

1 **FOREST PRACTICES BOARD**
2 **SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**
3 July 7, 2008
4 Natural Resources Building
5 Olympia, Washington
6
7

8 **Members Present:**

9 Vicki Christiansen, Chair of the Board, Department of Natural Resources
10 Ann Wick, Designee for Director, Department of Agriculture
11 Brent Bahrenburg, Designee for Director, Community, Trade and Economic Development
12 Carolyn Dobbs, General Public Member
13 Doug Stinson, General Public Member/Small Forest Landowner
14 Norm Schaaf, General Public Member
15 Sherry Fox, General Public Member/Independent Logging Contractor
16 Tom Laurie, Designee for Director, Department of Ecology
17 Bridget Moran, Designee for Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife (participated via telephone)
18 Dave Somers, Snohomish County Commissioner (participated via telephone)
19

20 **Members Absent:**

21 Bob Kelly, General Public Member
22 David Hagiwara, General Public Member
23

24 **Staff:**

25 Lenny Young, Forest Practices Division Manager
26 Chuck Turley, Forest Practices Assistant Division Manager
27 Neil Wise, Assistant Attorney General
28 Patricia Anderson, Rules Coordinator
29 Danielle Sayers, Board Support
30

31 **INTRODUCTIONS**

32 Danielle Sayers, Department of Natural Resources (DNR or Department), provided an emergency
33 safety briefing.
34

35 **WELCOME**

36 Vicki Christiansen called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. She announced that the Forest Practices
37 Board (FPB or Board) would convene an Executive Session to discuss ongoing and pending
38 litigation, or any matter suitable for executive session under RCW 42.30.110.
39

40 The public meeting reconvened at 11:45 a.m.
41

42 **NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL CONSERVATION**

43 Lenny Young, DNR, explained that the Board is faced with complex decisions regarding the role of
44 the forest practices rules in the conservation of the Northern Spotted Owl. He presented a staff
45 recommendation for the Board to approve a charter establishing a Northern Spotted Owl Policy
46 Working Group. This recommendation was the result of discussions between the State, Washington
47 Forest Protection Association (WFPA), the Seattle and Kittitas chapters of the Audubon Society and
48 the American Forest & Paper Association. He said these groups believe that with the right
49 incentives in place there is potential to create and maintain Spotted Owl habitat while maintaining

1 long-term sustainable, competitive and economically viable forest management on non-federal
2 lands.

3
4 He said the purpose of the group would be to recommend to the Board measures to achieve strategic
5 contributions from non-federal lands to the conservation of a viable population of Northern Spotted
6 Owls in Washington State. He recommended the working group embrace the following principles to
7 fulfill their goals: Base conservation measures on best available science; consider the guidance of
8 the federal recovery plan; and emphasize voluntary incentive- based measures.

9
10 Tom Laurie asked if there was a proposed meeting schedule for the group.

11
12 Young replied that the charter outlines how the meetings would be coordinated and conducted. The
13 projected date for the first meeting would be early to mid September because of the time it will take
14 to establish the working group membership and to contract a professional facilitator.

15
16 Schaaf asked if the Board would have the opportunity to direct the processes, set priorities, and
17 address particular issues.

18
19 Young said the Board had the opportunity to review and amend the draft charter before them. He
20 added that the working group would provide oral and written progress reports at each Board
21 meeting. The Board would also be notified between meetings of issues the Board may need to
22 address.

23
24 Sherry Fox asked if the members of the working group would be approved by the Forest Practices
25 Board.

26
27 Young replied that the three state representatives would be Vicki Christiansen, Bridget Moran and
28 Lenny Young. The non-state designees would be self-selected by the caucuses.

29
30 Young stated that the Board has an opportunity now as to how they complete this charter and get
31 the group underway; things that are important to the Board or that need to be amended can be
32 addressed in the draft charter. He added that the group would provide written progress reports and
33 dialog at each Board meeting and the Board would be notified and asked to address any issues
34 arising between Board meetings.

35
36 Schaaf said it would be important that the Board be informed of the working group's progress.

37
38 Young replied that the working group meetings would be open to anyone who wishes to observe the
39 meeting, but that only the working group members would participate in the discussions and make
40 decisions. He added that a number of informational presentations would be given to the group
41 during the early stages of the process.

42
43 Christiansen stated that there would be a number of informational presentations to the Board.

44
45 Ann Wick asked if there were a maximum number of group members.

46
47 Young replied that the draft charter identified eleven members from the organizations that crafted
48 the agreement: Four from the forest products industry, four from Washington-based conservation
49 groups, and three from the state. The charter also recognizes that the other organizations may

1 appoint one or two members to the working group which would bring the working group
2 membership to more than eleven.

3
4 Wick asked if it was being limited to the groups listed in the charter, to which Young replied yes.

5
6 Christiansen explained that if all of the identified organizations participated in the working group,
7 there would be seven additional members for a total of eighteen.

8
9 Young added that other organizations would be invited to participate if they could, given the
10 uncertain timeframe to meet the working group's goals.

11
12 Stinson asked if a working group coordinator had been chosen from the three state members.

13
14 Young replied that he would be the coordinator.

15
16 Young said the document, "Proposed Ground Rules", was provided to the Board for consideration
17 to attach to the charter. This would finalize the ground rules for the working group to follow to
18 achieve the goals of the charter.

19
20 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

21 Victor Musselman made comments on behalf of the Cugini family, owners of nearly 3,000 acres in
22 northern Washington. He stated that most of their timber inventory is in over-mature timber that is
23 not inhabited by Northern Spotted Owls but could be considered potential habitat. Any policies
24 established by the Northern Spotted Owl Policy Working Group would heavily impact the Cugini
25 tree farm. He stated that it is imperative for the Board to guarantee that forest landowners whose
26 entire forest investment could be impacted would be represented in the group.

27
28 Christiansen asked Musselman if he had time to look over the proposed charter and explained that
29 there would be small forest landowner representation.

30
31 Musselman replied that the Cugini family is not a member of the Washington Farm Forestry
32 Association but are members of the WFPA, but that whoever represents small forest landowners
33 should have the same level of financial impact as the Cugini's.

34
35 Josh Weiss, WFPA, said he supported Board approval of the charter. He stated that WFPA was one
36 of the parties that worked hard over the last several months to fashion the charter to create the
37 Northern Spotted Owl Policy Working Group. He said he believed it was the best opportunity to
38 move forward on the Spotted Owl issue, and looked forward to a collaborative process that puts
39 aside disagreements and finds solutions to the Spotted Owl issues for the landowners and the state.

40
41 Shawn Cantrell, Seattle and Kittitas Chapters of the Audubon Society, stated he agreed with Josh
42 Weiss's comments and asked the Board to move forward with the charter.

43
44 Schaaf asked how the Board could best support the Northern Spotted Owl Policy Working Group to
45 allow it to be the most productive.

46
47 Cantrell replied the first step is Board approval of the charter, then the participation of the state
48 members, and any other resources such as a professional facilitator. He said Audubon's perspective

1 is that a mediated process would be very helpful because of the difficulty of the issues facing the
2 group.

3
4 Weiss added that how the working group responds in the first couple of months to the federal
5 recovery plan and other sources of information will determine how strong and durable the working
6 group recommendations will be over time. There is an interest by all involved parties to make this
7 process work for everyone.

8
9 Laurie asked how the working group members would be selected from the forest products industry
10 and the conservation organizations.

11
12 Weiss replied that members would be self-selected from each group. The selection of the four
13 industry representatives would be coordinated through WFPA.

14
15 Cantrell added that Seattle Audubon would coordinate the selection of the representatives for the
16 conservation groups. He added that the conservation groups want open minded representatives who
17 believe the process can work and are available for the significant time commitment that the process
18 would likely require.

19
20 Christiansen said contributions from non-federal lands would not happen if the landowners cannot
21 manage their forest lands in an economically sustainable manner. All of the parties have
22 acknowledged that and have committed to a new paradigm in which to consider long-term
23 sustainability.

24
25 Weiss added that as part of the negotiations WFPA and the two Audubon chapters created a
26 separate non-binding partnership agreement that essentially memorializes who WFPA represents
27 and forming tighter collaborative relationships. He said there is a sincere desire for both
28 organizations to set a new direction.

29
30 Christiansen said the Board must be mindful that timing is not favorable considering what this work
31 group has to do and the things pending before the Board. This could mean additional special Board
32 meetings.

33
34 Moran stated that the November 2008 preliminary written recommendations to the Board, as called
35 for in the charter, may not be as substantive as we would hope because the group formation time
36 will delay the first meetings until late summer.

37
38 Christiansen acknowledged that the timing was not ideal but the principal parties involved
39 understand. The Board should stay highly engaged in the progress of the work group.

40
41 **MOTION:**

Carolyn Dobbs moved that the Forest Practices Board:

- 42 1) Establishes a Policy Working Group on Northern Spotted Owl
43 Conservation;
 - 44 2) Adopts the Working Group charter recommended by staff;
 - 45 3) Directs staff to convene the Working Group to begin work no later than
46 September 15, 2008; and
 - 47 4) Endorses Vicki Christiansen, Bridget Moran, and Lenny Young as the
48 State's members on the Working Group.
- 49

1 **SECONDED:** Tom Laurie

2

3 **ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously.

4

5 Christiansen asked Young if he had any other updates for the Board and Wick asked how the
6 invitations for working group membership will be extended.

7

8 Young stated with the Board's approval of the charter, invitations will be extended. The contacts for
9 some organizations were already identified; others are less certain. He said he would consult with
10 the other members of the charter identified by the Coordinating Committee on how to best contact
11 each organization.

12

13 Wick asked if the Board will be the entity to extend the invitations to participate.

14

15 Christiansen replied that the letter would go out from the Board chair inviting membership from
16 each identified group. Each group will then choose their representative(s) if they are going to
17 participate.

18

19 Wick expressed concern that the Board would not be able to assemble quick enough to select
20 members for a late summer starting date.

21

22 Young stated that staff will perform the necessary work to identify the appropriate contact for each
23 listed group on behalf of the Board.

24

25 Fox asked Young how often the group will meet.

26

27 Young replied that initially the Coordinating Committee will decide after assessing the issues and
28 work needing to be accomplished, and plan a number of educational presentations for the group. He
29 said there may be a meeting every other week or perhaps a two or three day workshop to get people
30 up to speed. Then after time to read, digest, and formulate questions, schedule another three day
31 workshop to sort through issues. The desire is to keep speed up, maintain good momentum; not to
32 have infrequent meetings where the group has to go back and redo a lot of what was done at the
33 previous meeting.

34

35 Christiansen adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.