



Northwest Arctic Borough

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF:

Ambler Buckland Candle Deering Kivalina Kiana
Kobuk Kotzebue Noatak Noorvik Selawik Shungnak

Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Land Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 22, 2015 – 11:00 A.M.

Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK

CALL TO ORDER

Madam Chair Lucy Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

INVOCATION

Mr. Miles Cleveland provided the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Budget, Audit and Finance Committee Members Present:

Clyde Ramoth *Frank Greene* *Walter Sampson*
(telephonic)

Other Members Present

Nathan Hadley Jr. Vern Cleveland Sr.

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Matt Mead	Fred Smith	Noah Naylor	Bill McClintock
Kathleen Lansdale	Rosny Rizk	Wendie Schaeffer	Charlie Gregg
Stella Atoruk			

A quorum was present to conduct business.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda presented for June 22, 2015 for approval.

Member Ramoth motioned, Member Greene seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

RESOLUTIONS

None presented.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Update on Northwest Arctic Borough municipal selections; Bill McClintock provided a slideshow of the maps that have been in progress this past few years. Borough has selected areas to gain title to from the state; five different areas around the Borough. Concentrated on Kobuk and Candle area; primarily Kobuk especially was Land Committee's main concern, the Paw, Maniilaq River, Kobuk River and Candle because State had title to it. Although in Kobuk area there is still land owned by BLM that hasn't been conveyed to State yet; they have tentative approval but that isn't clear patent title. They can't have us official survey until they have title; which is the case for most of the selections as well. Would like to have direction as how to proceed.

Chair Sampson verified what percentage of the two hundred thirty eighty thousand that we have gotten entitled to under the municipal land selections have been surveyed. He mentioned that he understands that they may have second thoughts as to what they may want to get title to; State of Alaska is in the quid mire due to budget. The past forty years the State has been going through their land selection, they are not too concerned about getting the land conveyed.

Bill mentioned that Federal Government would have to pay to have State lands conveyed. State had prioritized their list of survey funds; allotments, ANSCA incorporated land and then State lands. Most of the native allotments surveyed, big chunk of the ANSCA approximate ninety percent complete and State has a priority list incorporated which may be different from Borough's priorities. They have conveyed forty five thousand acres, surveyed eighty thousand acres. President Sampson request an invite to State of Alaska to come to Kotzebue to meet with us regarding the lands selected, will they be conveyed?; or is it going to be dropped from their priority list. Bill mentioned another idea; meet with BLM, State and Borough to see a way to survey the lands, get title to State and Borough quickly, potential to save money for all entities.

Bill mentioned there preliminary decision of the final finding of Squirrel River Area; there was under fifty thousand acres approved for the Borough; no letter of final approval yet from Department of Natural Resource. Member Sampson raised his concern regarding sections of the Squirrel River because of issues that come before the region; use of those lands by the public.

Prioritizing areas to be surveyed this year; Bill mentioned that we need to determine where to focus our efforts, either Squirrel River or Shungnak townships. If doing Squirrel River then we need to get the final finding and decision from the State completed. Chair Sampson mentioned if State is not concerned about Squirrel than we need to concentrate on finishing up Upper Kobuk Area where the public user groups are moving farther east in those areas. McClintock mentioned that Kobuk River, Paw and Maniilaq surveys are done. Chair Sampson verified if Ambler Mining District has been done or not. He also mentioned that need to check on the funding from DNR, check access areas to the potential resource site so that can make some sort of revenue from the leases or whatever. Critically

important for continued seek of additional revenue so we get title of those lands because State continue to lose their revenue. Chair Sampson thank McClintock for continued support during the budget crisis. Member Ramoth verified the timeline of prioritizing. Fred mentioned they will set up a meeting date possibly in Anchorage with DNR and BLM which will help with our priorities; Walter also mentioned he would like to participate in those discussions. Member Greene request McClintock to draw up a brief report for the Assembly to review. Chair Sampson recommend do pass for resolution for the contract work.

Other; Fred mentioned that the Subsistence Mapping Project is coming to an end, there is a contractor to create a web portal; Mayor Joule request the Land Committee to review the contents before going to public. Which should be complete six to seven weeks.

KIC had approached Borough regarding lands around the Technical Center which the School District would be involved; they would like to do a land trade here in Kotzebue. Title for those lands are still sitting at State DOT; just a heads up, any involvement with Borough lands it will be brought to the Assembly. KIC would like to expand their barge area, they would like to trade with the parking lot in the school area. Chair Sampson raised his concern regarding the folks utilizing those lands even before City made some selections to some of those areas. This is not an overnight thing, a lot of homework if that is what it takes.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Member Ramoth thank Walter, Obbie and staff for good meeting.

Chair Sampson mentioned good meeting, thank Bill for his presentation

Member Greene had no comment.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

No audience comments presented.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

Member Greene motioned to adjourn.