



Meeting Agenda

October 10th, 2018

5:00 PM

USDA Service Center, 432 E, Pioneer Ave Homer, AK

- A. Call to order: 5:25
- B. Roll call: Chris Rainwater, Otto Kilcher, Genarita Groberek, Tim Alzheimer, Jim Engebresten, Devony Lehner, Kyra Wagner, Jared Worthington
- C. Approval of the Agenda: New business items added, approved
- D. Approval of the Minutes: Tim motioned, Otto second
- E. Visitors:
 - a. NRCS Report: Jared Worthington: Displayed new pamphlet that outlines what NRCS is all about to the general public. Two new employees beginning this month. Karen mentioned that it looks like the helicopter flyover range assessment, is not going to happen. Weigh in our concern, Cattlemen group? Possibility to collaborate with other agencies for shared projects and funding?
 - b. Others:
- F. Financial Report: Otto motioned, Gena seconded, approved!
- G. Manager's Report
 - a. **Land Use: Trails**
 - Watermelon Trail:** Have received hand-drawn trail maps from Mike Eastham with the Snomads' proposed winter trail, will trace it on to the computer and send to ADF&G. Snomads still asking if HSWCD will be willing to be the easement holder for the DNR sections of the Watermelon Trail. The idea of easements on the Watermelon Trail is from DNR, not ADF&G, and ADF&G are the ones who presently have the easement request. That would need to get sorted out before we move forward. Snomads would also like HSWC to hold the easements on their new proposed connector trail.
Board Comments: Role would be to facilitate the conversation between all groups. Looks to early to make any decisive decisions.
 - Fox River Flats Trail:** ADF&G is giving us a couple thousand dollars to get geoblock patches laid down on the Fox River Flats (on the Red Ballentine Cat Trail) to see if it will stay through a winter of ice sheeting and tides. Funding for other projects like repairing the approaches to the bridges and Watermelon Trail work will take longer to get approval.
Board Comments: Board on standby to aid in trial run of geoblock. Trailers, 4 wheelers, man power, etc.
 - b. **Water Quality**
 - Anchor River:** report on stream flow characteristics was submitted by Report Queen, Devony Lehner, and praise received. A report with proposed streambank restoration projects, roles of different agencies, and possible funding options to be submitted at the end of this month.
 - Beluga Wetland:** Comments were submitted regarding the Army Corps of Engineers request for comments on the permit to fill the Beluga wetlands parcel.

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- c. **Agriculture/Soil**
 - Soil Testing:** Have hired Kris Nichols (one of the applicants for the invasive plants position) to work part time doing the nutrient management recommendations that Jessica has been doing for us for the last year.
 - Food System Surveys:** Nicole has been interviewing producers and coming up with great stats. Presented at Rotary and on KBBI about local food systems.

- d. **Invasive Weed Program**
 - New Invasive Plant Program Coordinator:** Katherine is drinking from the firehose; meeting all our partners and getting a full understanding of the program. Preparing for the CNIPM state-wide invasives conference to be held in Homer November 13-15.
 - Seldovia Reed Canary Grass:** Seldovia Village Tribe has informed us that they will no longer be using pesticides to address reed canary grass.

- e. **Education**
 - West Homer and Fireweed Academy:** Both Kyra and Brad will be in the schools teaching about worms and food storage, respectively

- f. **Administration**
 - New office space agreement:** Nothing new...we are officially just hanging out now.
 - State-wide perspective:** District managers around the state have been discussing hopes that the AACD board and ED will take a stronger role in advocating for districts at the state level. Kyra put together some information for Paul Seaton about how the system *could* be working.

- H. Old Business
 - a. Employee evaluation, board evaluation, tabled
 - b. Leasing equipment: committee update, postponed.
 - c. Borough Ag plan: Idea to do a dual meeting, one for the board to collectively gather insight and input, second with Marcus Mueller to outline our remarks.

- I. New Business
 - a. Report on Partners for Conservation Conference: Chris on trip to Missouri
 - b. Fox River Flats geoblock experiment: volunteer workers?
 - c. Stand for Salmon? Discussion to send a letter (to board) regarding our thoughts and concerns as a board. Small and consistent.
 - d. Wetlands viewer on the KPB parcel viewer? No decision reached
 - e. NRCS Practices: State Technical committee to see Alaska NRCS fundable conservation practices. Chris suggests to allow paid time of employees to come up with a list of our local best practices and NRCS conservation. No objection.
 - f. Elodea Letter: Board motions to sign on to the letter. Passed.
 - g. Resolutions for Fall meeting: Chris to present at AACD meeting regarding tribal districts. To be written with Kodiak SWCD chair

Next Meeting December 12, 2018, 5pm

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