Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas (CACFA)

Official Meeting Minutes
May 30, 2026 – Fairbanks, Alaska

Meeting Information

Date: May 30, 2026
Location: Fairbanks, Alaska (with virtual participation)
Time: 8:29 a.m. – 11:38 a.m.

Attendance

Present: Charlie Lean (Chair), Susan Smith, Sen. Cathy Giessel, Teresa Hanson (V), Alice Smith (V), Will Koehler (V), Randy Zarnke
Excused: Dave Brown, Rep. Andy Josephson, Nate Turner, Frank Wood III
Quorum: Quorum established with seven members present.
Staff: Kim Griffith
Guests/Presenters: Sara Taylor, Dick and Mary Bishop, John Hilsinger, Jenn Yuhas, Tina Cunning, Ray Kreig (V), Mike Quinn, Reid Harris (V)

Call to Order

Chair Charlie called the meeting to order at 8:29 a.m.

Old Business / Unfinished Business

Discussion focused on committee structure and priorities. The Commission reviewed current needs and determined that committee work should focus on cabin policy, communications/outreach, and bylaws review.

Motions and Votes

Motion by Sen Cathy Giessel to Establish the Cabin Policy Committee, Communications Committee, and Bylaws Committee.
Second by Susan Smith.
Committee Chairs:
• Cabin Policy Committee – Randy
• Communications Committee – Susan
• Bylaws Committee – Charlie
Vote: Passed unanimously.

Budget Committee:
Discussion was held regarding sunsetting the Budget Committee. No motion was adopted; the committee remains active.

According to bylaws, staff member, Kim Griffith will be an ex-officio member of all committees.

Committee Assignments

Cabin Policy Committee:
• Chair: Randy
• Focus: BLM cabins, federal agency cabin policies, public access issues.
• Members: Nate Turner, Will Koehler and Charlie Lean

Communications Committee:
• Chair: Susan
• Focus: Website development, social media, outreach materials, public education, fair participation.
• Members: Teresa Hanson, Alice Smith

Bylaws Committee:
• Chair: Charlie
• Focus: Membership representation, budget provisions, ethics/conflict-of-interest review, and bylaw updates.
• Members: Sen. Cathy Giessel

New Business

Communications and Outreach:
• Develop Facebook and Instagram presence.
• Explore participation in the Alaska State Fair and Tanana Valley Fair.
• Develop educational handouts, maps, banners, and outreach materials.
• Make historical CACFA reports and resources available online.

Agency Engagement:
• Continue coordination with BLM on cabin policy issues.
• Plan engagement with National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and other agencies.

Budget and Administration:
• Review opportunities to utilize available fiscal-year funds.
• Purchase office equipment and supplies.
• Explore large-format printing capability and outreach materials.
• Evaluate travel funding opportunities for committee work.

Future Meetings

October 2026 – Anchorage
Primary focus:
• Committee reports
• Agency presentations
• Federal land management issues

Spring 2027 – Juneau
Primary focus:
• Legislative outreach
• Budget discussions
• Southeast Alaska federal land issues

Open Seat Update

Staff reported that the Governor's Office is considering candidates for the current vacancy. Angela Ludwick was identified as being on the shortlist for consideration.
Rep. Andy Josephson shared with Commission his upcoming retirement and has asked Speaker Edgmon to appoint his replacement. The name tentatively given was Rep. Ashley Carrick of Fairbanks.

Public Comments

John Hilsinger: Izembek Wildlife Refuge – Management by "bluff" concerns.
Ray Kreig: Locate Federal Oversite Summit Videos and post. Clarified CACFA mission as sole advocate of ANILCA issues for private Alaska citizens.
Jenn Yuhas: Actionable items that CACFA can work on, predator management, eliminate incompatible use.
Dick Bishop: navigability issues, access and fisheries management
Mary Bishop: Defined avulsion vs. meander; if river avulsed after Statehood, is new channel considered to be navigable?
Mike Quinn: open seat question, federal service shortage, agency communication not standardized
Tina Cunning: RDI Process, PAD Unit.
Reid Harris: Strategic hiring initiative with BLM, RDI Process, favorable of AK State Dir. Pendergast.
Sara Taylor: request for backup database of CACFA to be stored at ARLIS.

Action Items

1. Cabin Policy Committee to begin engagement with BLM and related agencies. – Randy Z.
2. Communications Committee to develop social media and outreach plan. – Susan S.
3. Bylaws Committee to draft proposed amendments for October review. – Charlie L.
4. Research state and local fair booth opportunities and costs. – Kim G.
5. Investigate printing capabilities and outreach material production. – Kim G.
6. Explore travel funding opportunities for June and October. – Kim G.
7. Prepare committee reports for the October meeting. – Committee Chairs
8. Doodle poll for next meeting availability and 3 meeting outlook – Kim G.
9. Update web page and redaction project action plan – Kim G.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:38 a.m.