

**From:** Cliff Strong  
**To:** Jill Nixon  
**Subject:** RE: FAC positions  
**Date:** Thursday, March 6, 2025 2:13:20 PM

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Correct on all accounts. And that email you have is the same I had, but it's been coming back as not deliverable.

Thanks,

*Cliff Strong*  
Senior Planner  
Whatcom County Planning and Development Services

[cstrong@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:cstrong@co.whatcom.wa.us)

Direct: 360.778.5942

Office: 360.778.5900

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**From:** Jill Nixon  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 06, 2025 2:11 PM  
**To:** Cliff Strong  
**Subject:** RE: FAC positions

Hi Cliff, attached FYI is the procedure used for handling absentee advisory group members. Please review.

It says in part: "The Facilitator/Chair will reach out to the absent member by phone, email, and mail to request that the absent member either re-engage or, if necessary, resign. They will make several attempts to make contact using all options over a reasonable and generous period of time, not less than one month." Council will want to know what steps you and/or the committee have taken to re-engage Mr. Dills. From my review of the information, it looks like:

1. John Gold spoke to him in the Spring of 2024, and was told that Mr. Dills will no longer participate, yes?
2. The committee voted in June 2024:  
**MOTION:** Approve Chair Gold to send a letter to the Council informing them of the situation and requesting that the process for refilling the position commence.  
Seconded. Approved 6-0-5.
3. You reached out to Mr. Dills (email? Phone?) and asked him for a resignation, and have not received a response.

Is this correct? Have there been any other attempts to reach out to him?

The contact info for him I have on file is:

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Do you have the same or different contact info?

Jill

Legislative Coordinator II

Whatcom County Council Office

311 Grand Ave., Suite 105

Bellingham, WA 98225

360-778-5010

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**From:** Cliff Strong  
**To:** Quentin Dills  
**Cc:** Jill Nixon  
**Subject:** Status on FAC?  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 14, 2024 9:06:01 AM

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Hey Quentin, John reported at the FAC last week that you feel you can no longer serve on the FAC, so asked me to inform Council staff to start the process for replacing you. However, Council staff would really like you to confirm your resignation. Can you reply to this email and let us know?

Thanks,

*Cliff Strong*

Senior Planner

Whatcom County Planning and Development Services

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**From:** Cliff Strong  
**To:** Jill Nixon  
**Cc:** John Gold  
**Subject:** Vacancy on the FAC  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2024 1:22:01 PM

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Hey Jill, one of the Forestry Advisory Committee members, Quentin Dills, has been absent the last 5 meetings. The Chair, John Gold, contacted him recently and he confirmed that he won't be able to participate anymore, so the FAC would like to replace him. Can you start the process of finding a replacement?

Thanks,

*Cliff Strong*

Senior Planner

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# Whatcom County Forestry Advisory Committee (FAC)

## Meeting Summary

### May 7, 2024

Start Time:	4:00 p.m.
Location:	Northwest Annex Central Conference Room/Zoom

Attendees – Members	Affiliation	Present	Absent (Excused?)
David New	Small forest landowner	√	
Holly Koon	Small forest landowner	√	
John Gold	Commercial forest landowner	√	
David Janicki	Commercial forest landowner	√	
Matt McGee	Harvester		√ (no)
Quentin Dills	Harvester		√ (no)
Jed Dawson	Citizen w/ forestry expertise	√	
Tracy Petroske	Citizen w/ forestry expertise	√	
Aubrey Stargell	Forest product manufacturer	√	
Susan David	Forest product manufacturer	√	
Cory McDonald	DNR	√	
<b>Quorum Present</b>			
<b>Electeds</b>			
<b>Staff</b>			
Cliff Strong	W/C PDS	√	
<b>Public</b>			
Alex Harris	ReSources	√	
Alan Chapman	AAC	√	
Taylor Luneau	TWS	√	
Judith Akins		√	

### Meeting Summary

Vice-Chair David opened the meeting at 4:01 PM. (Chair Gold was in attendance remotely, so Susan chaired the meeting.)

#### Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Roll was called and a quorum was present.

#### Agenda Review & Approval

The Vice-Chair added one item to the agenda and it was approved.

#### Approval of Minutes

The meeting summary of 4/2/24 was approved.

#### Open Public Session

Alex Harris introduced Taylor Luneau themselves.

#### Guest Speaker(s)

Chris Hankey, Baker District Manager, gave a presentation on “Planned Timber Sales in Whatcom County for Fiscal Year 2025” (presentation can be found [here](#)) and there was discussion with the FAC members.

## Administration

### Attendance

Chair Gold relayed that he had contacted Quentin Dills, who has been absent the last 5 meetings, who confirmed that he will no longer be able to sit on the FAC. The Vice-Chair directed Cliff to contact the Council staff to start a replacement process. Members were encouraged to talk to folks who might be interested to apply once it is opened.

## Subcommittee Reports

### DNR/BNR

Cory McDonald reviewed some of the pending litigation affecting the DNR/BNR, including

- An appeal by Skagit Co., Lewis, and AFRC the SEPA for the carbon project as inadequate (no financial analysis). The Superior Court found in favor of DNR.
- Other groups challenging DNR's "older forest" policies, claiming they're selling too many older (but not old growth) stands.
- Wishbone timber sale was challenged in Superior Court, claiming DNR wasn't properly accounting for carbon impacts. Court found in favor of the plaintiffs.

### Forest Practices Board

N/A

### Forest Resilience Task Force

Holly Koon read an update from Tracy Petroski (who had to leave early), and reported that the FRSF facilitator contract should be signed soon, and that their first meeting should be in June. She understands that the FRSF will form subcommittees, one of which (Forestry Industry & Economy) will be asking the FAC for advice. They anticipate using the Whatcom Forestry Profile that FAC is working on.

### Legislative Update

Jed Dawson referred to DNR 2024 Legislative Wrap-Up flyer provided in the agenda packet and asked if there were any specific questions. There was a lengthier discussion on the leasehold excise tax exemption.

## Old Business

### 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update

Alan Chapman, chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, relayed that he is trying to set up a joint subcommittee of many of the Council's advisory committees to coordinate their reviews of the CompPlan. Vice-Chair David asked again if there were any FAC members who would like to be on the FAC's CompPlan subcommittee, of which she's the chair, and both Holly and David said they would help as long as it's not too time consuming. Alan said he would set something up (probably a Zoom meeting) and let them know.

## New Business

### Review of 3<sup>rd</sup> section of the draft Whatcom Forestry Profile

Aubrey Stargell reviewed his draft portion of the Whatcom Forestry Profile regarding the various agencies and laws involved in and affecting the forestry industry. The FAC had a few suggestions during the meeting, but review and provide additional comments.

**Whatcom County Forestry Advisory Committee (FAC)**  
**DRAFT Meeting Summary**  
**June 4, 2024**

Start Time:	4:00 p.m.
Location:	Northwest Annex Central Conference Room/Zoom

Attendees – Members	Affiliation	Present	Absent (Excused?)
David New	Small forest landowner	√	
Holly Koon	Small forest landowner	√	
John Gold	Commercial forest landowner	√	
David Janicki	Commercial forest landowner	√	
Matt McGee	Harvester		√ (no)
Quentin Dills	Harvester		√ (no)
Jed Dawson	Citizen w/ forestry expertise	√	
Tracy Petroske	Citizen w/ forestry expertise	√	
Aubrey Stargell	Forest product manufacturer		√ (yes)
Susan David	Forest product manufacturer	√	
Cory McDonald	DNR	√	
<b>Quorum Present</b>			
<b>Electeds</b>			
<b>Staff</b>			
Cliff Strong	W/C PDS	√	
Bennett Knox	W/C P&R	√	
Lauren Templeton	W/C PDS	√	
<b>Public</b>			
Alex Harris	ReSources	√	
Alan Chapman	AAC	√	

**Meeting Summary**

Chair Gold opened the meeting at 4:02 PM.

**Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum**

Roll was called and a quorum was present.

**Agenda Review & Approval**

The Chair added two items to the agenda, moved public comments to after subcommittee reports, and it was approved.

**Approval of Minutes**

The meeting summary of 5/7/24 was approved.

**Subcommittee Reports**

**Added: Parks & Rec Forestry Planning**

Regarding the Lake Whatcom Forest Management Plan, Parks & Rec Director Knox reported that though consultant interviews were held, an opportunity has arisen to partner with the City of Bellingham by including their 3,000 acres into the project. So now they're revising the project and it will have to be rebid. A new RFP should be issued within 2 weeks, and a bid awarded by end of July. Chair Gold offered the FAC's expertise in reviewing the RFP and/or sitting on the interview panel. Director Know said he'll

send them the current RFP, which should be similar to the new one, for comment. And he'll consider the offer to help interview.

Regarding P&R's new forester position, they should have that filled within the next 2 months.

#### **DNR/BNR**

Cory McDonald reported that the BNR just held their meeting today, and he didn't attend, so not much to report. John added that their meeting was held on the eastside, and concentrated on eastside issues, especially fire, and they received over 1,000 public comments. David added that he actually testified. There was a large showing of junior taxing districts.

#### **Forest Resilience Task Force**

Tracy Petroski reported that the facilitator contract has been approved by the Council, but that the TF hasn't met yet.

#### **Open Public Session**

Alex Harris reported that he's leaving RE Sources as he has taken a job with Planning and Development Services to help with the conservation easement program. He'll be focusing on forestry resource lands and expects to continue to be involved with the FAC.

#### **Old Business**

##### **ADDED: FAC Attendance**

Following last month's discussion about one of their members no longer being able to participate and the FAC wanting to refill the position, Cliff had notified Council staff, but they insisted on receiving a resignation letter before they open the position. However, the FAC's business rules clearly state that upon missing four consecutive meetings, unexcused, the FAC may inform the Council of a need for a replacement.

**MOTION:** Approve Chair Gold to send a letter to the Council informing them of the situation and requesting that the process for refilling the position commence. Seconded. Approved 6-0-5.

##### **Review of 4<sup>th</sup> section of the draft Whatcom Forestry Profile**

Holly Koons reviewed her updated draft portion of the Whatcom Forestry Profile regarding the state of forestry in Whatcom County.

(A 12-minute recess was called due to technical issues.)

Discussion ensued, with Holly focusing on recent updates to her paper, though there is still a lot to accomplish.

Holly also raised the issue that while the Treasurer has provided the timber sales revenue data requested, she still has not received the excise tax data, which is also needed for her report. There was discussion as to how to handle this and it was suggested that Cliff attempt to set up a meeting with Karen Thomas, John Gold, and himself to discuss. If not accomplished by mid-July, Holly will file a PDR.

#### **New Business**

##### **ADDED: July Meeting**

Chair Gold suggested canceling the July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, since it falls within the holiday week. Discussion ensued.

**MOTION:** Cancel the July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.