

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE & CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

BAC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 20, 2026 - 9:00 AM

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Agriculture & Conservation (BAC) was called to order by Chair Jamie Boring at 9:03 a.m. on January 20, 2026, via Microsoft Teams.

- i. MOTION: Approve the agenda as presented.

- ii. 1st - Matt Bates, 2nd - John Anderson

- iii. Discussion: No discussion was held.

- iv. Roll Call Vote:

Present:

- James "Jamie" Boring – Yes
- Matt Bates - Yes
- John Anderson – Yes
- Stuart ("Stu") Davies - Yes
- Tom Berge – Yes
- Adam Jensi – Yes / In-person

Absent:

- Jeff Vance

A quorum (6 of 7) was established.

Motion: APPROVED (6 Yes, 1 Absent).

- v. Approval of Minutes

- vi. MOTION: Approve the minutes of the preceding meeting.

- vii. 1st - Stu Davies, 2nd - Matt Bates

- viii. Discussion: No discussion was held.

- ix. Role Call Vote:

Present:

- James "Jamie" Boring – Yes
- Matt Bates - Yes
- John Anderson – Yes
- Stuart ("Stu") Davies - Yes
- Tom Berge – Yes
- Adam Jensi – Yes / In-person

Absent:

- Jeff Vance

Motion: APPROVED (6 Yes, 1 Absent).

2. Staff in Attendance:

- Bryan Scoresby, Director, Division of Agriculture
- George Deaton, Accountant III, DNR
- Kevin Higgins, Attorney V, Department of Law
- Edward Cook, Administrative Support, Division of Agriculture

3. Public in Attendance:

- Laura Achee, Office of Senator Bjorkman
- Tarn Coffey

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

D. REPORTS / CORRESPONDENCE

a. Director's Report – Bryan Scoresby

Director Scoresby provided a detailed briefing on Division operations, priorities, and ongoing initiatives. His report focused on agricultural development efforts, coordination with partner agencies, and program oversight responsibilities.

Key topics discussed included:

- Planning and coordination for the Alaska Grown dinner scheduled for February 10, 2026, at the Governor's Mansion, intended to promote Alaska-grown products and producer engagement.
- Progress on agricultural land sales, including coordination with the Department of Natural Resources to prepare parcels for offering during the 2026–2028 timeframe.
- Status of litigation related to the executive order establishing the Department of Agriculture; Division operations continue while the matter proceeds.
- Budget development and legislative engagement, including a request for increased ARLF spend authority to support lending activity and program administration.
- Ongoing program oversight, including monitoring of loan performance, borrower compliance, and risk management practices.

Board members asked clarifying questions and discussed the importance of maintaining coordination with legislators and partner agencies.

b. ARLF Financials – George Deaton

Provided a comprehensive financial briefing on the Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund (ARLF), including current financial position and lending capacity.

Board members discussed lending priorities, portfolio diversification, and long-term fund sustainability.

c: Public Comments / Public Session

- Laura Achee provided remarks on behalf of Senator Bjorkman's office regarding legislative interest in agricultural programs and lending tools.
- Tarn Coffey thanked the Board and staff for their continued work supporting Alaska agriculture.

E. NEW / OLD BUSINESS

No additional new or old business was presented.

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- i. MOTION: Enter executive session to discuss confidential loan matters
- ii. 1st - Stu Davies, 2nd - Adam Jensi
- iii. Discussion: No discussion was held.
- iv. Role Call Vote:

Present:

- James "Jamie" Boring – Yes
- Matt Bates - Yes
- John Anderson – Yes
- Stuart ("Stu") Davies - Yes
- Tom Berge – Yes
- Adam Jensi – Yes / In-person

Absent:

- Jeff Vance

Motion: APPROVED (6 Yes, 1 Absent).

The Board entered executive session and returned to public session. No action was taken during executive session.

G. PUBLIC SESSION VOTES / ACTION ITEMS

a. Ebb Tide Ocean Farm (Randall Hagenstein and Eve Witten)

- i. MOTION: Approve the loan application as presented.
- ii. 1st - Matt Bates, 2nd – Jamie Boring
- iii. Discussion: No additional discussion
- iv. Roll Call Vote:

Present:

- James "Jamie" Boring – Yes
- Matt Bates - Yes
- John Anderson – No
- Stuart ("Stu") Davies - Yes
- Tom Berge – Yes
- Adam Jensi – Yes / In-person

Absent:

- Jeff Vance

Motion: APPROVED (5 Yes, 1 No, 1 Absent).

H. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board members provided general comments regarding agricultural development, ARLF lending activity, and upcoming legislative considerations.

I. MEETING DATES

The next regular meeting of the Board of Agriculture & Conservation is scheduled for February 17, 2026 at 9:00 via Teams.

J. ADJOURNMENT

- i. MOTION: Adjourn the meeting.
- ii. 1st – Matt Bates, 2nd – Stu Davies

iii. Discussion: No discussion was held.

iv. Role Call Vote:

Present:

- James “Jamie” Boring – Yes
- Matt Bates - Yes
- John Anderson – Yes
- Stuart (“Stu”) Davies - Yes
- Tom Berge – Yes
- Adam Jenski – Yes / In-person

Absent:

- Jeff Vance

Motion: APPROVED (6 Yes, 1 Absent).

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward Cook
Edward Cook, Administrative Support