

Alaska Community Forest Council

PO Box 241282, Anchorage, Alaska
99524

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2021 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Laura C.
Patrick R.
Susan R.
Jan V.
Dan R.
Nathan L.
Meg B.
Lisa M.
Mitch M.
Nancy M.
Gino G.
Elise H.
Jim R., DOF
Craig Anderson, USFS



AGENDA

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| A. Housekeeping | (9:00 – 9:20) |
| 1. Introductions | (5 min) |
| 2. Review and approval of November minutes | (5 min) |
| Nan moved, Susan 2 nd to approve as corrected (see attached) | |
| 3. Any changes or additions to agenda | (5 min) |
| Add Google Docs discussion – Nathan to provide quick overview of Google Drive and where things are kept; Patrick noted Fairbanks Tree and Shrub Sale by SCS; | |

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4. Treasurers Report

(5 min)

ACFC Treasurer's Report 3/17/2021

By Nathan Lojewski

| Account | Statement Date | Balance | Notes |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Checking-1101204060 | 2/29/2021 | \$5,854.06 | |
| Savings -7783585990 | 2/19/2021 | \$8,051.48 | \$0.06 interest deposit |
| ACFC Checking Ledger | 3/17/2021 | \$5,854.06 | |
| Savings and Leger Total | | \$13,905.54 | |

The was one transaction since the last report with Jim Renkert for reimbursement of our 2021 PO Box fees of \$146.00

B. Program Reports

(9:20 – 9:35)

1. Federal

(5 min)

Craig Anderson – Lots of grants and reviews happening. They are trying to get more money for urban and community forestry grants. There may be some more grant monies becoming available to address invasive Prunus species.

Is the ACFC doing any projects with the BLM. Jim responded he is not aware of any projects with them at the moment or in the past.

2. State

(10 min)

Working on grants and getting grant funding out. Round 2 of the Prunus control grants RFP has started. Projects within the Municipality of Anchorage are now eligible. Various groups are inquiring. Hopes to get a grant from Fairbanks. Wants to do a statewide education program for prunus. Got some interesting pushback from a member of the public, concerned that prunus is a natural part of our evolving ecosystem.

NASF Centennial School Tree Challenge grants – please encourage schools to apply for these.

Arbor Day Foundation is working with the Municipality of Anchorage to sponsor the Alaska Run For Women and will give away 100 trees again this year.

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Working on final deliverables for Fish Need a Forest Landscape Restoration Grant. Need to get some of the funding spent by the end of June.

Remove and Replace program – Community Forestry and the Forest Stewardship program are working together on a new mini-grant. They have purchased 100 vouchers at several different Anchorage nurseries, which can be used to purchase a new tree upon homeowners removing Prunus species from their property.

Tree City USA – Fort Greely is the newest tree city USA. Sitka is going to reapply.

Looking into whether they can use satellite imagery to identify prunus infestations as part of an area-wide inventory.

C. ACFC New Business

(9:35 – 10:00)

1. Reconstitution of Anchorage SWCD (10 min)

Mitch - is making progress on this, they have had three meetings, and a group of 3-5 people are submitting a letter of intent to the Natural Resource Conservation and Development Board. There is a slight issue with the old district supervisors. Some feel there is not a need to form a new district, because the old district still exists. NRCDB will judge on that. They are centering the focus around Prunus, and other conservation needs in the Anchorage area.

Discussion of what the District will do - can be almost anything they want as long as it meets the local need. It is very community driven.

Discussion of ASWCD board members – There are a few folks actively working on it and others that could be approached.

Where will the funding come from? That is a key piece of the puzzle.

2. Prunus Working Group (10 min)

Organized the first meeting Feb 9th. Lots of representation from around the state. The purpose of the meeting was for these groups to share information. They will be scheduling another meeting when Josh gets back. Is looking into using remote sensing to identify infestations of prunus in forests.

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Discussion of making a document to create what is known and not known about Prunus in Alaska.

Discussion of a publication on UAF CES website about using chokecherry in foods.

3. ACFC P.O. Box – Electric Billing (5 min)
Want to setup automatic billing for P.O. Bo. Meg and Nathan will take care of it.

Discussion of Urban Forestry Challenge cost share program. Requires 1:1 match. Jim is going to get the information out to entities in Alaska.

D. ACFC Old Business

(10:00 – 11:15)

1. Committee updates/reminders
 - a. Scholarship/training opportunities (Laura, Nan, Meg) (15 min)
 - Deadlines: Update in March
Nothing to Report
Jim is looking into paying the registration fees for anyone on the council that wants to attend various Urban and Community Forestry training conferences and workshops in the fall of 2021. Also wants to offer this to Tree lines, and Tree City members. The Arbor Day Foundation Partners Conference is November in Louisville Kentucky.
 - b. Bylaws update (Susan, Elise, Gino) (15 min)
 - Deadlines: Provide draft in early February for approval in March
Elise moved to approve, and Susan seconded.
Discussion of the bylaw amendments
Discussion of Article 11, 2.01 and delete local.
Nathan mentioned our legal name is Alaska Urban and Community Forest Council.
Article III: Membership changed from two Alaska Native to one Alaska Native and a minority. Discussion of how to say minority, and consensus to say “minority group”.
Seat D: Landscape architect, licensed to practice in Alaska.
Discussion of adding licensed (landscape architect). They are

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leaving the revision as is.

Article IX: discussion of adding elections that can be done online.

Decided to leave it as is.

11.02 discussion of days necessary to get a proxy before a meeting. Decided to leave it as it was before.

Mitch motioned to amend the previous motion to include the edits that were worked on today. Nan seconded. Susan agreed to the friendly amendment that includes the edits agreed upon in the meeting.

Call for a vote, All in favor and the motion passed.

c. MOU update (Nathan, Jim, Mitch) (15 min)

- Deadlines: Make formal request for update in May

Started work on it, but decided they should wait until the new State Forester is hired. There is a folder in the google docs account labelled "MOU" and that is where you can find all the current work.

They are tabling this till the next meeting when the new State Forester director is hired.

d. Nominating committee

Desire to make a committee for the next meeting. The end of fiscal is June 30 and the nominating month is April, and we usually vote in May. Mitch, Elise, Nan, and Jan van den Top volunteered to be on the committee. Discussion of where to recruit people for a construction/right of way seat, and where to advertise.

e. ACFC Arbor Day grants (Gino, Dan, Nan, Elise) (15 min)

- Extend application period?

We have three applications. Two the review committee believe should be awarded. The other seems like it was an application for the wrong program.

Nathan suggested we leave the application period open continuously and we just give grants until our budgeted amount is used up. Will need to update the forms. Discussion of doing this as opposed to focusing on it being on Arbor Day. Having quarterly reviews or reviews at every official business meeting.

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Call it an annual Arbor Day grant. And we will review the applications before the meeting.

E. Lunch Break (12:05 – 1:05)

F. Council Member Presentations

1. Patrick Ryan (PowerPoint presentation) (5 min)
Showed presentation on teaching youth and the public about trees.
2. Elise Huggins (Street Trees, planters presentation) (5 min)
Elise provided a presentation about how various planters work for urban street trees.

G. Community/Council Member Reports (~3 min/each) (2:20 – 2:40)

| Seat | Member |
|--|-----------------------------|
| A. Arborist No report | Paul Guzenski |
| B. Forester Not much happening with things in the winter. The Fairbanks SWCD tree sale is going on. Trying to find species that will grow in the interior but aren't considered invasive. | Dan Rees |
| C. Municipal Planner Is talking to local groups about Arbor Day grants. | Laura Charlton (Vice Chair) |
| D. Landscape Architect No report | Elise Huggins |
| E. Horticulture This winter they had a cooperative agreement with USFWS to use mastication equipment to clear 50 acre fuel break around sterling. | Nathan Lojewski (Treasurer) |
| F. Construction/Right-of-Way No report | Jeremy Douse |

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G. Small Community Service

Mitch Michaud

SAF tree sale has sold out of all the trees. So there is room to sell more in future years. Has been working with city of Kenai and Soldotna to apply for a grant, but they just planted trees without seeking the assistance. Did an interview on how to use open space in Soldotna.

H. Community Forestry/Beautification

Lisa Moore

Is renovating the garden at the fire hall in Sitka. They are digging up the whole space and starting over again because it was too overtaken with weeds.

I. Industry/Business

Corey Steffen

No report

J. AK Cooperative Extension Service

Gino Graziano (Secretary)

Has a new chokecherry control publication. Has hired a new entomologist, Alex Wenninger. Is conducting a course for Anchorage School District Summer Academy, "The Changing Boreal Forest".

K. Member-at-Large

Jan van den Top

No report

L. Member-at-Large

Patrick Ryan

Getting ready for the spring. Is working on some efforts for a spring tree sale.

M. Member-at-Large

Susan Rogers

Worked on the bylaws, and made contact with the new PLT coordinator Mollie Gillespie who lives in Cantwell. Is using a connection with Molly of Denali cartoon. Has older PLT books that she can give away to anyone that wants copies.

N. Member-at-Large

Nancy "Nan" Mundy

Has lost several trees in their old cemetery. There is a tree walk and brochure to go with the trees in the cemetery. The Juneau Urban Forest Partnership is going to replace the two trees.

O. Member-at-Large

Meg Burgett (Chair)

H. Public Comment Period

(2:40 – 3:00)

Wes Hoskins – Grant making organization working to build out accessible parks in the borough. Speaking on behalf of the Matanuska Greenbelt advocacy group. Matanuska greenbelt farm land, 1000 acres managed by Mat-Su college, AK State Parks, Borough, and UAF Experiment Farm. This area has 3 miles of trail. UA lands department has decided to embark on resource extraction project to put gravel pit in the middle of the greenbelt. They have over 800 written comments sent into UAF to let them know that

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this is an inappropriate use of the University land which should be used for research, and recreation. Looking at alternatives such as conservation easements, solar production, carbon credits, land swaps, and community forestry programs.

Elise questions – Is there an inventory of vegetation. Answer, unknown.

Meg- Palmer and Wasilla SWCD are working with CES and the Farm to use a piece of forest land that the University has agreed to create a demonstration forest in. Meg would like to see more demonstration forest lands in the larger tract of land so foresters can see different forest practices.

Susan – PLT in Maine set up a demonstration forest with one of the timber companies.

Nathan – There are programs for small landowners to get carbon credits, they aren't ready for Alaska yet, but they are coming.

Discussion of Solar – No-one really knows the feasibility of it.

Discussion of access – There hasn't been any yet

There will be a valuation of the land in late spring, and then the board of regents will have a meeting late summer.

I. Further Discussion

as time allows

J. Adjourn 3:00

Mitch made motion to adjourn, Nathan seconded. Meeting ended at 2:40 pm.

K. Next Meeting

Monthly Teleconference, April 8, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.