

**Tanana Valley State Forest Citizen's
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2014 6:00pm- 7:00pm**

Attendees:

State Employees

Al Edgren
Jim Schwarber
Tim Dabney
Paul Maki
Kevin Meany
Doug Hanson

CAC Members (Representation)

Tom Malone (Forest Science)
Thomas Nerbonne (Upper Tanana Valley)
Dan Rees (Private Forest User)
John O'Brien (Mining Industry)
Jacquie Goss (Lower Tanana Valley)
Al Pagh (Forest Industry)
Fabian Keirn (Native Community)
John Rusyniak (Recreation)
Brad Cox (Value-added Processing)
Chris Stark (Environmental Interests)
Reed Morisky (Tourism Industry)

Public

Bart Garber
Cassie Pinkle
Jeremy Douse
Jason Knoles
Greg Stoddard
Rod Boyce

Minutes:

-John Rusyniak- Review & Approve September 25 2014 CAC meeting minutes
-John O'Brien- Second

Announcements:

-SAF State meeting in Fairbanks March 25-27, 2015
- Public Review of Preliminary BIF for long term timber sale in
- Fairbanks area due by January 16, 2015
- Comment on Salcha Flood Salvage sales ends Jan. 9, 2015

New Business:

- First meeting of 2015 will need to have elections held for chair and vice-chair. Four positions terms are going to expire.

Old Business:

DOF support from CAC, Forest Products industry, and Legislators

- Five positions were lost in the Northern Region along with budget cuts.
- We should write a letter to the legislators outlining our concerns about the budget cuts.
- More importantly the forest industry should be voicing their concerns to the legislators on how these budget cuts will affect them.
- Tom Malone drafted a letter to send out. The State Forester will be informed of the content of the letter.
- Cassie Pinkle- Increasing general funds to increase the funds in sales from stumpage.
- DOF is doing a great job, but so much more could be done with more staff.
- Worry that overseeing of personal use firewood cutting permits will fall through with the limited staff.
- Without oversight of firewood cutting, grassland is increasing.

Topic for future meetings: fire suppression, Roads to Resources

Delta Area Update- Al Edgren

- This fall we sold our woodlots. 1.5 miles of road built and cord wood stacked on side of the road. Took in \$13,000 in revenues.
- Patched up erosion spots on Quartz Lake road.
- Notice of timer sales. Sales next Wednesday of Gilles creek and Mississippi Creek fire salvage.
- Estimated end product value = \$427,200
- 31 active sales, 17 operators, 9,338 MBF, 4,177 CCF, 3,839 cords, worth ~ \$413,521

Fairbanks Area Update- Paul Maki

- Recruiting for Fairbanks area forester
- October we sold 6 sales, 1 spruce, 2 birch, 3 mixed. 220 acres total
- 4 are all-season access, 2 winter access
- 4 sales sold, totaling 1,216 CCF of sawlogs and 764 CCF of fuelwood on 124 acres
- Two unsold mixed species sales are available over the counter.
- Other 15 sales are available over the counter. 6 are spruce (all winter access only), 5 birch (2 winter access, 3 all season), 4 are mix (3 winter access, 1 all-season)
- 76 active contracts, 1/3 have current field activity
- Firewood permits 172 since end of last quarter. 632 cords.
- 1442 burn permits were issued. 7/1-9/30
- Planted 44000 white spruce seedlings on 6 units totally 177 acres.
- 10 bushels of white spruce cones were picked.
- Currently working on spring sales auctions
- Preliminary BIF for the biomass sale.
- Preliminary BIF for salvage 1.4 Mmbf of flood-killed spruce and balsam poplar near Salcha.

Tok Area Update- Tim Dabney

- Eagle trail fire salvage, preliminary BIF out for public comment
- 5800 acres, 10.7mil BF
- Blowdown salvage 1600 acres within two existing firewood sales
- 2 green timber sales on 430 acres
- 7 contractors working on 16 active timer sales
- Youngs timber recently purchased Pendu saw mill.
- Tok Forestry partners with Gateway school district for providing biomass.
- Recruiting for fire office manager in Tok and Delta

Public Comments

- Cassie Pinkle- Don't forget that the DEC is taking public comment through 12/19 for the borough SIP. Commercial firewood sales need to register through DEC.
- Greg Stoddard- Two Rivers Dog Mushing- Ongoing efforts to deal with trail access issues of traditional trails. A lot of sales are being accessed for winter only access. Public is noticing maintenance for timber sales, but not maintenance for trails and trail access. If there is an opportunity for bypass trails willing to work with the State for that in the future.
- Kevin Meany- Working on mapping these trails.
- Rod Boyce- Two Rivers Dog Mushing – Glad the wood road is there, but seen over the years that when the borough put in the subdivision marketing it good for mushing, and continue to mark trails. Safety issue with continued marketing and encouragement of access through the wood road by mushers. This is a user conflict that doesn't seem to be getting addressed.

Next Meeting:

- February 12th, 6pm