

Natural Resources Conservation & Development Board
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 10, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

This meeting was held by teleconference.

Board members in attendance:

George Woodbury
Cheryl Thompson
Carol Kenley
Al Poindexter

Others in attendance:

Shana Joy, Executive Director, NRCDB	Joan Hope, AACD
Ed Fogels, DNR Deputy Commissioner	Ryan Stencel, Anchorage SWCD
Ken Marsh, President AACD	Mike Pascall, public participant
Steve Hicks, CAO, AACD	

1. Call to Order – Determination of Quorum

It was determined that a quorum was present and the meeting was called to order by George Woodbury at 9:08 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Cheryl moved to approve the agenda as presented; Al seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3. Approval of May 9th, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Cheryl moved to approve the minutes as presented; Al seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4. Executive Director Report

Shana provided a verbal report of recent activities. The new NRCDB website is now up and running. A link to the new site is: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/nrcdb/index.html>
A public hearing for the proposed Southeast Alaska soil and water conservation district has been scheduled for July 23rd. Twenty-eight petition signatures were received (25 is the minimum) to trigger this next step in the district formation process. Shana will go to Juneau for the hearing as will Joan Hope.

5. AACD Report

Steve Hicks clarified that a new Southeast district will be treated just like the other formally organized districts and AACD is planning on funding them from the FY13 legislative appropriation. FY13 appropriations are moving forward. The Wasilla district formed a Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) this year. Steve announced that he is planning to leave AACD in late August or early September. Dee Pond will be the interim

CAO. A public information officer (PIO) was hired by AACD recently. His name is Pete Fellman. Steve recommended Dee Pond for the CAO position but that is not decided yet.

6. Statute Working Group Report

Shana provided an overview of the past two working group meetings. The focus has been on resolving issues surrounding receiving and spending money by the districts. Establishing a fund for money to flow through has been suggested and will be researched further. Also reviewing the terms of current grant agreements that districts are working under may be beneficial if the terms of the agreements are written in such a way as to exempt those funds from re-appropriation by the legislature. Ed Fogels is planning to meet with the Dept. of Law when he gets back from vacation on this project and he appreciates the hard work of the working group. The next working group meeting will be on July 24th. Al will not be able to participate in this meeting because he will be at the National Envirothon competition.

7. Roundtable Proposal

A proposal to start a series of roundtables was received from the Anchorage SWCD and AACD. An information sheet was provided to the board about the subject of each proposed roundtable. These roundtables would be a good opportunity for districts to network with each other, share info and discuss issues. The NRCDB has been asked to cover the costs of teleconferencing for these roundtables estimated at \$250 per roundtable for a total of \$1,250. Carol said that using the technology (teleconferencing) makes a lot of sense to get people talking and it seems like an inexpensive way to share info. Ken Marsh likes the idea to help fill communication gaps. Cheryl also likes the idea and asked when they would be scheduled. Al asked if all of the districts had been approached and what the interest level was. Both Ryan Stencel and Steve Hicks believe that most if not all of the districts will participate. Al is not comfortable supporting the roundtables without some confirmation of participation from the districts. **Carol moved to fund the roundtable series this year. Cheryl seconded the motion with a comment.** Will there be an addition cost for a roundtable at the fall conference for a meeting room? Shana responded that the cost for that roundtable will likely be less than the others because it could be incorporated into the conference schedule for which space is already reserved and most people would participate in person rather than by telephone. **The motion carried with a majority vote of three board members in favor (George Woodbury, Carol Kenley, Cheryl Thompson) and one opposed (Al Poindexter).**

8. Annual Work Plans

George asked the board how they would like to proceed – vote on each plan individually or as a group? Carol would like to vote en masse. Cheryl would like to vote en masse also but has not seen the two plans that were emailed to the board.

- Al wanted to know why the board was doing this exercise if there aren't any consequences for districts that don't submit their plans on time. Al remarked that districts would go ahead and do the work anyway regardless of whether or not their plan was approved by the NRCDB. George replied that the NRCDB, by reading the plans, is informed as to the activities of the districts and that the NRCDB reviews the plans for DNR. Cheryl pointed out that there have been great

improvements in the annual work plans since the current board began reviewing them which is valuable and that submitting annual work plans should be required for the districts. Ed Fogels stated that annual work plans are absolutely required by DNR and that compliance with this requirement needs to be improved upon. There is a small budget hook in the \$2,500 per district that the NRCDB provides to districts under a cooperative agreement each fiscal year.

- Seven work plans were included in the mailed meeting packet and two additional plans were sent to the board by email. The Fairbanks and Kenny Lake work plans are outstanding at this point.
- **Cheryl moved to approve all 9 work plans that were sent to the board. No second so the motion died. Al moved to approve the 7 work plans that were in the mailed meeting packet. Cheryl seconded. The motion carried.**

Shana did provide the board with a checklist of items/information that needs to be included in each annual work plan. All of the work plans sent to the board are complete in her view. The District Operations Manual also describes clearly to districts what needs to be included in a work plan and a template is provided also. Cheryl noted that we still need to work on better compliance for next year. There was a question about how does the board know what the districts actually do; Shana pointed out that an annual report is due from the districts by September 30th of each year. George thinks it would be best to take up the remainder of the annual work plans at the next meeting and review the FY13 cooperative agreement structure as well.

9. Board Comments

Carol apologized for joining the call late and thanked the board for the flowers that were sent following her accident.

10. Public Comments

Ed Fogels wished Carol well in her recovery and thanked the board for its work with Shana on AS 41.10 which remains a high priority. Ed will work with Shana to make sure that the annual work plans are workable in future.

Ken Marsh thanked the board for supporting the roundtable proposal. One of Ken's biggest goals has been to draw the groups closer together – it is important to support that effort. Ken also thanked Anchorage for opening the door and moving forward; sometimes it takes a little faith and we need to keep working together to succeed.

11. Next Meeting Date and Location

Shana suggested August 15th at 9:00 a.m. for the next meeting so that the board can take up review of the remaining district annual work plans as soon as possible. The meeting will be held by teleconference. The fall conference has been scheduled for October 18-20 at the Embassy Suites in Anchorage.

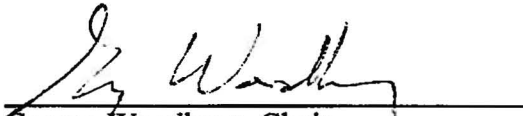
Al moved to adjourn. Cheryl seconded. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Minutes taken by:


Shana Joy, Executive Director
NRCDB

Minutes approved by:


George Woodbury, Chair
NRCDB