
ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM AND ROLL CALL:

The regular meeting of the Board of Agriculture & Conservation (BAC) was held on 03/19/24, in person & via Zoom/teleconference. Chair Jeff Vance called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

A. ROLL CALL/ APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

Rollcall Vote:

- i. MOTION: Moved to approve the agenda and minutes of preceding meeting.

Vance – Yes, Anderson – Yes, Bates – Yes, Bergy – Yes, Boring – absent, Davies – Yes, Jensi – absent.

VOTE: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions, and 2 absent during Roll Call vote.

Board members present and establishing a quorum were:

- Brian Scoresby, Division Director (In person)
- Jeffrey (Jeff) Vance, Chair (Zoom)
- John Anderson, Vice Chair (Zoom)
- Matt Bates (Zoom)
- Thomas (Tom) Bergey, Board Member (In person)
- James (Jamie) Boring, Board Member (Zoom)-joined meeting a few minutes late.
- Stuart (Stu) Davies, Board Member (Zoom)
- Adam Jensi, Board Member (Zoom)-joined meeting a few minutes late.

Staff in Attendance:

- Christy Kolvoord, Natural Resource Specialist III (ARLF Loan Officer, In person)
- Victoria Vinson, Administrative Assistant 2 (In person)
- Kevin Higgins, Attorney 5, Dept. of Law (Zoom)
- June Gotschall, Accountant 5, DNR (Zoom)
- George Deaton, Accountant 3, DNR (Zoom)
- Cynthia Morales, Accountant 4, DNR (Zoom)

Public in Attendance:

- Markos Scheer
- TJ Gittins
- Jessica Gittins

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

- i. Stu Davies needs to leave by 11:00.

D. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

- i. Markos Scheer-presentation of Mariculture in Alaska
- ii. Bryan Scoresby Division Update:
 - i. Strongly encourage visiting Seagrove.

-
- ii. Grants-Closed Friday
 - 1. About 20 RFSI grant requests-with funding for 7 or 8.
 - 2. About 1300 micro grants-with funding for about 350.
 - iii. Inspection Team-doing log inspections.
 - iv. Congrats to the admin staff for clearing P-Card reports.
 - v. Attended Saltwater Conservation meeting in Homer.
 - vi. Site visits:
 - 1. Toured a packaging facility for Rhodiola.
 - 2. Visited cattle farmer
 - vii. Visited Slaughterhouse in Pamler that will be liquidating by November 1st.
 - viii. MatSu Port Commission-US military looking for place to hold arms and munition-possibly Point McKensie.
 - ix. Division of Ag visited Delta Junction for Farm Forum.
 - x. PMC-renovating existing seed house. Staff toured other seed cleaning facilities to gain knowledge of what can be done.
 - xi. Visited local produce farm with DOC.
 - xii. Visited UAA to tour meat cutting class and culinary class.
- iii. Erick Johnson-Ag Land Management
 - i. Subdivision of land-Board can review farm plans.
 - ii. Board will review plans for next meeting.
 - iv. ARLF FINANCIALS
 - i. Any questions?
 - 1. Vance-FY2024 Operating Revenue totals look good
 - 2. Vance-Past Due loan less collateral value
 - 3. Boring-Do we have a number of farmers who are not currently productive?
 - Christy-Gathering information still
 - 4. Bergey-what happens when a borrower passes?
 - Scoresby-Estate takes over the loan.
 - v. ARLF loan Officer
 - i. Attended Mariculture Conference
 - 1. Received applications, met current borrowers, learned a lot about Mariculture.
 - ii. Attended Farm Forum in Delta. Was able to meet a few current borrowers. Also had a booth set up and gave a presentation.
 - vi. Public Comment Session
 - i. None
- E. NEW/OLD BUSINESS**
- i. BAC and ARLF Calendar of Events
 - i. Please look at calendar and see what will absolutely not work.

1. August proposed meeting
 - will be difficult for Bergy and Bates to attend.
 - Farm Family of the year presentation
 - PMC tour maybe?
- ii. Food and Farm Festival will rotate locations.
- ii. ARLF Regulations-Restating duties of the board to see if there were any questions.
 - i. Boring-is target marketing different than allocation of funds?
 1. Christy-Marketing is allowed for specific farm types.

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION –

- i. MOTION: Moved to go to executive session to discuss confidential loan information and delinquencies.
 - i. 1st – Tom Bergey
Roll call-Vance-disconnected, Anderson-yes, Bates-yes, Bergey-yes, Boring-disconnected, Davies-yes, Jensi-yes
Vote: 5 yes, 2 disconnected early

G. PUBLIC SESSION ON LOAN APPLICATIONS

- i. MOTION: Approve the Ben Adams application per the loan officer's recommendation.
 - i. 1st – Matt Bates
 - ii. 2nd – Tom Boring
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: Vance – Yes, Anderson – No, Bates – Yes, Bergy – Yes, Boring - Yes, Davies – Absent, Jensi – Recused
VOTE: 4 yes, 1 no, 0 abstentions, 1 absent, and 1 recused
Motion APPROVED
- ii. MOTION: To Approve Nate Burriss application per loan officer's recommendation.
 - i. 1st – Mat Bates
 - ii. 2nd – John Anderson
DISCUSSION: Vance-what is the loan officer's recommendation?
Christy-to approve the loan as presented.
VOTE: Vance – Yes, Anderson – No, Bates – Yes, Bergy – Yes, Boring - No, Davies – absent, Jensi – No.
VOTE: 3 yes, 3 no, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent.
Motion Denied
- iii. MOTION: To bring Thomas Gittins forward for approval with the provision of the FSA approval.
 - iii. 1st – Tom Bergey
 - iv. 2nd – John Anderson
DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Vance – No, Anderson – No, Bates – No, Bergy – No, Boring - Yes,
Davies – Absent, Jensi – Yes.

VOTE: 2 yes, 4 no, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent.

Motion Denied

iv. MOTION: Bring forward for approval the Rex Rammel application.

v. 1st – Tom Bergey

vi. 2nd – John Anderson

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Vance – No, Anderson – No, Bates – No, Bergy – No, Boring - No,
Davies – Absent, Jensi – No.

VOTE: 0 yes, 6 no, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent.

Motion Denied

H. BOARDMEMBER COMMENTS

- i. Boring-stellar meeting, I appreciate what staff and board did.
- ii. Vance-apologies for needing to step out.
- iii. Anderson- good conversation.
- iv. Jensi-appreciate staff.
- v. Boring-Christy do you need help relaying this information to the applicants?
 - i. Christy-I feel comfortable but if anyone would like to share their contact information in needed, that would be beneficial.
 1. Several members offered support.
- vi. Bergey-We need policy to communicate options to borrowers for protection for future needs.
 - i. Boring-how do you propose to document this information?
 - ii. Bergey-documentation of board decisions
 - iii. Christy-Will take it upon myself to record board's decisions.

I. SET NEXT MEETING (NO MOTION NEEDED)

- i. April 16th, 2024

J. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn @ 12:28PM

1st: John Anderson

2nd: In audible

All in favor say "Ay". The ayes have it.