PO Box 863, Cooper Landing, AK 99572
walkcooperlanding.org
walkcooperlanding@gmail.com

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 20, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER: 4:08 p.m. at Cooper Landing Brewery

2. ROLL CALL: D Story, J Cadieux, M Story, T Lexmond, A Brodersen, A Milauskas, C Nees, D Nees, A Neeld, T Orr, K Lessard, M Krusen, K Ness

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES:
    a. Last meeting was 02/03/2025
        i. Trail Run planning (later had to be cancelled at the last minute)
        ii. RTCA update given
        iii. Website: Update given on new site
        iv. Town Road PP: Update given
    b. In the past year since our last CLT meeting the following has occurred:
        i. 11 monthly meetings with RTCA (That association is now wrapped up except for a few final tasks on the Story Map.)
        ii. 3 meetings with legislators (Bjorkman, Elam, Ecklund)
        iii. 1 meeting with DOT personnel
        iv. 1 meeting with DNR Interpretation and Education Unit (re. interpretive signs on the pathway of the MP 45-60 Sterling Hwy new alignment.)
        v. 1 Safety Action Plan videoconference (CL ranked 6:20 projects included in the plan)
        vi. Outreach to stake holders and partnership building including
            1. KPB Mayor and Assembly
            2. Ak DOT&PF
            3. Kenaitze Tribe
            4. USFS
            5. UWFWS/KNWR
            6. KRSMA Board
        vii. Open House
        viii. Charette co-hosted with DOT Planning
        ix. Submission FLAP for funding (DNR is our engineering partner and DOT has promised to provide all cooperation needed.)

4. TREASURERS REPORT
    a. $4631 in account including most recent donation of $125 provided by K Lessard

5. CORRESPONDENCE none reviewed

6. OLD BUSINESS

    a. Update on Town Road Pathway Project
        i. Awaiting FLAP notice whether or not they'll fund us. Should hear this spring.
    b. Snow Trails
        i. Russian River Campground
            1. Equipment was finally delivered and the first groom of the season took place on March 7th.
            2. The USFS has contractors that may still drive in on the first part of the entry road to steam out the new culverts and haul wood stacks.
            3. We will keep grooming the Russian as we are able.
        ii. Crescent
            1. The base this year has been very solid which is good because there has not been enough snow for DOT to warrant building a berm to close it. People continue to drive the road but it has remained pretty good for skate skiing even with the traffic.
            2. The new equipment has been up and running to groom this area and allowed us to move the old equipment back to the Russian.
            3. Folks have been driving Quartz Creek but so far the grooming has kept pace.
        iii. Devils
            1. Lou and Chris have continued to groom as they are able. We have not been able to get the Ginzu up there yet this year.
            2. We have our challenges at all three sites. Today a snowmobile road the ski trail at Devil's Creek.
        iv. Volunteers
            1. DS has put on a few grooming clinics to introduce folk to the equipment and the process.
                a. Having a second machine has really helped make this easier to accomplish.
                b. Andy Milauskus has put in a lot of time brushing and cutting downed trees on the trails and learning the ropes of grooming both Crescent and the Russian. He is also helping APU with their grooming program.
                c. Ed Holsten helped introduce Alex Altmann and Andy to grooming at the Russian last weekend.
                d. Gabe Bunch and Eric Mooney (caretakers to AWA) got an intro to Crescent back in December.
    c. Status of eastern Safety Path: See Information from Shaun Combs, PE. No use of the Safety Path during work on phase 1B of the Sterling Hwy MP 45-60 Project

d. Squilantnu Archeological District Interpretive and Education Plan for Sterling Hwy MP 45-60 Project: DS and JC and Mona Painter are working to help ensure community information is included to the extent possible. T Lexmond willing to help review the plan. DNR requested the number of reviewers be kept to a minimum.

7. NEW BUSINESS
    a. Spring and Summer Projects
        i. Safety Path brushing and tread improvement hand tooling after DOT uses large brusher
        ii. Bean Creek footpath revitalization: It has been roughed in but needs care. There are spruce down that will need cutting/moving.
        iii. Community Hall perimeter trail feasibility assessment: Request by CLCC. This may be returned to throughout the summer once a route is selected.
        iv. Possible route Two Brothers to Gwins: Where could we go with this? Share with partner/stakeholders like Kenaitze Tribe.
    b. Spring and Summer Events
        i. Maintenance Events
            1. Would shorter duration evening events (6pm or later start times) help to make participation more accessible for seasonal workers? Yes, from those present.
            2. Snow Trail brushing needed
                a. Lower road going eastward from Russian Campground road hasn't been done in a few years.
                b. Devil's Creek snow trail needs attention twice a year to make it easiest but right now we've only been able to do it once a year at best.
                c. Mining loops off the Quartz Cree trail need brushing
        ii. Recreation Events
            1. Can we be more visible as an organization with frequent happenings? All agree, yes.
            2. Can we do an event around some trail maintenance work? All agreed, yes.
            3. Casual trail runs, rides, or walks ending at local businesses:
                a. Meet at a time/day to ride… hike… run….
            4. An evening event of trail work of short duration after work.
                a. Allyson indicated she could get crew from Princess if we do something short and after the day's shift. They have a goal of doing trail clean-up days and could work on Bean Creek or at Trailhead of Slaughter Gulch, etc.
                b. Publish dates so folks like Princess can post to their crews.
                c. Short, 2-hours, might be open to more people.

8. INFORMATION and ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Shaun Combs, Project Engineer, provided the following information regarding Section 1B of the Sterling Highway MP 45-60 Project via email:
    i. Crews are scheduled to begin mobilizing equipment and personnel to Section 1B the week of March 16th (now anticipate following week due to weather). Drilling activities are anticipated to begin toward the end of that same week.
    ii. It will be a busy spring as we work to get detours in place and relocate utilities to their new locations.
    iii. By mid-May, traffic control will be fully established and major construction activities will be underway for the season.
    iv. DOT will make weekly postings to 511 and to the website monthly:
        1. https://www.sterlinghighway.net/ for general information
        2. https://sterling45-60.com/ for construction updates
        3. https://511.alaska.gov/ for road advisories
    v. Open House May 13, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., CLCC Hall

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS none received, see brainstorm session following…

10. **Brainstorm Session**:
    i. Groups that might help:
        a. Eagle Projects with Boy Scouts often look for projects
        b. Vacation Bible School (have helped in past)
        c. Cooper Landing School kids for maintenance and interpretive signs on pathway if it gets funded. (have helped in past with trail brushing)

    ii. Prizes for participation
        a. Rewards for trail brushing by treats from a local business
        b. Could we get donated meals that could make a treat that could be drawn from a hat with all participants/workers names.

    iii. Outside the Right of Way of the Highway:
        a. We try to stay within the ROW along the Sterling Hwy because it doesn't require an environmental impact study

    iv. Drones: Fly the pathway
        a. Vince Beltrami (has already done some of this, see Story Map on website)
        b. Ben Romig

    v. Cooper Landing Trails Presence and Raised Awareness while providing fun things to do in the community:
        a. Snack table at the Snailathon
        b. Information table or placard at the Softball Tournament
        c. Create challenges for each week or month that folks could gather to do/perform/work. Limited run of weekly could be more doable.
        d. Amy Brodersen will help lead this.

e. Amy will meet with Alison N and David. Janette will sit-in.
f. Take photos and post them or give to us to post them when you do work or have an event on our trails/pathways.
g. Connection from website to Recreational Opportunity Guides (ROG) from USFS or other helpful trail information.
h. Provide Princess with needs list and dates of work so they can publish it with visitors and staff.
i. Scavenger Hunt type events e.g. take a photo of you doing, of a plant that is identified as the target, or a geolocation….
j. Alison has done some work with Princess to keep folks motivated and she will give ideas to David.
k. Punch card for trails of Cooper Landing
l. Can fund raising be done simultaneous to events or work sessions?
m. Donations may be a way for some to contribute if they cannot work/run etc.
    i. Donation jars throughout the community
    ii. QR codes available at any event or work session
    iii. Ask businesses for donations or may we meet at your site, etc.
    iv. Donations: Can businesses be asked to contribute a meal for trail workers? Perhaps shared cost with CLT? One per event. Draw the lucky participant from a hat.

vi. <u>Need</u>:
a. Photo of plow truck on Cooper Creek bridge

vii. <u>Locations for Trail Work</u>:
a. Slaughter Gulch Trail
b. Cecil Rhode Trail
c. Dam Road (may need cleaning)
d. Stetson (Cooper Creek) Trail
e. Rainbow Lake
f. Waikiki (clean up) can it be scheduled before Snailathon
g. Upper Russian Trail
h. Crescent Lake Trail
i. Snug Harbor separated pathway to Catholic Church
j. Snug Harbor out by Camp K new powerline cut
k. Coyote Notch
l. Bean Creek to Res Pass intersect
m. Res Pass South
n. Bean Creek footpath from CLCC to the creek
o. Two trees down between Museum and Shellhorn (Princess) Rapids
p. KPB Trailhead to MP 45-60 intersect

viii. JC talk to Mona about Archeological Plan review

11. SELECT NEW MEETING DATE: Event/meeting June, 2026

12. ADJOURNMENT: 5:44 p.m.