

Alaska Arbor Day

53rd Anniversary Celebration

Alaska Community Forest Council

PO Box 241282, Anchorage, Alaska 99524

November 15, 2019, 9:00 - 1:00pm

Atwood Building 550 West 7th Ave, Conference Room 1450

Teleconference line: 1-800-315-6338

Access Code: 08465#

ACFC Fall Meeting Minutes

Compiled by Josh Hightower

Pre-Meeting: Group discussed AK wildfire stats for 2019 season, possible damage to seed bank/organic layer due to high intensity fires, Pat requested summary of 2019 fire season

Call to order: 9:30 AM

A. Introductions

i. Council Member Attendees

1. Patrick Ryan (Member-at-Large)
2. Mitch Michaud
3. Nan Mundy (Chair)
4. Gino Graziano (Secretary)
5. Nathan Lojewski (Treasurer)
6. Jeremy Douse (Member-at-Large)
7. Meg Burgett

ii. State Attendees

1. Jim Renkert
2. Josh Hightower

iii. Guests

1. Devany Plentovich, Taylor Asher (Alaska Energy Authority)
2. Chelsea Ward-Waller (Municipality of Anchorage)
3. Courtney Osolnik, Sam Bundy (Georgetown Tribal Council)

B. Any changes or additions to agenda

C. Treasurers Report

- i. Discussed moving up to \$5,000 into a CD – Nathan and Nan to research
- ii. Checking Balance: 10/21/19- \$13,805.86 with \$530.50 in outstanding Checks
- iii. Savings Balance: 10/31/19- \$1,502.89
- iv. Mitch Motion, Meg Seconds – Move \$5,000 into CD – Motion passes



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D. Program Reports

1. Federal

- i. No Report – Federal POC not in attendance

2. State

- i. Jim Renkert – DOF is planning a seedling distribution event at REI in May coinciding with REI's spring sale. The idea is for this to be a large event with several pop-up tents and educational/outreach exhibits from DOF, UAF, MOA, etc. DOF exploring the idea of using funds from the Arbor Day Foundation Community Recovery Program to host a tree planting event at Valley of the Moon Park. Discussed challenges of planting small seedlings (mowers, moose, etc) and explored the possibility of planting seedlings in pots to grow/harden off for 1-3 years before planting.

E. Old Business

1. Prunus padus and Prunus virginiana resolution

- i. Division of Agriculture is working on a statewide ban

2. ACFC open seats

- i. Looking for a rural Alaska representative. The Georgetown Tribal Council has a potential candidate and will provide him with details on the council.

3. Anchorage School District tree reduction

- i. General consensus was that a 30 foot tree removal zone around schools is unnecessarily large – suggested amending to 10-15 feet. More emphasis should be placed on planting the right tree in the right place. Waldorf Schools were suggested as a model.

4. Street Trees

F. New Business

1. Recommended Alaska Landscape Trees vs. Arbor Day Foundation recommendations. Josh Hightower, Community Assistant Forester

- i. The Arbor Day Foundation provides a list of suitable landscape plants based on user zip code. The suitability of many plants on the list is questionable. DOF building list of indoor plants suitable for rural Alaska – Council to provide recommendations.

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2. Arbor Day Foundation, Community Recovery Program. Jim Renkert
 - i. Arbor Day Foundation reached out and has interest in providing funds to AK via Community Recovery Program. Funds can be used for insect/disease, and fire damage.
3. Registration monies, September Jim Flott classes



G. Presentations & Guests

- a. 10:00 Biomass in Alaska, Devany Plentovich, Alaska Energy Authority
 - i. Taylor Asher – AK Energy Authority: Biomass Program. The energy authority is interested in collaboration with DNR and Georgetown Tribal Council to promote use of biomass heating systems. They have prefeasibility studies ongoing throughout the state, and offer decision making tours from Anchorage to Tok.
 - ii. Devany Plentovich – Discussed biochar and applications in Alaska. Interested in contacts involved in peony production, council suggested Dr. Minchu Zhang at UAF.
- b. 10:45 Anchorage Climate Action Plan, Chelsea Ward-Waller, MOA
 - i. Discussed Anchorage Climate Action Plan. Fairbanks, Juneau, Seward, and Homer have climate action plans in progress. Municipality of Anchorage is working on creating an Anchorage Climate Action Council, which will hopefully be able to maintain program through administration changes.
- c. Native Village of Georgetown, Climate Adaptability Plan
 - i. Modeled after Anchorage Climate Action Plan. Georgetown currently has only 3 community members, so the plan is geared towards creating economic opportunities and increasing population. Looking for collaboration with AK Energy authority and DNR.
- d. Martin Leonard, REI Outdoor Program Market Coordinator
 - i. Not in attendance

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H. Community/Council Member Reports (3 min/each)

- i. Mitch—Surveying people locally about *Prunus padus*. Working with Rotary Club on a project for next year. City of Soldotna is interested in reforestation projects.
- ii. Nan – Juneau is taking a new approach on Arbor Day this year. Having trouble working with facilities personnel and raising funds – will speak with city council and mayor.
- iii. Nathan – Performed site visit of community orchard at Port Graham. Trees have been planted around community centers, etc.
- iv. Patrick – Planted 60+ seedlings (spruce, larch, pine, birch) at Campbell Creek with Clark Middle School. Acquired over 100 small white spruce seedlings and has planted many – these will be ready for distribution in a few years. The botanical garden conference is coming up, hopes to do a tree talk and informational booth. Working on species selection for replacement of spruce/*padus* – will collaborate with Gino and Josh on this, and may create a panel. Will perform an assessment of Anchorage school trees and provide recommendations for replacement trees.
- v. Gino – Attended invasive species conference in Fairbanks, highlighted prunus removal presentations. Working on spruce beetle damage assessment for anchorage with DOF and UAF, incorporates surveys done in 2017, 2018, and 2019. Working on project assessing long term effects of *padus* herbicide on soil.
- vi. Jeremy – Working on ‘resource showcase’ with Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District. Fairbanks is considering becoming a Tree City, Jim to follow up on this. Fairbanks Arbor Day Council is interested in doing a big Arbor Day planting event this year – looking for seedling source.

I. Further Discussion

- i. Nan—Command decision: All community reports will be written ahead of time (3 days was suggested) to give council time to review and facilitate better discussion during meetings. Requested list of all available grant money – to be posted on website by DOF.
- ii. Nathan – Will work with Gino to review status of Arbor Day grants – Check the status of each grant, and whether funds have been released.
- iii. Jim – working on planning PNW ISA classes – may not offer any this year. As an alternative, will pay registration fees for Alaska arborists to travel to lower 48 and attend Tree Risk Assessment Qualification classes. Wants to update community forestry logo to ACFC logo.

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- J. 2020 Work Plan
- K. Action Items
- L. Next Meeting, Monthly teleconference

December 12, 12:00 -1:00

