



**Meeting Minutes**

December 12th, 2018

5:00 PM

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

- A. Call to order: 5:24
- B. Roll call Pam Dorian, Karin, Chris, Gena, Jim, (Devo on phone)
- C. Approval of the Agenda
- D. Approval of the Minutes: Ballentine has 2 ls
- E. Visitors:
  - a. NRCS Report
    - i. Jared gone
    - ii. Bob Jones retiring
    - iii. Karin will be on detail the Grazing land technical center, part of central rangeland thin a ma gig
    - iv. 3-5pm carbon credits VTC Thursday Adam Chambers
  - b. Others: Fox River Flats Report
- F. Financial Report: Approved: Gena Otto  
Reconciliation from this month next month
- G. Manager's Report

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**A. Land Use: Trails**

- a. **Watermelon Trail:** Nothing new to report
- b. **Fox River Flats Trail:** ADF&G is not happy with HSWCD. They were really wanting the geoblock down by now. Still no word from DNR as to whether or not they have approved the permit.
  - i. **Board Comments:** Otto- should we call those agencies, make a meeting together

**B. Water Quality**

- a. **Anchor River:** F&W has not gotten back to us with an estimate from their contractor for the cost of doing a small streambank restoration class on the Anchor River this spring and DEC wants a budget so they can release funds for us. We simply might miss this opportunity if everything can't get lined up in time.
  - i. **Board Comments:**

**C. Agriculture/Soil**

- a. **Farmers Market promotion grant:** Since we are supposed to be doing an event focused on farmers each month, for December Nicole arranged to have a movie showing at Grace Ridge Brewing. Due to a request from a farmer and an interview that Nicole did last week with the produce manager at Save-U-More, the event also included a discussion with farmers and the produce buyer as to the possibility of a local food showcase at Save-U-More.
- b. **NRCS Soil Survey funding:** A recent call from the NRCS Soil Survey office in Wasilla opened up a possible direct relationship with them. In the past, BLM has been contracting with HSWCD to do work for NRCS Soil Survey that BLM needed done, and now it seems that NRCS is now seeing that we could be a viable contractor for some of their own needs. This may mean that we hire staff that they need over the summer and/or arrange helicopter transportation for the summer crews (a task that takes time but does not require special qualifications). They are getting a new state director in January from out of state but otherwise can't hire anybody new, so they are trying to figure out options for ways to get more done with less.
  - i. **Board Comments:**

*"To provide education and leadership in the conservation and sustainable use of soil- and water- related resources through cooperative programs that protect, restore and improve our environment."*



#### D. Invasive Weed Program

- a. **CNIPM Conference:** Was amazing. Kyra and Katherine both got to meet and network with all the invasive specialists from around the state and made great connections and learned a great deal about state issues and priorities. It looks like Katherine will be involved with a statewide Elodea task force as well as a statewide group looking into growing the weed-free gravel and weed-free forage program.
- b. **CWMA:** Wrapping up the year with Jen Hester and Janice Chumley sharing reports and acres treated information. Janice is retiring at the end of the year and Jen has moved into her position at Cooperative Extension. Katherine is working with the Forest Service and others to identify more funding to work on orange hawkweed on the northern peninsula; hopefully hiring a crew.

*i. Board Comments:*

#### E. Education

- a. **Ag in the Classroom:** considering how small the funding is for this project, the paperwork has been ridiculous. However, it looks like we are moving forward, possibly hosting a teachers training in February. Right now we are reaching out to teachers with a survey as to what they would be interested in learning about indoor growing (soil vs hydroponic)

*i. Board Comments:*

#### F. Administration

- a. **New office space agreement:** Still nothing new.
- b. **Palmer NACD Funds:** Still working with Jeff Smeenk to take on some of their NACD funding. The ball is in Bob Jones court waiting approval. Bob is retiring this month...
- c. **Kyra out of office:** Just FYI: family health issues may require sudden absences for unknown amount of time.
- d. **Kachmak Bay NERR:** Kyra facilitated a 2-day staff retreat and strategic planning session with KBNERR at the end of November, will be putting out a draft of their new management plan in January and working through a continued process (that includes a communication plan) to be completed by June. Hey, this would be good for HSWCD to do sometime too....

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#### H. Old Business

- a. Borough Ag plan: lease or title? New and beginning should have a portion
  - i. Ag covenants should stay on it if sold, ag title land, or even better just never sell these parcels. Don't let doctors have it that will do nothing. Define highest and best use beyond dollar price. How would you apply and keep your innovative idea secret?
- b. Wetlands viewer: Gena make a motion to put the wetlands viewer guide on the website until the Borough chooses to put it back up on their own website. Jim sec Otto third

#### I. New Business

- a. AACD representation: anyone want to listen in? Gena did at the last meeting
- b. Other? Unmet conservation needs of your district. Soils of local importance?

Adjourned at 9:41pm

**Next Meeting January 9, 2019, 5pm**

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