

**4.29.09 Meeting Summary**  
**724 Columbia Street NW, Room 250, Olympia, WA**

**FOREST PRACTICES BOARD POLICY WORKING GROUP**  
**WASHINGTON STATE NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL**

Members Present

Ken Berg	USFWS
Shawn Cantrell	Seattle Audubon
Mark Doumit	WFPA
Kevin Godbout	Weyerhaeuser
Don Halabisky	Sierra Club
Chris Lipton	Longview Timber
Robert Meier	Rayonier
Vic Musselman	WFFA
Miguel Perez-Gibson	Audubon WA
Tom Robinson	WSAC
Paula Swedeen	Seattle Audubon
Chuck Turley	DNR
David Whipple	DFW

Also Present

Lois Schwennesen	Facilitator
Cindy Mitchell	WFPA
Kara Whittaker	WFLC
Martha Wehling	AGO
Jennifer Cook	Schwennesen & Assoc.

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**Member Updates**

The start time for future meetings was changed to 9:00 AM.

Group members will seek input from their constituencies about a letter of support for Community Forest Bonds. Group members able to support will sign the letter by or before May 11.

**Continuing Discussion from April 28**

The Group revisited the outline of potential common ground developed yesterday and added some detail including total acreage to be considered, financial scope, and funding sources.

Chris Lipton offered to develop a flow chart for the streamlined decision making process conceived on April 28. Chuck Turley, David Whipple and Ken Berg will develop more detail about how such an approach might work for discussion at the May 26 meeting. Chris will share his flow chart and possibly a decision tree for their use.

Paula Swedeen offered that the conservation caucus could take on the task of developing a map of areas of interest with the assistance of the State's data and the cooperation of the forest products caucus. She proposed a parallel process outside of the Group, so that when the "what" and "how" elements of the group's work are ready to be implemented, the "where" will have been identified. Concerns were raised due to the precedent of such documents being used later as a basis for tighter regulation and evidence in future litigation, and because restrictions on sharing such information are in place. Under the terms of the settlement, certain data is protected and may not be accessible. It was suggested that the conservation caucus could use other sources of data, such as collaboration with individual companies such as Weyerhaeuser and Rayonier and academic institutions, but that it may be premature to go into fine, site level detail at this time.

**Factors Affecting Owners of Strategic Lands**

Robert Meier presented some maps and details of Rayonier properties on the Olympic Peninsula that could potentially support northern spotted owl conservation, to demonstrate the kinds of factors that could come into play in selecting and providing incentives for strategic sites. His presentation clarified and highlighted some of the challenges involved in addressing individual

sites given the particulars of location, usage, timber type, existing regulations and encumbrance, cost, and development potential in the near vicinity.

### **Criteria for Determining “Where” to Apply Future Incentives**

After substantial discussion, the group, by consensus, agreed to begin to develop criteria for selecting strategic lands. [The conservation caucus took this question back to its constituency and Shawn Cantrell reported to Lois Schwennesen on April 30 that it was comfortable proceeding with this approach]. It was noted that this use of criteria would be a coarse screen to identify lands for consideration, and during implementation more detailed criteria would certainly be needed on a site-by-site basis. Individual Group members, or caucuses, agreed to send their proposed criteria to Lois Schwennesen by May 8. Lois will compile the proposals for discussion May 11.

### **Charter Revision Debate**

On May 20 the Forest Practices Board (FPB) is scheduled to consider a Charter revision confirming two State representatives. Mark Doumit and Shawn Cantrell raised two objections against the FPB revising the Charter. The first was that the Charter shouldn't be revised at all given the history that led to its development, and particularly not without a discussion with the Group. Martha Wehling pointed out the Charter was from the Board, which was legally entitled to do as they thought fit.

The second objection was about the nature of the revision. Mark and Shawn noted that, during negotiations to establish the Group, the State had insisted on principal-level full participation by the other caucuses. The view was the State does not seem to be reciprocating in kind by dialing back the numbers of State representatives, the level of the participants, and the resulting lack of continuity. The absence of Lenny Young, a generator of the Charter, as an active participant in the Group was of great concern. Ken Berg, Miguel Perez-Gibson, Tom Robinson, Paula Swedeon, Robert Meier and Kevin Godbout all spoke in support of these concerns. All members were clear that the current State representatives were qualified, appreciated and valuable members. Mark, Shawn and Ken reflected on the expectation that they attend all meetings and personally represent their organizations. It was their understanding that the DNR would hold itself to the same standards.

Chuck Turley pointed out that the shift from three representatives to two was discussed in the February 3 meeting, and that according to the meeting summary the Group had endorsed the change. The Board had requested the revision to reflect what they saw as the opinion of the Group. Other members explained that they believed they were acquiescing to a temporary necessity driven by significant staffing changes within the DNR, not to a permanent alteration of the structure of membership. Chuck Turley will bring the Group's concerns to the Board's attention, and encouraged other members to communicate their concerns directly as well.

### **Pilot Projects**

Chris Lipton agreed that the group could use Longview lands as a basis for theoretical tabletop exercises to work through the nuts and bolts of regulatory streamlining. Robert Meier agreed to the use of his properties on the Olympic Peninsula as a basis for a similar exercise with the economic incentives aspect of the proposed integrated approach. Kevin Godbout offered his SW WA properties as an additional option for test cases, which is particularly of interest due to the existence of barred owl data in that area.

### **Meeting Adjourned**