



Meeting Minutes

April 11th, 2017 at 5:00 PM

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

- A. Call to order: 6:15
- B. Roll call: Chris Rainwater, Otto Kilcher, Genarita Grobarek, Devony Lehner, Jim Engebresten, Tim Alzheimer
- C. Approval of the Agenda: Approved by Chris
- D. Approval of the Minutes: Otto motioned to approve, Gena second
- E. Visitors
 - a. NRCS: Karen Sonnen brought in handouts of Office Application Summary. Showed 2018 data and prior years data showing numbers of applications per service center. Jared is leaving in November at the latest. NRCS can not hire any new employee from outside the state, because we do not have a FSA office (particular guideline) . A new GS9-11 position in delta has been filled and is planned to then sneak him to homer in 6 months to a year time. NRCS state head received input from field offices last week. Brad and Karen got certified for snow survey.
 - b. Other guests: Brian FSA State Director. Discussions concerning more FSA lectures and workshops for homer farmers
- F. Financial Report: Gena motioned to approve, Otto seconded. Approved. Kyra will include two months of reconciliation payments next meeting
- G. Manager's Report

A. Land Use: Trails

- a. **Watermelon Trail:** we had our teleconference Monday with representatives from ADF&G, Kelly Cooper from the Borough, and folks from the Snomads. It was explained that there are lots of steps that need to happen before and easement will be complete for the entire Watermelon Trail. It is possible though, that ADF&G could give a permit to cross the critical habitat area without a full easement on the trail. It is also a possibility that CIRI might entertain the idea of someone purchasing the easement for that trail over there property. A lot of negotiations still need to happen between ADF&G and DNR (who was not present on the call). Work has already begun widening the trail from the Olsen Mountain parking lot.
- b. **Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Area:** Next meeting will be focused on motorized travel in the Critical Habitat Area. CHRIS AND OTTO REALLY HAVE TO BE THERE. The meeting is 9:30am to 12:30pm on Wednesday the 18th. Mark your calendar boys!
- c. **Caribou Lake Trail:** Looking to hire drone mappers. Devony will take over Matt's work.

B. Water Quality

- a. **Anchor River:** Anchor River Watershed Coalition meeting coming up on the 17th, perfect forum to talk to everyone about the ACWA grant planning.
- b. **ACWA Grant:** We will be scheduling a community meeting in Anchor Point in late April.

C. Agriculture/Soil

- a. **New Specialty Crop Block Grant:** We officially got it! We applied for some funding to host a few High Tunnel Group gatherings and a couple high tunnel tours in 2019. Oceanside Farms also received funding as well as Twitter Creek.

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- b. **Old Specialty Crop Block Grant:** Still working on getting this out the door. Going to hire a local person to do the interviews (starting immediately) and hire the same consultant that Heidi had to do her survey to help out
- c. **Farmers Market Promotion grant (FMPP):** 50 people showed up to the “Solar Energy Systems for Alaska” at I&O. I will be counting the Local Working Group as the public meeting we held this month. Brad will be doing a soils class at SVT for our May class as part of our outreach series.
- d. **Rural Business Dev. Grant:** The new hires for the consumer survey can also work on this survey, though the pressure is off as far as the timeline.

D. Invasive Weed Program

- a. **Weeds program:** Matt’s gone. Looking to hire but cautious because of budgets. Definitely will be hiring Jen and Janice to do the on-the-ground work this summer, but plan to be patient before hiring a program coordinator. Devony is taking care of permitting, Kyra is coordinating the work schedules and task management for now.
- b. **Mini Grant:** We officially got funded through the Copper River Watershed Forum to do weed pulls and education across the Bay. Jen and Janice will be doing outreach for us this year.

E. Education

- a. **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.

F. Administration

- a. **New office space agreement:** We still have not started the discussion yet with the State Office about renewing our agreement.
 - b. **AACD:** Chris and Kyra went to the Anchorage AACD board meeting. Nuts. Full report from Chris.
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H. Old Business

- a. Employee evaluation – skipped
- b.

I. New Business

- a. Empty board seat: Motion to nominate Jim Engebresten to seat A, by Otto, seconded by Tim. Jim unanimously approved for temporary position until Dec 2019.
- b. AACD Board meeting report: Chris gave board meeting report. Copper River District was voted out of AACD. Principal speakers did not attend do to travel difficulty. (Bridge closure)
- c. Local Working Group meeting follow-up: Success!! Kyra send digital poll statistics to board from meeting.
- d. New employees- already discussed
- e. Official comments?-Devony (left so skipped)
- f. Special guest speakers ? :Kyra have to be arranged at beginning of board meetings, example: Tara regarding cooper river hwy reroute.
- g. Office hours ? : Kyra Probably will not have morning coverage for public.
- h. Leasing equipment: committee? Subcommittee to address all areas that would follow under this arena. Insurance, ownership, etc?

Next Meeting May 9th, 2018, 5pm

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