



Meeting Minutes

February 14th, 2017, 5:00 PM

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

- A. Call to order: 5:40
 - B. Roll call: Chris Rainwater, Genarita Gobarek, Jared Worthington, Kyra Wagner, Tim Alzheimer
 - C. Approval of the Agenda: approved with addition to new business, c. CO2 and forage
 - D. Approval of the Minutes: Tim motioned to approve, Genarita seconded. Passed
 - E. Visitors
 - a. NRCS Report: presented by Jared, introduced newest NRCS member Sean Willison. First round of ranking this week (high priority only). Medium priority round in the next few weeks, (Most state applicants fall under this category). Likely will be another round of sign-up due to extra funds. Contracts will go out April/May. New structural specs should come out for this years' contracts.
 - b. Other guests: Discussion about NACD response to President's FY19 budget proposal. Conservation programs being cut up to 20 percent.
 - F. Financial Report: Tim motioned to approve, Genarita seconded. Passed
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G. Manager's Report

1. Land Use: Trails

- a. **Watermelon Trail:** Tim and Genarita (Brent) volunteered to help Jason Allmendinger get ramp down to beaver creek. Group work party at Kyra's Saturday Feb 17th at noon to assemble ramp for hauling.
- b. **Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Area:** Next meeting next week. Will be going over the policies concerning 1.) Long Term Anchorage/Float Structures, 2.) Boat Maintenance, 3.) Oil and Gas Rig/ Equipment Storage

2. Water Quality

- c. **Anchor River:** Anchor River Watershed Coalition meeting was held a couple of weeks ago. Participants ranged from fishermen to DOT to Inletkeeper to State Parks. Organized by the Land Trust, discussion showed how many projects were happening on the Anchor and showed ways to collaborate in the future, specifically on the Anchor River State Park Management Plan.

3. Agriculture/Soil

- d. **New Specialty Crop Block Grant:** Last week was the deadline for "letters of intent" for this year's Div Ag SCBG funding. Lots of letters of support were written. We applied for some funding to host a few High Tunnel Group gatherings and a couple high tunnel tours in 2019.
- e. **Old Specialty Crop Block Grant:** Jessica Shepard will not be working on this project of restaurant surveys as planned. Strategizing now. Completed first survey and learned a ton already.
- f. **Farmers Market Promotion grant (FMPP):** Need to hold some activity for farmers each month. January was the Seed Swap, Feb was the [failed] farm business class, and March will be Solar power for the farm and home.
- g. **Rural Business Dev. Grant:** Preparing surveys for producers. Unfortunately, the 2017 Ag Census was just finished and many producers don't want to fill out more surveys...

4. Invasive Weed Program

- h. **Weeds program:** Our meeting with Kyle and Emily last month with Fish and Wildlife was decisively inconclusive. We ironed out misunderstandings about the goals of the Cost Share program and the grant budget.

"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."



- i. **Matt Got Certified:** Matt completed the whole pesticide applicator class with all of its new modules and sections. We are hoping that a private contractor in the community will also get certified (another class in April) so that we can contract with them to do work this summer for the Cost Share program.

5. Education

- j. **Ag in the Classroom:** Meeting with teachers this month to gauge interest in indoor growing curriculum.
- k. **Enviro Ed through EPA:** Fairbanks Soil and Water/Ag in the Classroom is applying with UAF Cooperative Extension for a grant that could be spread state-wide. If they get it, we are a \$5000 line item, allowing us to spend time in the schools on Ag curriculum.

6. Administration

- a. **New office space agreement:** We still have not started the discussion yet with the State Office about renewing our agreement.
 - b. **NRCS Funding:** Last month we had video conference with the State NRCS office and Cassie outlined their new way of funding agreements with partners. They will now have to put each activity out for competitive bid so we will be applying for funding through the EzFed grants platform.
 - c. **NACD Funding:** Chris signed our agreement this week for about \$27000 between Homer and Kenai SWCDs.
 - d. **Cooperators:** We signed a new cooperator on, Wayne and Lori Jenkins of Synergy Farm.
 - e. **Ag Update:** I started an e-mail newsletter with updates about Ag topics. Planning to send it out monthly. If you hear of any events happening, make sure you send them to me.
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H. Old Business

- a. Employee evaluation: Gena motioned to postpone to next month, Tim second. Motioned passed.
- b. Ethics review: Gena motions to sign HSWCD ethics information card, Tim seconded the motion. Signatures given from Chris, Tim, and Genarita.
- c. SFCP for ADL 232302: Otto talked to landowner, and she is planning on selling the divided parcel of the property to her son. Chris suggested to approve modification of the state farm conservation plan. Genarita motioned and Tim seconded, signing off on farm plan.

I. New Business:

- a. Snow Survey Training : Funding for Brads trip could be/get expensive, (\$3,500). May not be able to get reimbursed. NRCS said no to all transportation fees. Grant money for the surveys cannot be used for this trip and training. Questions arise: is it necessary? Do we have \$ to spend on it with little \$ coming in from its certification? Brad cannot find accommodation as of now, so travel may not happen for that reason alone. Chris mentions it would be a good thing to have in house certification especially with or collaborators wanting our staff to have more credentials. Motion to approve Brads travel with paying a 40 hour work week and expenses. Board approves with those numbers.
- b. AACD Update/New Seat: Next AACD meeting is in March, commissioner has be invited to attend.
- c. Carbon increase: tracking to see if our conservation area is getting shaped by higher carbon and the response the vegetation/insects/ and soil structure are doing. Are our vegetables going to be high in carbohydrates and low in vitamins and minerals? Is the quality of hay, oats, barley, etc losing quality(protein)? Rapid growth with bigger cell structure.

Next Meeting March 14th, 2018, 5pm

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