



Alaska Board of Game

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ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

Work Session

Fairbanks, Alaska

March 17, 2016

Meeting Summary

Members Present: Ted Spraker, Chair, Nate Turner, Vice-Chair, Stosh Hoffman, Teresa Sager Albaugh, Pete Probasco, Dave Brown, and Kip Fanning.

The Board of Game (board) convened the Work Session on Thursday, March 17, 2016 at Pikes Waterfront Lodge in Fairbanks, Alaska. The meeting was open to the public for listening only. The meeting audio and meeting materials are available online at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=03-17-2016&meeting=fairbanks

Election of Officers

The board elected Ted Spraker to continue serving as Chairman and Nate Turner to continue as Vice chairman.

Reports

The following agency updates were provided during the meeting. (*Audio log 0:16:19*)

Commissioner Sam Cotten, Department of Fish and Game

Bruce Dale, Division of Wildlife Conservation, ADF&G

Hazel Nelson, Division of Subsistence, ADF&G

George Pappas, Office of Subsistence Management

Cheryl Brooking, Department of Law

Lt. Paul Fussey, Alaska Wildlife Troopers

State Director Bud Cribley from the Bureau of Land Management provided the board with information on guide and outfitter permitting on BLM lands, and land closures. (*Audio log 1:23:29*)

The board received an update by ADF&G Division of Habitat on changes to the Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area Management Plan. (*See RC 2 and the audio log 0:14:10 in the afternoon.*)

ADF&G presented information to the board on the request from the Federal Subsistence Board to review the expired Memorandum of Understanding for Coordinated Interagency Fish and Wildlife Management for Subsistence Uses on Federal Public Lands in Alaska between the Federal Subsistence Board, the State of Alaska. The board agreed Chairman Spraker and member Sager Albaugh will represent the board throughout the review process. (*See RC 1, page 11 and the audio log 0:00:51 afternoon session.*)

Board Committee Assignments and Reports (*Audio log 2:03:28; morning session*)

Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB): The board appointed member Dave Brown to continue serving as the board's representative.

Dall Sheep Management Working Group: Board member Nate Turner provided a summary of the Dall Sheep Management Working Group January and February meetings. The working group consists of 41 members and has met three times since December 2015, each of which was facilitated by Dr. Alistair Bath. Meeting summaries for the working group are available at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=sheepcomm.wgmeetinginfo.

2016/2017 Meeting Dates and Location: (*Audio log 2:24:34, morning session*)

The board set the meeting dates and location for the 2016/2017 cycle as:

Work Session: January 5, 2017, Bethel, Alaska

Arctic and Western Region: January 6-9, 2017, Bethel, Alaska

Interior & Northeast Arctic Region: February 17-25, 2017, Fairbanks, Alaska

Findings:

- The board reviewed the Bear Conservation, Harvest and Management Policy and extended the expiration date to June 30, 2021. (*RC 1, page 27; audio log 1:16:17, afternoon session*)
- The board reviewed and modified the Wolf Management Policy and extended the expiration date to June 30, 2012. (*RC 1, page 23; audio log 1:23:17, afternoon session*)
- The board adopted findings related to the intent of proposal 207 which was adopted the previous year at the Southcentral Region meeting in March 2015 and restricted the use of aircraft for sheep hunting. The board requested the findings be for public comment during the Statewide Regulations meeting which convened the following day. (*RC 1, page 33; audio log 2:22:12, afternoon session*)

Letters:

- The board agreed to write a letter of support on HB 137 related to hunting license fee increases. (*RC 1, page 36; audio log 2:40:52, afternoon session*)
- The board agreed to send letters of support to Senator Dan Sullivan and Congressman Don Young for offering amendments to halt the USF&WS proposed rule. (*RC 1, pgs. 38-39; audio log 2:44:08, afternoon session*)
- The board discussed the draft comments from the board to USF&WS on the proposed rule related to non-subsistence take of wildlife. The board scheduled the letter for further discussion on the last day of the following Statewide Regulations Meeting. (*RC 3; audio log 0:31:26, afternoon session*)

The board adjourned work session at 4:50 pm.