

A. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM AND ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Board of Agriculture & Conservation (BAC) was held January 7, 2016 at the Division of Agriculture conference room, 1800 Glenn Highway, St.12, Palmer, Alaska. Chair Ben VanderWeele called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Board members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Ben VanderWeele, Chair
Mr. John Schirack, Vice Chair
Mr. Chris Flickinger, Board member
Ms. Deidre Berberich, Board member
Mr. Troy Shelden, Board member
Ms. Roxy Marcy, Board member (telephone)

Staff in attendance was:

Mr. Ed Fogels, Deputy Commissioner, DNR
Mr. Rob Carter, Acting Director, Agronomist III
Ms. Lora Haralson, Administrative Officer I
Mr. Robert McFarlane, AAG, Dept. of Law (telephone)
Ms. Amanda Swanson, ARLF Loan Officer

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Board member Flickinger moved to approve the agenda.

SECOND: Board member Berberich seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

C. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

Chair VanderWeele stated now is the time for conflict disclosures. You have the agenda outlining pending business and we will be going into executive session later to address loan requests. Does any member have a conflict to disclose relating to any business before the board?

- Chair VanderWeele stated as all of you know, Arthur Keyes is one of the applicants for the Director's job and Arthur is my son-in-law. I asked the Department of Law to advise me on whether it would be a conflict of interest for me to be involved in the Director selection process under

these circumstances. The Department of Law has advised me (on more than one occasion), that they have looked at this issue and I do not have a conflict of interest merely because Arthur Keyes is my son-in-law. I understand that AS 39.52.120 prohibits me from granting unwarranted benefits or treatment for any person and that my responsibility in this process is to help select the best applicants for the job of Division Director. The Department of Law has also advised me that I can participate in the applicant interviews in Executive Session and that I can vote on names to be included in the list of acceptable applicants to be sent to the Commissioner of DNR.

MOTION: Board member Shelden moved to go into Executive Session.

SECOND: Vice Chair Schirack seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

D. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session to interview candidates for the Director position and the Plant Kingdom Replat Request included Chair Ben VanderWeele, Vice Chair John Schirack, Board member Chris Flickinger, Board member Troy Shelden, Board member Deidre Berberich, Board member Roxy Marcy (telephone), DNR Deputy Commissioner Ed Fogels, Acting Director Robert Carter and Administrative Officer Lora Haralson.

PUBLIC SESSION

Plant Kingdom

Replat Request

Approved

MOTION: Board member Shelden moved to approve the Plant Kingdom Replat Request as recommended by the loan officer.

SECOND: Board member Berberich seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

Director of Agriculture Recommendations

MOTION: Board member Marcy moved to approve Lucas Knowles and Arthur Keys as the Board recommendations for the Division of Agriculture Director position to DNR, Commissioner Mark Myers.

SECOND: Board member Flickinger seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS/SESSION

No public comments were made.

F. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

December 11, 2015 Draft Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Vice Chair Schirack moved to approve the minutes of December 11, 2015.

SECOND Board member Shelden seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

G. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Loan Officer Swanson Asset Report

The January 2016 asset report was reviewed.

4614 Tanana Loop Ext. Delta Junction Counter Offer

The prospective buyer counter offered at \$275,000.00 purchase price, \$25,000.00 earnest money deposit, with a closing date of February 19, 2016. The prospective buyer has also submitted a partial application for financing.

MOTION: Board member Flickinger moved to decline the offer.

SECOND Vice Chair Schirack seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

H. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

There was no new/old business.

I. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Chair VanderWeele stated that a Sustaining the Livestock Industry meeting will be held on January 13, 2016 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Mat Su Borough Assembly Chambers.

J. SET NEXT MEETING & AGENDA ITEMS:

The next meeting will be determined at a later date.

K. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.