

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission
Regular Meeting: April 11, 2024
DSJ Building, Assembly Chambers/TEAMS
MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Andy Couch called the meeting to order at 3:58 PM.

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Present:

Andy Couch

Peter Probasco

Gabe Kitter

Bill Gamble – arrived at 4:09

Larry Engel

Howard Delo

Tim Hale

Kendra Zamzow

Jim Sykes – arrived at 4:01

Absent:

None

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."

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

HD moved to approve the agenda; seconded by LE.

Amendment: Move Matt Greening first to discuss the state legislative budget.

No objection, motion passed unanimously as amended.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

HD moved to approve the February 8th minutes; seconded by LE.

Amendment: Red page 4 strike "allocative decisions or..."

No objection, motion approved unanimously as amended.

**LE moved to approve the March 21st minutes; seconded by HD.
No objection, motion passed unanimously.**

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Chennery Fife – Trout Unlimited
Mac Minard – MSB fisheries consultant
Neil DeWitt – member of the public
Stephen Braund – Northern District Setnetters
Stefan Hinman – MSB Public Affairs
Bill Stoltz – MSB
Matt Gruening – DeLena Johnson’s office

Matt Gruening gave a legislative budget update from DeLena Johnson’s office; funding remains in House budget for coho genetic study, Chelatna weir, and Susitna mark recapture study; optimistic it will stay through Senate. Thanks to GK, JS, KZ, and BG for traveling to Juneau.

VIII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Staff Report – Maija DiSalvo
Chair’s Report – AC

BOF Appointments – Marit Carlson Van Dort and Kurt Chamberlain; staff will be working on a web page update over the summer, FWC feedback will be welcomed; conversations about pike mitigation are ongoing.

Waterbody Setback Advisory Board Report - KZ

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Board of Fisheries After Action Report

Mac Minard discussed recommendations in three core areas; policy, politics, and public relations. Will keep supporting efforts if desired.

HD moved to have AC to bring forward FWC interest in pursuing a stock of concern designation for king salmon on Susitna and coho and kings on the Little Su in his upcoming meeting with the ADF&G commissioner. Additionally, to ask the Commissioner procedurally what he feels the best steps would be; seconded by PP.

No objections, motion passed unanimously.

B. ADF&G Game Season Summary Meeting Planning

PP moved to adopt handout provided by GK of finalized questions to ADF&G for Game Season Summary meeting; seconded by LE.

**TH moved to strike K and leave L under Caribou; seconded by PP.
No objections, amendment passed unanimously.**

**TH moved to strike I and leave J under Sheep; seconded by PP.
No objections, amendment passed unanimously.**

**KZ moved to add a D to Caribou (L) that said what are trends in subunit 13E;
seconded by PP.
No objections, amendment passed unanimously.**

**LE moved to add one additional question: What in your opinion are the most serious issues facing wildlife resources in the MSB at this time?; seconded by PP.
No objections, amendment passed unanimously.**

Main Motion: No objections, motion passed unanimously as amended.

C. 2025 Board of Game

FWC will not submit proposals, but will review final proposals and make a decision on whether there will be actions the FWC could take for the meeting.

D. Seldon Corridor Moose Safety Lighting

GK, Maija, and ADF&G will continue to learn more and keep the FWC informed.

JS moved to extend the meeting to 6:15; seconded by GK.

No objections, motion passed unanimously.

Items Pending Updates:

A. State Legislative Budget

PP moved for staff to draft and send a letter to DeLena Johnson as a thank you to her efforts supporting Mat-Su fisheries over the past two years; seconded by TH.

No objections, motion passed unanimously.

B. NOAA/NPFMC Updates

Preliminary ruling will be released tomorrow – 30 days to comment; only change

was to decrease coho TAC from 35,000 to 25,000.

JS moved to establish a work group to research and write a proposal for FWC review at the meeting on May 9th; seconded by KZ (group will stay original EEZ work group of KZ, JS, and PP).

No objections, motion passed unanimously.

C. MSB Resolution 24-031

Request to add House Bill 368 to next agenda; GK and KZ will continue to monitor Gulf of AK Endangered Species Act petition.

D. Susitna Basin Recreational Rivers Plan Update – no updates

E. Beaver Meadows Subdivision – no updates

X. MEMBER COMMENTS

Bill Stoltz – Discussion about House Bill 169, brought up by BG; add to next agenda

KZ – Anything the WBSBAB comes up with will be on website; take a look and come to the meetings

TH – no comment

PP – Thank you all for coming; Stefan, thanks for all you do, look forward to working with you

HD – Echoes PP's comments, thanks to Stefan and Maija; enjoyed the fishery video

LE – no comment

GK – no comment

JS – Thanks for all the work, great group

AC – Will be using stats and booklet for meeting with ADF&G Commissioner next week; appreciates all the work, try to get everyone involved to spread it out

Stefan Hinman – appreciates the group, inspiring work – whole team, with Mac and Maija, MSB was well represented at BOF and beyond

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, May 9, 2024 @ 4:00 pm

XII. ADJOURNMENT

PP moved to adjourn; seconded by LE.

No objections, motion passed unanimously.

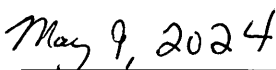
Meeting adjourned at 6:24 PM.




Andy Couch, FWC Chair



Maija DiSalvo, Planning Division Staff



Date



Date