

SMALL FOREST LANDOWNER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Notes April 22, 2024

Present:

WA. Farm Forestry Association (WFFA) representatives: Chair: John Henrikson, Bill Kemp, Phil Hess, Rich Weiss

WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) representative: Brandon Austin

WA Dept, of Ecology (DOE) representative: Chris Briggs

DNR: Karen Zirkle

Absent: Tribal representative: Jeffrey Thomas

Additional attendees:

DNR: Todd Olson ...**need more names**

Small forest landowner: Ken Miller

Review 1/23/2024 SFLAC Meeting Notes

Accepted as written.

SFLO Updates

Karen updated the Olympic Area Small Forest Landowner Regulation Assistance Forester is now John Schmeltz.

There is a bill currently in legislation that affects the Forestry Riparian Easement Program. Specifically, there are proposed changes to the compensation amount, the easement duration, when the qualifying timber in the easement is valued, and the compensation amount for unstable slopes. WFFA is sponsoring the bill, and we will be monitoring it as it moves through legislation.

Review and finalize SFLAC Charter and Action Plan

Discussion around DNR serving as a non-voting co-chair. Agreement members would review charter one last time and come to the July meeting prepared for signature.

Expanded discussion about the new FREP rules

Karen and Ken updated on the new elements of the FREP legislation

- SFLAC reviews program semi-annually
- Easement value will now be a flat 90% instead of 50% with the High Impact Regulatory Threshold increase possibility
- Easement durations are 40 yrs down from 50 yrs.
- Value is based on harvest date instead of date of harvest.

Biochar bill

Karen shared what the new bill allows (small units for burning silviculture debris), which also allows for DNR permitting of these burners. Ultimate goal to get air curtain incinerators useable (mainly from a fiscal standpoint) for silvicultural treatments.