

Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting

January 25, 2018; 6:00pm-7:00pm
DNR, Large Conference Room, Fairbanks

Minutes

Attendees:

State Employees

Paul Keech
Jim Schwarber
Peter Talus (via phone)
Tim Dabney (phone)
Todd Nichols (ADF&G)

Public

Cam Webb
John Yarie

CAC Members (Representing)

Dan Rees, Act. Chair (Private Forest)
Milt Behr (Mining Industry)
Jason Knoles- (Forest Industry)
Fabian Keirn (via phone -Native Comm.)
Brad Cox (Value-added Processing)
Tom Nerbonne (Upper Tanana seat)
Chris Stark (Environmental Interests)
Reed Morisky (Tourism Industry)
Mike Spindler (Fish & Wildlife Interests)
Kristin Timm (via phone -Recreation)

Minutes from the previous meeting on October 19, 2017 were approved with no corrections.

Announcements:

Three CAC members were reappointed to three-year terms:

- Jason Knoles – Forest Industry
- Chris Stark – Environmental Interests
- Fabian Keirn – Native Community; and

One new CAC member was appointed to a three-year term:

- Mike Spindler– Fish & Wildlife Interests

Joint SAF / ANFC Spring 2018 Symposium will be held on April 12-15, 2018

Board of Forestry Meeting by Teleconference on Feb. 23, 2018

New Business: John Yarie, retired from UAF as their last Forestry Professor, presented on the status of Natural Resource/Forestry programs at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Lots of changes at UAF. UAF lost its Forestry Program accreditation; UAF may pursue a Natural Resources Program accreditation – though that is a multi-year effort, if pursued. There is still a Minor option in Forestry; with 5 courses required that support becoming a Certified Forester. Current program name is “Natural Resources and Environment Program.” Years of budget cuts and retired seats going unfilled have taken a toll on the program offerings. Unsure who will be teaching – even the Forest Service is having to provide some forestry course work to get new foresters started in the field. The former Cooperative Extensive Service was amalgamated into the Natural Resources Program as one unit. This has led to some problems; plus, budgets are declining. Bright spot is enrollment into Natural Resource programs is increasing.

Old Business:

Update on the Fairbanks/Delta Area by Paul Keech, Area Forester

- Fairbanks/Delta Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales (FYSTS) is out for review until Feb 9th
 - Several copies of FYSTS provided to CAC
- Currently 30 operators; 6 sales in the Fall auction
- Timber roads affected by erosion from wet summer
- RFQ for spruce seedlings garnered no bidders; British Columbia getting all seedling produced
 - Looking for other sources: Risses; Material Center potential
- Training -related efforts for fire season beginning
- Delta has 8 active operators
- Delta West logging road extended 2.5 miles; deck timber from clearing will be sold to public:
 - 5 to 10 cords per deck; total 140 cords to be sold.
- 73 acres roller-chopped for grouse and moose habitat
- DOF continues to work with the borough on the Pete Simpson or “Hasting” Road; project is moving ahead; Borough about to grant easement once road is surveyed
- Public reporting timber trespass and theft

Tok Area Update by Pete Talus

- The Tok FYSTS revision is underway; release date not set (Five Year Schedule Timber Sales)
- Winter operations; timber sales along Tok, Moon Lake, and Porcupine Ridge
- DOF meeting with local school district this month about biomass fuel for next 5 years
- Moon Lake access is in to personal use firewood area and for smaller operators
- Planning Spring timber auctions

Unsanctioned wood harvest, selling of wood cut with personal use permit, and various endemic ‘timber theft’ occurring far and wide was discussed. Lack of enforcement authority by DOF hinders limiting timber trespass operations. Many operators do follow proper procedures; their biggest complaint is the required “commercial liability insurance” which may cost \$60 month, depending on provider.

Public Comments: None

CAC member comments: Many had no comments to share

- Mike Spindler mentioned his association with the NW Boreal Landscape Conservation Cooperative for addressing multi-party issues; with a focus on biomass sustainability.
- Milt thanked Kevin Meany of DOF for his well-received presentation on the TVSF to the early morning Alaska Miner’s Association Breakfast last month.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for October **25, 2018** in Fairbanks; same time and location.

Possible topics for next meeting include: Next steps for Hastings Road and timber; Outlook for Firewood Supplies; Develop or prepare a 'briefing packet' for new CAC members on FRPA, DOF timber sale program, etc. Try to coordinate release of FYSTS (and BIF/FLUPs) docs for CAC to also review and comment near the close of 30-day public review period.

Discussion of ways for increasing public engagement with CAC: F&G Advisory Committees; though CAC outreach to their constituents, etc.; Convene a firewood cutting/harvesters workshop to share ideas and concerns

Meeting adjourned about 7:05 pm.

TVSF CAC website: http://forestry.alaska.gov/tvsf_committee.htm