



**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

December 8, 2014  
DNR Building  
Olympia, WA

---

**Next Meetings:** *January 22, 2015 (teleconference)*  
*March 9, 2015 (DNR Pacific Cascade Office, Castle Rock, WA)*  
*May 13, 2015 (teleconference)*  
*June 9, 2015 (MT Vernon, WA)*  
*August 12, 2015 (teleconference)*  
*September 8, 2015 (TBD)*  
*November 11, 2015 (teleconference)*  
*December 8, 2015 (TBD)*

---

**Commissioners Present**

Michael Johnson, Chairman  
Nick Wheeler, Vice Chairman  
Randy Bartelt  
Joe Monks  
Steve Witherspoon

**Commissioners Absent**

Tom Fox  
Ed Orcutt

**Attendees:**

Matt Comisky, Bob Hollatschek, Diann Lewallen, Dave Sweitzer.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Michael Johnson at 10:30 a.m. Introductions were made and the Commission was reminded of the legal limitations of the anti-trust laws in Commission meetings.

It was MSP to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2014 meeting as emailed.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Lewallen presented the financial report dated November 30, 2014 showing cash and CD's of \$42,996.84 with no accounts payable. The cash flow spreadsheet shows a projected estimated reserve and estimated available reserve of \$38,183.09 through June 2015. Sweitzer presented the Logs Process Summary, Dollar and Volume reports. It was MSP to approve the financial report. (copies attached). The Executive Director agreement and stipend were discussed. The agreement was approved with one change and will be forwarded to the Chairman for signature. The stipend will be increased \$650/month. The FY 2015-2016 draft budget was accepted subject to changes and will be presented again in March.

**NURSERY GROWING STOCK**

Hollatschek advised that Weyerhaeuser will be phasing out of growing alder seedlings over the next two years. In 2015, they will have 300,000. In 2016, they will have 150,000. The Commission is concerned about the seedling supply and will work with other sources to increase the availability.

**AFRC REPORT**

Comisky reported that the Forest Service is not familiar with the value of alder, especially in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. He will let us know when Gifford Pinchot, Mt Baker/Snoqualmie and the

Olympic National Forests have their meetings, particularly when hardwood is on the agenda. WHC will attend and inform those present of the importance of alder. He also reported that hybrid poplar for biofuel needs social acceptability. A survey will be conducted by the University of Washington. AFRC could not support any of the alternatives on aquatic lands. The decadal Sustainable Harvest Calculations expired June, 2014. The next proposal to the Forest Practices Board will be January or February 2015, to be coupled with the Marbled Murrelet strategy.

## 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

Scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup> in Mt Vernon, WA. Most of the speakers have committed. It was suggested that the evaluation questionnaire include a question regarding projected seedling needs.

## SUB-COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS

Stand Management – Johnson has a few more adjustments to make on the hardwood site tool incorporating the red alder ORGANON model. He reported that Luke Rogers, UW, is developing a spreadsheet for WAU ranking.

Resource Values – Monks requested that the report on hardwood stands by county be tabled until the WAU ranking is completed.

Education & Outreach – Bartelt reported a meeting with WSU Extension. They are willing to work with WHC in developing an outreach program pertaining to the silviculture and management of hardwoods.

Policy and Government Affairs – No report.

Markets – Witherspoon discussed his intent to query lumber mills and chip facilities to determine projected needs for the hardwood resource.

Research & Grant-Funded Programs – Wheeler said the alder genomics study is well under way and ahead of schedule. He said the extensive genetic information will be used to improve alder seedlings. Such research can be used in conjunction with the existing alder improvement programs of two different growers.

Farm-to-Timberlands – No report.

## GOLDMARK MEETING

The Commission adjourned to visit with DNR Public Lands Commissioner Goldmark. As always, we were well received and his concern for our need for greater volume was sincere. Items discussed were status and goals of alder genomics project, introduction of improved seedlings, Sustainable Harvest Calculations as they relate to RMZ hardwood harvest, ranking WAUs by hardwood volume, big picture forest inventory update, and a discussion on why the Capital Forest alder site was deemed a failure. Possible agenda items for our next meeting with the Commissioner could include alder genomic study, WAU results, and a Forest Products Commission.

## POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR January 22<sup>ND</sup> TELECONFERENCE

1. Committee project progress.
2. Annual meeting.

## OTHER BUSINESS

January 22, 2015 Legislative Reception at the Childrens Museum in Olympia.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dave Sweitzer