



Meeting Minutes

May 9th, 2017

5:00 PM

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

- A. Call to order: 6:45
- B. Roll call: Jim Engebresten, Genarita Grobarek, Devony Lehner, Tim Alzheimer, Otto Kilcher, Filip Martushev, Karen Sonnen, Robert Gibson, Akake Martushev
- C. Approval of the Agenda: Motioned by Jim, approved by Gena
- D. Approval of the Minutes: Motion to approve by Gena, Tim seconded
- E. Visitors
 - a. NRCS: Karen: June 15th will be the latest to get first round of planning/contracting. NEPA training for the office. High tunnel requirement concerns: 5 purlins requirement and bolts being required where some use tech screws.
 - b. Other guests: Nicole Arevalo new SWCD employee helping out on producer/consumer grant.
- F. Financial Report: Motion to approve by Gena, Jim seconded.
- G. Manager's Report

A. Land Use: Trails

- a. **Watermelon Trail:** no new updates
- b. **Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Area:** Next meeting will discuss motorized travel in the Critical Habitat Area. Chris and Otto may want to be there. The meeting is 9:30am to 12:30pm on Wednesday the 16th. Mark your calendar! Kyra won't be there, so Devony will be sitting in.
- c. **Caribou Lake Trail:** No new updates

B. Water Quality

- a. **Anchor River:** Met last week with collaborators about outreach planning so all of us working on Anchor River projects don't exhaust the residents of Anchor Point with meetings. Met today with State Parks on the River to discuss active erosion. Will be hosting a public meeting at the Senior Center in Anchor Point Monday the 14th from 3-5pm to discuss the River and people's perceptions and history with it and for feedback on possible streambank projects.
- b. **Streambank Restoration Workshop:** Kyra and Brad will be in Soldotna the 15-16th taking a hand-on workshop by ADF&G. Good experience as we write our Anchor River Plan...

C. Agriculture/Soil

- a. **Old Specialty Crop Block Grant (restaurant surveys):** Hired Nicole Arevalo to conduct interviews of restaurants and she has been hitting the pavement in a big way. Lots of great feedback and information about how they perceive local food!
- b. **Farmers Market Promotion grant (FMPP):** Brad held a class on soils at SVT that was poorly advertised and had few participants.
- c. **Rural Business Dev. Grant (producer surveys):** Nicole will be working on this as well when she gets further along with the restaurant survey.

"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. **Weeds program:** Met with Emily and Janice to identify weed projects we could take on this summer as part of the “cost share” program for USFWS. Projects from Kenai to Seldovia were identified.
- b. **CWMA:** planning to organize a workshop for the CNIPM conference in October that will highlight the strengths and tips for a good CWMA.

E. Education

- a. **Enviro Ed through EPA:** Haven’t heard yet if Fairbanks Soil and Water/Ag in the Classroom and UAF Cooperative Extension got the grant in which 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. **Devony:** Looks like the process is finally underway for Devony to get her LinkPass security card! This means she will be able to train for and do work on NRCS computers, allowing us to much more for NRCS. Yeah!
 - c. **Kyra:** Kyra is taking off a couple of days next week after the Streambank Restoration Workshop (Thursday and Friday) which means she will be out of the office most all of next week.
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H. Old Business

- a. Employee evaluation: postponed till Chris is back
- b. Leasing equipment: committee? Gena motioned to develop a committee and volunteered to start it. Jim seconded.

I. New Business

- a. Beaver ponds (tabled till next meeting)
- b. Grazing lease questions- protocols to be discussed next meeting.

Next Meeting June 13th, 2018, 5pm