

The regular meeting of the Natural Resource Conservation & Development Board (NRCDB) was held June 25, 2014 at the conference room located at 550 W. 7th. Ave., Suite 602, in the Atwood building, Anchorage, Alaska.

Board members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. George Woodbury, Board member
Ms. Cheryl Thompson, Board member
Ms. Ina Jones, Board member
Mr. Bernie Karl, Board member

Others in attendance:

Ms. Franci Havemeister, Director, Division of Agriculture
Ms. Lora Haralson, Administrative Officer I, Division of Agriculture
Ms. Claire LeClair, Deputy Director, Division of Parks
Mr. Bob Jones, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Mr. Todd Pettit, AACD, President (telephone), Alaska Association of Conservation Districts
Ms. Esther Tempel, DNR Special Assistant

1. Call to Order – Determination of Quorum

It was determined that a quorum was present and the meeting was called to order by Board member Woodbury at 9:05 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Board member Karl moved to approve the agenda with changes.

SECOND: Board member Jones seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

3. Approval of Minutes

March 4, 2014 Draft Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Board member Jones moved to approve the minutes of March 4, 2014.

SECOND Board member Thompson seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

4. Commissioner/Commissioner's Office Comments

Director Havemeister stated Commissioner Balash and Deputy Commissioner Fogels are out of state and send their apologies for not attending today's meeting.

5. Executive Director Report

Director Havemeister:

Stated she is filling for the recent vacancy from Shana Joy, until the Commissioner's office determines the future administration of the NRCDB.

6. DNR Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation Overview

Deputy Director Claire LeClair:

Presented a power point presentation regarding the State Parks system.

7. Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) Remarks

President Todd Pettit:

Stated a new executive AACD board has been established. The AACD would like to assist the NRCDB and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with projects or to help facilitate projects. Other Soil & Water Districts in the State have different expertise and resources to assist each other and other programs. One example is their mapping technology. The AACD new motto is "What can we do for you".

The Board held a discussion.

8. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Remarks

Mr. Bob Jones

Efforts are now being done to merge the old farm bill to the new farm bill.

Over last few years a number of offices in Alaska have been closed. The Dillingham office will be closed in July. The Kenai office will hire a new employee that will cover the Dillingham area. The Assistant Chief of the NRCS came to Alaska for seven day tour.

Old Business:

9. SWCD Financial Reporting Requirements

a. Public Comments

AACD President Pettit stated the requirements are more streamlined and he will discuss them with his district manager.

New Business:

10. Chirikoff and Wesnesenski Islands Cattle

a. Public Comments

The Board held a discussion.

Board member Woodbury stated the NRCDB Board will write a position paper on the Chirikoff and Wesnesenski Island cattle issue to be sent to the DNR Commissioner.

11. SWCD FY15 Annual Work Plans Review

Director Havemeister clarified the checklist of the annual work plans to be presented to the NRCDB.

Kenai:

MOTION: Board member Karl moved to approve as presented.

SECOND: Board member Jones seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

Anchorage:

MOTION: Board member Karl moved to approve as presented.

SECOND: Board member Jones seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

Homer:

MOTION: Board member Karl moved to approve as presented.

SECOND: Board member Thompson seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

Kodiak:

MOTION: Board member Karl moved to approve as presented.

SECOND: Board member Jones seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

Palmer:

MOTION: Board member Karl moved to approve as presented.

SECOND: Board member Thompson seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

Wasilla:

MOTION: Board member Karl moved to approve as presented.

SECOND: Board member Jones seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

Upper Susitna:

MOTION: Board member Karl moved to approve as presented.

SECOND: Board member Jones seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

Salcha Delta HOLD:

Board member Karl stated the Salcha Delta plan will not be approved until the funding source is clarified.

Kenny Lake HOLD:

Board member Karl stated the Kenny Lake plan will not be approved until the funding source is clarified.

Mid Yukon HOLD:

Board member Karl stated the Mid Yukon plan will not be approved until they can show how the funds will be distributed.

Southeast and Fairbanks PENDING:

A NRCDB teleconference will be held for the Southeast and Fairbanks plans once they are received.

12. Public Comments

- AACD President Pettit stated he is pleased with the current make up of the NRCDB.
- Director Havemeister called the Division of Boards & Commissions for the vacancy of the south-central position. Franci to Todd give her a call.
- AACD President Pettit indicated that Ken Marsh was asked and interviewed but has not heard from the Boards & Commissions and he would be perfect for that position.

13. Board member Comments

Board member Thompson asked about the wood bison ten J rule has passed and what is it.

Board member Karl stated 44 wood bison by the end of July will be put in the Mid-Yukon district. Mid-Yukon supports the bison. Currently there are 158 wood bison are being raised in Portage.

The Board held a discussion.

14. Next Meeting

Teleconference will be held when the Southeast and Fairbanks plans are received and the Kenny Lake, Mid Yukon and Salcha Delta plans are complete.

The next NRCDB meeting will be held in October 2014 in conjunction with AACD Fall Conference a future date is unknown at this time.

Board member Karl stated he will donate rooms and meeting space for the AACD conference at China Hot Springs. He asked AACD President Pettit to let him know when the meeting has been scheduled.

15. Adjournment

MOTION: Board member Karl moved to adjourn.

SECOND: Board member Thompson seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Minutes taken by:

Minutes approved by:

Lora Haralson, Div. of Agriculture

George Woodbury, Chair
NRCDB