



Meeting Minutes

July 11th, 2017

5:00 PM

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

- A. Call to order: 5:35
- B. Roll call
- C. Approval of the Agenda:
- D. Approval of the Minutes: Tim motioned and Gena approved
- E. Visitors
 - a. NRCS Report: State office rejected both candidates for Homer positions. Head office said this fall they will try to fill positions again. Scott Crockett is completing the list for cost share practices and will be done by next month's meeting. Spoke on new proposed farm bill and how internal changes in NRCS will be occurring. EQIP and CP programs will be combined with a focus on streamlining the application process.
- F. Financial Report: Motioned by Gena, Otto seconded. Accepted.
- G. Manager's Report

• **Land Use: Trails**

- **Watermelon Trail:** Trip planned for July 20th with Snomads and representatives from ADF&G and DNR. Kyra or Brad can probably go. Bill Hague is going to help with transportation. May be cancelled at the last minute.
- **Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Area:** Meeting schedule cancelled for the summer. Will resume meeting in the fall.
- **Caribou Lake Trail:** Drone operators have photographed the trail. Waiting to see results.

• **Water Quality**

- **Anchor River:** Fiscal year reports and MOAs with partners have been wrapped up, now will be focusing on working with partners to identify future steps and rolls for an Anchor River Strategic Plan.

• **Agriculture/Soil**

- **Old Specialty Crop Block Grant (restaurant surveys):** We have an extension for this grant so we can work on it into next year. Nicole is plugging away at interviews and such.
- **Farmers Market Promotion grant (FMPP):** Kyra doing her typical farmers market promotion (writing articles for newspaper) and produce surveys at Farmers Market.
- **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.
- **BLM:** Both Brad and Charlotte are out in Nome for their third two-week stint up north doing soil surveys.

• **Invasive Weed Program**

"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."



- **Weeds program:** Continuing to organize summer activities for DOT right-of-way weed control and the “cost share” program. Bradley Lake weed pull happened with Janice, Jen and Brad. Janice and Jen want to spray over there, waiting to hear back if that would be a possibility.
 - **Education**
 - **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.
 - **Administration**
 - a. **New office space agreement:** We still have not started the discussion yet with the State Office about renewing our agreement.
 - b. **Job announcement:** Looking to post the job position to replace Matt, probably by next week with the idea of closing at the beginning of Aug, interviews and replacement starting mid Aug.
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H. Old Business

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

I. New Business

- a. AACD/Elections update: Div Ag will monitor elections, ratifying what is presently in place.
- b. Salmon passage culverts: Otto motioned to approve the letter that has been drafted by Devony to DOT. Board would like stronger wording and influence regarding the third culvert on Ruby Creek. Two of three culverts are slated for installation but the third has yet to be approved. Board would like all three culverts to be installed instead of just the two that are proposed.
- c. Beaver ponds: Discussion about supporting Van Oss’s proposed beaver reintroduction. The board is concerned with the size of area proposed by Van Oss to close from trapping. Would like to get Jim Van Oss to better define the area in which he is asking to be closed from trapping and for how long it would be closed.
- d. Annual Plan of Work: Motioned by Gena, seconded by Jim. Unanimous Vote of approval!
- e. Mouth of Anchor River: Discussion over proposed gravel pit next to Anchor Point beach. Should the board comment on these proposed projects in ecologically sensitive areas? **Propose a letter of concern to the Borough planning committee with a list of the Board’s concerns.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

Next Meeting August 8, 2018, 5pm

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