

COMMENT FROM LAUREN CLEMENS – 10.3.2023

Thank you for the reminder! Since there is not a CIAC meeting scheduled before the 10th, I have asked members to submit feedback directly to me and I will aggregate and send that over this Thursday.

COMMENT FROM STEVE ROBERGE – 10.3.2023

PDS provides staff support to three of the committees identified in the proposed ordinance:

- Planning Commission had a scheduled meeting but due to circumstances, did not have a quorum to discuss.
- Wildlife Advisory Committee meets once per month and did not have a meeting during this time.
- Forest Advisory Committee has a meeting scheduled for later today and this is on the agenda to discuss. We'll provide any feedback from the Committee tomorrow.

No formal recommendation was offered by the Forest Advisory Committee. Discussion occurred at the September 5th and October 3rd meetings. Below is an excerpt from the approved September 5th Meeting Summary and October 3rd draft Meeting Summary (has not been approved by the Committee):

COMMENT FROM STEVE ROBERGE – 10.4.2023

September 5th:

The FAC reviewed Councilmember Galloway's proposed ordinance to create a FRTF, and CM Galloway responded to questions. Holly suggested that part of the TF's charge be fire planning and suggested Jenny Coe as a resource. Susan wondered why 2 FAC members, and CM Galloway responded that it was due to the diversity of interest on the FAC. Aubrey expressed concern that with a committee of 22 it will be difficult to reach consensus, and that timber sales might be held up; GM Galloway responded that the FRTF will not be making decisions on individual sales, but developing protocol for how and when Council would react to such sales. Chair Gold suggested that it might be good to have a fill-time forester on County staff.

October 3rd:

John Gold mentioned that there is a revised proposed ordinance. CM Galloway confirmed that only dates have been updated.

COMMENT FROM CHRIST THOMSEN – 10.4.2023

I am preparing to be out of the office for the next few weeks. I am forwarding this email chain to Bennett Knox so he is aware of the request. We haven't met with the Parks Commission since your initial email. Their next schedule meeting is October 19. The commission was made aware of the proposal at their September 21 meeting. They did not take any action in response to the proposal.

COMMENT FROM LAUREN CLEMENS – 10.5.2023

The following memo summarizes comments received from members of the Climate Impact Advisory Committee on the resolution to establish a forest resilience task force. This does not serve as a formal recommendation, given that the next meeting of the committee will not be held until October 19th.

MEMO NEXT PAGE

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**



NATURAL RESOURCES

Lauren Clemens
Climate Action Manager
322 N Commercial, 2nd Floor
Bellingham, WA 98225
Phone # (360) 778-6241
Office # (360) 778-6230

ELIZABETH KOSA
DIRECTOR

To: Whatcom County Council Climate Action and Natural Resources Committee
From: Lauren Clemens, Climate Action Manager, Staff Liaison Climate Impact Advisory Committee
CC: Tyler Schroeder, Kayla Schott-Bresler, Elizabeth Kosa, Ellyn Murphy
Date: October 5, 2023
Re: Establishing a Task Force to Develop a Whatcom County Forest Resilience Plan- CIAC Member Comments

The following comments and questions were received from individual members of the Climate Impact Advisory Committee via email regarding the resolution to establish a Whatcom County Forest Resilience taskforce. The following summary does not constitute a formal recommendation or represent the views of the committee as a whole. The next meeting of the Climate Impact Advisory Committee is scheduled for October 19th.

Questions:

- Why does the Forest Advisory Committee have two designated seats on the task force, but other committees, commissions and organizations have one?
- Will the results of the task force apply to commercial and rural forest owners? If so, does the state's Forest Practices Act take precedence to any actions or approaches employed by Whatcom County?
- Will the task force report result as recommendations or as new codes? If new codes, it may be necessary to have an attorney familiar with the Forest Practices Act on the taskforce.

Comments:

- The ordinance looks fine, but this committee member did not feel they had the expertise in forest management to serve on the taskforce.
- Another member had no feedback or comments at this point in time.
- Third member stated concern about the size of the task force and scope of work. The ordinance is unclear about the scope of forest lands covered under this resolution, this should be clearly stated so that the task force can have a defined objective from the start.
- The third member proposed an alternative approach to provide a grant to a research organization to identify science and evidence-based strategies for forest resilience under climate change for the following topic areas provide a starting point for the taskforce to decide which strategies the County should pursue over a given timeline and provide a foundation for further discussion. These strategies could include:
 - forest timber production,
 - healthy forest ecosystems for fish and wildlife,
 - stream high and low flow issues,
 - enhanced carbon sequestration and storage,
 - improved watershed health,
 - improved wildfire resistance,
 - and improved pest and disease resistance.
- Fourth member recommends that CIAC supports approval of this ordinance. In order to actualize the goals of Whatcom County's Climate Action Plan, Whatcom County needs to develop cohesive science-based strategies to improve resiliency for ecosystems, watersheds and our communities in the face of immediate and foreseeable climate impacts. Whatcom County can chart a better course by having relevant stakeholders and government officials sit at one table to discuss and determine how Whatcom County should best manage our public forest lands, with particular attention to climate change and carbon storage.