

Tanana Valley State Forest
Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting
April 14, 2016; 6:00-9:00 PM
Large Conference Room, Fairbanks DNR

Approved Minutes

Attendees:

State Employees

Jim Schwarber

Paul Keech

Tim Dabney

Jeff Hermanns in Tok (teleconference)

Jaclyn Cheek (Note-taker)

CAC Members (Representing)

Jason Knoles- alternate for Al Pagh

Reed Morisky (Tourism Industry)

Milton Behr (Mining Industry)

Fabian Keirn (Native Community)

Thomas Nerbonne (Upper Tanana Valley)

Brad Cox (Value-Added Processing)

Tom Malone (Forest Science)

Dan Rees (Private Forest User)

Chris Stark (Environmental Interests)

Public

Glen Holt- UAF Cooperative Extension

Minutes of January 11, 2016 meeting approved

Announcements:

- Tom was unable to procure a presenter on drones for the meeting
- Next Thursday, Friday and Saturday- annual meeting for Society of American Foresters
- Society American Foresters YRC technical session starts 6 pm on April 27th at the Roundup Steakhouse, it's the same Regen Review presentation Doug Hanson gave on Jan 11.
- Soil and Water Conservation district plant sale is May 21st. It is open to private vendors- contact Jeff Sckergetrs, whose info is at the bottom of the brochure.

New Business:

- Al Pagh is resigning from the committee. The CAC unanimously adopted a Resolution of Recognitions for Al Pagh's nine years of service on the CAC.

- Jackie Goss was appointed for another 3 year position representing the lower Tanana Valley.

Old Business:

Update on the Region II-III Regeneration Review Implementation Committee- they met on April 4th with various representatives. 3 from DOF, 3 from ADFG, 4 private, 2 Native Corp, a few others (Sustainable Agency for Galena, University Mental Trust, etc.)

Update on the Fairbanks /Delta Area by Paul Keech

- Mike Goyette accepted position for delta Fire Management Officer position, 8-month position possibly to be extended into the tail ends of the season.
- FIA project has begun, 1 Forester II lead (Matt Stevens), 1 Forester I (Andrew Allaby). 4-6 technicians to be hired to do field work.
- Hoping to get approval on an additional 2016 combined 5 year timber sales that was adopted on March 15, 2016, public comment requested to be extended for a month.
- Identified areas within the Healy Lake area for salvage, only 1 of the Healy Lake sales area is being utilized. Pogo Road still has 19 sales with varying activity. Many firewood sellers in Delta stated that sales were low due to warm winter. Total of 123 cords permitted in Delta area.
- There is lots of road work being done due to high 4-wheel drive traffic despite spring road advisory being out for all roads.
- Put a bid out for 40,000 white spruce seedlings, which was won by Coast to Coast Reforestation. Seed is provided by us, but may need to look into acquiring new seed because 90's stock germination rates are low.
- 120 firewood permits totaling 488 cords for 2016 in Fairbanks area.
- Commercial salvage of Salcha area (40 acre) was sold to pellet mill. Mill lumber yards are filling up and aren't buying much additional timber.

Tok Area Update by Jeff Hermanns

- Similar to Paul, not much salvage this winter. Some salvage in state forest off of Taylor highway. Some green cutting in the Tok River still. Some logging in the Eagle Trail salvage trail, relationship with the Tanacross Corp still going well.
- No work with the FLUPs or 5 Year Schedule, work probably won't be initiated until September.
- Continue to work with Ruffed Grouse Society, which is turning into more of a habitat development project. Banquet at Anchorage raised \$50 K for the project. Pitman-Robertson provides a match of 3:1.
- Joe Young is working on his pelletization facility plan. Anticipate making pellets and densified logs both by this summer. Joe Young's probably looking to sell to northern southeast (Juneau). Eventual 10,000 ton production goal.
- Tok School is replacing its turbine system with a renovated 100 year old model, will be saving more from electricity than from heat, saving over \$20000/month in electrical bills.
- DOF would like to resurrect the Tok River biomass project if demand picks up.

Presentation by Tim Dabney

- Update on Senate Bill 32, which allows for more negotiated timber sales: Status-passed the House Finance Committee April 12, went to Rules Committee April 13. If it passes the House then it has to go back to the Senate for a concurrence vote. (House had amended it to say that that 25% of the value of any timber sale in any part of the state has to be retained by the local area). Before one can negotiate sales they must have high local unemployment, underutilized timber manufacturer capacity, and underutilized Annual Allowable Cut of state timber. Won't make much of a change in the interior. In reality they currently already get more than 25% in the interior. The bill is more meaningful in Southeast because the remaining saw mill (Viking Lumber) can't qualify for negotiated timber sales. Problems arise when export market comes in and buys out local timber sales for the increased profits. Bill is meant to act as a bridge. DOF acknowledges that not all state forest entities support the bill. *Question: How is the bill helping us in the Tanana Valley?* Majority of the state timber sales income comes from the South, so what benefits them is a driving force for what benefits the rest of the State.

Public Comments:

No Comments

CAC Member Comments:

Interest was expressed in an update on the Galena Project, there seems to be movement in that area. Brad Cox stated that he has good impression of group working out there. Last Board of Forestry meeting discussed it briefly; the group had a successful harvest at 27 acres balsam poplar, 22 acres of paper birch= years' supply of wood.

Milton- Jonie Skilbred gave class at Osher Life Long Learning, talked of scarcity of wood in 1920 in Tanana Valley. Suggested that she give this class at a meeting.

Next Meeting Scheduled for **Thursday, October 27th, 2016** in Fairbanks.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

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