

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission
Special Meeting – ADF&G Game Season Summary
June 6, 2024
Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Andy Couch called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Present:

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

Absent:

Tim Hale
Kendra Zamzow
Jim Sykes

A 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

PP moved to approve the agenda; seconded by LE.

Amendment by AC: under Item 8, staff report, LE will provide an update about management of UCI commercial fisheries.

No objection, motion passed unanimously as amended.

VI. INTRODUCTIONS

FWC Opening Statement:

AC provided an opening statement and acknowledged the FWC is looking for more

insight into how to engage with local wildlife issues.

ADF&G Opening Statement :

Todd Rinaldi introduced ADF&G staff in attendance: Manny Eicholz, Chris Brockman, and Gerrit VanDeist.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Stephen Braund – Northern District Set Netters – acknowledge receipt of letter thank you for sending letter; would like to see receipt of letter to ADFG Commissioner as well
Neil Dewitt – member of public

VIII. PRESENTATIONS

Staff Report – Maija DiSalvo

Larry Engel – Provided an update on UCI Fisheries and funding of MSB salmon studies. Chelatna Weir funding was approved, but ADF&G isn't able to staff and operate this year; Judd Lake weir didn't receive funding this year; Anchor Point Test Fishery – major tool for management and a project that has been in place since the 70s – will not be functioning this year due to lack of funding. Discussion about whether there is any way to use this year's funding for Chelatna on Judd instead. Unsure about timeline, may not be able to happen that quickly.

A. ADF&G

Game Season Summary Highlights & Emerging Issues

Todd Rinaldi and Chris Brockman gave summaries and addressed emerging issues in their respective regions. Discussion covered Moose, Caribou, Sheep, Bison, Goat, and Wolves and Bears. There was conversation about game management utilizing predator control, implementing burns to improve habitat, adequate project funding but staffing concerns, and impacts of energy project proposals. Attention should be drawn to Board of Game proposals when they are released this fall.

IX. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. FWC/ADF&G Dialogue on Mat-Su Wildlife & FWC Questions

Discussion about ways the FWC could help advocate for higher salaries to improve staff attrition; TR will connect FWC with Director to continue the conversation. Broad issue, statewide in many departments.

X. ADF&G/FWC FINAL COMMENTS

PP – thank you to the department – work hard, appreciate the efforts.

BG – New to this and learned more in this meeting about game management than ever before; Anchor Point Test Fishery – money can be moved within budget and FWC could

write a letter to include representatives to put some pressure on ADFG to fund; Moose habitat – FWC could provide letters of support for timber harvest plans at MSB and State levels that are currently being revisited within DNR.

AC – Good to see you all, thank you for the reports; appreciate the opportunity to work together more.

LE – Echo thank you’s; must be doing something right, otherwise we would have a room full of people.

HD – Thank you for excellent presentation; write columns for the Frontiersman and can help spark conversation and improve outreach on specific issues.

GK – Thank you for the info; looking forward to continuing to brainstorm on staff and salary issues, and thank you for doing the work without personnel.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, September 26, 2024 @ 4:00 pm Assembly Chambers

XII. ADJOURNMENT

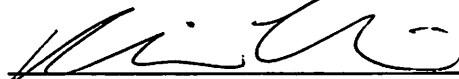
LE moved to adjourn; seconded by HD.

No objections, motion passed unanimously.

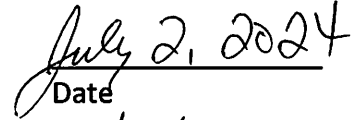
Meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.



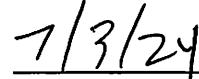
Andy Couch, FWC Chair



Maija DiSalvo, Planning Division Staff



Date



Date