rates and charges proposal, recognizing there will be room to grow and evaluate priorities and needs in the future, and other focus areas including Mr. Golding's comment. Grady Steere seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.
- **WA DNR (Laurie Benson):** There was no update available.
- **WSU Extension:** There was no update available.
- **King County (Richard Martin):**
 - The County is making great progress on rural/urban carbon forest programs; Kathleen Farley Wolf is leading these efforts now. Progress is on track for a public announcement in the spring.
 - Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP): The 2015 plan update has formally kicked off; an update to the RFC is forthcoming for their thoughts on reasonable measures of success the County can strive for in the next five years in climate adaptations, etc. in the forest realm.
 - The 30-year forest plan took a back seat to carbon work, but is now picking up steam again. Information is coming soon on stakeholder workshops to help develop a framework for this plan. Once a draft is finished, the County will come to the RFC formally for guidance. A forest intern is also being hired in the near future to help Ms. Farley Wolf and others with the 30-year plan.
 - Bill Loeber reported a harvest was done at Taylor Mountain, and some thinning at the Ravensdale site.

IX) Concerns of Commissioners: Grady Steere requested the RFC get a County roads and bridges status update as a future agenda item.

X) Concluding Remarks/Adjournment – Monica Priebe

- Ms. Farley Wolf will send out an email with the field trip information.
 - Ms. Priebe reminded all that a phone meeting will be scheduled for April to discuss the recycling center issue.
 - Adjournment:
 - Grady Steere made a motion to adjourn today's meeting at 12:03 pm. Amy LaBarge seconded, and the motion carried with unanimous approval.
 - The meeting adjourned at 12:03 pm.
-

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be May 16th, 2019, at the King Conservation District office in Renton, from 9:00 am to 10:00 am, followed by two site visits.