

Homer Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes: March 13th, 2019, 5:00 PM

Topic	Discussion	Action
Roll Call	Present: Chris, Gena, Pam, Devony, Nicole, Brad, Otto arrived eventually	Start 6pm
Approval of Agenda Approval of Minutes	More detailed explanation of the WFR unanimous	
NRCS Report	Pam reported that they just finished sending letters to contract recipients for round 1, only 7 eligible in Homer, 3 in Kenai. 11 possible for round 2. Looking to develop minimal effects procedures for wetlands. Amanda Crowe and Sydney will be here April 11-12. Chris asked what boundaries have been defined? Pam explained that changing a discharge slope to a field would be considered. Brad explained that there are practices where the wetland functions continue even with farming on the surface, but identifying the differences is tricky. Pam: one irrigation project out of the 7 applicants	
Visitors	none	
Financial Report	Financial report Kyra asked if it would be okay to host EVOS funding for the CWMA if they got the grant for elodea, can we put the Tesoro in the savings Line item for the Tesoro money	Motion to accept Otto, Gen the financial report, allow the Tesoro money to go to savings, and look into the EVOS
Manager's Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use: Trails • Water Quality • Agriculture/Soil 	<p>Watermelon Trail: It seems Kyle Kidder has shifted positions, so easement questions are once again in the air. CIRI land is still a block to the process.</p> <p>Fox River Flats Trail: The meeting with the Kachemak Bay Fox River Flats Collaborative (KBFRWC) led by Hal Shepard went well. Both ADG&G and DNR had representatives on the phone, so it was nice to be able to clarify questions of authority and lease regulations between the two groups. It was agreed that Homer Soil and Water could help facilitate an update to the CRMP for Fox River Flats as well as field trips with the KBNERR, ADF&G, DNR, NRCS and other interested parties this summer.</p> <p>Anchor River: The date for the streambank revegetation workshop is set for June 7th. Meetings have been held with stakeholder agencies over the last two weeks to identify future actions and needs on the river.</p> <p>Alaska Food Festival and Conference: WHAT A SUCCESS! Thanks to all who participated. The conference sold out, had presenters and participants from all around the state talking about food security issues. Our very own Heidi Chay won the Food Hero of the Year Award! (along with Tim Meyers of Bethel and Lia Heifetz from Juneau).</p>	Chris says there was buzz

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive Weeds • Education • Administration 	<p>Kyra and Nicole presented our Local Food System Survey results and received great feedback.</p> <p>BLM/NRCS Soil Survey funding: Our agreements with BLM and NRCS Soil Survey to arrange helicopters for their field crews is still in process.</p> <p>CWMA: Katherine is working on the CWMA Community Wksp scheduled for April 17th in Kenai as well as permitting, the elodea proposal for EVOS, and the summer spraying plan with all the partners</p> <p>Ag in the Classroom: Planning for a new Ag in the Classroom workshop.</p> <p>New office space agreement: Still nothing new.</p> <p>NACD Funds: Sent off our dream list to NACD for funding, haven't heard back. Our hub was the only one in the state to apply. We were also able to reallocate the funds that we are presently holding to make better use of them. Cassie is suggesting that this will be the way we get funds for NRCS work in the future. NOTE: NRCS agreements allowed us to charge 10% indirect costs on top of the actual costs. NACD charges us 20% match.</p>	
Div Ag funding	Chris reported that Homer District was the first to pass a resolution, tried to show it in Palmer at a town hall, but didn't. Then sent one out for the town hall meeting with Sarah Vance. Sent it out to all the districts, some changes were made and the AACD board adopted a resolution yesterday to go to the legislature. Cover letter emphasized internal structure for the advocacy of agriculture is necessary.	News of Mark Roderick's death came through at this time. He will be remembered fondly.
4-wheeler update	4-wheeler took a little detour to Gary's small engine repair, Jim will pick it up there.	Otto suggested that we look online for the replacement parts
Borough ag land	Rumors have it that they are putting this on the shelf. Questions came up about why it would get shelved and what snags it hit.	Chris suggested we stay engaged in the process. Kyra will check with Heidi
Fox River Flats Update		
AACD Update: State budget issues	Organizational structure for districts: reclaim our line item in the budget at \$50,000. Zobel said it used to be \$150k as the old norm. Chris is just hoping that any number will do as long as we can get an account established again for the NRCDB.	
AFPC/AFMA Food Festival/ Conference	Congrats to Heidi Chay for winning the Food Hero award! AFMA was inspired, AFPC was inspired, totally awesome	
Other?	Back to Div Ag: what is the critical mass needed to keep something alive? The amount of money that will not come to the state because of these cuts will be devastating.	Adjourned 9:10