

Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting

April 20, 2017; 6:00pm-9:00pm

DNR, Large Conference Room

Fairbanks

APPROVED Minutes

Attendees:

State Employees

Jim Schwarber
Paul Keech
Peter Talus (phone)
Kelsey Stybr (DMLW)

Public

Donna Brady Robertson

CAC Members (Representing)

Dan Rees (Private Forest User)
Milt Behr (Mining Industry)
Jason Knoles-
Fabian Keirn (Phone) (Native
Community)
Brad Cox (Value-added Processing)
Paul Karczmarczyk (Fish and Wildlife
Interests)
Kristin Timm (phone)
Tom Malone
Thomas Nerbonne
Chris Stark

Minutes from the previous meeting January 26, 2017 were approved with minor corrections.

Announcements:

- Pre-orders for the Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District tree and shrub sale must be submitted by May 5th. Pick up will be May 20th. (www.fairbankssoilwater.org)

New Business:

- None

Old Business:

State/Region update by Paul Keech

- DOF has hired two foresters in Ketchikan: Peter Lucas and John Tapley
- DOF has given a conditional offer for the Tok/Copper River Area Forester.

Update on the Fairbanks Area by Paul Keech

- Kevin Meany is now the Forster III. DOF has filled Kevin's old vacant Forester II position: Raphael Rodrigues. He will also assist Tok.
- Five midwinter sales that did not sale; Five sales for the spring; 19 over the counter sales; 32 operators; 105 active contracts.

- Nenana Ridge and Salcha River areas have been plowed
- Reforestation surveys will begin once the area is snow free. DOF still has university money to utilize.
- DOF has gotten the borough permits needed for the road in the Hastings salvage area.

Update on the Delta Area by Paul Keech

- Sold five sales in March (two fuel wood; three green); 11 operators; 30 active contracts
- Mike Goyette in Delta is working on fire tech. He worked mostly on plowing roads this winter.
- The Salcha Delta Soil and Water Conservation partnered with DOF to make headway on the two-mile Delta River West road extension to tie into military lands. The extension hooks up the former from the Whitestone South to the Arkansas crossing. All winter crossings.
- DOF held meetings with ADF&G and the Whitestone community about how to improve the Delta River crossings.
- Beetle traps will be set up soon.
- There is one prescribed burn in the Bison Range to improve habitat for ADF&G.

Tok Area Update by Pete Talus

- Personnel update: Offer for area forester has been made, so they hope the candidate will accept and start soon. One new tech hire. Currently training for fire season.
- Tok has closed roads for the spring break-up. Break-up has been slow, so road conditions are good.
- Two units have been harvested out of the Tok River Block A saw log sales.
- One saw log sale for 1-5,000 cords has been requested near the Cordova airport.
- The Dry Creek salvage is wrapped up.
- All material cut last year has been hauled out of the Johnson Slough.
- Two salvage sales in Porcupine Ridge North and Moon Lake. Moon Lake has opened for personal use because DOF was able to reach an agreement with the Tanacross Corporation.
- New five year schedule is out. They worked with Doug in Fairbanks and built up a database. All the TVSF timber sales will now have a database for consistent management.
- Tok Wood Fuels has requested 1,000 acres of pull timber over 10 years. Young timber has a log and pull timber sale from Block A and B of the Tok River area. Tok Wood Fuels and Young's are partnering. Young plans to start pellets soon.
- Once the snow is gone, reforestation surveys will begin.
- They continue the beetle suppression/mitigation efforts by setting out traps.
- With the forest health thinning project, 20 acres was complete last year, and they expect to complete another 20 acres this year.

Public Comments:

- Donna Brady Robertson wants to get involved again in the forest efforts around Fairbanks, so she attended the meeting to see what the CAC does. She introduced herself and her tree planting efforts. She has a plot of about 600 trees that her and her husband planted about 25 years ago with tools from former forester Pete Simpson. The trees have not been managed well due to a family death, however success has been varied. Multiple people were interested in going to see the trees, so it was suggested that everyone contact Jim Smith with DOF to coordinate a visit. Donna can be contacted at (907) 388-7822.

CAC member comments:

- Milt asked if the public has been honoring the forestry road closings and staying off the roads.
 - Answer: Tok has seen a fair amount of compliance. They have put up signs on gates asking personal use cutters to come to the office and ask about road conditions before using them. The main line roads have been closed primarily to the commercial guys. They also ask people to use the roads in the early morning and late night when the ground is more frozen, and this has helped. Fairbanks has not seen as much compliance. They also have a lack of enforcement authority.
- Milt asked about the fire season progression.
 - Answer: Overall it is hard to predict this year's fire season. In the Fairbanks area, most vacant positions are full and training is being done now. Fairbanks has two vacancies and Delta will be fully staffed.
- Kristin added that the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy provides Alaska Climate Outlook Briefings of three-month trend projections, and they include projections about fire as well.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for **October 19, 2017** in Fairbanks.

Meeting adjourned about 6:45 pm.

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