

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE & CONSERVATION

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM AND ROLL CALL:

The regular meeting of the Board of Agriculture & Conservation (BAC) was held on 03/25/2025, in person & via Zoom/teleconference. Chair Jeff Vance called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

A. ROLL CALL/ APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

Rollcall Vote:

- i. MOTION: Moved to approve the agenda and minutes of preceding meeting.
Vance – Yes, Anderson – Yes, Bates –Yes, Bergy- N/A, Boring – Yes, Davies – Yes, Jenski-Yes

VOTE: 6 yes, 0 no, and 1 absent during Roll Call vote.

Board members present and establishing a quorum were:

- Jeffrey (Jeff) Vance, Chair (Zoom)
- John Anderson, Vice Chair (Zoom)
- Matt Bates, Board Member (Zoom)
- Tom Bergy – Absent
- James (Jamie) Boring, Board Member (Zoom)
- Stuart (Stu) Davies, Board Member (Zoom)
- Adam Jenski, Board Member (In Person)

Staff in Attendance:

Bryan Scoresby, Director (In Person)
Christy Allison, Natural Resource Specialist III (ARLF Loan Officer, In person)
George Deaton, Accountant 3, DNR (Zoom)
Kevin Higgins, Attorney 5, Dept. of Law (Zoom)
Gavin Ulbrich, Loan Officer I (In Person)
Erik “Moe” Johnson – Agricultural Land Sales
Matt Stinson – Department of Law Ethics Attorney

Public in Attendance: Andrew Jensen, Dylan Blankenship, Danno Williams, Lori Williams, Ryan Smith, Meghan Cobb, Garry Ross, Marcos Scheer

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES- Adam Jenski is deemed eligible to participate in Michael Hoffman loan application per Matt Stinson

D. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

- i. Bryan Scoresby Division Update:

- i. Two new staff members starting next week making the division fully staffed again
 - ii. Construction is now underway at the PMC for new storage barn
 - iii. Many staff members headed to Kodiak later this week participating in Alaska Food Policy Council annual convention
 - iv. BYU basketball made it to the sweet 16 playing later this week
- ii. Ag Land Sales Update – Erik Johnson
 - i. Classify land for agricultural purposes versus actually selling land
 - ii. II areas of land sales over next couple years in Nenana Totchaket and Anchor Point North Fork Micro Ag
 - 1. Anchor point land sales will be less than 50 acres in size
 - iii. Fish and Game is concerned about run off into river harming salmon populations
 - iv. Want to build infrastructure in areas before selling land
 - v. Jeff – who makes final plans on sales
 - 1. Moe - Commissioner adopts area plans through DMLW
 - vi. Stu Davies – When can we expect Ag land in Eielson available for sale?
Consolidation of Ag. services would expedite process in state government
 - 1. Moe - The process takes several years to offer these lands for sale.
It may be better to sell those specific parcels as a non-Ag. Parcel
 - vii. Jamie – Is there a way to more efficiently manage parcel sizes for sale
 - 1. Moe - There are statute and regulations changes which would have to take place allowing this to happen
- iii. ARLF FINANCIALS
 - i. \$5.9 Million available to lend not including \$800,000 for emergency reserve
 - ii. Jeff- 5.1 million is what is available to lend out?
 - iii. Director – Something which needs to be discussed today
 - iv. Director- \$800,000 will go towards operating costs of the loan program. If we didn't have any income for two years we would still be operating as usual. Large banks keep a reserve requirement of 5%.
 - v. Matt bates – One year of operating reserves is sufficient enough, two years is excessive
 - vi. Jeff - want to tie reserve requirement to spending authority
 - vii. Christy – spend authority fund ARLF travel and employees salaries, we should have someone from admin. come explain spending so we have a better idea of limits on the spend authority
 - viii. Kevin Higgins – Budgets are due in August but this reflects the governor's priorities and is not a simple process as there are many layers

- ix. Adam Jenski – we need to have an amount set today because it's possible we go through all of our funds
 - x. John Anderson – I like the 5% reserve requirement because it protects us from uncertainty
 - iv. MOTION: to pass a reserve require for ARLF of \$320,000 to service loans and pay operating expenses
 - i. 1st – Matt Bates
 - ii. 2nd – Stu Davies
- Roll call- Vance – No, Anderson – No, Bates –Yes, Bergy- N/A, Boring – Yes, Davies – Yes, Jenski-Yes

VOTE: __4__ Yes, __2__ No, __1__ Absent, _____ Recused

Motion APPROVED

- v. BAC Subcommittee Report – Jamie
 - i. Discussion of cottage like industry meat processing facilities
 - ii. Nothing to propose, just open conversation
- vi. Mariculture Report – Gavin
 - i. Conference went well, built existing relationship with two current borrowers and met with new applicants, handed out 15 application packets. Overall successful
- vii. Application Review – Director Scoresby
 - i. We want details of business plans and it's how we come to a decision
 - ii. Having all the details allows us to make successful loans
 - iii. Its frustrating on both ends trying to gather all the information and documents needed but they are things which have to be done
 - iv. Its an active process that requires lots of communication on both ends
 - v. Matt Bates – How can we streamline process
 - vi. Director -
 - 1. If we don't have enough information, we can't make a loan. More information is better than less, burden is on the applicant to prove loan should be approved
 - 2. Jamie – what percent of applicants aren't presented
 - Christy – Less than 3%
 - 3. Jamie – Can we create an exit survey so we can improve this process in a professional way?
 - 4. Christy – We've been in the process of trying to create something like this
 - 5. Stu – Is process streamlined for existing borrowers or is process the same?

Christy – process is the same for each applicant but sometimes we have existing information on hand from previous years making it faster.
Returning borrowers are familiar with the process so they usually get information back to us quicker

viii. Public Comment Session: None

E. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

i. Ethics Training by Matt Stinson, BAC Specific

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION

i. MOTION: Moved to go to executive session to discuss confidential loan information and delinquencies.

i. 1st – John Anderson

ii. 2nd – Adam Jensi

Vance – Yes, Anderson – Yes, Bates –Yes, Bergy- N/A, Boring – Yes, Davies – Yes,

VOTE: 7 Yes, No, Absent, Recused

Motion APPROVED

G. PUBLIC SESSION ON LOAN APPLICATIONS

i. MOTION: Approve Premium Aquatics loan for 8 years with recommendation and personal guarantee

ii. 1st – Jamie Boring

iii. 2nd – Stu Davies

Yes, Anderson – Yes, Bates –Yes, Bergy- N/A, Boring – Yes, Davies – Yes,

VOTE: 7 Yes, No, Absent, Recused

Motion APPROVED

iv. MOTION: Decline Dylan Blankenship loan application

v. 1st – Jamie Boring

vi. 2nd – Stu Davies

i. Roll Call Vance – Yes, Anderson – Yes, Bates –Yes, Bergy- N/A, Boring – Yes, Davies – Yes,

VOTE: 7 Yes, No, Absent, Recused

Motion APPROVED

vii. MOTION: Approve Hawks Loan Application

viii. 1st – Stu Davies

ix. 2nd – Matt Bates

ii. Roll Call Vance – Yes, Anderson – Yes, Bates –Yes, Bergy- N/A, Boring – Yes, Davies – Yes,

VOTE: _7___Yes, ___No, ___Absent, ___Recused
Motion APPROVED

- x. MOTION: Approve Danno Williams loan with recommendations
- xi. 1st – Jamie Boring
- xii. 2nd – Matt Bates
- iii. Roll Call Vance – Yes, Anderson – Yes, Bates –Yes, Bergy- N/A, Boring – Yes, Davies – Yes,
VOTE: _7___Yes, ___No, ___Absent, ___Recused
Motion APPROVED

- xiii. MOTION: Approve Adam Joseph Loan Application
- xiv. 1st – John Anderson
- xv. 2nd – Matt Bates
- iv. Roll Call Vance – Yes, Anderson – Yes, Bates –Yes, Bergy- N/A, Boring – Yes, Davies – Yes,
VOTE: _7___Yes, ___No, ___Absent, ___Recused
Motion APPROVED

- xvi. MOTION: Approve Rand Hagenstein loan with personal guarantee
- xvii. 1st – Adam Jensi
- xviii. 2nd – Matt Bates
- v. Roll Call Vance – Yes, Anderson – Yes, Bates –Yes, Bergy- N/A, Boring – Yes, Davies – Yes,
VOTE: _7___Yes, ___No, ___Absent, ___Recused
Motion APPROVED

- xix. MOTION: Decline Pam Rule Application
- xx. 1st – Stu Davies
- xxi. 2nd – Matt Bates
- vi. Roll Call Vance – Yes, Anderson – Yes, Bates –Yes, Bergy- N/A, Boring – Yes, Davies – Yes,
VOTE: _7___Yes, ___No, ___Absent, ___Recused
Motion APPROVED

- xxii. MOTION: Decline Sam Mutch loan application
- xxiii. 1st – Stu Davies
- xxiv. 2nd – Matt Bates
- vii. Roll Call Vance – Yes, Anderson – Yes, Bates –Yes, Bergy- N/A, Boring – Yes, Davies – Yes,

Appendix 1 (BAC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES 03/25/2025)

VOTE: 7 Yes, ____ No, ____ Absent, ____ Recused
Motion APPROVED

- xxv. MOTION: Approve Buchannan loan with additional paperwork
- xxvi. 1st – Matt Bates
- xxvii. 2nd – Adam Jensi
- viii. Roll Call Vance – Yes, Anderson – Yes, Bates –Yes, Bergy- N/A, Boring – Yes, Davies – Yes,
VOTE: 7 Yes, ____ No, ____ Absent, ____ Recused
Motion APPROVED

H. BOARDMEMBER COMMENTS

I. NEXT MEETING: April 22nd 2025

J. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned 2:15