## STAFF REPORT

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| **Agenda Item:** | 11 | **Name:** | Jenny Ngo |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2018-0523 | **Date:** | February 5, 2019 |

**SUBJECT**

Proposed Motion 2018-0523 would confirm the appointment of Wyatt Golding, who resides in Council District 8, to the King County Rural Forest Commission for a three-year term to expire on September 30, 2021.

**BACKGROUND**

The King County Rural Forest Commission was established in October 1997,[[1]](#footnote-1) 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 five members representing private rural forest landowners, with at least one 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 and Parks, Permitting and Environmental Review, Executive Services, the Office of Budget,
* A representative of the King County Council Natural Resources, Parks and Open Space Committee;
* A representative of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest[[2]](#footnote-2);
* A representative of the Washington State University Extension[[3]](#footnote-3) and
* The director of the King Conservation District.

The Commission currently meets six times a year.

**APPOINTEE INFORMATION**

Wyatt Golding lives in Vashon and is an attorney for Ziontz Chestnut in Seattle specializing in natural resources law. Mr. Golding received a law degree from the University of Washington.

Mr. Golding has expertise in forestry regulations, including the Forest Practices Act, forest practices rules, and the role of the Department of Natural Resources. In his work, he currently represents conservation groups and Indian tribes that produce and sell timber, which has given him experience in litigation and policy work focused on forestry and the State Environmental Policy Act. He also has participated in meetings with the Board of Natural Resources and the Forest Practices Board, providing him a background in understanding the economic and cultural importance of forestry in King County.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Motion 2018-0523 (attachments available upon request)
2. Transmittal Letter

1. Ordinance 12901 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ordinance 16024 – Position was added in 2008. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Ordinance 16024 – Position was added in 2008. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)