

ACFC meeting 8/11/2017

**Present**

Steve O'Sullivan  
Isobel Roy  
Ed Leonetti  
Paul Guzenski  
Jud Kirkness  
John Gellings  
Nan Cunningham  
Gino Graziano  
Steve Nickel  
Jim Renkert  
Dan Reese  
Nathan Lojewski

**Absent**

Laura Charlton  
Hans Klausner  
Pat Leary  
Pat Ryan  
Jeremy Douse

1. Approval of last month's minutes  
Jud moved, Paul seconded

2. Treasurer's report

Here's a brief Treasurer's Report for the meeting on Friday. Our current balance in the checking account is \$10,649.36 and we have \$502.18 in savings. We've received one Arbor Day grant report with a reimbursement for \$170 which has not been deducted yet. Hopefully more will come in soon. If you know people who were awarded grants, please encourage them to send in their reports. Our taxes are done for the year and our non-profit status is up to date.

3. Program Reports

- a. State

Jim - Doing landscape restoration grant work in May and June, doing planting of a variety of trees and shrubs along the Campbell Creek greenbelt. Worked with Youth Employment in Parks on this. There is some question on which agency is responsible for what. Took Kathy to community orchards, and they ran into some that weren't happy about the one in Fairview Park because it wasn't planned well for the traffic, no fences etc. They also visited one on Bragaw in Mt. View, and those were fenced in look good. The Government Hill community orchard isn't in yet, but trees are lined up to be planted. Muldoon has a major park going in that also is looking into a community orchard, and they are interested in fencing. In July went to Fairbanks with Patricia Joyner to look at green infrastructure projects. Then they went to Tok to view the seedlings, later this summer they

will be planted. Will be going to the PNW meeting in December and the Tulsa Partners in Community Forestry meeting in November. They have a complimentary registration for someone to go to this meeting. Visited Cuddy Family park and the skating oval has many cottonwoods on one side which will impact the asphalt, also some birch, and aspen are in the bioswale. When the trees were removed they had to do some work to get the birch and aspen saved that. Anchorage assembly passed an ordinance banning the sale of bird cherry and reed canarygrass.

Group discussed the ordinance and implications as well as how to address invasive plants similarly at the state level. Also how does the muni add or take away different species. Alaska Pacific University has expressed interest in Tree Campus USA. They need to get UAS and UAF back on board.

Stephen – Consulted on a multigenerational park with Anchorage in the UMed district.

b. Federal

No report from Kathy. Jim brought up that money for community forestry is zeroed out in the president's budget, but some legislators are working to have it put back in.

Discussion of how this cut would play out and if it is just a reduction where would that hit.

4. Community reports

Steve O'Sullivan – Doing tour through Wasilla park with us this afternoon. He is concerned with some weed management being done on Lake Lucille that was not part of a permit and is just to remove plants not invasive species.

Isobel Roy – Doing lots of construction and landscape inspections. Landscape installation will go on till the middle of October.

Ed Leonetti – Working on various projects. In Fairbanks he has some trees planted on Ft. Wainwright, other plans were not allowed to have trees. They are working on landscape design for the medical office buildings at Providence in Palmer. Playgrounds in Anchorage, trying to get vegetation, but this is difficult because of traffic. Going to international greenhouse centers conference in Chicago next week. ASLA is doing a green infrastructure event on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August.

Paul – Busy, and a big influx in firewise work this year. But the firewise inspector with Anchorage Fire Department is only funded till September 1<sup>st</sup>. So inspections may stop and reimbursements may stop. There are also issues getting all the firewise work done before the inspector is out of funding for the season.

Nathan – Finished an inventory for Chugach Alaska Corp carbon credit project. Fire crew had a slow season in Alaska, and now they are down in Montana and Oregon. John Lundquist is headed to Willow next week to look at birch tree top die back. Looks like they have more funding for the fuel break in the Kenai to take the fuel break north to Nikiski, Kenai, Soldotna from the Sterling area.

Jud – Assembly has a tree and landscape committee they approved a retraction from mowing to deal with an inability to keep up with all the mowing. So they are mowing less and getting into other projects such as the downtown corridor. They are experimenting with ways to make it look nice even though they are not mowing regularly. They deal with woody vegetation in these areas in the winter time. Food forest grants, - he has found that working with teachers in the summer has been difficult. With school back in session this work will pick up. He is taking a different approach with the food forests, he doesn't do them with a single planting, but spreads them around so that while people use them the effort isn't concentrated. This keeps people from competing for the fruit, and harvesting before fruit is rip.

John – Has a few timber sales in the Tongass and timber sale prep work on Wrangell Island. There is a permit out to do a timber study on the Tongass where they will go through 25 different sites, with 1 acres parcels in each. They will remove specific sizes of new growth trees to send to mills and kilns to make dried 2x4 and determine if they are viable lumber for construction. This way they can determine at what age new growth needs to be in order to make viable harvest. There was a small wildfire on Chilkat in Haines and it got larger because the local state forestry was removed, and the Forest Service took too long to respond.

5. Dan Reese – Witnessed a lot of spruce bark beetle kill in the Susitna/Chulitna area. In Fairbanks the amber marked birch leaf miner is prevalent. Fairbanks North Star Borough has a preferred tree planting list, and a list of trees not to plant. These are just recommendations, but are not yet codified. The Chena River Commission is looking at doing some restoration, and there is debate about how to prevent erosion from engineering standpoint regarding use of root wads, so they are building rip rap, and adding the root wads too it. He has seen some issues with planting of willow in spots that aren't wet enough, and they should have used cottonwood mixed in because they have a better tolerance of dry sites. Nome rotary club is planting trees in Nome, and Dan mailed up a couple hundred trees in Nome. Was in Anaktuvuk pass recently with Fairbanks SWCD and they did a habitat project with the school.
6. Nan- Community food forest was built in Juneau on a sloped area, and theirs seems to be working despite being out in the open. They had a project at Auke Bay to expand parking for the harbor. The bar nearby got involved because some trees were planted that would obstruct their view, the patrons got involved and now those trees will be replaced. There is a nice set of condos on another side that were concerned about the view.  
Lee- 4H agent for the Mat-Su and is the Project Learning Tree Coordinator for UAF CES. Is interested in working with the Council on opportunities to promote PLT and other things they can do more Forestry outreach. PLT has a lot of educational materials for youth to teach kids aspects of forestry education.
7. Gino- Doing research project on bird cherry control that examines if basal bark treatments are both effective and do not leave any herbicide residues in the ground. Will be treating saplings in a lab, testing the soil, and doing field trials in Anchorage and Fairbanks this Fall. Should have results next summer. CES is also doing a spruce beetle survey in Anchorage, and a spruce bud blight survey from Portage to Wasilla these surveys are in partnership with the state forestry and State and Private Forestry.
8. Old business  
Jud – Is looking to coordinate a presentation with Kathy Wolf to come to Sitka, but it sounds like that may not happen in other areas.  
Brochure – Work that Ranya put in, but no movement has been made. We should re-evaluate the priority of the pamphlet for the council. Discussion of the information and do we want to put it in a digital platform instead of in a pamphlet form, but they need to get this out at presentations that are given too. Jud will find the document and comments and send to us and get to Gino for final formatting etc.  
Arbor Day grants – Still waiting for some reports etc.

9. New business

Partners in Community Forestry Conference – Forestry has one complimentary registration for the conference, but it doesn't cover travel etc. just registration. Steve O'Sullivan is interested in going. Discussion of would we as the council be able to spend the funds. Nan will e-mail Hans to see if we have any discretionary funds in the budget, and we could support some of the travel. Steve will check with his employer who paid his wages last year. We can discuss funding the travel at the teleconference in September.

November 10<sup>th</sup> is next meeting which is on Veterans day, discussion of moving this to November 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is a half day teleconference.

**Ed moved to move the meeting to November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Isobel seconded. Motion passed.**

Discussion of extending support for the state updating their invasive species regulations highlighting that the City of Anchorage just added species, attach the AO, and encourage the state to update their regulations and noxious species list. Gino will draft letter and give to Nan to sign and send out.

Jim, Alaska Humanities forum has an Anchorage leadership program. They do group projects, and he suggested to Pat to see which schools have gardens or could be good locations for gardens or orchards.