

Tanana Valley State Forest Citizen's Advisory Meeting

September 25, 2014 6:00pm- 9:00pm

Attendees:

State Employees

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

CAC Members (Representation)

Tom Malone (Forest Science)
Thomas Nerbonne (Upper Tanana Valley)
Dan Rees (Private Forest User)
John O'Brien (Mining)
Jacquie Goss (Lower Tanana Valley)
Al Pagh (Forest Industry)
Fabian Keirn (Native Community)
John Rusyniak (Recreation)

Public

Laurie Canutila
Ryne Olson
Stacy Snyder
Craig Stoddard
Cassie Pinkle
Riley Nyche

Minutes:

- John O'Brien- Review & Approve May 15 2014 CAC meeting minutes
- Dan Rees- Second

Announcements:

- SAF State Meeting in Fairbanks in spring 2015 – End March/Early April **Will Keep Posted**
- Public Review of Eastern Tanana Area Plan Deadline- Friday November 14th
- Forest Sports Festival at UAF farm October 4th at 10am. No Fee/Advance Sign up JOIN IN!!

New Business:

Update on Staff changes at the State Division of Forestry (Tim Dabney)

- Staff Changes for DOF:
 - Tim Dabney –New Northern Region Forester, NR includes the following areas: FAF/DAF/CRVF/TAF
 - KT Pyne- moved from the Fairbanks Area Forester to a Fire & Aviation Planner
 - Paul Maki- Acting FAF Forestry- Advertising Position 60 day listing Oct.2
- Large Project Team- Multi Regional Task Force
 - Back in NR
 - Filling Team Leader- Deadline 10/10/14
 - OMB pulled 5 PCN's,2NR & 3CR-Position & Money that Funds Large project team
- Vacant Forester PCN from DAF- Team to assist

Tim Dabney's Goals:

Boots on the ground- Maintain & Increase
Continue to maintain volume

- More Money, more Efficient, and more Staff
- Kevin Meany will remain in the field
- FAF and UAF met on Sept 26 to discuss: more Efficient, longer Contracts, and timber sales

Large Project Team consists of:

- 2 GIS staff- Dan & Tom
- 4 Resources-Doug, Paul, Kevin & Lead
- Large Project Team will manage Timber Sales
- Efficiencies associated with using well experienced team
- Large project, to date hasn't sold
- No new project as of yet
- Same People- Day to day business
- Work with FMO's & develop a plan

Tom Malone-

- 3 areas need more resource people on the ground. It's unrealistic to think they can do a good job. We need to talk to the legislators, the State needs to fund forestry or give it up.

Tim Dabney

- Open to hearing Solutions
- One person doing everything for a sale
- Looking into additional funding sources
- Infrastructure needed to support all users needs as well as our own

Tom- we acknowledge that this is not Forestry's fault, Legislative issue.

Two Rivers Mushers Association: Trail/Road proposal

Greg Stoddard/Stacy Phoenix-Snyder, President

- Some trails being impacted by timber sales
- 5 year plan for land use related to timber. Kevin & Tom Lesatz
- TRMA would like to develop bypass trails; 18 mile
- Mushers-DOF can mutually co-exist
- Borough has cut bypass trails
- Volunteers will develop the trails but they need permission

Comments

Kevin- Two Rivers Road

- New operator as of this year , Multiple miles to go
- Parallel trail potential
- Other parties could be interested

Dan Rees-

- State Parks has a Trail Grant Program which could help

Paul Maki

- Permitted activity?
- State ML&W may be able to manage state parks

Greg Stoddard, TRMA

- We propose a by-pass trail from Anaconda Creek drainage to Rich Trail
- It is flagged & GPS'd to NE portion after Y
- There is black spruce on north facing slopes
- Trail should be 4 ft. wide; 5 to 7 miles of trail
- ½ miles due east from Little Chena to the fire break from 2004

Fabian Keirn- Would they need a permit due to using equipment?

- Yes, for equipment
- DPO not for a trail
- Need Plan, check before using equipment
- This area is being looked at within the Tanana Valley State Forestry. Not Chena Recreation area.

Tom- Can Forestry help walk them through process?

- Unanimous, - Kevin will keep TVSF CAC informed of progress & outcome
- Trails being cleared for logging, different language for contracts

Jim Schwarber-

- Communication huge
- contract language safety.
- Signage option- Positive outcome comes from willingness on both sides. Available to help informally

Al Pagh-

- For Dog Musher and log trucks, the road crossings must be placed in visible areas from both directions

Kevin-

- Brush clearing for sight distance more often

Old Business:

Delta Area Update- Al Edgren

- Less Foresters – More work, doing more & getting nothing done
- Struggle with access, Delta is spoiled
- Quartz Lake road erosion will be patched this fall
- Quartz Lake road will be extended
- DAF sold decks of wood for -\$40-\$45-→ \$13,000 in 2 hours
- Dry Creek – Tok Project land clearing to head off bug problems around Dry Creek; making Dry Creek fire safe
- Mississippi Fire, Large amounts of White Spruce & Birch already down
 - Access- Winter - from 20 year old trail
 - Ice bridge mid Nov-Mid March Early April

Fairbanks Area- Paul Maki

- Timber activity- 6 sales will be offers at the October auction: 2 Birch,1 Spruce,3 Mixed Species
- 14 Existing and 4 new lodging outfits
- Future Forest- 176 Areas, Standard Creek, Nenana Ridge

- Picked 10 Bushels of Spruce cones, Upland & riparian areas. Send cones to Plant Material Center in Palmer to process & hold until ready
 - Necessary to renew old stock of seeds
- Rain → Put off road maintenance
- Goldstream bridge repairs finished in July
- Working with Ed Soto- Engineer in Palmer- road layout & construction
- Personal Use Permits-
 - 411 Permits =1500 Cords
 - Kevin opening new personal use areas near Salcha & Nenana

. Doug Hanson

- High value-added sale being prepared for Superior Pellets, would consist of mixed spruce/hardwood timber
- The Superior Pellet sale would be a 5-year sale period containing 2 units per year in the following areas: Standard East, Mosquito Creek, Bonanza Creek, Flat Creek, Dunbar, Salcha, & Democratic Creek
- Large Project team may be renamed to something more applicable to the northern region
- Layout work complete in Pogo area; will sell sales at an auction
- Mississippi Fire area sales are complete though not laid out, only on map; 8 Units 1/3 actually standing; will sell at auction.
- Flood killed sales up river from Salcha River mouth along the Tanana River; will recon and offer for personal and commercial use; 200-300 acres.

Comments

John O'Brien-

- Pogo-Closed for public use?
 - Goes through TVSF and is open for comm. timber activities along that road. Hopefully before next TVSF CAC
- Underware spruce- Steve Christianson.
- Seedlings- Nenana share next year

John O'Brien-

- DOF policy for locked gates?
 - Generally open unless something warrants closure

Al Pagh- Would like to see timber sales locked

John O'Brien/Tom Malone-

- Cone Years- Cycle not to do with the rain. The weather a year ago caused the good cone year. Buds are set in August to be reproductive or for branch elongation for the next growing season

Tok Area Update:

Tim Dabney for Jeff Hermanns

- Talked with DNR land and is satisfied with the changes made in the ETAP plan out for public review
- The next big fire wood sale and supply have a forestry designation. Hope the State would quickly sign the plan if there are no appeals.
- Believe an agreement with Tanacross Corporation will be reached soon.

- Will proceed with the public review of the Eagle Trail salvage sale BIF that will supply the firewood for the next 5 years.
- Concerned with the continued direction of not having sufficient foresters on the ground to do all the work to produce timber sales and firewood and properly manage and administer these sales
- It looks to be a very busy winter with firewood with an increase in electric rates and very expensive fuel oil.

Public Comments:

- Cassie Pinkle from Superior Pellet Fuel- Thanked large project team.
- Both products will qualify for value added. Birch Pellet Logs
- Industry needs to communicate with Chamber in order to not get overlooked.

CAC Members:

- Tom Nerbonne – Thank you to Doug Hansen for all he does
- Dan Rees “Boots on the ground” DOF communication with legislature about positions needed.
- Tom- Advisory committee needs to access & communicate needs of forestry *Next meeting Topic*
- Look into wood distribution in Tanana. Majority is native owned, Tozitna lands
 - Doug Hanson – Inventory shows some state land/timber
- Fabian-would like a map of trail of the Two Rivers area- Kevin will get map.

Next Meeting:

- After Election
- Tom, Contact industry people prior to meeting after Election. Invite legislative reps to attend next meeting.
- No scheduling meeting around Board of Forestry.
- December 11, 2014
- Paul, include Chris Maisch if representing CAC to legislators
- KT’s literature presented last meeting. Tom Kurth & Jim Durst suppression activity- ask them to present at next meeting
- Roads to resources- Paul Karczmarczyk present next meeting
- Road to Nenana- Jacquie Goss present next meeting