

Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting

April 23, 2015; 6:00pm-9:00pm
DNR, Large Conference Room
Fairbanks

Minutes – APPROVED Oct. 15, 2015

Attendees:

State Employees

Al Edgren
Tim Dabney
Paul Maki
Kevin Meany
Doug Hansen
Tom Paragi (ADF&G)
Kelsey Stybr (DMLW)
Chris Maisch

Public

Theo DeLaca

CAC Members (Representing)

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

Minutes from the previous meeting February 12, 2015 were approved.

Announcements:

Arbor Day is May 18, 2015, and the local Arbor Day Committee is doing an even to plant trees around Fairbanks. You can look up the Committee online to get involved. You can also order your trees from the Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation by May 15, 2015.

New Business:

Doug Hansen gave a presentation about the Science and Technical Committee looking at revising the regeneration regulations for the Forest Preserve Act. The committee is currently looking at the literature and regulations for Region 2 and 3. His presentation "Reforestation and Site Preparation Results Region III State Lands" showed many different techniques for regeneration and scarification and the results of each.

Kevin Meany gave an update from the Two Rivers Dog Musers Association. Mushing has slowed for the season. They felt this winter was more successful than past winters, and they will stay in communication about future sales.

Paul Maki provided the Fairbanks Area update and information on budget and personnel adjustments in the Division. The Fairbanks and Delta area have wrapped up the Delta Mississippi Salvage Sale where one half of the volume was taken out this winter and 100 acres are still available for layout and preparation for future use. A forest use plan is being worked on. The Salcha flood timber sale was an active sale this winter. Forestry closed the road to the ice bridge two weeks ago. Twelve permits were

sold and there is an interest to put in a year round road and open it up to commercial salvage this summer. The Fairbanks area biomass sale Best Interest Finding was signed by the Commissioner. The Fairbanks area road work needs funds still. The reorganization of Fairbanks and Delta took place on March 16 and the staff have been working together to ease the transition. They met with the Deltana Community Corporation and the Delta Junction City Council to talk about how the reorganization will change firefighting and the availability of fire wood. They are recruiting for 3 positions in the Delta area for fire prevention, fire foreman, and fire fighter. The Forest Inventory Resources has awarded funding and there have been 10 plots put in the interior to learn Forest Preserve protocols.

Chris Maisch gave an update on House Bill 87 and Senate Bill 32. The governor reduced Division of Forestry \$1.2 million and 18 positions, and 16 of those positions are starting July 1 from McGrath. A good majority have found positions. The other two were resource positions from Palmer and Southeast. During the legislative session 4 positions were reestablished, but 18 more positions were lost (10 interns and 8 Foresters across the state including one in Fairbanks). Over all this was a 40% reduction from forest management personnel. Overall the Division of Forestry was reduced \$2.3 million and 30 positions statewide. McGrath and the Southeast were hit the hardest. The Division is trying to help find positions for those affected. The Northern and Coastal regions are combining with Tim Dabney as the acting for now. There is still some money left in FY14 to repair road damages. In FY17 and FY18 the Division of Forestry will need to reduce another 16%. To help combat the loss, the Division is ramping up Southern sales and a Negotiated Timber Sales bill was passed.

Tom Malone gave an update for Jeff Hermanns. Tok had good winter sales, and Young's Timber wants a portion of the biomass sale.

Public Comments:

None

CAC member comments:

Lots of comments and questions about the current budget/hiring climate of the Division of Forestry.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for **October 15, 2015** in Fairbanks.

Meeting adjourned about 7:35pm.

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