

# Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting

October 15, 2015; 6:00pm-9:00pm

DNR, Large Conference Room

Fairbanks

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## Minutes

### Attendees:

#### State Employees

Tim Dabney  
Paul Maki  
Kevin Meany  
Jim Schwarber  
Peter Talus  
Kelsey Stybr (DMLW)  
Glen Holt (CES)

#### Public

Stacy Snyder-TRDMA

#### CAC Members (Representing)

Tom Malone (Forest Science)  
Dan Rees (Private Forest User)  
John O'Brien (Mining Industry)  
Jacquie Goss (Lower Tanana Valley)  
Fabian Keirn (Native Community)  
Brad Cox (Value-added Processing)  
Chris Stark (Environmental Interests)  
Reed Morisky (Tourism Industry)  
Paul Karczmarczyk (Fish & Wildlife Interests)

**Minutes** from the previous meeting April 23, 2015 were approved.

### Announcements:

Board of Forestry will meet on November 12, 2015 in Anchorage, and anyone can call in if they want. Contact Jim Schwarber or Tom Malone for the call in number.

Handouts were also provided at the meeting on DOF budget and mission information.

### New Business:

Presentation ideas for future meetings:

- Where the current budget and personnel status is for the DOF and what is still available for the industry/consumers.
- Update on regeneration standards from the Science and Technical Committee. Sometime in the spring possibly.
- John O'Brien offered to give a presentation over available tools such as drones or unmanned vehicles to help with habitat work. Provide video footage.

**Paul Maki** provided the Fairbanks-Delta Area update. They are currently in the middle of recruitment for hiring a new Forester position for the second time. Recruitment happened last spring, but DOF decided not to offer then due to lack of desired candidates and budgetary uncertainty. Additionally, the Fairbanks-Delta merge has gone well. They have gotten good feedback from the public and personnel. A Fire Manager position was not filled in Delta, and Fairbanks personnel have helped cover the position in addition to making weekly trips to Delta to cover manage sales and operations. They will also soon re-recruit for a Delta Forester II seasonally funded position. The position will require both fire and timber management experience and the hope is to fully fund the position upon approval.

The Delta Mississippi Salvage Sale will start back up when the winter river crossing is constructed and in good shape. Six sales are coming up this fall: Cummins Road containing 28 acres, two Quarts Lake Road sales containing 211 acres, two Pinwell Road sales, and one on Pogo Road containing 18 acres. Fairbanks area had six sales in June. Three were sold with about 110 acres and \$170,000 in value and \$44,000 in road work and scarification. There are 227 acres of over the counter sales left from the three unsold sales. On October 27 there will be three sales in the Salcha area totaling about 32 acres. There are also about three future sales coming up with the UAF agreement. They will be offered when the university can advertise, and DOF will be the sale administrators. The Best Interest Finding for the biomass pellet mill had no appeals and the contract is out. Operations are slated to start next summer.

When the use plan for sales on the Nenana Ridge went out for agency notice, the DNR Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Office of History and Archeology suggested an archeological survey be conducted. The contract was issued and the survey has been completed. There were no significant findings.

DOF has solicited for bids from nurseries for white spruce seedlings. DOF plans to plant in the spring. No bids have been submitted as of yet.

2015 Fires: 2015 was the second largest fire season with 5.15 million acres burned and of that 1.08 million acres being in state responsibility. There were 770 fires in Alaska, and 202 fires in the Fairbanks-Delta area. There were 5 type 2 teams assigned to four major fires: an Oregon team to the Rex fire, Southern Gold Team at the Healy Lake fire, Alaska Team at the Anaconda Fire, and the Great Basin Team and a team from the Southwest on the Aggie fire.

DOF will be receiving funds from FIE and the US Forest Service. The program will be for the interior forest inventory data collection partnership between the State, UAF, and Tanana Chiefs Conference. The funding will not be for timber sale management. DOF is looking at potentially using some of the money to fund up to two DOF positions that are currently vacant and unfunded.

**Kevin Meany** provided information on road repair projects in the Fairbanks-Delta area. There was \$800,000 for road repairs from the summer of 2014 rain damage, and the Cache Creek Road Project has been the main recipient of those efforts. A road engineer out of Palmer was contracted for right-of-way clearing, grating and the installment of 10 culverts. The contract has been extended through June 30, 2016. There are also plans for removal and replacement of the Fortune Creek Bridge. The Standard Creek Road project is next. The work will be similar in scope to the Cache Creek Road project but will also include a larger budget. It will go out for contract bid next year. DOF will stay in contact with the Two Rivers Dog Musers Association to coordinate winter mushing events with project work.

**Peter Talus** provided the Tok Area update. Tok has had four new hires in the past few months: an administrative position, dispatch, and two techs. There are no current vacancies. There were also two short term non-permanent employees that worked through this summer from their academy program. They received good training. Jeff Hermanns is going on leave soon and Peter Talus will be acting for him.

2015 Fires: Tok had 51 fires overall this summer. They spent \$17.7 million dollars overall. They hired over 1,000 people, leased 241 pieces of equipment, 42 aircrafts, and had 41 crews.

Young's Timber is moving forward with manufacturing pellet and densified logs and anticipates starting in 2016. The Tok area does not anticipate any new timber sales. The Moon Lake 2004 fire sale and

multiple personal use sales along the Taylor highway 1990 and 2003 fires will be open after the completion of the ice bridge.

Tok area Forestry, ADFG, and the Ruff Grouse Society has had a successful partnership for the habitat project in the 1990 burn area. Their goal is to set back succession with roller chopped units.

**Tim Dabney** gave an overview of the DOF budget handouts. The handouts show how DOF protects and preserves valuable infrastructure and real-estate and stimulate industry through money spent on fires and commercial timber sales. They show indirect returns from supporting infrastructure and wages.

**Public Comments:**

Glen Holt reported the UAF Cooperative Extension Program has provided many workshops and courses for the public to learn fire prevention and Firewise techniques, energy cost savings and forest management. They are asking for ideas for future stewardship, partnerships and public programs.

**CAC member comments:**

Brad Cox offered gratitude from industry to DOF for hearing their appeals and responding to provide for their wants and needs.

Some of the CAC members' terms are expiring soon. The Committee hopes those with expiring positions will consider renewing their terms.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for **January 11, 2016** in Fairbanks.

Meeting adjourned about 7:55pm.

TVSF CAC website: [http://forestry.alaska.gov/tvsf\\_committee.htm](http://forestry.alaska.gov/tvsf_committee.htm)