

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission
Regular Meeting: March 21, 2024
DSJ Building, Assembly Chambers/TEAMS
MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Andy Couch called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Present:

Andy Couch
Peter Probasco
Gabe Kitter
Bill Gamble
Larry Engel
Howard Delo
Jim Sykes

Absent:

Tim Hale
Kendra Zamzow

Quorum was established.

III. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

AC read the land acknowledgement:

"We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Dena'ina and Ahtna Dene people, and we are grateful for their continued stewardship of the land, fish, and wildlife throughout time immemorial."

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

LE moved to approve the agenda; seconded by HD.

Amendment: Move BOF recap ahead of ADF&G presentation.

No objection, motion approved unanimously as amended.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

HD moved to approve the January 11, 2024 minutes; seconded by LE.

Amendment: change to "AK Chinook Charters" under audience participation.

No objection, motion approved unanimously as amended.

**LE moved to approve the January 30, 2024 minutes; seconded by HD.
No objection, motion approved unanimously.**

**LE moved to approve the February 5, 2024 minutes; seconded by HD.
No objection, motion approved unanimously.**

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person*)

Chennery Fife – Trout Unlimited

Manny Eicholz – ADF&G

Mac Minard – Fisheries consultant

Neil Dewitt – member of public

Stephen Braund – Northern District Setnetters

Parker Bradley – ADF&G

Paul Warta – member of public

VII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Staff Report – Maija DiSalvo

Chair’s Report – AC

King salmon fisheries on Susitna and Little Su are entirely closed; additionally, change to ½ in hook restriction through July 13, causing issues for local businesses selling tackle and could prohibit individuals from catching pike; potential for FWC to be involved in the future.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Board of Fisheries Meeting Recap

FWC commended Mac Minard for a well documented report of effort.

PP moved to accept BOF After Action Report as presented; seconded by LE.

HD moved to include the following info on AAR page 8: Board adopted using Little Su king salmon and coho in management of N Dist commercial fisheries, referenced in proposal 210; seconded by LE.

No objections, amendment passed unanimously.

AC and MM will work on order of group 2 and 3 on Red p. 21 and #5 on Red p. 25; Stephen Braund commented that king salmon commercial fisheries cap reduced to 4500, not 4000.

PP moved to strike the second sentence in 3rd bullet – “oddly... N Dist fisheries” on page 9, seconded by LE.

No objections, amendment passed unanimously.

No objections to main motion as amended, motion passed unanimously.

B. Pike in Upper Cook Inlet

Parker Bradley (ADF&G) presented on the issues with invasive Northern Pike in UCI drainages; discussion about history and future challenges.

C. State Legislative Support for Weir/Scientific Study Funding

JS and GK relayed report from trip to Juneau. Met with 25 legislators/staff March 5-7. Utilized the booklet and had an overwhelmingly positive response, good educational opportunity as many did not have any knowledge of federal management changes; could consider PR presence on future visits; DeLena Johnson has added all three requested items at this time, with updated costs from ADF&G. MSB Assembly presence simultaneously also reinforced priorities. Thanks to BG for helping with timing. Updates to CAPSIS request will be on May agenda, could consider update to economic study.

D. NOAA/NPFMC Updates

No updates, waiting on May 1 deadline for the release of final EEZ regulations.

E. ADF&G Game Season Summary Special Meeting

No discussion at this time, final approval of questions will take place at the April Meeting.

F. NOAA Fish Habitat & Recreational Fisheries Grant

Discussed various potential proposals, and decided there was insufficient time for the MSB FWC to pursue this grant at this time.

G. Susitna Basin Recreational Rivers Plan Update

Trout Unlimited feels good about the plan after review; next Rec Rivers meeting is April 10th; FWC appreciates the thorough personal comments submitted by KZ.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Partnership

PP moved to have staff draft a letter of interest to the Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Partnership, recommending GK fill the vacant Local Government seat as a MSB FWC member, seconded by LE.

No objections, motion passed unanimously.

B. Seldon Corridor Moose Safety Lights

Manny Eicholz (ADF&G) discussed concerns with the Seldon Corridor project, as it crosses through significant moose habitat where you would expect to see crossings. More information is needed. ME, GK and MD will connect to find out more details about the project and will add as an April agenda item.

**PP moved to extend the meeting to 6:30, seconded by LE.
No objections, motion passed unanimously.**

C. Board of Fisheries Appointment Recommendations

**LE moved to send a letter to the Governor's office in support of Peter Probasco's nomination to the Board of Fisheries, seconded by HD.
No objections, motion passed unanimously.**

HD moved to send an additional letter of support for Marit Carlson-Van Dort and Gene Sandone; seconded by BG.

Discussion about setting priorities if provide two names, instead of three
HD retracted main motion.

**LE moved to support Marit Carlson-Van Dort's reappointment to the Board of Fisheries; seconded by GK.
No objections, motion passed unanimously.**

D. 2025 Board of Game

If there are proposals for consideration, submit ahead of the next meeting.

E. MSB Resolution 24-031

People in that area may want to give feedback on fish and wildlife in that area; discussion about Assembly resolution, but has already passed; will leave on next month's agenda to allow KZ to weigh in.

F. Alaska House Bill 169

Put forward by a valley legislator; something for FWC to consider.

X. MEMBER COMMENTS

BG – Bill 169 is interesting

GK – will ask PP more about MSSHP involvement

PP – thanks; think about adding time in advance for longer agendas

HD – no comment

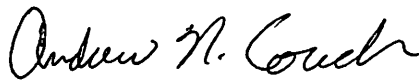
JS – good meeting, appreciate all efforts

LE – no comment
AC – appreciate all work

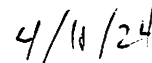
XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, April 11, 2024 @ 4:00 pm – Assembly Chambers

XII. ADJOURNMENT
LE moved to adjourn; seconded by HD.
No objections, motion passed unanimously.


Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.



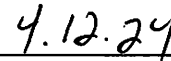
Andy Couch, FWC Chair



Date



Maija DiSalvo, Planning Division Staff



Date