

Meeting Minutes

1/8/2020, 5:00 PM

USDA Service Center, 432 E. Pioneer Ave Homer, Ak

- A. Call to order: 5:50
- B. In attendance: Chris Rainwater, Otto Kilcher, Karen Sonnen, Tim Alzheimer, Katherine Schake, Kyra Wagner
- C. Approval of the Agenda: Approved
- D. Approval of the Minutes: Motioned by Otto seconded by Tim
- E. Visitors
 - a. NRCS Report given by Karen Sonnen
 - Communicating with contract holders, contact those not in compliance to get them back into compliance. A smaller amount of time for delinquencies will be allowed for becoming compliant with management practices.
 - Applications with 2020 beginning to move forward. Will not know about funding until at least March 2020.
 - Engineering; getting prices estimated out before contracts are signed and agreed upon.
 - Week of January 27th state conservationist will be coming to Homer, Allen Mcbee. He will arrive Wednesday in Homer, be available all-day Thursday, and leaves on Friday.
 - Program support specialist position is a big unknown.
 - b. Other: Katherine Schake
 - Spraying herbicides: each site other than in a DOT right of way would need to carry its own individual permit. It is extremely time consuming, so the statute is being reworded and up for vote. Trying to get a general permit in place so that this area can be more effective. Letter of support. Otto motions to support the letter and be behind staff, seconded by Tim with the board of supervisors as the signee of the letter!
 - Discussion involving the “need” for an invasive council that has been named in representative Tarr’s Invasive species bill that she is introducing to the legislature. Katherine supports the formation of the council. It would create a regulating entity for invasive species, as well as an organized committee involving multiple agencies that could enforce and fine for violations. A committee would reduce the burden that could be put upon one person and or entity.
 - Representative Tarr’s bill, board will table any letter of support and or opinions until a later date.

F. Financial Report: moved and approved by Tim & Otto

G. Manager’s Report

• **Land Use:**

- a. **Fox River Flats:** Stay tuned for a public meeting to get input on trails and such from locals.
- b. **Watermelon Trail:** Still waiting to hear from DNR or ADF&G about permits.

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- c. **Moose Habitat Enhancement:** it looks like we have a contract in the works with ADF&G to work on fire breaks and range enhancement activities for the next two and a half years.
- **Water Quality**
 - d. **KBNERR:** Continuing work on finalizing the Management Plan. HSWCD will not be hosting the peatlands grant, but we are getting written into it as participants.
 - e. **Anchor River:** We have a tour set up with Fish and Wildlife to gauge the destruction to our reveg project after the floods back in December.
- **Agriculture/Soil**
 - f. **Food surveys:** Kyra presented at the economic forum with Marcus Mueller today. Will be presenting Thursday on the reports as part of the ag series for NRCS on January 9th at the library at 11am and as the Farm Bureau presenter at 5:30pm.
 - g. **Soil Health:** Brad is working with others statewide to create the final reports for the end of this NRCS trial. He has been asked to discuss his findings at a national technical committee meeting.
 - h. **Women in Ag:** Nicole will be facilitating a conference on the 25th that will be at the college, have video conferenced presenters, a local panel of presenters and local discussions.
- **Invasive Weed Program**
 - i. **CWMA:** Katherine has been working on the possible new contract with Fish and Wildlife as well as going over the data from the drone survey that was done to survey reed canary grass.
- **Education**
 - j. **Ag in the Classroom:** Looking to be more active in the schools next spring.
- **Administration**
 - k. **New office space agreement:** Still nothing new.
 - l. **VACATION:** *Kyra is leaving for three weeks from January 21st through February 11th.*

H. Old Business

- a. Lime from Fairbanks- Lime test and transport, \$6per bag charged to farm supply stores, plan to do a field test with Soil health study \$, set up controls
- b. Elections: Julie & Jim not present to swear in
- c. ADF&G collaborations: Covered in manager's report on Moose Habitat Enhancement
- d. AACD update: upcoming AACD national conference

I. New Business

- a. State Technical committee: January 21st 9am. All encouraged to come.
- b. DNR Division of Agriculture public scoping: Looking for input on Div Ag programs and feedback on DNR programs.
- c. Other? DEC General Pest Permit- Letter: discussed with Katherine during the visitors section of the meeting.

Next Meeting February 19th, 2020

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