



**Meeting Minutes**

June 13th, 2017

5:00 PM

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

- A. Call to order: 5:39
- B. Roll call
- C. Approval of the Agenda: approved
- D. Approval of the Minutes: Otto motioned to approve
- E. Visitors
  - a. Meg Mueller: NRCS Report: Equip still doing eligibility. 2019 payment schedules will be released in July opposed to November like in 2018. A conservation plan will be required in order to meet eligibility. Two vacancies flown in Homer, Soil Conservationist GS- 09 and 11.
  - b. Lynn Whitmore: Anchor River: Work with DOT to get fish friendly culverts as the Sterling Hwy gets repaved. Ruby Creek in particular. It has historically had silver salmon adults and fry in it.
  - c. Jim VanOss: Beaver reintroduction project: Wants to reintroduce beaver into the upper Anchor watershed. Would like the board to support his proposal to ADF&G for a closed trapping section where introduction would take place as well as permits for transporting beavers to this location.
  - d. Erin Sturdivant: Farm Service Agency, Homer area looking for LAA position, county committee board. Deadline is August 1<sup>st</sup>. Three year term.
- F. Financial Report: Motion to approve minutes from Tim, Jim Seconded.
- G. Manager's Report:

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**A. Land Use: Trails**

- a. **Watermelon Trail:** Trip planned for July 20<sup>th</sup> with Snomads and representatives from ADF&G and DNR. Kyra probably can't go, is there someone else who can represent Homer Soil and Water? *\*Tim volunteered. Kyra will keep him posted*
- b. **Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Area:** I believe the next meeting will continue to discuss motorized travel in the Critical Habitat Area. The meeting is 9:30am to 12:30pm on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendar if you want to listen in.
- c. **Caribou Lake Trail:** Drone operators have been hired and are planning to be out on the trail in July.

**B. Water Quality**

- a. **Anchor River:** Public meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> was awesome. Great feedback, lots of perspective. Have created a Facebook page to continue fielding questions and gathering opinions. The

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conversation continues. New topics upstream were also identified, many of which are timely considering the DOT work on the highway this summer.

**C. Agriculture/Soil**

- a. **Old Specialty Crop Block Grant (restaurant surveys):** Nicole Arevalo has been conducting interviews of restaurants but we definitely hit the wall of summer business. Asking Div Ag for an extension so we can have more time to complete the project without hassling restaurants.
- b. **Farmers Market Promotion grant (FMPP):** Kyra doing her typical farmers market promotion (writing articles for newspaper) and produce surveys at Farmers Market.
- c. **Rural Business Dev. Grant (producer surveys):** Nicole will be working on this as well when she gets further along with the restaurant survey. We were granted an extension on this project as well, so we will have the winter to continue working on it.
- d. **BLM:** Both Brad and Charlotte just finished their first two-week stint in Unalakleet doing soil surveys and head out next week for the second trip.
- e. **Soil Health:** Brad will be presenting a low-till tool demo at the SVT Thriving Thursdays tour of Carey Restino's farm this Thursday evening.

**D. Invasive Weed Program**

- a. **Weeds program:** Continuing to organize summer activities for DOT right-of-way weed control and the "cost share" program. Writing up MOAs to have with each landowner. Lots of hoops to jump through!

**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. **Elections:** Div Ag has agreed to validate elections in the future.

**H. Old Business**

- a. Employee evaluation, board evaluation
- b. Leasing equipment: committee update

**I. New Business**

- a. Elections update
- b. Mental Modeler
- c. Beaver ponds: Board motions to support both propositions of Jim Van Oss, Chris motioned, Jim seconded. Letter of support for beaver reintroduction will be discussed further next meeting.
- d. HSWCD Acknowledges the fish friendly culverts that has been brought to our attention by Lynn Whitmore. Chris motioned for the board to support this plan and idea of fish friendly culverts along ruby creek/ anchor river stream.
- e. Protocol for public comment (Grazing lease, SLI, etc. )When there is not time to consult with the board, Kyra is to make comments on projects whenever possible to show that HSWCD is aware of the project, even if a strong stance is not taken.

**Next Meeting July 11, 2018, 5pm**

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