

CONSERVATION LANDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes – March 7, 2025  
APPROVED

**Call to order**

The meeting convened at 1:00 pm with members John Barry; Tanner Horst; Larry Landry; Colleen Stansbury; Kathy Streveler; Mike Taylor (Chair); & Susan Warner. Others: Hank Lentfer & Julia Nave from TNC; Sally McLaughlin; & Shelley Owens

**Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the February 7, 2025 meeting were adopted by unanimous consent.

**Reports from committee members on assigned tasks and discussion.**

- **TNC contacts and MOU consideration** (Streveler, Stansbury, Horst)

Kathy introduced Julia Nave, Southeast AK Program Director, and Hank Lentfer, Gustavus Forelands Preserve Steward. Colleen said that we aren't at the MOU stage yet, and want to develop a relationship with TNC. Discussion included TNC's long-term goals; review and update of foundation documents; joint development of goals; C-LAC input into any potential divestment of TNC lands; further trails development; student science; and how to celebrate the 21st TNC anniversary.

Julia spoke of collaboration coming out of chaos based on shared goals of projects and priorities, "moving at the speed of trust", and supporting relationships moving forward. Kathy said the committee and community are not in unanimous support for more trails and Colleen said that C-LAC needs to discuss trails before the city presents as pro-trail. Mike asked about the management plan and Julia said there is nothing necessary to update in the current management plan. TNC doesn't have program funding or staff to build out recreation, and discussion followed about Coastal Assistance grant funding and DNR habitat protection. Mike suggested working on cross-protective easements for the Good River and Airport tracts. Julia said as long as TNC holds title there is no need to add protections which would be required in the event of land transfer or disbursement. The donor intent has to travel with the land, and an easement on top of an easement could add protection.

Kathy asked what is TNC's current plan about divesting of lands. Julia said divestiture is occurring up north but there is no mandate to divest, and there is movement to preserve lands in high development demand areas by buying lands with intent to transfer to another landowner. It is not cheap to steward land and there are no TNC lands staff anymore. Ivy's last day was Feb. 21, and TNC is without a State or Conservation manager. Divestiture hasn't been the top priority of new leadership. Mike asked how we can help. Hank spoke with appreciation about the Gustavus response and of open and fair public participation and awareness. Mike: John is developing land maps which will be posted on the city website and title to accreted lands was discussed.

Julia: TNC is happy to formalize a partnership (MOU) and has templates. Ask what we want TNC to commit to, eg. increased communication and 5 ways we can

work together. A shared project or grant funding would require a separate agreement, and it's best to build from communications up.

- **Southeast Alaska Land Trust (SEALT) MOU consideration** (Warner)

A contract or MOU with SEALT was discussed, but the focus is the easement. Margaret said the federal grant is allocated but the funding is frozen; however, the door isn't closed yet. SEALT will be making a site visit. Susan announced the Gustavus Beach Meadows Art Show and Photo Contest at the GCC gallery.

**Updated Project resolution and Scoping Document** (Warner, Taylor): Will be discussed Monday at the council general session.

- **Community letter** (Landry): Posted on our website

- **Map development and descriptions of Gustavus conservation lands** (Barry)

John would like to use a GIS program and has access to one, although there is difficulty with downloading. Kathy offered to help and would like a poster showing all the conservation lands. John will follow up on documentation with Hank.

- **Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area** (Taylor)

Mike: the DCCA employee has been out of office on personal leave, and while there aren't a lot of issues it would be good to establish a relationship. Hank: city support for expansion of the Dude Creek CHA will be critical. Mike: Sen. Kiehl has the legislation prepared and is waiting for the right opportunity.

- **Web page development** (Warner)

Susan has worked with Liesl on website scaffolding and discussing with John about posting his work. Susan described the need for a website to be visual, navigable, and searchable. She is soliciting information for the website.

- **Other issues**

Susan: what's the risk of the Hoonah Borough claiming DNR lands? Mike: the lands have to be within the borough. Susan said borough annexation of Gustavus would include the DNR lands as selected state lands. There was a discussion about other lands including a Rink Creek parcel marked for disposal on AK Mapper. SEALT will be in town April 20<sup>th</sup> to look at properties. Larry and John will work a map and memo for C-LAC. Discussion continued about cross protections and potential sale of properties; development rights; and mineral rights. Margaret C. will be asked to recommend a specialized attorney who understands what TNC would have to do if it divest lands.

- **Next meetings**

C-LAC subcommittee: meet Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm at Tidelines.

C-LAC meeting date and time: Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm