

ACFC MEETING

MAY 12, 2017 8:30am to 5:00 pm

550 W. 7th Ave., Anchorage, AK

Attendance

Jim Renkert
Stephen Nickel
Nathan Lojewski
Laura Charlton
Pat Leary
Hans Klausner
Dean Brown
Paul Guzenski
Dan Rees
Jud Kirkness
Steve O'Sullivan
Nan Mundy
Isobel Roy
Gino Graziano
Ed Leonetti

Not attending:
Jon Gellings
Patrick Ryan

Minutes

8:30

Minutes approval

Steve moved to approve and Nan seconded.

8:35

Treasurers Report

Not much changes, reimbursement request from last arbor day grant. Working on getting our taxes in.

Savings \$10961

Interest \$2

8:40

Dean Brown Update from the Division of Forestry and introduction of Jim Renkert Community Forestry Program Manager

Stressed the importance of the council. Helping come up with projects, and providing outreach to the public. No significant cuts to the Division of Forestry in the Governor's budget, they have lost three positions that were vacant, travel restrictions and other cuts are still in effect statewide. There are no major impacts to the program overall though. Firefighting is also well funded. Lots of changes in the Division as people retire. Now we have a larger reliance on the council for input for the newer employees that are filling in those spots that the retirees moved out from.

They filled the program manager position for DOF Jim Renkert. He has been with DNR for 26 years. Local from Anchorage, volunteered with various groups, and sports.

Jim Renkert, introduced himself and his background, worked with DNR for 25 years or more in various departments.

9:10

1. Kathy Sheehan Report

Welcome to Jim Renkert!

- a. Glad to have Jim "on board" with the Urban & Community Forestry (UCF) program – based on his experience with a wide range of partners, we're looking forward to the new ideas and approaches he will bring to this program.
- b. I'm tentatively planning to travel to AK for a week in June or July to help with Jim's transition to the Community Forestry program.

2. Thank You to Stephen Nickel!

- a. For nearly a full year, Stephen has done a great job as Acting Community Forestry Program Manager – working with the Council, a wide range of partners, his UCF counterparts in other states, AK's Division of Forestry, and the Forest Service ... while still doing much of his "regular" job's duties as well!
- b. Stephen's technical expertise plus his seemingly boundless energy and enthusiasm for community forestry has been very helpful to me – and many others, no doubt!

3. UCF Budget Updates

- a. Current year's federal budget (FY17): UCF program is funded through September (Forest Service) and longer (AK Division of Forestry).
- b. Next year's federal budget (FY18): very uncertain at this time

4. Urban Forest Connections webinar series

- a. These are monthly webinars focused on current research + practical applications related to urban and community forestry.

- b. Have an idea or request for a future webinar(s)? Please send Kathy Sheehan a description via email.
- c. Webinars are recorded and available online (most provide 1.0 ISA CEU's). Recent topics include: how urban trees affect stormwater runoff, utilizing vacant land for urban forests, monitoring growth & survival of urban trees, repurposing urban wood, how trees affect student learning at schools, etc.

5. Thank You to the Council!

The Forest Service and AK's Community Forestry program greatly appreciates your service on this Council, which advises the Community Forestry staff and the Forest Service, promotes community forestry in your local communities, reviews grant proposals, and many other tasks. Thank you for your support of community forestry in Alaska!!

9:30

Stephen Nickel Report

Stephen Nickel/Community Forestry Program report

Was on vacation in Wyoming first week of May, catching up Assembled Arbor Day Event Calendar of events around the state, Posted It to the Community Forestry Program's website, <http://forestry.alaska.gov/community/news>, and distributed media releases for Tree City/Campus/Line USA award recipients and Arbor Day Calendar. Jim and I are participating in Arbor Day celebrations at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and the Municipality of Anchorage.

2017 Orchard Grant recipients are listed below. Many thanks to Laura and Dan for the helpful insight and discussions about the projects. These projects will be completed over the summer and reports are due this fall.

- Anchorage Park Foundation/Fairview Park orchard \$900
- Government Hill Commons (Anchorage, Government hill orchard) \$600
- Harborview School (Juneau) \$660
- Lutheran Social Services of AK/ planting on school grounds \$900
- Niniichik Traditional Council \$900
- Salvation Army Clitheroe Center \$500
- Sitka Conservation Society \$900
- Takshanuk Watershed Council (Haines) \$900

Classes working on lining up some classes this fall with a speaker out of PNW. Currently looking at advance tree risk assessment and documenting evidence. Also, looking at scheduling classes earlier this summer for the landscape and arboriculture community, similar to previous years.

Early Detection and Rapid response bark beetle monitoring – Assisting the Forest Health Program with bark beetle monitoring/trapping. Set up sites in the Susitna Valley monitoring spruce beetle, and sites on Joint base Elmendorf-Richardson looking out for non-native bark beetles.

Landscape Scale Restoration grants- Fairbanks/Chena restoration project will be wrapping up this summer, the Tanana Valley Watershed Association is working on a Green Infrastructure guide, a tool that will help commercial and residential land managers learn more about nature based stormwater solutions.

Anchorage/Campbell Creek project is just ramping up. The tour this afternoon will give you a good overview of the project and a chance to check out some completed work.

Jim Renkert, second week on the job nothing to report yet.

10:00

Break

10:15

Review Committee Report on applications of open Council seats & voting process

Ed made motion to approve Seat A) Arborist- Stephen O'Sullivan, C) Muni Planner Laura Charlton, G) Small community service, Jud Kirkness, I) Industry/business, Paul Guzanski, K) member at large Pat Ryan, M) member at large, Jeremy Douse
Isobel seconded. Motion passed.

10:45

Officer elections

Chair - Nan

Vice Chair – Ed Leonetti

Secretary - Gino

Treasurer – Hans with transition to Nathan for next year

Jud moved to approve this, Isobel seconded. Motion passed.

11:00

Arbor Day Grant Committee Report

Discussion of logistics for the Fairbanks project which is Monday, and other projects

Tetlin – need to follow up about supplies line out what they will purchase. OK if they are renting hall and purchasing food because we have sufficient unrestricted funds.

Kodiak – outreach to the community, they are handing out seedlings to sustaining members of the local radio station, will do outreach with those folks, and the seedlings are purchased with unrestricted funds.

Ketchikan - \$250 is for two trees from the nursery and soil.

Fairbanks – planting at a park, and other plantings at various schools.

Ed moves to approve the Arbor day grants as proposed for \$1625 contingent on Tetlin signing, and specifying what will be purchased. Nan seconded. Motion passed.

Discussion of issue of timing, to change date of organizing Arbor day grant applications in November meeting, so RFP is out in January, then approved at the March meeting to allow for more time to review and approve in advance of Arbor Day.

Discussion of how to appropriate the funds given the mix of restricted and unrestricted funds.

Next year we should include who is eligible to apply, and it should state “All applicants” are eligible

11:30

Community Reports

Gino: New projects include developing online courses for Project Learning Tree, Spruce bud blight

(gemamyces) survey, spruce beetle survey in Anchorage. We finished a tree care survey that will inform us about Integrated Pest Management topics to cover with arborists and others caring for trees. We have an Exotic Forest Pests course available online that is worth CEU for Arborists, foresters, and pesticide applicators.

Isobel: worked with MOA parks for Tree City application, helped to compile the projects and plants that were listed and planted. Took the Exotic Forest Pests course. Discussion of application process, and that they have to apply every year, and how that happens. Right of way opening up next week, plots are around the city, and they look at frost depth. Discussion of what this is. Received a letter from an assembly person Forrest Dunbar to develop an ordinance to outlaw sale of European bird cherry. Looked at maintenance records and these haven't been planted in ROW in Anchorage since 2005. It was interesting in this process to see how diversity of tree planting has changed over time. This information is actually online. Description of this information was given.

Nan: Juneau only has two sources of trees, one gets it all from Seattle and the other gets trees from Portland. Mt. Ash hasn't been used for a long time. Juneau Urban Forest Partnership, is burning out and did not submit an application to Tree City USA. Auke Bay road construction happening. There will be an Arbor Day celebration on Monday.

Steve O'Sullivan: Started out predicting little turnout for Arbor Day, but now they have 250 school kids coming out. Smokey Bear will be out there with the kids. Will be planting bare root apple trees. Everything came late, but he got his just in time. April 3rd put on a tree care and pruning class for the Meadow lakes gardening group. Had 25 people show up. Had a discussion with a professional that was in business of removing trees.

Jud: Went around with Anchorage Parks and Grounds yesterday to see how they are doing work around town. Will be doing a tree presentation next Friday in town for basic tree care and pruning. In the city they are doing a food forest project with the Sitka Conservation Society. They have edibles as ornamentals, and are planting more things in partnership with 4H. As an Arbor Day event, May 23rd, will be planting at Heritage Centennial hall. Will be doing the planting with volunteers. State parks no longer has a presence, but some locals have picked up management of some of those parks. Doing a reclamation of the beach side at a historical park.

Dan: Spring greenup happened Monday, summer next Monday. Fairbanks Arbor Day committee is working to education school children. Will do almost a dozen plantings starting Monday through next Tuesday. Fort Wainwright will do seedling giveaway and some beaver protection work. Fairbanks SWCD will have a youth corp this year, and has some school yard habitat projects in areas outside of Fairbanks. Fairbanks North Star Borough now has a landscape design person. His neighbor is pruning some white spruce to look like Christmas trees, and has developed some very pretty looking trees.

Paul: Season is full on, but later start than last year. Has two full time employees now. Did a class at the Botanical Garden with about 8 people. Education wise it would be a good idea to get the tree service companies together. Has seen some bad pruning practices such as the Anchorage Baptist Temple, old pruning of birch trees that shouldn't have been pruned to make shapes.

Hans: Working on Arbor Day with the radio station to show proper planting techniques, and an interview on the radio. It would be nice to have something at these events that promote the council such as a hat or hoodie. Kodiak for the past 8-10 years has moderate scale industrial logging, they have not pulled out of Kodiak. They are now focusing on replanting/reforesting with species. They are planting things that are good forage for deer and otherwise will help the people in villages. They are putting crews out at the refuge to manage invasive species, and they are doing vegetation monitoring to understand berry crops for bear foraging and subsistence. Looking at how do mild versus hard winters affect the berry crops based on deer forage etc.

Pat: Will be taking pamphlets around town to various nurseries. Several people asked Stephen for more of those.

Nathan: Fire crew started, they are hiring a youth crew out of Seward. Deploying beetle traps in Port Graham, but the lures didn't make it. Gearing up for another Carbon credit inventory this summer. Have been working on pre-inventory for various landowners, and found a bunch of dead spruce aphids.

Sterling fuel break, and BIA called up and they needed to get him more funds. They are now turning that Fuel break North up to Nikiski. Saturday is the SAF tree sale at REI. Went to Ketchikan for the wood energy conference.

Laura: One of the SAF people on her tree board, said prunus padus has a bad name and shouldn't be planted anywhere. SAF plants Douglas Fir and they are removing some hazard trees near beaches.

Working on work plans with the tree board.

Ed – lots going on with trees in Fairbanks, ASLA has a challenge grants that are being awarded today. 12:30

Break for

lunch 1:30

Campbell Creek Restoration

Tour 4:30

Head back to Meeting

room 5:00

Adjourn