

CLALLAM COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 6

7810 La Push Road · PO Box 2385 · Forks, WA 98331

Monthly Commissioner Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2025

Meeting convened on March 11, 2025, at 3:00, at Three Rivers Fire Hall, by Commissioner Chip Keen.

Commissioners Present – Chip Keen; Tom Rosmond; and Scott Horton

Officers Present – Aleilah P Lawson, District Secretary; Chief Scott Swagerty; Lt. Andrew Chapman

Other Attendees – none

Changes/Additions to Agenda – None

Minutes – Minutes of the February 11, 2025, meeting were read, approved, and signed by the commissioners.

Secretary's Report

1. **Enduris Claim Status.** Aleilah reported that the insurance claim for E61 towing was approved and payment sent to the towing company. The \$250 deductible to Enduris will be paid through today's CPR.

Chief Swagerty and the commissioners discussed the difficulty of emergency access on the private roadway to the property that necessitated the towing. It was agreed that a letter to the homeowner re inability to respond to emergencies at the site until accessibility is improved. Commissioner Keen will forward to the board a copy of the Emergency Access Policy and sample letter regarding same.

2. **Cost Recovery Updates.** Aleilah reported that there are still outstanding claims. A discussion ensued re the possibility of creating a lien against the property in the matter of claims not settled. Aleilah will speak with the cost recovery service about this process. In the meantime, it was agreed to direct the cost recovery service to make an additional phone call to the parties with outstanding claims. See discussion under New Business re additional information on this topic. Chief Swagerty requested an updated accounting of claims submitted and still outstanding. Aleilah will provide the report for the April commission meeting.
3. **Lowering Heating Costs.** Aleilah noted the ongoing increase in electricity bills in the winter months. It was agreed that signs will be placed on the bay doors and in the vehicles reminding the fire crew to close the doors while they are out on calls.

Financial Report

1. **Financial Statement.** The February 2025 financial statement was reviewed and approved by all three commissioners. Chief Swagerty requested that a separate BARS

code for stipends be added to the financial statements to more easily track the totals paid per quarter. Aleilah will follow up and request the new BARS code from the County.

2. **Claims Payment Request.** 17 warrants totaling \$4,619.91 were requested on the Claims Payment Request form dated 03/11/2025 as follows:

- \$375.36 for operational supplies, including firefighter gear (2 warrants);
- \$378.22 for fuel (1 warrant);
- \$1,591.22 for professional services including 2024 1099s, domain name renewal, payroll admin fees, and organizational support services (4 warrants);
- \$693.60 for utilities (4 warrants);
- \$3.91 for weed control (1 warrant); and
- \$1,577.60 for E61 repairs, towing deductible, and supplies (5 warrants).

Commissioner Rosmond moved to approve the request. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion was approved and the Claims Payment Request was signed.

3. Chief Swagerty's timesheet covering the period of 02/13/2025 through 03/10/2025 was approved and signed by Lead Commissioner Keen. A Payroll Certification was approved and signed by the commissioners for submission to the county for processing.

Chief's Report

1. **Incidents/Calls.** Chief Swagerty reported that recent calls included responding to trees down and BLS calls. There have been 17 calls since the first of the year.
2. **Training.** Chief reported that upcoming training includes live fire, search and rescue, and Stop the Bleed tourniquet training.

Commissioner Keen suggested participation in an upcoming Traffic Incident Management (TIM) training. Chief Swagerty noted that the fire department has no authority to call in a request to local WSDOT directly. The current requirement is to call WSP, who then calls WSDOT. This results in a significant delay in efficient traffic incident management. Commissioner Keen will discuss the possibility of fire chiefs' authority to call local WSDOT directly at the next West End Operational Area meeting.

Location, date, time, and registration info for the training: WSDOT Traffic Incident Management Training for First Responders being held in Port Angeles on Wednesday, April 30th from 7:00 to 11:00 am. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/port-angeles-wa-tim-responder-training-tickets-1236451613059?aff=ebdsshcopyurl&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=organizer-profile&utm-share-source=organizer-profile>

3. **Equipment/Mechanic.** Nothing to report this month.
4. **Other.** Chief reported that District 1 has received its EMS license.

Commissioner's Report – Commissioner Keen

1. Radio Communications

- Last Friday I met with Rod Fleck and Nick Diaz at City Hall to discuss the options installing a radio tower at UIL or possibly on Signal Hill. The Pacific Northwest Seismic Network will be the lead agency for this project. The possibility of installing a conex box at UIL was also discussed.

2. Emergency Preparedness – West End Area Meeting. Location: Forks Congregational Church.

- WSDOT: Hwy 101 eastbound (Lauridson Blvd) will be will be closed until the end of May.
- Clallam Wildfire Protection Plan: Grant funding for the facilitators has been frozen indefinitely. They are seeking alternate sources.
- New Position: Emergency Management is interviewing 10 potential hires. Justine is optimistic that a new employee will be onboard in April.
- CEPA (Community Emergency Preparedness Assessment): Justine and Lorraine are meeting this week to determine when the face-to-face meeting will happen. It will be held in Port Angeles. Justine is advocating for the option of attending via Zoom. The purpose of the meeting is to identify gaps in preparedness at the local level. All future grant requests going through the State will be evaluated based upon their inclusion in the CEPA.
- Climate Action Virtual Roadshow: The Washington Department of Commerce has funded a series of monthly virtual public meetings to define Washington State's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. Each month's meeting will focus on specific topics, which are: Waste and Materials, Electric Power, Buildings, Natural and Working Lands, Transportation, Agriculture, and Industry. More info at <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOC/bulletins/3d0c036>
- FEMA Youth Preparedness Council: Program purpose is "to bring together young leaders who are interested in supporting disaster preparedness and making a difference in their communities." Limited to grades 8-11, applications due by March 14. More info at <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/individuals-communities/youth-preparedness-council> (Possibility of prepping for Senior Project)
- Clallam PUD Commissioner Phyllis Bernard will be the speaker at tomorrow's (3/12) Westend Business meeting at 7:30 am at the Congregational Church.

- Tannis Sears, Director of Social Services for the Olympic Community Actions Programs, is planning a June start date for a CERT team in Forks.

3. Other

I will give a presentation at the ONRC on the 20th of this month about Quillayute Airport. It includes all of what I presented to the Chamber of Commerce last year and adds sections on the Airport history and the current plans for its improvements.

Commissioner Horton Report – See Attachment A for the commissioner’s report on the 02/24/2025 RAC Special Meeting.

Other Reports – None

Old Business

1. **DNR Surplus Update** – Chief Swagerty reported that DNR is waiting for better weather before deck delivery can be made.
2. **Smoke Alarm Distribution** – Chief Swagerty reported that 24 smoke alarms were delivered to District 6. Five new alarms have been installed in one home. He will reach out to more community members in Spring to early Summer.
3. **DNR Red Card Submittal.** Chief Swagerty reported completing the forms is in process. Purchase of PPE through DNR Wildland Fire is also in process.

New Business

1. Resolution 2025.02 – Amendment to Cost Recovery Billing and Collection Policy. A resolution to amend the Cost Recovery Billing and Collection Policy to include provisions for sending certain claims out for collections was reviewed and discussed. Commissioner Rosmond made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 2025.02, Amendment to Cost Recovery Billing and Collection Policy.

Announcements – None.

Next Meeting – April 8, 2025, 3:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 4:28 pm.

Read and approved on April 8, 2025, by:

Commissioner Chip Keen

Commissioner Scott Horton

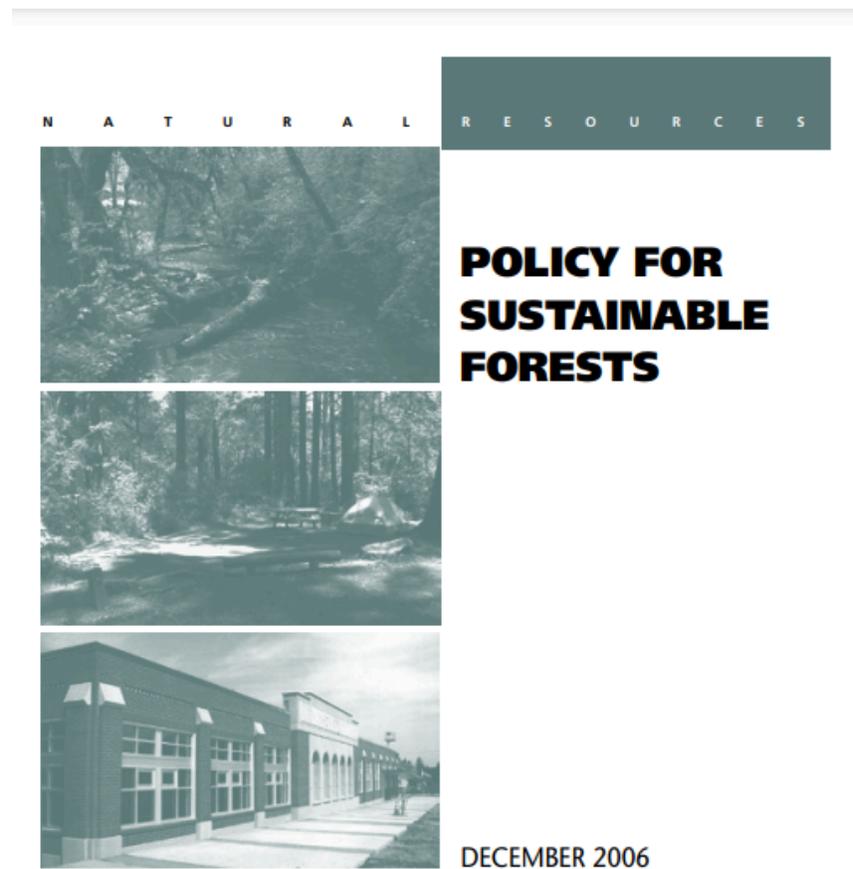
Commissioner Tom Rosmond

District Secretary Aleilah P Lawson

RAC Special Meeting 2/24/2025

The meeting was called to have a “Conversation with Commissioner of Public Lands, Dave Upthegrove”. This was initiated by County Commissioner Ozias who invited Upthegrove to speak to our group which he did via Zoom link. Part of Upthegrove’s campaign platform was “special attention to the older forest issue” and this issue has significantly impacted timber revenue to several Clallam Co. beneficiaries. So the RAC was quite interested in this conversation.

I was impressed by his candor and straightforward way of speaking, he didn’t “talk around the issue” like many politicians. He noted there were many (33?) lawsuits on DNR timber sales statewide, all (or nearly so) relate to the “older forest policy” and he looks on the situation as “unsustainable”. That policy was adopted as part of DNR’s overall guiding policies that were published in 2006 under Commissioner of Public Lands Doug Sutherland.



It is the fourth bullet below, “target 10-15 percent...for “older” forests...over time” that is the basis for ?most/all of the lawsuits - i.e., DNR shouldn't be harvesting forests that meet the criteria while the target hasn't been met. Commissioner Upthegrove is “pausing” all the controversial sales while DNR improves their estimate of how much “older forest” exists in the HCP planning units (he hopes to have this in six months). Five HCP planning units cover western Washington, North Puget, South Puget, and Columbia are mostly in the Cascades foothills; South Coast, Straits, and Olympic Experimental Forest (OESF) are coastal lowlands and Olympics foothills. The OESF clearly meets the target amount of older forest but none of the other units do although estimates are uncertain because the characteristics of “older forest” are not directly evident in DNR's forest inventory.

POLICY ON GENERAL SILVICULTURAL STRATEGY

- **The department will provide professional management of forested state trust lands through active management and stewardship of the greatest possible portion of these lands.**
- **The department will carry out active management as an integral part of the department's fiduciary responsibilities to achieve, on a landscape basis, a combination of forest structures that, over time, provide for broad and balanced economic, ecological and social benefits.**
- **The department will use intensive and innovative silviculture to guide the desired progression of stand development to simultaneously produce trust revenue and create structural diversity across the landscape.**
- **The department will target 10-15 percent of each Western Washington *Habitat Conservation Plan* planning unit for “older” forests—based on structural characteristics—over time.**
- **Through landscape assessments, the department will identify suitable structurally complex forest stands to be managed to help meet older-forest targets. Once older-forest targets are met, structurally complex forest stands that are not needed to meet the targets may be considered for harvest activities. However, old growth is addressed in the Old-Growth Stands in Western Washington policy.**

Commissioner Upthegrove stated that his view on the policy differs from that of his predecessors who have all interpreted “over time” to mean that “older forest” stands can be harvested while other areas are managed to achieve “older forest conditions”. He wants a clear understanding of DNR's inventory of these forests and a plan to achieve the target as soon as possible (the fifth bullet). He said that the “pause” is just that - the controversial stands will not be taken “off base” and will be available for harvest when the planning units achieve the target conditions. As I understand it, this is the core of his plan for dealing with the lawsuits - DNR will not propose harvests that move planning units “backwards” relative to the older forest targets. He said “I believe in the trust mission and forestry”.

DNR then presented how they evaluate forest stands relative to “older forest conditions”, a process that is considerably more complex than simply the stand age. Bill Wells, DNR’s Olympic Region Manager noted that this complexity may require more than the six months that Commissioner Upthegrove hopes for.

Diane Harvey from Clallam Co. gave an update on the Community Wildfire Defense Grant which the county had been working on - since federal grants are frozen the county has decided to suspend work on this. There are still some “Title 3 funds” available and the Co. Sheriff’s Department will explore these.

The County Prosecutor’s Office is reviewing the “legal status” of the “county trust lands” per Comm. Johnson’s request to inform the RAC and Co. Commissioners on potential legal action against DNR for failing to act with “undivided loyalty”. This review will hopefully be available for the next RAC meeting - 3/17/2025.