

Homer Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes: February 20th, 2019, 5:00 PM

Time	Topic	Discussion	Action
	Roll Call	Present: Chris Rainwater, Jim Engebretsen, Gena Grobarek, Otto Kilcher, Katherine Schake, Devony Lehner, Kyra Wagner, Tim Alzheimer (called in at 6 pm), Brad brought in Fritos	Katherine introduced herself to the board. Half time, she manages grants for Kenai Mountains Turnagain Arm Association (encompasses villages of Bird, Indian, Girdwood, Seward, Hope, Sunrise, Moose Pass)
	Approval of Agenda Approval of Minutes	Word “not” removed before “5 ac” in 4 th bullet under ag program	Agenda approved, Minutes approved with corrections
	NRCS Report	NRCS dropped off a report that Kyra read—she highlighted that the NRCS is setting up a team to do statewide HEL and wetland conservation compliance, which will eliminate those NRCS-funded HSWCD roles. The district has concerns about how effectively state teams will work with local land owners and know local conditions.	
	Visitors	No visitors	
	Financial Report	Financial records were discussed; Kyra referred to the challenge of transferring grant amounts from an excel spreadsheet to Quickbooks; Brad explained that HSWCD will be working under contract to BLM rather than under a continuing agreement	Jim moved, Gena seconded, and the board approved the financial report
	Manager’s Report: • Land Use: Fox River Flats Trails	Discussed Hal Shepherd’s KBay Fox River Flats watershed collaborative grant. Whatever concerns the district has about the proposal Hal has submitted, the concerns he’s triggered have at least caused multiple players to start talking about issues affecting the flats, including a rewrite of the Fox River Flats grazing lease Coordinated Resource Management Plan	Otto and Chris plan to be at the collaborative meeting next Tuesday; the meeting will focus on livestock grazing in the flats—4100 acres of the 7100 acre Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Area overlaps the grazing lease
	• Water Quality	The district ACWA reveg project on the Anchor River looks like it will get funded, we’re waiting for final approval	
	• Agriculture/Soil	The high tunnel 101 class was a success and a good example of effective outreach when NRCS and the District work together	
	• Invasive Weeds	Katherine has gone through pesticide applicator training and will take exams next week; she explained how she works with DEC and DOT on permitting. She’s working a lot with CWMA partners; on April 17, CWMA will hold its annual public educational meeting at the CI Aquaculture Assoc. Office in Kenai; they’ve invited recreationists on the peninsula; groups like Tsaltshi Trails, KBNERR, and CWMA will make presentations about what they do, update folks on the status of the northern pike, get folks talking with each other about invasives	
	• Education	The class for ag in the classroom was canceled; the effort will now work with the schools and focus on composting and be coordinated with Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration 	Still no office agreement with NRCS; Kyra will request 3 wks in April to raft the Grand Canyon	The district requested the she make a presentation at the May meeting
	AFPC/AFMA Food Festival and Conference	Alaska Food Policy Council; the District will pay for Board members to attend; Kyra and Nicole are organizing with Robbie's input	Chris is a maybe; Otto's a YES, Gena is a maybe, Jim's intending to attend
	Proposal to ADF&G regarding beaver protection on south fork of Anchor River	Jim Van Oss called in to give an update. The local Board of Game approved moving forward Van Oss's proposal to close trapping in about 35 sq miles in the south fork of the Anchor River; it's become proposal 89 before the state Board of Game, for beavers in Units 7 and 15—the proposal will be to close the area to trapping; Van Oss explained that all the game has been shot out in that area; beaver are supposed to be trapped, not shot, but there's no enforcement. ADF&G surveyed the area last fall by plane. There are no conflicts in the area. Beavers support soil and water conservation.	Jim moved that the district support the proposal with inclusion of a 5-year review, Otto seconded; the district supports that F&G biologists determine when beaver populations have recovered sufficiently for trapping to be re-opened; passed unanimously
	AACD Update: State budget issues	The governor's new budget zeros out Division of Ag, Board of Ag, and other state ag entities, takes money from the Ag Revolving Loan Fund, and cuts PMC by 50%. The district discussed a resolution to the legislature supporting Div Ag – Ag Forever, Resolution 19-01—quote the constitution in ways that support ag (same language as mining, timber, etc.); The board held a search for a new director of AACD and offered the position to a fellow who turned it down; the search will recommence in March. Districts are currently housed under Div Ag	Gena moved and Jim seconded that we adopt Resolution 19-01 Ag Forever, motion passed unanimously
	HSWCD 4-wheeler	There's a busted 4-wheeler Honda 450 Foreman on Kyra's property; seems like a waste not to see about fixing it; maybe a board member can look at it	Otto moved we have it looked at and pay someone to evaluate how much it would cost to fix it, Gena seconded; board approved
	Outreach Brochure	Kyra read a draft tri-fold brochure explaining districts; the group suggested we have a picture with a water	Otto moved and Jim seconded that we adopt the brochure; the board adopted
	Borough Ag Land Plan participation	Marcus is looking for help developing standards of care for ag leases; let anyone who's interested in one of these leases to talk with him; on Friday at 10:30 am we can join via video a discussion of ag leases with the borough	Kyra will email out the number so we can Zoom in from home
	HSWCD participation in CWMA training in April	See above	
	Wilderness first responder training for Brad	Kyra shared costs for the training and the board discussed covering the \$1570 he requested	Otto moved and Gena seconded that we cover those costs; board approved unanimously