

Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting

January 11, 2016; 6:00pm-9:00pm

DNR, Large Conference Room

Fairbanks

Minutes – APPROVED on 4/14/16

Attendees:

State Employees

Doug Hanson
Tom Paragi
Tim Dabney
Jim Schwarber
Kelsey Stybr (DMLW)

Public

Stacy Snyder-TRDMA
Glen Holt-UAF-CES
David Jonas

CAC Members (Representing)

Tom Malone (Forest Science)
Dan Rees (Private Forest User)
Milt Behr (Mining Industry)
Jacquie Goss (Lower Tanana Valley)
Fabian Keirn (Native Community)
Brad Cox (Valued-added Processing)
Chris Stark (Environmental Interests)
Reed Morisky (Tourism Industry)
Paul Karczmarczyk (Fish & Wildlife Interests)

Minutes from the previous meeting October 15, 2015 were approved.

Announcements:

Jim Schwarber- Marty Freeman contacted him about the Review of Standards which is now transitioning to the implementation stage. Nominations are being accepted.

Glen Holt- UAF-CES will be having a firewood workshop on February 20th at the North Pole public library 12-4pm. Look for fliers.

New Business:

- Election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair
 - o Tom Malone voted Chair
 - o Dan Reese voted Vice Chair
- Northern Region personnel changes and structure of organization
 - o Tim Dabney is officially the State Regional Forester
 - o Regional consolidation and there are now five areas:
 - Southeast: Haines/Juneau/Ketchikan
 - Kenai-Kodiak
 - Mat-Su/Palmer/McGrath
 - Tok/Copper River
 - Fairbanks/Delta
 - Paul Keech officially hired as the Fairbanks/Delta Area Forester
 - o Governor's office decided to institute travel restrictions and a hiring freeze
 - Departments now need to follow a waiver process for exceptions
 - Fore protection is not effected and positions will be filled

- DOF is hoping to get approval to hire for the Delta FMO (season) after interviews. They also hope the person hired will also take on resource forester duties to work on timber/fuel wood projects to relieve personnel pressure
- DOF is confident that they will get approved to hire for the Southeast Area Forester because it is a revenue generating position
- Question: Since the Southeast is a revenue generating region can it sustain positions?
 - o Timber sale receipts have an \$850,000 cap and the DOF can use \$300,000 on putting in culverts and the like.
 - o It takes \$5-600,000 to pay salaries, so DOF (and Southeast) cannot stand more state funded cuts and continue a timber sales program.
- Question: Can DOF justify area forester travel under the new travel restrictions.
 - o Some travel can be approved by the director/commissioner
 - o Forestry program in the interior doesn't produce enough funds to fund management of the timber sales program (unlike what the Southeast is currently able to do)
 - o An argument for the interior being a revenue generator cannot be made, so the argument being made for travel is that even though interior doesn't make the state money it does support private industry in the interior.
- Comments: CAC needs to help push legislature not to cut DOF any more

Old Business:

- Dough Hanson
 - o The review of standards has been finished and the report has been given to the Board of Forestry. The changes from the Science Committee are:
 - Natural Regeneration Standards:
 - Change definitions of "commercial operation" and "commercial timber harvest" to accurately reflect meaning of harvest measurements.
 - There were no statutory changes. All regulation changes:
 - o Stocking numbers for reforestation
 - 450 trees/acre- keep the same
 - o 80% of plots need to meet stocking standards instead of 90% due to patchiness of natural forests in Alaska
 - o Natural versus planted regeneration
 - Land owner needs to indicate number of trees shooting for after regeneration. The committee wanted to more to be included in the worksheet require for reporting numbers.
 - Current standards require 450 trees in 7 years after harvest and need to survive for 2 years. The committee is willing to extend it to 12 years based on information from the worksheet plan of operations.
 - Artificial Regeneration Standards:
 - Currently can only use seed from the area to be planted. The Committee wants to add that you can use seedlings from 10 degrees latitude south of the area to be planted.

- Some research has shown that due to climate change issues, seedlings from more southern regions have shown to be successful in some
- Paul Keech provided the Fairbanks-Delta Area update. He gave a personal introduction to the CAC.
 - Delta: has been moving dead wood rather than green wood the last few years due to fire salvage. That is starting to dwindle (Mississippi, Hundred Miles, and Healy Fire.) Last fall December 8th 3/6 sales were sold. The three sales left over and the Mississippi sales have gone over the counter.
 - Fairbanks: The borough permits/easement has slowed access to the Hastings Fire salvage. There were three salvage sales in Salcha on October 27th. UAF and DOF have been coordinating to identify and lay out timber sales on UA land. Superior Pellet has asked to hold off on their contract for the biomass sale due to the demand in pellets dropping. 10 miles of Cache Creek and 20 miles of Standard Creek have been graded. DOF is also working on grading/graveling the Two Rivers Road. 40,000 seedlings have been ordered and are expected in July to plant 100 acres. The Salcha salvage area is waiting to use to come up for a road to be put in. FIA project will start in the interior of Alaska with a pilot project the summer of 2016 and implementation in the summer of 2017.
- Peter Talus gave the Tok area report via phone. Jeff will be back at the end of January. Tok forestry is fully staffed. They sold 82 firewood permits which was lower than their 5 year average. They are waiting on ice to get across the Tanana for commercial and the Moon Lake sales. There was one new salvage sale with Young's Timber from the 2004 Porcupine Dome burn. 200 acres for the roller chopper for moose habitat project has been completed. The rough grouse project has completed about 80/90 acres.

Public Comments:

No comments.

CAC member comments:

Tom Malone is going to make contacts for a drone presentation for the next meeting.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for **April 14, 2016** in Fairbanks.

Meeting adjourned about 7:30pm.

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