

Unit 23 Working Group May 4-5, 2016

Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Chambers
163 Lagoon Street, Kotzebue, Alaska

Wednesday, May 4
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 5
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Public radio station KOTZ will broadcast the meeting.
Tune to 89.9 FM or AM 720, or listen via the web at www.kotz.org**

AGENDA

Meeting Topics

- Update on Western Arctic herd population, movement, and harvest data
- Update / Discussion on Alaska Board of Game and Federal Subsistence Board regulation proposals and actions
- Discuss 2015 hunting season & preparation for 2016 season
- Federal and state agency planning, permitting, management, and enforcement topics related to reducing hunting conflicts in Unit 23
- Education & outreach efforts
- Public comment session – By phone or at Assembly Chambers
Wednesday, May 4, 3:00-4:00 p.m. Dial 1-888-223-4671
- Discussion of additional topics and recommendations raised by Working Group members

Wednesday, May 4

8:30 a.m. Coffee/Refreshments

**9:00 a.m. Welcome, Introductions –
Review Agenda / Revise if necessary**

- List of Unit 23 Working Group members
- Summary of recommendations made by the Working Group at past meetings (*reached by group consensus*)

9:15 a.m. Western Arctic Caribou Herd Population & Unit 23 Harvest Data

Lincoln Parrett and Brandon Saito
Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G)

Wednesday, May 4, continued

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Unit 23 Caribou Harvest – Update on State & Federal Regulations, Recent Proposals and Changes

- Alaska Board of Game – State Regulations
Brandon Saito, ADF&G
- Federal Subsistence Board – Federal Regulations
Jennifer Hardin, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Office of Subsistence Management
- Working Group discussion

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m. Federal Agency Management – Agency presentations and Working Group comments/discussion. Includes report on NPS & BLM meeting with community of Noatak in July 2015.

- Bureau of Land Management – Squirrel River Management
Alan Bittner, Bureau of Land Management
- Noatak National Preserve
Lisa Fox, National Park Service
- Selawik National Wildlife Refuge
Susan Georgette, US Fish and Wildlife Service

2:45 p.m. Break

3:00 p.m. Working Group Discussion / Public Comment Opportunity

- Discussion of 2015 hunting season and preparation for 2016
- PUBLIC COMMENTS: By phone, dial 1-888-223-4671 To participate in Kotzebue, please come to the NWAB Assembly Chambers. *(Time per comment may be limited, to ensure opportunity for those who want to speak.)*

4:00 p.m. Break

4:15 p.m. State of Alaska – Permitting of guides/transporters
Valerie Baxter, Department of Natural Resources

4:30 p.m. Big Game Commercial Services Board – Transporter Subcommittee
Joe Schuster, Guide, Unit 23 Working Group member

5:00 p.m. Adjourn for the day

Thursday, May 5

8:30 a.m. Coffee/Refreshments

9:00 a.m. Welcome

9:10 a.m. Education & Public Outreach in Unit 23

Kari Rasmussen, ADF&G

9:45 a.m. Northwest Arctic Borough / North Slope Borough Caribou Workshop

– Report on workshop held March 11, 2016 in Fairbanks
Noah Naylor, NWAB Planning Director

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. The Future of the Working Group

- With declining state budgets, funding for the Working Group in the future is uncertain. What can be done to continue information sharing and communication on these topics?
- Working Group recommendations

11:00 a.m. Working Group Discussion & Action

- Additional discussion on topics raised by Working Group members
- Working Group Recommendations / Actions
- Assignments / Wrap up

12:00 p.m. Adjourn

Additional information about the Unit 23 Working Group can be found at the project web site:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=plans.unit23>