



Meeting Minutes

January 16th, 2018

5:00 PM

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

- A. Call to order: 540
- B. Roll call: Chris, Otto, Gena, Jim, Tim, Kyra, Devony, Pam, Dorian, Marcus
- C. Approval of the Agenda: unanimous
- D. Approval of the Minutes: Otto, Gena
- E. Visitors:
- a. NRCS Report Pam
 - i. There is a tensiometer workshop next Thursday the 24th 5-7pm here (it's a required part of an irrigation project, as water management)
 - ii. Batching dates have been set, Feb 1st, then April 12th
 - iii. Eligible contracts Feb 1st, obligate money by end of May
 - iv. This year under 20 contracts
 - b. Borough Ag Plan-Marcus Mueller:

KPB wants to do something with the land from the state that has good ag potential. Old ag programs have mostly failed.

- have a rolling lease on a 15 year term,
- rental rates difficult to determine, but preferably set rates for different uses.
- Forest uses a possibility
- Similar to a lease. Mixed use area will have an option to buy. 20% of total land not up to 5 acres. Not mandatory, but available.
- Ag title? No, not easy to enforce. What is to stop someone from investing in the cheap land and sell it later, out of ag use? Marcus: title won't stop that issue. We want people to make improvements to land and if the land is being used for ag with this rolling contract (similar to fishing setnet sites)
- Goal: to set up the economic framework for production success. If not using land: double rent.
- Jan 22nd meeting with the Borough Planning commission: should it be proposal based or should they just offer predetermined parcels?
- Mixed use site: fee simple. Ag part, lease. Or with zoning, fee simple
- Perpetual lease? Yes, with provisions to allow easements in the future
- Chris: Alaska state constitution states the land has to go to the highest bidder
- HSWCD would encourage some level of conservation planning
- Local option zoning as an option for ag for the ag parcels
- Kenai Farm Bureau presentation of this plan
- Will present to planning commission in March, so must have documents done by mid February.

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- F. Financial Report: Gena motioned to approve, Jim seconded

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G. Manager's Report

Manager's Report

- 1) **Land Use: Trails**
 - a) **Watermelon Trail:** Nothing new to report
 - b) **Fox River Flats Trail:** Nothing new to report. Still no word from DNR about the permit.
 - 2) **Water Quality**
 - a) **Anchor River:** Awaiting word as to whether or not they will approve our proposal to do a streambank rehabilitation workshop this spring.
 - 3) **Agriculture/Soil**
 - a) **Farmers Market promotion grant:** Lots happening this month for farmers. Last week we hosted a Women in Ag meeting at the library to talk finances and we will host a High Tunnels 101 class on January 31.
 - b) **NRCS Soil Survey funding:** Our possible agreement with NRCS Soil Survey to arrange helicopters for their field crews is stalled due to the government shutdown.
 - 4) **Invasive Weed Program**
 - a) **CWMA:** Katherine has been working on a grant for field work for the summer through the Copper River Watershed that would involve all of our partners on the Peninsula.
 - 5) **Education**
 - a) **Ag in the Classroom:** we will be co-hosting a class for teachers at the end of February. In contact with the Homer Garden Club to see if they would be interested in getting volunteers to work in the schools.
 - 6) **Administration**
 - a) **New office space agreement:** Still nothing new.
 - b) **Palmer NACD Funds:** It's final. We are getting a large portion of Palmer's funds from the NACD grant.
 - c) **Kyra out of office:** Just FYI: family health issues may require sudden absences for unknown amount of time.
 - d) **Kachemak Bay NERR:** Devony has been working on the KBNERR Management plan in Kyra's absence.
 - e) **Kachemak Bay Fox River Collaborative:** Hal Shepard has been putting together a proposal for funding to work in the Fox River area on conservation. He is looking to have HSWCD involvement and support.
 - i) **Board Comments:**
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H. Old Business

- a. AK Food Policy Council Festival and Conference: Scholarships

I. New Business

- a. AACD update: funding, find places in Alaska law regarding SWCDs
- b. New grant opportunity: Healthy Watershed Collaborative
- c. Other? HEA-Weed concerns? How do we keep their equipment clean? Can we build a relationship with them?

Adjourned 9:09

Next Meeting February 13, 2019, 5pm

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