

Dairy Industry - Ad Hoc Committee Scope of Work

Objective:

Draft a factual, informative, representative transition report on Alaska's Dairy industry for the next administration.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Committee will be to evaluate, as objectively as possible, the volatile and difficult situation facing Alaska's dairy industry including dairy farmers, creameries, and the dairy support industry (hay, grain, slaughter).

Product:

The Committee will evaluate the facts and make recommendations for resolution, sustainability, or dissolution of Alaska's dairy industry. The report should contain recommendations as well as associated financial needs to accomplish those recommendations. Committee recommendations should be articulated in terms of what is in the best interest of Alaska citizens.

Schedule:

The Committee will convene in October 2006 and finalize a report for the incoming State of Alaska administration in November 2006.

Time Commitment:

There will be a minimum of 4 full-day Committee meetings held in Anchorage, Alaska between mid-September and mid-November. A tentative schedule and outline of the meetings:

Meeting 1 – October 10

- Verbal reports from staff
- Questions & answers

Meeting 2 – October 16 (*date subject to change*)

- Financial state of dairy industry
 - Federal loans (Chad Padgett)
 - State loans (Candy Easley)
 - State Assets (Ray Nix)
 - Dairy Farmers (by Ad Hoc Committee invitation)

Meeting 3 – Late October/Early November

- Committee discussion
- Brainstorm recommendations
- Draft outline/report to DNR Commissioner

Meeting 4 – Early - Mid November

- Review written report
- Make final changes
- Approve a final report for DNR Commissioner & new Governor

Information Resources:

Summaries

Written summary reports will be sent to Committee members prior to the initial meeting. Written summary reports will be provided on the following topics:

- Dairy Producers (Milan Shipka)
- Matanuska Maid (Joe Van Treeck)
- Mt. McKinley Meat and Sausage (Ray Nix)
- Alaska produced grain & hay (Larry DeVilbiss)

Presentations

Topics of the written summaries will be presented by staff during the first meeting of the Committee. A question/answer session will follow the presentations.

Backup Information

There is a plethora of additional information on the dairy industry not included in the written summaries that will be compiled and provided to the Committee prior to the initial meeting. Staff presentations will cover the written summaries and the question/answer session will likely lead to exploration of backup materials.

Ground Rules/Conduct:

Committee meetings will be publicly noticed and the public is encouraged to attend and observe.

Testimony and presentations will be on an invitation only basis from the Committee.

Committee members are expected to conduct meetings in a respectful manner all while pursuing the best factual information and identifying best possible solutions for the citizens of Alaska as they pertain to the Alaska dairy industry and the State of Alaska assets.

Confidentiality:

The economic impact of the dairy industry and its various components in Alaska is integral to formulating an accurate report and sound recommendations. Proprietary data, including financials, may be presented to the Committee. Such data may prove to be essential for the Committee members to formulate its final report.

Expenses:

Travel and per diem will be paid for Committee members consistent with State of Alaska travel regulations.

Committee Members:

Mac Carter, Board of Agriculture & Conservation
Wes Eckert, Darigold (retired)
Ernie Hall, Alaska Furniture Manufactures
Paul Huppert, Palmer Produce
Lyda Green, Alaska State Senate
Don Lintelman, Northern Lights Dairy
Mark Neuman, Alaska House of Representatives
Gail Phillips, Business
Joe Van Treeck, Creamery Corporation, dba Matanuska Maid
Ken Sherwood, Alaska Mill & Feed

David Wight, Business (retired)

Staff:

DNR Division of Agriculture:

Larry DeVilbiss, Director

Rhonda Boyles, BAC Chair

Candy Easley, ARLF Loan Officer

Lora Haralson, Secretary

Ray Nix, Asset Manager

Frank Huffman, Manager MMM&S

DNR Commissioner's Office:

Ed Fogels, Acting Deputy Commissioner, DNR

Rachael Petro, Special Assistant, DNR

Cathy Poulos, Support Services Division, DNR

AG's Office:

To be determined

University of Alaska:

Carol Lewis, PhD.; MBA; UAF School of Natural Resources & Agricultural Sciences Dean

Milan Shipka, UAF

Federal:

Chad Padgett, USDA FSA Alaska

Dean Stewart, USDA Rural Development Alaska

Other:

Greg Galik, Marketing