

# Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting

## *Minutes*

May 15, 2014; 6:00 – 7:51 PM

DNR, large conference room  
Fairbanks

*The call-in number for the meeting is 1.800.315.6338, access code 8473#*

6:00pm Introduction of CAC Members and guests – Tom Malone, CAC Chair

### CAC Members Present

Tom Malone, Forest Science  
John O'Brien, Mining Industry  
John Rusyniak, Recreation Community (conference call)  
Reed Morisky, Tourism Industry  
Fabian Keirn, Native Community  
Al Pagh, Forest Industry  
Brad Cox, Value-Added Processing  
Thomas Nerbonne, Upper Tanana Valley  
Chris Stark, Environmental Interests

### CAC Members Absent

Paul Karczmarczyk, Fish and Wildlife Interests  
Jim Sackett, Lower Tanana Valley  
Dan Rees, Private Forest User

### Division of Forestry (DOF) Staff

K.T. Pyne  
Doug Hanson  
Jeff Hermanns (conference call)

### Guests

Alice Pharr  
Priscilla Pharr  
Todd Nichols  
Lance Smith  
Tom Paragi  
Glen Holt

6:05pm Review and approve minutes of March 3, 2014 meeting – Tom Malone  
Correction spelling Maisch (pg 5), minutes approved.

6:10pm **ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
SAF State meeting in Juneau May 15-17

6:15pm **NEW BUSINESS**

Protection procedures for streams/buffers near fires – (KT Pyne) Jim Durst & Tom Kurth not in attendance; will attend a future meeting. Handouts were available for heavy equipment policy for crossing streams with as low impact as possible. Forestry has a general permit (statewide) for water/stream crossing for heavy equipment during fire response. These permits call out the points that need to be considered when crossing streams or water removal in regards to spawning fish. Fire suppression lines should be brought straight to the buffer. The policy is just bringing more heightened awareness in salmon spawning areas as well as elodea infestation. These protection procedures will be tested in 2014 season and then refined for the following year.

Wood supply for Fairbanks pellet mill – Doug Hanson

There was a request in November 26, 2013 from Superior Pellet fuel for value added timber sale. We put together a suite of 20 sales on the five year schedule; the proposal was given, still waiting for response from Superior Pellet fuel. They are looking for mostly spruce but that is something that we don't have in huge supply. These were mixed timber sales with spruce/birch or spruce/aspens mix. They might use more aspen with their new pellet log product that just came on line. Most of these sales have not been field checked. 750 acres per year in mixed stands. Yields about 45 tons of spruce per acre. They'll either need to find a use for the birch component or just not purchase the birch. Their demand is 75% white spruce. Minimum diameter they can use is a 6in DBH. The sales are all within the Fairbanks area. They are requesting 27,000 tons per year but they are currently using 12,000 tons per year. The majority of these sales are close to the existing road set. A best interest finding and forest management plan would be issued for each sale.

Reforestation standards review- Doug Hanson

Committee has been formed to look over these reforestation standards. Handout about this was available. Currently 450 trees per acre seedlings that have to be on site 7 years after logging (interior & south central region). There have been questions on if these practices make sense. If changes need to be made, the suggestions will go to the board of forestry and a technical committee will be formed to go over how to implement the practices in the field. They will be looking at the time-line, mix

regeneration, amount of trees, distribution, birch and browsing, invasive species, and regeneration surveys.

Value Added Processing – Brad Cox

With the decrease in staffing, who is going to lay out the plans for these timber sales. It is hard to invest if you don't know who is going to help manage these timber sales. This is a big concern for the industry. If there is no boots on the ground what is the point?

Tom Malone- Are other agencies experiencing the same staffing issues that positions are not filled when people retire? We'll ask Chris Maisch to talk to the CAC about this issue.

Lan Smith- Sales are coming out late and this is a result of short staff with Forestry.

Chris Stark- Need to talk to elected officials to committing funds to have these positions filled.

KT Pyne- Have more of a five year plan of the whole area, this will assist in the timber harvest planning process. DOF is looking into building up the large project team. If we get some of these increased sales we will look at funding for extra position/mobile assist. There reviews for blow-downs for Quartz Lake & Pogo Road area.

Tom Malone- There is little oversight on theft from timber sales.

6:45pm

## OLD BUSINESS

Update on Hastings and Cache Creek Roads – Kathryn Pyne

Forest engineer drove a portion of the Cache Creek road, only got out to about 4 mile due to break-up. Portions of the road do not meet FERPA standards. He is working out a plan to bring the road up to FERPA standards. This is not title 17 standards. This will be Tanana Valley State Forest Road standards. Will need to work with the borough to get this road up to standards. The ditches need to be redone as well as the culverts need to be redone. There are concerns about a trail that crosses the road, this will need to be looked at further for signage and land status for possible reroute. For plowing/road maintenance will probably need to go to a road use agreement.

Pete Simpson Memorial road is still in review. The borough has requested from the State that the easement be dedicated. Because of this, it is in DMLW Realty Services review to work for a process for agreement. Hayes creek is at the very bottom of the bluff. Part of the suppression was rehabbed and portion of the road was minimal rehab.

Alice Pharr- The Pete Simpson Memorial road has been covered over and blocked.

If access is developed it will have to meet FERPA standards. Borough is looking for 100 ft easement. Forest road would be 16 ft-20ft easement for drivable surface. This will be a resource extraction road, meeting FERPA standards. Both Cache Creek road & Hastings no decisions have been made yet.

CAC recruitment for an open seat – Tom Malone

The Lower Tanana Valley seat is open. There were public announcements about this and one person was recommended. Chris Maisch is reviewing the application.

Update on large biomass projects in Tok and Delta – Jeff Hermanns

No action on either of these projects since March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Need to make a decision if it will be advertised with these changes. If there is no other interest for the large biomass, then we'll move forward on the project. For the military biomass project they are actively looking at feasibility.

Delta Area Update – none

There will be no hiring of a replacement Forester II in Delta.

Fairbanks Area Update – Kathryn Pyne

Resource Forester position will not be filled. A Forester I position currently will go over to a large project team. There were some vacant positions and it was decided to hold off filling those positions because of budget cuts.

Five Year schedule and forest resource plan. Six sales comments are being compiled for forest resource plans. There is increased interest in terms of our sales.

We're in red flag status. Several human caused fires. Possible El Nino, this would trigger lightening fires. Delta had two hold-overs that came to life from last season. Statewide, we are in drought.

Tok Area Update – none

Best interest finding at Eagle blow-down. Meeting on May 16, 2014 if there will be access through the Tanacross lands.

Insect infestation isn't too bad as of right now. Trapping and removal of dead wood is happening in Tanacross area.

7:40pm

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Priscilla Pharr- What can we do to get the radio stations to keep on the hour updates on fire information? Can we work with Forestry & DNR to get the information out there more?

KT Pyne- Public Information officer can work on this.

Alice Pharr- Wants the public comments from Hastings fire meetings.

7:48pm

## CAC MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Tom Malone- The issue of roads has been coming up more in the last two years and we'll be dealing with this for a while. We need to talk about the Forestry personnel issue, this is important.

7:49pm

## SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014.

7:51pm

## ADJOURN