

## **Copper Basin Land and Resource Managers Meeting October 7, 2015 Notes**

Present in person:

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) - Dennis Teitzel

BLM - Marnie Graham

National Park Service (NPS) - Bruce Rogers

NPS - Glenn Hart

National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) - Lynn Grams

Copper Country Alliance (CCA) - Felicia Reidel

State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) - Mark Somerville

BLM Branch of Pipeline Monitoring (BPM) - Steve Weeks

BLM BPM – Nolan Heath

State of Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, Denali Highway - Tom Gillispie

Chickaloon Village, Executive Director - Gary Hay

ADF&G Glennallen - Mark Somerville

Present via Teleconference:

Copper River Watershed Project (CRWP) – Kristin Carpenter

CRWP – Kate Morse

CRWP – Danielle Verna

State of Alaska Dept. of Trans. and Public Facilities (AKDOT&PF) – Duane Hoskins

State of Alaska Pipeline Coordinators Office - Tammias Brown

ADFG, Div wildlife conservation, Public Access - Dave Ryland

DNR Land Sales - John Thomas

DNR, MLW - Candice Snow

Introductions were made.

**Dennis Teitzel - BLM:** Campground visitation is up. We had a 3% increase, 5% on trails, and we think there are many reasons why: Fires brought people to our area, hunting was good this year, good fishing out of Sourdough, the King season did not close. Princess Cruise Lines buses stopping on a regular basis and a lot of day use. Personnel: Elijah Waters went to Gunnison Colorado to become BLM field Manager. Mike Sondergaard is the new Associate Field Manager. New Wildlife Biologist hired - Jesse Hankins will arrive from Miles City, Montana in November or December. His family will follow in the spring. We will rehire a forester position and hope to be announcing this soon as a local hire. We hired 2 administrative assistants through local hire this past year. We also hired 13 - 14 youth summer seasonal employees this year. BLM signed an agreement with Prince William Sound College for future student interns. Forestry: issued 50 subsistence firewood permits issued last year, down a bit. Currently have 2 commercial operators under permit. Expect to have 1 or 2 more in the next few months, all in the Tiekel area. Subsistence Moose permits: issued 1339 permits, 79 harvested. Caribou 2917 permits issued, 496 total take, 369 bulls at this point. Harvests are within the 10 year average. A little higher than the last few years, bust still within average. BLM is sharing numbers with State and with Ralph Lohse Subsistence RAC chair about population. Population is about 300 over on bull harvest according to State. We are waiting to still if we are still within objectives. Paxson Closed Area

and motorized use. There's no special category. It's swampy, not an ideal place for off-road travel. People should stay on existing trails, if you go off trail it should be minimal and not cause resource damage. Mark: if local board were to ask that Paxson closed area be closed to motorized use would blm honor that? Dennis: that would be up to the subsistence board. We found that people now informed are doing the right thing. Bruce: when season reopens will there be a bull or cow restriction? Dennis: That hasn't been determined yet. If we are asked by the State, we would then go to the subsistence RAC, and also there would be a look at what is enforceable. If we were asked to go cow only, how enforceable is that? Mark: take for rest of the season probably isn't very high. Dennis: yes that's another factor...what is the potential take? BLM is working to update technology on subsistence maps so they can be downloaded. Keep an eye out for those updates. Lands: SEND North has asked to purchase the reversionary clause on their Recreation and Public Purpose Act patent. These are the lands which contain Cross Road Medical Center and KCAM. Senator Murkowski has proposed legislation to transfer the land as opposed to purchasing it. BLM will continue through the purchase process option, simultaneously with legislative process. The BLM process would still take 1 year at the earliest. There are 2 parcels being sold over in the Slana area. 2 failed homesteads and trade and manufacturing sites. Occupants have opted to purchase. Those will be wrapped up in the next few months. Only able to purchase impacted portions of parcels. Dave Ryland: Repeat river use numbers, please. 1600 on Delta, 3000 on Gulkana. Tom Gillispie: Can State obtain those figures for use by the State? BLM: yes.

**Mark Somerville - ADF&G:** A lot more people fishing this year. Grayling, and other than salmon fishing. Denali and Paxson areas. 2014 was a low year for fishing effort. 2015 there will likely be an increase. More people came from the Kenai than usual. Maybe due to fires. And roadside guides. King salmon staying open made a huge difference. Gulkana catch jumped considerably. It's a fishery area and a summer destination. This happened with the Klutina, which is now a destination. Mark writing an article for ADN this spring. Copper River salmon fishery, just getting preliminary data, both subsistence and dipnet look like they will break records. Even with loss of fishing above bridge with Kotsina issues. Number of dipnet permits looks the same. Number of kings caught by dipnetters will surpass the number caught by fishwheels. If that trend continues, we expect someone will propose to limit that fishery for kings. Majority of kings came through early. fishery doesn't open until the 7th, so a lot of kings came through before. sockeye numbers are tracking to come in higher than last year - as much as 190K. This year we saw a change in bag limits for dipnet. used to be 30 individual and 50 for family plus supplemental periods. limits changed to 25 household of 1 and household of 2 or more is 35 plus 10 for each additional family member. and no supplemental. When fishing is good, you can stay and fish your whole limit. Before you had to come back each time for additional fish. Now you can fish all at once. fishing conditions were excellent, but it didn't break a record. and it wasn't a record sockeye return. king salmon in commercial fishery was restricted. so commercial fishery missed a lot of opportunity for sockeye. Research last year telemetry on Gulkana for Kings. Drainage wide radio telemetry project is being proposed hasn't been done since 2004. Sonar counts will make the statistics more consistent now. potentially 6 years of work. 700 radio tags each year. Bear canyon NVE fishwheels. Spawning occurring in lower part of the Gulkana river. Still have counting tower going on. Last year of funding for that project. Still put in for more funding for that project. Land and cabin owners are looking to sell that property. Dennis: BLM has a request in to purchase those lands, because it is in the Wild and Scenic Corridor. Mark: 250K asking price likely. Dennis: they haven't been in contact with us, so we'll make contact. Mark: State can't justify the purchase. May need to look at another location anyway, if we are only getting 50% of counts above the tower. Sockeye contributions from hatchery is tracking around 20% but may be a little lower this year. Lack of return

may be due to changes in the channel since flooding. one more year of funding for that. Then have to search for more funding. Trying to get funding to look at Lake Trout in the area. Department isn't funding these types of fisheries any more. Lynn Grams: Size of fish? seemed to be smaller. Mark: lot of small fish for sockeye this year. Small by age. younger fish 3 year old or 4 year old. In this case they were small by age. Lack of food source in the ocean is possible? Fish came back late, indication of need for more feeding time. We've had record returns for last 5 years, so we may see a downturn. Low return on Kings aren't as critical to most users as sockeye are. If we get low numbers we'll see more direct conflict between subsistence and commercial fishing. A recent paper shows that king salmon size has come down statewide. No definitive reason for the decline but a reduction of age of maturity and size for age across the state. gillnet restrictions, so we shouldn't be seeing that. So that is less likely to impact size change, so probably more of an environmental change. Thyamin deficiency in Kings may be a potential issue. Fish in the lower river should have a higher success rate than fish that go further upriver to spawn. Fish are genetically coded to go to a specific spot on the river and they will go there or die getting there. May also be seeing this in the Klutina as well. Decline may be due to overall nutrition.

**Lynn Grams, National Parks Conservation Association:** track the NPS and what they do.

**Bruce Rogers, WRST NPS Planner:** Superintendent Obernesser has moved to Washington, D.C., Eric Veach has been temporarily promoted as Acting Superintendent until position is filled. WRST hired Brad Honerlaw to replace Luke Hodgson, starting in next couple of weeks. Brad previously worked for BLM Glennallen and Tetlin Wildlife Refuge. Hoping for longer term stability in Slana. Mike Loso recently hired as a physical scientist. Working part time and funded out of inventory and monitoring program. Duty stationed at WRST. **Maintenance** work on Copper Lake trail 16 miles that access Black Mountain. Work continues with extensive improvements. 9.5 miles improved to keep people on one trail alignment now. Work in progress. Hope to wrap up in next couple of years. Very complex trail maintenance environment. Caribou Creek trail should be done next year. Great cooperation from NPCA for funding for that trail. **Exotic plant program** continues. Surveys for Elodia continue. Herbicide application around maintenance compound. In the future, may increase the use of herbicide to go beyond control to eradication, while we have that opportunity. **NEPA and planning:** Mining activity in Gold Hill area out of Chisana, renewed interest on small operations on existing claims. Environmental Assessments (EAs) on Mining Plans of Operation. Small scale placer mining. Big planning effort is a backcountry and wilderness plan, 11.5 million acres and 9.4 million acres of designated wilderness. Well into first public involvement phase. Standard public meetings, but also a lot of individual and small group meetings in local area and found them productive for getting substantive comments and ideas to help us identify issues. End of initial public involvement is Nov. 30. **Handout. Resources division:** Fisheries and wildlife stats are still being compiled. Moose counts and inventory, sheep, cooperative sheep study with State in the works. Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) and regional Resource Advisory Council meetings in 2 weeks, where this data will be presented. Mark Somerville: Fish weir on Tanada Creek, somewhere around 15K, not quite as high as last few years, but still in average. Tanada Creek was dry most of June. Don't know counts on Copper Lake from fly overs, which is the theory that when Tanada creek is dry, fish will continue up to Copper Lake. Not sure if this is theory or evidence of it will result. Long Lake still ongoing. 3 - 4K for sockeye. Weir will close down next week. **Interpretation:** interp project is exhibit design and fabrication for Kennicott. Expect in 2017 to get those in place. Visitation was up by about 5%, which seems consistent with other units around the state. This is based on Visitor Center sign-ins. Cursory

estimate. Doesn't get at backcountry use. Education and Youth: Glenn is the face of NPS in this community. Starting in January is the NPS Centennial. Big emphasis is youth. Ton of programs with youth. Getting kids to come to NPS in later years, Glenn's program is great!!!

**Glenn Hart, WRST NPS Education and Volunteer Coordinator:** Came to WRST from Gates of the Arctic in 2001. Had a budget of \$200. Now have a number of programs that the park sponsors or co-sponsors. Partnerships are a key component to education at the park. K through 8th grade seek to bring educational programming through many formats. Normally you would have a small team of people dedicated to education in many other National Park sites. Not just interpretation to get information, but have a staff dedicated to lesson plans and curriculums. Created a program called the Chosen Frozen for Junior High Grade Level. Now the park along with its education partners have a program for every grade level. Done in March and take them up to Meyer's Lake. Get them outdoors. Spend overnight with education partners. Cross country ski, snowshoe, trap, catch muskrats and process them. Proper licensing. visited by troopers. Partnerships make it possible. BLM and Campbell Creek Science Center. Snowmachine trouble shooting. 7 arctic owens over 8 days, 67 students, some from Anchorage Voyage to Excellence Program. Winter survival. Earth Discovery Day (10+ years old, 4 - 6th grade), Changing Seasons 2- 3 grade, Ice Fishing Clinic. partners dedicated to get students outdoors. Goal is to get students unplugged from their technology chains. Become self-reliant and self-sufficient. It's a NPS mission and partner mission. In May students came from Homer for a week to visit Kennicott. Programs such as this takes a lot of logistics. Teaching students how to get into the backcountry and be safe. Learning history as they go. Visiting mines. June in NPLD in Yakutat, beach cleanup. Youth Conservation Corp youth hire program aged 15 - 18, 10 weeks. Mostly local students. 1 student from Wisconsin one year and this year one from Sutton. Since 2005. YCC rotates through each division. The park has Student Conservation Association hires as well. Had a volunteer student as well this summer. Through the Youth Partnership Program the park in partnership with Ahtna Heritage Foundation hired a student to work at Ahtna Cultural Center. Public Lands Corp program hires to help with marine debris clean-up in Yakutat Bay. Outer coast cleanups and at public use cabin in Esker Creek and the outer coastline. 5K lbs of plastic and debris. 36 super sacks collected. July Advocates for Victims of Violence youth program. Outdoor recreation focus. Copper River Stewardship Program. 3 day river float on the Copper. High school student focus. Assisted Gokona Village with the Youth Environmental Summit. 45 students participated. Canoeed the Slana River. August visits by Wilson college students in history class. PWSC Outdoor Leadership School College Float on the Copper. Hoping to expand program with the college. Safety is the key issue throughout all these programs. Volunteer coordinating for 14 years. On average the may see 50 - 100 volunteers a year. Backcountry monitoring. And local volunteers at visitor center or with maintenance. Put in a tremendous amount of hours. Mark: NOAA has grant requests for education and beach clean-ups up to 75K. Copper River School District has an outdoor trek. High School level kids, amazing how little kids know about their local wildlife and environment. Wilderness first aid next spring. Bruce: seeing all the detail that goes into these education programs and then to see kids come back in to natural resource management. Lynn: Oldest started in these programs and now has a scholarships for college and working in commercial fisheries.

**Dave Ryland, ADF&G, Division Wildlife, Public Access:** Just Listening.

**Nolan Heath and Steve Weeks BPM:** pump station 10, 220 mile, fitting inline inspection pig found anomaly. Found a small weep at this fitting. no indication that it made it to the water

table. remediated. sleeved over the fitting. 22 fittings along pipeline. 1 has been removed at PS 2 and one has been sleeved at the south end of PS 10. majority of oiled soil is removed and remediated. more fitting tests at every pump station as a result. pump 10 is the only one they've found this anomaly at so far. Extensive testing to determine risk, haven't been able to recreate the damage, so it seems it is a one time thing. They are going to do even further testing to try and determine why it happened and determine likelihood it could happen again. Putting a corrugated metal pipe vault around the one on the north end of PS 10 to continue monitoring because it is near a fault. Leave sampling capability in place. The entire pipe is welded, except these fittings which are located at pump stations to keep corrosion from pump station affecting pipe and vice-versa. New supervisor coming on in November from Juneau. Currently a civilian from U. S. Coast Guard. Kevin Kearney, based in Valdez, replacing Joe Hughes. 50 mile corrosion protection along the pipeline. Berm is a buried propane tank to power the corrosion protection and again at 40 mile on other side of highway. During original construction they didn't know as much as they know now. They thought coating would be sufficient. But over the years, they've had problems with coating, so they've been required to add corrosion protection. Some attempts to protect pipe have not been sufficient in certain areas, so this is one of those stations where added protection has been needed. Yellow pvc pipes along ROW are test stations. Only on buried pipe is where it is needed. Nolan: Throughput is down, as you know, so dealing with temperatures along the line. Working on projects at pump 8 and up Remote gate valve near pump 7 to add point source heat to the system during the winter to maintain temperature through the line. pump 5 to add major heat as well is underway. Alyeska going in and converting pump stations to variable frequency drive systems that allows them to control flow with greater accuracy. in the process over 10 years now. finishing up last one this month. Then system will be able to start up and pump on new variable speed drives. maintaining dual capacity to switch back to old system if needed. doing a test of it at pump 1 for the first year to prove capability. old pump stations that are no longer being used will cycle through demobilizing back to pad on ground. They won't disappear completely, but unused facilities will be removed. At pump 12, they do have emergency facilities for cold restart. Tanks will remain. Small building to operate pump in emergency. Storage for spill response gear will remain. Owls moved into one building. Invasive species, on everyone's plate. Plant material center is looking at pipe mile by mile inventory, repeat of survey from 20 years ago. comparison. Identify invasive species. just getting those reports. Also monitor at mineral material sites along the line, where we see the biggest issues. Working with offices to put standard requirements in permits to deal with invasive species. Requires everyone to work together to combat. Kate: Copper Basin Cooperative Weed Management Area, have recommendations to involve Alyeska on that.

**Tom Gillispie - State OHA Denali Highway and special projects:** Since 1980 field archaeologist. experience in prehistoric and historic arch. Denali highway contracts for BLM at Tangle Lakes Campground and Land Mark Gap Trail. Almost 20 years with Tanana Chiefs Conference and Native Allotment program, remote surveys and excavations. Now with State. Richard Vanderhoek the former archaeologist for this area, so I'm replacing him. I work with Candice Snow in DNR. New ATV trail segments at Maclaren Summit and 7 mile Lake, monitored trail construction. No sites disturbed. Beautiful trail. Really noticed the increase of users. Pleased to be involved in spreading those folks out. Inventory of northern T-lad. ATV traffic is the greatest source of damage historically, BLM and State work to minimize that. Only found a few site specific concerns. New damage at 3 of 250 sites. So feel good about efforts. Hope to improve signage and education. Cooperative with BLM John Jangala. Geo archaeological studies. Prehistoric site studies. found a site believed to extend 12,000 years, may extend to 13,000. and if so, oldest site in Alaska range. Cooperate with UA bog core. Provides a

vegetation history back to the Lake that occupied the valley. To date vegetation for last 12 - 13K years for that area. Education outreach. Anxious to get involved in education in this area. Fair background in that area. High school college bound students in rural areas, rural honors institute. Would like to work with organizations and include archaeology in their educational programs. Bruce: construction on trail? John Underwood? Tom: Yes, he and a subcontractor. Bruce: State side, designated trails of TLAD? Tom: Yes. That campaign started in 1960s and '70s. As ATVs began to ramp up, education ramped up. Archaeologist took to the National council and worked with BLM. BLM got TLAD designated with designated trails and annual monitoring was agreed to occur. Site on landmark gap trail that provides a nice overlook to the lake. Site is being damaged again. So attractive, impossible to exclude people. May suggest we use it as an educational opportunity. thousands of artifacts exposed over the years and collected and exposed again. Glenn: atlatl interests and educational materials. Tom: can help with that, but can't throw one anymore due to shoulder injuries. Flint napping is a skill I can teach. Can harvest a bison using Atlatl darts, important work for research archaeology.

**Gary Hay, Chickaloon Village:** Water testing from Caribou Creek into Palmer. EPA coop. Scenic Highways and byways grant, to renovate moose creek campground mile 55 Glenn highway. 2 vault toilets. picnic tables, kiosks, looks great! Full summer of work next year on it. Management agreement with the Borough. New administration is working with sovereign nations, which shows some progress in ways to work together. We're attempting to work with the State. There's a big moose creek rebuild. Want to keep a pedestrian bike path along the highway, big economic driver. State wants to take out existing Moose Creek bridge. Were asking to keep it there as a pedestrian pathway. and put in barriers so that it can be continued to be used. Road to campground. Local opposition, not just from tribe, in taking out old bridge. Many examples throughout the state where old bridges have been allowed to stay. Improved our working relations with the State and let our tribal historical preservation officer participate in surveys. Excavate and reduce height from west and build up the other side. New bridge will cross and be tall, long span, more closer to the mouth of the river and closer to the school. construction in 2018. BLM has worked on fishery issues with Chickaloon. BLM offered to come and issue subsistence permits in Chickaloon, but didn't get much feedback. So if that's something Chickaloon is interested in, BLM is open to that. Gary: Saw spawning sockeyes in upper reaches of moose creek. Not doing moist air incubator at the moment. no funding. Dennis: did get some interest on kids ice fishing day. Chickaloon wanting to establish one, BLM willing to help establish that. We have equipment and enthusiasm.

Bruce: moose creek work is great! Will there be a user fee? Gary: once improvements are finished we will adopt bureaus camp fee schedule. Spend a couple of hours each week to haul trash and clean it, so if fees could cover that, it would be great. Dennis: BLM uses volunteer camp hosts. Send applicants to Gary.

**Kate Morse, CRWP:** **Invasive Weeds:** CRWP and other Copper Basin Cooperative Weed Management Area partners continued to manage white sweetclover and bird vetch from Chitina to Mentasta, mostly in DOT right-of-way. The infestation around the Gulkana River bridge on the Richardson Highway continues to be a high priority site given its large size (50 acres at 50% cover) and its proximity to the water. The 3rd annual Copper Basin weed smackdown organized by the CB-CWMA was held July 11th in Glennallen. We had 27 volunteers come out to pull 1,319 pounds of white sweetclover in about 3 hours. In addition to control work, we also surveyed the Brenwick-Craig road, the ATV trail near Chitina on the old railroad bed, and several gravel pits between Mentasta and Glennallen. A few of the gravel pits were infested with invasive weed species and white sweetclover

was discovered in Mentasta Village for the first time. We had planned to apply herbicide to an infestation of white sweetclover on the Tok-Cutoff near Slana in August but unfortunately the weather didn't cooperate. We'll have to go through the DOT permitting process again next year and if all goes well we will aim to do the application in the spring in coordination with the Park Service. We are always interested in gaining new partners for the CB-CWMA: if your organization is interested in learning more about invasive weed control in the Copper Basin please contact Danielle Verna, [danielle@copperriver.org](mailto:danielle@copperriver.org). **Culvert priority work:** Compare quality of fish habitat with condition of culvert to identify high priority fish passage improvement projects. ADFG Fish passage database gets updated as a result of field work. All information available on CRWP website: <http://copperriver.org/programs/fish-habitat-restoration/culverts>. This summer conducted surveys on Tok Cutoff and Richardson Highway. Currently coordinating with Forest Service on replacing a high priority culvert on Copper River Hwy. **Salmon Blitz** citizen science program—data used to update ADFG Anadromous Waters Catalog. Program also an educational opportunity for participants on the project (youth-adults). End of 2014 we nominated 34 miles of data, 15 miles was data on new streams. Helps the State identify where spawning and rearing is occurring. Adding more streams this year-data still being processed. Completed a raft trip on Copper River and surveyed 4 streams between Klutina and Chitina. Also surveyed Pump 12 beaver ponds, Chistochina area with IGAP coordinators from Cheesh'na and Mentasta Lake. In first 2 seasons, had over 240 volunteers on surveys. This fall involved schools. Kenny Lake students helped survey Squirrel Creek with assistance from CRWP and WISE (found Coho salmon). CRWP, WISE, NPS and ADF&G helped to take 30 middle school students from Glennallen to survey Moose Creek. Found trout and long nose suckers. **Copper River Stewardship Program.** Many partners up and down river including NPS, BLM, WISE, PWS Science Center, US Forest Service and Jack Dalton, Story Teller to add creative writing component. Focus on stewardship—nest island maintenance on Chugach National Forest, Salmon Blitz survey on tributary to Copper River. Teaming up for next summer's program. If you have a project you'd like us to consider, please contact us. Come back in spring to conduct surveys with local students to document seasonal variations—contact CRWP if you'd like to be involved.

**John Thomas, DRN Land Sales:** State land sale program,[Thomas, John W (DNR)] including remote rec parcels, [Thomas, John W (DNR)] has had some activity[Thomas, John W (DNR)] around the Copper River Basin in this year's offering which is now progressing to Over The Counter status. All Lake Louise and Tazlina Northwest lots were sold out, and[Thomas, John W (DNR)] parcels near the turn off to lake Louise sold out also. Lake Louise East does still have some lots (harder to get[Thomas, John W (DNR)] to though) [Thomas, John W (DNR)] \$3.5 - 4 mil[Thomas, John W (DNR)] lion income[Thomas, John W (DNR)] was generated for[Thomas, John W (DNR)] the State[Thomas, John W (DNR)] from this year's sales so far. [Thomas, John W (DNR)] We have several projects in and around Glennallen now. [Thomas, John W (DNR)] Snowshoe Subdivision and Memory Lane Subdivision projects [Thomas, John W (DNR)] [Thomas, John W (DNR)] are [Thomas, John W (DNR)] along or near the Glenn Highway right as you come into Glennallen[Thomas, John W (DNR)] . [Thomas, John W (DNR)] DNR held a public scoping[Thomas, John W (DNR)] meeting last September and open house in May. We got great local input that has been incorporated [Thomas, John W (DNR)] in the development process for these sites. [Thomas, John W (DNR)] The project development team continues to look at [Thomas, John W (DNR)] a designated settlement[Thomas, John W (DNR)] unit off of Rich Highway across from the Princess hotel location. No[Thomas, John W (DNR)] firm dates on that[Thomas, John W (DNR)] project (Copper Wilderness Subdivision) have

been set yet. [Thomas, John W (DNR)] The Division of Mining, Land and Water [Thomas, John W (DNR)] Resource Assessment & Development Section (RAD[Thomas, John W (DNR)] S) unit is aware of the age of the area plan for the Copper River Basin. [Thomas, John W (DNR)] Review for this area plan has been moved up in priority and we hope they will [Thomas, John W (DNR)] soon[Thomas, John W (DNR)] be looking to update[Thomas, John W (DNR)] it. The present plan goes back to December of 1986 and is well overdue[Thomas, John W (DNR)] for revision. Mark: lead for looking at area of land, John: IDK, try contacting Brandon McCutcheon (907 269-8536) [Thomas, John W (DNR)] at RADS and he can direct you.

**Candy Snow - DNR, Lands along Denali with focus on TLAD:** Maclaren summit trail extension. John Underwood with happy trails out of Fairbanks 6.3 miles of new trail, getting closer to 7 mile lake. Eventually have maclaren trail link up with Glacier gap trail. Sent out review notice for Rec trails grant program. Planning to apply to help complete this extension. Have 4.5 miles left to make that connection. Worked with Larry Beck with BLM in Anchorage. Old mining site near Maclaren Glacier. Found old TNT and were able to verify and mitigate that site. Mark: also a lot of work with DNR issues in the basin. Jessica Meybin for Thompson pass 269-8569. TLAD brochure changes again this year.

**Felicia Reidel - Copper Country Alliance:** Bird outings for public and 2nd graders. Educated on role that beavers play in habitat at Kenny lake Fair. Annual meeting will have presentation from Rebecca Donohue on backcountry Wrangells. Jeff Yarman and Beth Cender called in requesting of what can be done about the huge amounts of trash in Obrien Creek. Requesting a National Public Lands Day event there again. CCA could contribute labor and funds to haul out trash for the event. Continue Citizen oversight of TAPS, Susitna Dam and Tangle Lakes. CCA commented extensively on the ADFG Draft Wildlife Action Plan. CCA also made suggestions to DNR about its land disposal regulations. CCA successfully encouraged NPS to resume maintaining (removing deadfall from) the Crystalline Hills Hiking Trail off the McCarthy Road, one of the relatively few non-motorized trails in the region.

**Tammis Brown, State Pipeline Coordinators Office:** Nothing to add.

**Duane Hoskins - AKDOT Planner for copper River Basin and north:** 2016 - 2019 statewide transportation improvement program, highest number of comments, favorable to see. New projects that come out of new STIP The below link will allow everyone to see projects from not only the Basin but the whole state. The data is the proposed STIP (not yet finalized) but its far better than a handout with the same information.:

<http://akdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=bb7607f1964643b9935d9db8dd2f2574>

M&O Priority Map: <http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdmno/wintermap/index.shtml>

Whitshed road pedestrian path Cordova. in and out of STIP for a long time. comments received. moved up to 2016 design start. 9 mil. Cordova area.

Chokosna River Bridge on McCarthy Road replacement on mp 60 this year. Pedestrian pathway Tazlina. village of Tazlina federal land access grant 2 mil for design in 2018. Add a pedestrian bridge in

that area. Don't have a design yet. Connect the pedestrian facilities from the truck stop to park pavilion center. Marry up the existing walking paths. Tazlina wayside riverbank stabilization: construction 2017 1 mil. Rich Hwy mp 115 - 148 rehab and widening: construction 2019, design starting this year. marry up to last project that went from 148 - 173. 50 mil. MP 159 - 167 - 37mil 2018?. Portion after that (167 - 173) construction in 2019, ROW this year for that, 30 mil. BLM lands??!! ROW issues are determined in the design phase. ROW EA. Paxson redesign. 2019 design, construction after that. Denali Hwy Rock Creek Bridge mp 22, designed this year, constructed in 2019. 5 mil. Ruby Creek bridge replacement in 2017 mp 234. maintenance projects: preventative mp 80 - 82 resurface and improve drainage. Enough to get a good project proposal together. MP 26 - 37 Richardson - pm project. Bruce: Chokoasna River Bridge replacement? Duane: Yes, design this year and next, construction in 2019, 6 mil. Steve: funding deficit on snow removal on Thompson Pass this year. Duane: what is being reported to us. Winter maint. is entirely state funded, maintenance overall has very limited Federal use. Budget cut by 5 - 6 mil out of 30 mil and this year another 8 mil cut on entire operation. Expect delays. Online map. Duane will include a link that shows statewide order of precedence. Trying to be innovative. intensive use vs long-term needs. partner to maintain a level of service. Take a long time to develop. Power outages. Talk to local maintenance and ops plants for schedules. John Hoffman will have best idea of local plan.

**Next meeting is Wednesday, April 6, 2016, 9 a.m. Go ahead and MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**