

Natural Resources Committee
11/21/2007
7:30 a.m.
GFCC Conference Room

Attendance: Tom Bundtzen, Chair; Cal Skaugstad, Gale Skaugstad, Bill Brophy, Lorna Shaw, Roger Burggraf, Rhonda Boyles, Rick Solie, and Michelle Gibson

1. **Call to Order.** Tom Bundtzen called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.
2. **Roll Call.**
3. **Approval of 11/16/2007 Natural Resources Committee Minutes.**
Motion: Roger Burggraf; Second: Lorna Shaw; approved: yes
4. **Recommendations/Suggestions for new Natural Resource Committee Members**
 - a. Looking for slate by Monday for approval. Want broad-based membership for Natural Resources
 - i. Chris Maisch is interested with DNR.
 - ii. Paul Costello and Kerry Shaw.
 - iii. Mark Lee with DNR.
 - iv. Dana Novak, NORAK.
 - v. Bill Vivlamore.
 - vi. John Brown—Operating Unions.
 - vii. Rick Caulfield, TVC.
5. **NRC Meeting Schedule**
 - a. What does the committee think about every week—2 times per month, calling extra meetings if needed. Subjects may require joint meetings since no other committee has a Wednesday meeting. Envisioning the committee to do work for the Chamber so the Board can make decisions.
6. **Updates**
 - a. Karl Hanneman is confirmed for next Tuesday's GML on mining in the Interior, and Clean Water Initiative threat to mining. Talking at the Chamber Luncheon. Wanting to focus on the economic impacts of mining. Also, encouraged him to have fact sheet on the initiative on the tables. Mining paid \$170 million in taxes paid last year.
 - b. Steve Haagenson is giving a program on his model next Wednesday.
 - c. Discussion: Rhonda Boyles, Tom Bundtzen, Lorna Shaw, Roger Burggraf, Rick Solie, Bill Brophy, Cal Skaugstad
 - i. What should the chronological order of disseminating mining issues be?
 - ii. Need summary and economic impact

- iii. Contract out to update all the tax related issues done sometime in January and February.
- iv. Ballot initiatives—tough and political, appear in part in the November ballots.
- v. Deadline is early January for initiative signatures.
- vi. Issue of where habitat belongs, worthy of discussion and debate at committee level. Educate on economic, then on permitting, then initiatives.
- vii. Focus on individual mines nearby and impact.
- viii. If the new information is out by that time, combined with it, then roll into permitting stuff, then talk about the initiatives.
- ix. Union movement closely aligned with mining.
- x. Might be able to get someone from RDC here or someone here go done.
- xi. Projecting into session, if end up with taxing issue, need to combine educational piece with GRC and Board. Planning for that by February. Mining taxation being proposed
- xii. This information we have here that we received on what mining has contributed has helped to bolster what we have been saying. If Clean Water Initiative passes, big mines out of business, and state loses substantial revenues.
- xiii. Summary of what the ramifications of the percentages of taxes now that law with PPT. Would like to get more than superficial knowledge.
- xiv. Probably have Alliance talk about changes to understand how that changed. Then some sense of where stacks up worldwide.
- xv. Colville Delta CV5 inability to get bridge through the Corps. Stymied for the last few years. Trucking firm hauling low-sulfur diesel. Have to be burning low sulfur fuel on the Slope. Bargaining and trucking it.
- xvi. AOGA come and do high level or RDC.
- xvii. Can schedule Jim Fish to talk about the new fish hatchery.
- xviii. Updates from forestry and agriculture. More forest product information.
- xix. Greg Wolfe of World Trade Center Alaska wants to do the statewide economic forecast and release of information in Fairbanks at GML in January.
- xx. Kinross Gold operations have mines in Russia.
- xxi. Paul Metz has done a resource modeling effort along the Alaska Canada rail link route. Could give update to the committee
- xxii. Coal industry stable source of energy for the interior, but not hearing enough from the industry. Would like to know what's going on with HCCP.

- xxiii. Effort right now looking at alternative energy sources—exciting because of taking destiny in own hands so alternatives become more attractive. Coal Gasification. Need to have energy because important to resource development. Steve Denton good for making a presentation
- xxiv. Met with Mark Hamilton this week, and phenomenal amount of research done on global warming, and resource training.
 - 1. Want different points of view about what is going on. Two tiered pro and con covered in different luncheons.
- xxv. Think there is a lot of potential for agriculture in this state. Settle down to what happens in budget cycle, but more agriculture goes on in Palmer. Contact Francie Havermeier to send someone to give a program.
- xxvi. New sportfish director in town on 12/5—invite him to a meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle B. Gibson