

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE & CONSERVATION MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2026

1801 S. Margaret Dr., Suite 12, Palmer, Alaska

Held in person and via Microsoft Teams

A. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Vice Chair John Anderson called the meeting to order at approximately 9:07 a.m. A quorum was established.

Motion: Approve Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes (Appendix A)

Jeff Vance made a motion to approve the agenda and previous meeting minutes.

Stu Davies noted a correction to the previous meeting minutes regarding identification of members making motions. Staff indicated the corrections would be made after review of the recording.

Adam Jensi seconded the motion.

Rollcall Vote:

Chair, James (Jamie) Boring – Absent

Vice Chair, John Anderson – Yes

Matthew (Matt) Bates – Yes

Thomas (Tom) Bergey – Yes

Jeff Vance – Yes

Stuart (Stu) Davies – Yes

Adam Jensi – Yes

Motion Approved: 6 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

- b. Staff in Attendance:

- Bryan Scoresby, Division of Agriculture Director
- Channcie Alfred, Natural Resource Specialist 3 (ARLF Loan Officer)
- Kevin Higgins, Attorney V, Department of Law
- George Deaton, Accountant III, DNR
- Ed Cook, Administrative Assistant 2

- c. Public in Attendance:

- Lexa Meyer, Alaska Ocean Farms
- Tarn Coffey

Chair Jamie Boring joined the meeting at approximately 8:17 a.m. and proceeded to oversee the remainder of the meeting.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

No conflicts of interest were disclosed.

D. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

a. Director Scoresby provided updates:

- Mia and Ramsey are out of state at the National Plant Board meetings this week.
- Fertilizer supplies are adequate for this season. There was a news report nationwide because of the activity over in the Strait of Hormuz, that fertilizer going through the through the Strait would be limited and be short in America. Alaska Mill and feed, I got a report from them. And there's adequate supplies that they've got laid in the co-op in Delta. They still have to go to British Columbia and get a couple of loads. They've got them secured, paid, but haven't got them all trucked in yet.
- Rodney, who's one of our grant team members, put in his resignation left three or three weeks ago. Kind of puts our grants team in a little bit of a shortage in labor, but it also creates an opportunity for the current staff that are here.
- I'm going on a week-long vacation, starting this afternoon after this meeting. I'm going down to Idaho. Purchased a vehicle and will be driving it back up next week.
- FFA Convention was held here in Palmer. There were 247 FFA students from across the state here to participate in all kinds of leadership contests. I personally judged prepared public speaking and the farm and ranch management contest. Other Staff, including Channcie, I know she participated in flower judging, and also in their networking, new employment skills that they have, and other staff participate in other judging contests too. It's a great time for us to rub shoulders with kids. They really enjoy having us leave our desks and go in and rub shoulders with them and they as they participate in these contests.
- We are in the process of nominating some new AG Covenant ground for sale in Delta, Nenana and Kenny Lake for the next land sale in 2028. I want you to know I've advocated for the lands in the Ellison project as non-covenant ground even. To get more on your tax rolls. I don't know if I'm going to be successful, but I'd ask you to continue to pursue on your other side's get your reps involved and we want those sold those lands sold. A little bit of political pressure goes a long way. I've made the point in these in all our conversations that, you know, keeping this land out of public ownership does no good to anybody. There's plenty of recreational land everywhere in the state. No one's short on recreation land. We're short on settlement

grounds to build houses and we're short on lands. If we get it sold for AG lands and economic activity can start to take place.

- We received approval for our block grant from USDA Farm Service Agency last week. We sent out a press release and announced it through social media. This is a block grant that we got approved for help to our Peony growers and it's targeted to the Peony growers for losses they had in 23 and 24.
 - The Plant Material Center is getting their seed cleaning equipment started. West Coast Companies are in town working out some kinks a week or two weeks ago, Donaldson, who did the dust collector system, was in town and got that up and running. In one of the kinks yesterday was they were installing springs in the for separation. And the covering place has 8 bolts on it, and it weighs about 250 pounds. It takes like four guys or forklift and a couple of guys to lift that up so they can replace the screens and it's not easy and then getting it lined up so your bolts can go back in. Is a real challenge and anyway, there it makes cleaning out really easy. Real difficult when we're changing from 1 variety of grass seed to another. They're looking to modify that. They have several ideas. One of them is too, hinge one side, then you can lift it up with like a little pulley system. Change your screens and put them back down. That they have several ideas that they're working on to do. I went out there last night, last yesterday and late afternoon. And they were trying to get the screens back in after doing it. And the challenge was understood clearly. When they were lifting that thing up and the cover, they put screens in them, took them out and the bolts didn't line up very well. So, they're making some modifications to that lid so they can do that. I don't know what it'll end up being, but I think today they think that today they'll be able to actually start the machinery up, and that's going to be a fun project. Super sacks of seed all staged inside the seed cleaning room as well as in the storage room. To get that gone and organized. The varieties that we need first and last are staged. He's planned all that out. It's really exciting to see. It's going to be running here. Probably running full board here before the weeks out and that's all I have. Unless you have questions.
 - Stu Davies : Yeah, I have a question and on the seed cleaning, Bryan, are they going to be able to clean enough seed for this year's sales this spring cause a lot of these contractors are going to want their seed. Bryan: Yes, Stu, our anticipation is, we will have all of our existing stock of seed cleaned. So, when the fall comes and we're bringing in this year 2025 seed, we will be ready to start cleaning 2025 seed in the fall.
- b. Channie Alfred provided ARLF financial and operational updates, including current lending capacity, loan processing workload, upcoming mariculture inspections, and reporting discrepancies under review.
- Loan Officer to be of the office May 4th through the 8th, doing inspections on our mariculture loans down in the Ketchikan and Princeton Wells area. Will

be inspecting three of our borrowers down in that area. We're going to be looking at their processes and the equipment and collateral and items like that.

- Regarding available lending capacity, we currently have approximately 3.2 million in lending. The two loans that we currently have approved that need to be dispersed out are ones that are paying off current ARLF loans. Once those are done, we will have about 4 million in lending capacity.
- We currently have 11 loans in processing. I would like to prioritize the short-term loans for the next meetings because those are the operating loans for the for this year and getting those prioritized are going to be my number one goal we do have. About 4.4 million in requests right now of loans.

c. Public Comments:

Lexa Meyer of Alaska Ocean Farms addressed the Board regarding oyster and kelp farming operations, market opportunities, mariculture funding, and operational expansion.

Tarn Coffey provided comments regarding spring agricultural conditions in Interior Alaska and progress at the Tok agricultural project.

E. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

a. AO 360 – Summary of Proposed Regulatory Updates:

Channcie Alfred presented proposed ARLF regulatory updates in response to Administrative Order 360. Board discussion included timelines, coordination with the Department of Law, and future review scheduling.

b. Request to Set Board Meeting Date for June 2026:

Channcie Alfred requested consideration of a June 9, 2026 meeting due to current application volume and staffing limitations. Board members generally expressed support.

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION

a. Stu Davies made a motion to enter Executive Session.

Jeff Vance seconded the motion.

Rollcall Vote:

Chair, James (Jamie) Boring – Yes

Vice Chair, John Anderson – Yes

Matthew (Matt) Bates – Yes

Thomas (Tom) Bergey – Yes

Jeff Vance – Yes

Stuart (Stu) Davies – Yes

Adam Janski – Yes

Motion Approved: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

The Board entered Executive Session.

G. PUBLIC SESSION VOTE ON LOAN APPLICATION

The Board returned to public session following Executive Session.

a. Lanni, Emily and Gerlach-Ryan, Connor:

Stu Davies made a motion to approve the Lanni operating loan per the Loan Officer's recommendation.

Tom Bergy seconds the motion

No discussion.

Rollcall Vote:

Chair, James (Jamie) Boring – Yes

Vice Chair, John Anderson – Absent

Matthew (Matt) Bates – Yes

Thomas (Tom) Bergey – Yes

Jeff Vance – Yes

Stuart (Stu) Davies – Yes

Adam Jensi – Yes

Motion Approved: 6 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

b. Alaska Ocean Farms LLC:

Stu Davies made a motion to table the Alaska Ocean Farms chattel loan pending further information regarding other loan sources.

Adam Jensi seconds the motion.

No discussion.

Rollcall Vote:

Chair, James (Jamie) Boring – Yes

Vice Chair, John Anderson – Absent

Matthew (Matt) Bates – Yes

Thomas (Tom) Bergey – Yes

Jeff Vance – Yes

Stuart (Stu) Davies – Yes

Adam Jensi – Yes

Motion to Table Approved: 6 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

H. BOARDMEMBER COMMENTS

Board members provided brief comments and operational updates following Executive Session.

- Jamie Boring: Just had an opportunity to go out to Nunivak Island to inspect their USDA facility that they have there. They've got 7000 head of reindeer in NIMA Corporation is trying to figure out a way to get that protein to market. So it was a was a great opportunity. I was supposed to go out there for two days, ended up being there for seven, got invited to potluck and church. Yeah, we were able to do a winter harvest, not USDA inspectable, but a winter harvest of 50 reindeer. While I was out there. It's good to see the process.
- Matt Bates: So I don't know if anybody's been watching the weather in the lower 48 and stuff. I know we talked about fuel prices and fertilizer prices, but. They're calling for 60% of the continental United States to be in a severe drought for this year. So, there's going to be some issues that way. Feed supplies may be shortened as if nobody can grow the crops that's going to put a crunch on everything for bringing feed in for Livestock. It's going to put a lot of beef cows on the market to be slaughtered, which is going to drive beef prices up for consumers everywhere over the next few years. So that's something for everybody to keep your eyes on.
- Adam Jensi reports - On our note, at the last meatpackers, we did get approved for USDA slaughtering of poultry. So we're going to offer that. So we know any farmers out there that want to get their poultry in the restaurants or stores and stuff like that will be able to offer that service. You know, we've got a lot of past for that and we'll be able to do that. 4H is going to be looking forward to that. We'll be doing the 4H birds this for the first year so.
- Stu Davies reported business operations were slow due to weather conditions but stated operations remained stable.
- Jeff Vance and John Anderson indicated they had no additional comments.

I. MEETING DATES

The Board added a meeting date of June 9, 2026, due to application workload.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Jamie Boring made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stu Davis seconds the motion.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:56 a.m.

Prepared by:
Channcie J. Alfred