

The regular teleconference meeting of the Natural Resource Conservation & Development Board (NRCDB) was held December 5, 2014 at the conference room located at 1800 Glenn Highway, Suite 12, Palmer, Alaska.

Board members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. George Woodbury, Board member (telephone)  
Ms. Cheryl Thompson, Board member (telephone)  
Ms. Ina Jones, Board member (telephone)  
Mr. Bernie Karl, Board member (telephone)

Others in attendance:

Ms. Franci Havemeister, Director, Division of Agriculture  
Ms. Lora Haralson, Administrative Officer I, Division of Agriculture  
Mr. Scott Crockett, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Mr. Todd Pettit, President, Alaska Association of  
Conservation Districts (AACD)  
Ms. Dee Pond, Alaska Association of Conservation Districts  
Mr. Erik Johnson, Natural Resource Specialist II, Div. of Agriculture  
Mr. Joshua Scott Kenny Lake Soil & Water Conservation District  
Mr. Erik Veach, Kenny Lake Soil & Water Conservation District  
Ms. Ann Biddle, Kenny Lake Soil & Water Conservation District

**A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

It was determined that a quorum was present and the meeting was called to order by Board member Woodbury at 9:00 a.m.

**B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.  
The agenda was approved.

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT/SESSION (three minutes per person)**

*(No members of the public were present).*

**D. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING**

**June 25, 2014 Draft Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Board member Karl moved to approve the minutes of June 25,

2014.  
**SECOND** Board member Jones seconded the motion.  
**VOTE:** The motion passed without objection.

## **E. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

### Acting Executive Director Havemeister:

- Stated the DNR Commissioner's office has not made a determination of where the Natural Resource Conservation & Development Board (NRCDB) will remain in the Commissioner's office or be assigned to the Division of Agriculture.
- Informed the board that John Schirack was appointed to the NRCDB for the south central vacancy.
- Reviewed the Waters of the United States (WOTUS). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the US Army Corp of Engineers issued a proposed rule on March 25, 2014 that would expand its regulatory authority under the Clean Water Act. Final rule is expected sometime in the Spring of 2015.

### AACD President Todd Pettit:

Asked the NRCDB to write a letter to the new DNR Commissioner asking for permanent funding for the Soil & Water Conservation Districts be included in the general fund operating budget.

Stated the AACD had hired John Bitney as a public information officer and that Dee Pond, Chief Administrative Officer returned to her position with the AACD.

A good meeting was held in August 2014 with DNR Commissioner Balash. The AACD needs to start working with the new administration. The Mid-Yukon Soil & Water Conservation District is now in trouble due to lack of funding, some other districts are just trying to keep their head above water.

The Board held a discussion.

The Board stated that the NRCDB and the AACD need to work with their legislators regarding the lack of funding for the Soil & Water Conservation Districts and need a plan to present to the DNR Commissioner regarding natural resource revenues that could be utilized to help with the State's budget deficit. A plan will be developed and reviewed before the next NRCDB meeting.

## **F. NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

### **SWCD FY15 Annual Work Plans Review**

#### **Fairbanks:**

**MOTION:** Board member Jones moved to approve as presented.

**SECOND:** Board member Karl seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The motion passed without objection.

#### **Kenny Lake:**

**MOTION:** Board member Karl moved to approve as presented.

**SECOND:** Board member Jones seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The motion passed without objection.

#### **Mid Yukon Kuskokwim:**

**MOTION:** Board member Karl moved to approve as presented.

**SECOND:** Board member Jones seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The motion passed without objection.

#### **Salcha Delta:**

**MOTION:** Board member Karl moved to approve as presented.

**SECOND:** Board member Jones seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The motion passed without objection.

#### **Southeast:**

**MOTION:** Board member Karl moved to approve as presented.

**SECOND:** Board member Jones seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The motion passed without objection.

### **Kenny Lake Boundary Expansion Proposal**

Acting Executive Director Havemeister stated after reviewing the boundary expansion process in the NRCDB operations manual that the NRCDB would need to hold a public meeting before the proposal was approved.

Joshua Scott from Kenny Lake stated that two public meetings have already been held regarding the proposal.

The Board held a discussion.

Acting Executive Director Havemeister will get a legal opinion from the Assistant Attorney General if the NRCDB needs to hold a public hearing and she will inform the Board.

**G. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Board member Karl stated it will be a very tough year and suggested everyone figure out what suggestions they can give their representatives to help them and Governor Walker with the State budget shortfall.

Board member Woodbury stated the State has revenue sources that are not being fully utilized and the Board needs to assist to help find those sources.

Board member Karl stated a bridge over Nenana should be completed soon which will open up agriculture ground.

Acting Executive Director Havemeister stated she toured the Nenana Totchaket area and spoke to the Borough Manager who indicated they anticipated a completion date in April 2015. The area will have 100,000 acres that is determined for agriculture. A land sale will be held after the bridge is completed.

Acting Executive Director Havemeister on behalf of Board member Schirack asked when was the Alaska District was disbanded? The areas outside of the Alaska District are governed by the NRCDB.

**H. SET NEXT MEETING & AGENDA ITEMS**

A teleconference will be held to discuss the Kenny Lake Boundary Expansion.

An in person meeting will be held in Juneau on Tuesday, March 3, 2015.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

Board member Karl moved to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Minutes taken by:

Minutes approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lora Haralson, Div. of Agriculture

\_\_\_\_\_  
George Woodbury, Chair  
NRCDB