

Natural Resources Conservation & Development Board
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 16, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

This meeting was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 109 W. International Airport Road, Anchorage, Alaska and by teleconference.

Board members in attendance:

Cheryl Thompson
Carol Kenley
Ina Jones

Others in attendance:

Ed Fogels, Deputy Commissioner, DNR
Shana Joy, Executive Director, NRCDB
Esther Tempel, Leg Liaison, DNR
James Marcus, Southeast SWCD
Franci Havemeister, Director, DNR
Division of Agriculture

Joni Scharfenberg, Fairbanks SWCD
Randy Scharfenberg, Fairbanks SWCD
Brandi Prefontaine, Prince of Wales
Watershed Association
Mike Paschall, Leg. Aide to Rep. Feige

1. Call to Order – Determination of Quorum

It was determined that a quorum was present and the meeting was called to order by Shana Joy at 1:08 p.m. In the absence of the chair and vice chair the executive director acts in their stead.

2. Approval of Agenda

Shana Joy explained that the Deputy Commissioner comments may be delayed until further along the agenda. Also with the federal government shutdown Bob Jones from NRCS State Conservationist cannot attend the meeting. The presentation by the Division of Parks Director has been rescheduled to the spring meeting. **Carol moved to approve the agenda; Ina seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

3. Approval of June 10th, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Carol moved to approve the minutes as presented; Cheryl seconded the motion. The motion passed.

4. Executive Director Report

Shana Joy provided a verbal report to the board of recent projects and activities.

5. DNR Deputy Commissioner Comments

Ed Fogels offered comments to the board regarding HB77 as well as two informational hand-outs.

6. Alaska Association of Conservation Districts Report

An AACD representative was not able to attend the meeting.

Old Business

9. DNR Department Order #120

Shana provided a brief explanation of this agenda item. This is the second of two DNR department orders regarding soil and water conservation districts that needs to be updated. This order describes how the DNR divisions are to interact with the districts on various department matters and processes. The DNR divisions and soil and water conservation districts have had opportunity to provide input into this revision.

Carol moved to approve the draft department order as presented. Cheryl seconded the motion. The motion passed.

10. HB 207 and HB 89 Comment Letter

Carol stated that the letter presented to the board is well written and covers the discussion the board had in June well. **Ina moved to approve the letter for signature and distribution. Carol seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

New Business

11. NACD Annual Conference

Shana Joy intends to participate in this conference representing the DNR/NRCDB and in her capacity associated with NASCA. Cheryl suggested that Ina might like to attend the conference as a new board member; it was very educational for her to go when she first came on the board. Ina expressed interest in attending the conference but will need to check the dates on her schedule.

12. SWCD Financial Reporting Requirements

Shana gave a brief introduction to this topic. Recent questions as to what constitutes a monthly financial report have arisen as well as questions regarding district audits. Shana has been discussing these matters with AACD and proposes to bring a policy recommendation before the board at the spring meeting. She suggested that in lieu of a formal audit for districts that are not legally required to have a formal audit annually, a certified financial statement may be substituted. Second class cities file such a document annually with the Department of Commerce and they are accepted by that entity in lieu of a formal audit. This annual statement, if completed by districts, may also assist them in securing new funding sources. Shana will report back to the board at the next meeting on the status of this project.

13. Board Comments

Cheryl noted that this was a short and quick meeting. Carol thanked Shana for a good job. Ina also thanked Shana.

14. Public Comments

Mike Paschall noted that a new version of HB 207 can be expected sometime in November. Brandi requested a copy of HB 89. Shana Joy directed her to the legislature's website and offered to email a copy to Brandi if she would provide Shana with her email address.

15. Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting will occur in January 2014 by teleconference.

Ina moved to adjourn. Carol seconded. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Minutes taken by:


Shana Joy, Executive Director
NRCDB

Minutes approved by:


George Woodbury, Chair
NRCDB