## STAFF REPORT

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| **Agenda Item:** | 7 | **Name:** | Mary Bourguignon |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2015-0485 | **Date:** | January 29, 2016 |

**SUBJECT**

Proposed Motion 2015-0485 would confirm the appointment of Amy LaBarge, who resides in Council District 3, to the King County Rural Forest Commission for a partial term to expire on September 30, 2016.

**BACKGROUND**

The King County Rural Forest Commission was established in October 1997 to review the development and implementation of strategies, innovative programs, policies and regulations that benefit forestry and to advise the County on ways to preserve rural forests and promote rural forestry.

The Commission has 13 voting members selected to represent diverse and specific rural forest interests and geographic regions of rural King County. Commission members serve staggered three-year terms and represent the following interests:

* At least 5 members representing private rural forest landowners, with at least 1 from each of the following ownership categories:
  + 500 acres or greater;
  + 40 to 500 acres and for whom income from forestry is an important component of total income;
  + 20 acres or greater and enrolled in the Forest Land Designation program; and
  + Less than 20 acres;
* Advocates of non-timber values, such as environmental protection, recreation or open space;
* Washington state Department of Natural Resources;
* Affected Indian Tribes;
* Consumers or users of local forest products, such as mills, lumber suppliers, craftsmen, florist suppliers, or users of other alternative forest products;
* Academic or professional foresters, or forestry associations; and
* Rural cities.

In addition to the voting members, the Commission includes the following non-voting ex-officio members:

* The directors of the King County Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, Development and Environmental Services, Human Resources, and the Office of Budget and Strategic Planning,
* A representative of the Natural Resources Committee; and
* The King Conservation District Director.

**APPOINTEE INFORMATION**

Amy LaBarge lives in unincorporated King County near North Bend and is currently a Forest Ecology Supervisor for Seattle Public Utilities.

She notes that, "As the lead forest ecologist for the City of Seattle's municipal watersheds that comprise roughly 100,000 acres of forested lands in King County, I am a key player in managing forests in the County. SPU representation at the Rural Forest Commission is long overdue. I am also an unincorporated King County resident who cares deeply about the health of our environment and the continued provision of ecosystem services to sustain our high quality way of life."

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Motion 2015-0485 (attachments available upon request)
2. Rural Forest Commission Profile
3. Transmittal Letter

*Pursuant to K.C.C.3.04.110, which allows for confidentiality, the required Financial Disclosure Statements have been distributed to Councilmembers only.*