



PO Box 863, Cooper Landing, AK 99572  
walkcooperlanding.org  
[walkcooperlanding@gmail.com](mailto:walkcooperlanding@gmail.com)

## MINUTES April 12, 2024

1. **Call to Order:** 6:00 p.m.
2. **Roster:** D Story, J Cadieux, T Lexmond, M Beltrami, M Story, A Altman, R Altman, G Galbraith
3. **Last meeting review:** Dec 12, 2023 See updates below on Old Business items.
4. **Treasurer Report:** M Beltrami from CLCC presented. Moving forward from the summary achieved from recent meeting between M Brennan and CLT officers. At that meeting funds equaled \$4553.25. There was confirmation of an additional donation so by 12/31/23 the ending balance was \$4748.78. Harrison Plowing took care of some of the winter plowing of the Snug Harbor pathway and donated those efforts. There is now a mechanism within CLCC accounting to restrict donations for CLT and its uses and even a specific aspect or function of CLT e.g. snow trail grooming. There have been recent “restricted” donations targeting specifically CLT plowing the Snug Harbor pathway. The Board “Designations” are at the discretion of the CLCC Board and can be revoked. Examples of these would be Revenue Sharing dollars. The new CLCC Treasurer will meet with the CLT Committee Officers to further examine what are designated funds and what are not within the current CLT balance. CLT will copy CLCC Treasurer through the “Officers” email account on grant communications with granting managers and agencies.
5. **Correspondence:** See below re. RTCA and RTP reports
6. **New Business-Resource Advisory Committee (RAC):** M Story presented. Funding and programming from federal Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2021, covers United States Forest Service, Chugach National Forest lands covering adjacent Anchorage Borough and Kenai Peninsula Borough. We haven’t had a RAC in a while so they are seeking members of the public who would participate to help USFS determine how to spend RAC monies. Interested and qualified public members need to apply to USFS. See handout.
7. **New Business-9th Annual Confluence Summit:** Report from D. Story on attendance and content of Active Transportation Coalition and other strands at the 9th Annual Confluence Summit, April 3 - 5, at the Anchorage Museum. Alaska Wildland Adventures paid his attendance and continue to support CLT’s active transportation thread in this way as well as others.

- a. Active transportation strand: DS saw pilot projects for bike lanes in ANC. They're doing non-permanent pop-up projects for learning purposes. Might this be applicable for segments of the CL roadside pathway?
- b. Cultural Tourism: CL might work more on this. See budget as moral directive. Alaska not necessarily doing well on this. T Lexmond described the experience in our community that indicates the need for education. CLT could join efforts of other groups that are active in the area.
- c. DS has reached out to Kenaitze Tribe as well as Kenai Peninsula College regarding partnership on cultural concerns within the project area.
  - i. DS has been working with Kenaitze Tribe professionally for his work assignment and hopes he is building relationships proving intent and gaining trust.
  - ii. DS indicated it takes some digging into online resources to learn that the Squilantnu Archeological District is named so because of the native village of Squilant that existed in CL area years ago.
  - iii. DS has helped with saving/digitizing voice records from Peter Kalifornsky.
  - iv. Kirk Gallardo, Education Interpretation Manager, Anchorage Museum, created posters of Dena'ina language phrases for the Confluence conference. We could incorporate this kind of thing (with QR codes) on public signage for the CLT/Walkable project.
  - v. Eric XX, works with the Denali Commission, a federally funded group that is unique to just a few locations in the country. We may be able to apply to this group for funding.

**8. Old Business-Cooper Landing Town Road Pathway Project (CLTRPP):**

- a. The project is meant to address deficiencies of the existing Sterling Hwy once the new alignment is open.
- b. Budget update from AK Depart of Parks and Recreation (DPR): They are our engineers for examining the travel corridor. New budget just received today.
- c. Rys Miranda confirmed that DPR/EC remains a committed partner.
- d. See SS4A below

**9. Old Business-Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant:**

- a. Recall that Kenai Peninsula Borough was granted an award from this federal funding.
- b. Update. R&M engineering firm has begun work on the contract. Their first step was to familiarize themselves with various projects across KPB and examine the accident rates for those various project areas.
- c. They have read the Cooper Landing Walkable Community Project Plan
- d. SS4A focus has been traditionally on accidents along the transportation corridor and building solutions for the problems that resulted in those accidents. This funding cycle is emphasizing planning.
- e. What is our participation likely going to be based on KPB input thus far? We do not know yet but will be contacted by R&M in the coming months.

- f. Will DPR be partnering with us for engineering/evaluative and design needs? Yes.
- g. Anything planned under this funding cycle will possible be funded for construction in the next cycle if the current US administration remains in office.

**10. Old Business-RTCA Assistance:**

- a. Application filed and acknowledged. DS contacts with staff during Confluence Summit were positive and inviting so acceptance appears likely.
- b. Next step is to hold a partner meeting. DS asked Rys Miranda (he has agreed) and Robert Ruffner (haven't heard from yet) to meet with us and RTCA in the coming weeks. Ideally we might also get DOT representation at this meeting. DS will ask S Holland. We will also need at least one CLCC board member.
- c. RTCA will provide assistance with:
  - i. Future grant applications, making them stronger through editing and advice,
  - ii. Specific budget writing assistance,
  - iii. Contacts with agencies,
  - iv. Public outreach assistance e.g. with CLTRPP

**11. New Business-Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) Grants:**

- a. Should we pursue a grant with this funding source? Not now, we don't have the time and resources
- b. For planning? Not now, we don't have the time and resources
- c. For construction? See SS4A. How far are they going to get us?

**12. Old Business-Recreational Trails Program (RTP):**

- a. Funding granted!
- b. These monies are federal but administered by State Parks.
- c. Our application was essentially for a new snowmachine and groomer for the snow trails.
- d. No details yet. DS spoke with Ricky Gease, Director of State Parks, at the Confluence Summit. We will hear from the State eventually as staff are able.
- e. Monies have to be spent up front and the grant will reimburse. This is the case with many grant sources.
- f. DS has sought a \$35,000 loan to make the initial expenditure for the equipment. No bank is willing to forego interest despite our 501c3 status. Anticipating about \$2400 interest over two years. We don't know yet if using loan money is allowed under the funding. DS and MS may take a personal loan to make this happen if absolutely necessary.
- g. We must do the purchasing before May, 2025. We've missed the current cycle of ordering but if we order before June, 2024 we should have equipment by October, 2024.

**13. New Business-Investing in America Act monies to USFS:**

- a. Based on feedback from J Tymick, PM MP 45-60, should we pursue Slaughter Gulch/Juneau Ridge trail stabilization with USFS? No, for now. DOT are not planning the pullout as of this date that would enable access to the Slaughter Gulch to Juneau Ridge Trail from the new alignment of the Sterling Hwy.

**14. Old Business-Kenai Mountains Turnagain Arm (KMTA) 2023 Grant:**

- a. Final Report submitted and request for reimbursement acknowledged by KMTA
- b. Future collaboration and partnership on our projects e.g. cultural highlights, events management are possible.
- c. No more monetary awards from KMTA directly.

**15. New Business-Signage:**

- a. DS pursuing signage for bridge, museum Walkable sign, and platform on Snug Harbor Rd. initially but anticipates other signage needed to identify items that were enable, funded, or brought to the community by CLT or its Walkable Community Project.
- b. Incorporating cultural highlights would be a goal but we may put up some signage immediately and later change it with the cultural highlights included.
- c. Get a few extra signs as needed? How did the product turn out? If they are easily obtainable then having some already made may not be necessary.
- d. QR code to websites? Yes. Including the PayPal donation button possibly.
- e. A poster with a QR code for PayPal donation button might be posted at Devil's Creek Ski Trails.
  - i. An individual can take a photo of a QR code if a location does not have cellular coverage and later use that QR code to access the website.
- f. MB suggested that CLT members could have business cards with donation QR codes and place them on windshields at the parking lots of the snow trails.

**16. New Business-Trail Run 2024**

- a. Karl leading? No, but he will contact JC when he returns from travel.
- b. Date? None identified.

**17. Old Business-Kenaitze Tribe:**

- a. DS Further attempts at follow-up and letter of support? Working on it. See reference under New Business-Confluence Summit Item 7 c.

**18. Old Business-Websites and pages:**

- a. Groomer blog webpage glitches: Fixed by DS
- b. Work on main website for CLT and subsequent shift of content as needed from Walkable site and Snow Trails blog,
  - i. Requested a quote on hourly rate and number of hours needed from J Matley, AKSYS. We're working on this. Anticipate approximately \$1500. There might also be a quarterly, one-hour charge of \$50 to maintain the website securities, etc.

- ii. We want CLT, Walkables, Snow Trails, and Other Trails all under the CLT site. While we will maintain the rights to the Walkables domain, that site will cease to exist as it does now and reside within the CLT site.
- iii. M. Beltrami is looking at adding to costs if we had more than one website. CLCC money is not budgeted for technologies so you're faced with cobbling together low cost or free tech. DS clarified that we will ultimately have just the one website: CLT.

**19. Old Business-Snow Trails:**

- a. Crescent/Quartz snow trails will be plowed by Tuesday or Wednesday, April 16-17<sup>th</sup>, next week so folks can access firewood. Skiing will be over at that point.
- b. Devil's Creek Ski Trails remain in good condition. Lou is grooming tonight.
- c. Russian Campground will likely not be available for skiing again next year but that will be confirmed again at a future date.
- d. Equipment repair needs? One of the drags and a hitch need either replacement or repair. We are pursuing this again with a volunteer welder.
- e. Storage for each? Tarps is the current consensus for ease vs tents or structures.
- f. Janette pursuing proof of insurance from Seward Nordic Ski Club for grooming. Awaiting end of season. If able to obtain she will provide it to M Beltrami so it can go in the insurance folder in the CLCC "office." If there's not coverage then we will re-examine our options. M Beltrami is working with CLCC board at present regarding other insurance coverage and policies so she will examine the issue of athletic events including e.g. Softball Tournament, CL Trail Run, and possibly grooming activities. She will bring up the issue of grooming for liability. We do not want to host ski events at Devil's Creek trails but perhaps in the long run we could elsewhere.
- g. Volunteer support? Not discussed

**20. Next Meeting:** no specific date identified.

**21. Meeting adjourned** 7:58 p.m.