



**King County Rural Forest Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 18, 2024 – 9:00 am to 10:00 am  
online**

Commissioner	Present?	Commissioner (Ex-Officio/Non-Voting)	Present ?
Laurie Benson, WA DNR	✓	Brett Anderson, KCD	
Jeff Boyce, rural cities/professional forester	✓	Sarah Stewart - WSU Extension	✓
Wendy Davis, private forest landowner		New Ranger, USDA Forest Service	
Wyatt Golding, non-timber values of forest land	✓		
Li Hsi, forest landowner		Vacant, forest landowner	
Steve Horton, forest product user/forest landowner	✓	Vacant, forest landowner	
Mari Knutson, forest landowner	✓	Vacant, forest landowner	
Cindy Spiry, Snoqualmie Tribe	✓	Vacant, forest landowner	
Tom Amorose	✓	Vacant, forest landowner	
Jon Matson	✓		
Eric Oien			
<i>six RFC members attending is a quorum</i>			
County Staff Present			
Richard Martin, DNRP		Wendy Sammarco, DNRP	
Public			

The April 18, 2024 RFC meeting focuses on a draft RFC letter to the King County Executive regarding a proposed aggregate mine and asphalt plant near Cumberland. RFC members were provided a draft of the letter to review prior to this April 18 meeting.

**Call to Order**

Laurie Benson calls the meeting to order at 9:00 am. This meeting of the RFC is online. The meeting begins with a member roll call. A quorum is present.

**Discussion**

- The draft letter is shared online. Edits and changes are captured in real time.
- Richard Martin shares that the final letter will be sent to the King County Executive and Department of Local Services (SEPA lead agency on this proposal).
- Cindy Spiry shares that the letter should be written from the RFC perspective.
- Steve Horton shares that the first draft of the letter was inclusive of a wider scope, while the current draft reflects only the RFC focus.
- Laurie shares she may need to recuse herself from signing because of past involvement with this project and the adjacent DNR ownership. Due to Laurie’s recusal, it is decided Wendy Davis and Steve Horton will be the signatories on the letter. Wendy and Steve serve on the RFC Executive Committee.

**Commitment**

The revised final version of the letter will be sent to the RFC before Friday, April 26, via email. This email will seek a yes/no vote of approval from the RFC to send the final version.

**Further Discussion**

A discussion about the project followed. It is shared that in 1995 a biosolids agreement was signed by King County, Mountains To Sound Greenway, and DNR committing the adjacent DNR parcel to remain in forestry long term, with no other use permissible. It is possible this agreement is an encumbrance on the DNR parcel, limiting any surface mine development.

**July 2024 RFC Field Tour**

There is interest in the 2024 RFC Field Tour being to a reclaimed surface mine site in King County. The field tour will provide an example of reclamation. The RFC assumes that when a forested area is temporarily converted to a surface mine, when the mine ceases operation and is reclaimed, the reclamation will not result in a productive forest, nor resemble the forest that existed prior to being mined. What is shared/observed during the 2024 RFC Field Tour will either confirm that assumption or result in us all being pleasantly surprised.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 am.