

**Susitna Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes of November 27, 2012**

The meeting began at 6:30 pm at the Upper Susitna Senior Center located at 16463 Helena Avenue (just off M 98 on the Parks Hwy).

Members Present: Bruce Knowles (Undesignated), Steve Runyan (Nancy Lake), Ted Schachle (Willow), Todd Kingery (Talkeetna), Gus Gustafson (Sunshine),

Members Absent Excused: Gary Foster (Alternate), George Faerber (Petersville Rd), Vern Logan (Big Lake), Jerry Sousa (Talkeetna)

Members Absent Unexcused: Terrence Shanigan (Sheep Creek), Randy Quincy (Willow), Pat Walsh (Trapper Creek)

Elections were held with the following results: Craig Seime – Big Lake for a 2 year seat; Gus Gustafson – Sunshine and Bruce Knowles – Undesignated for three year seats.

This brings the current total Susitna Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee membership to 7 members as follows: Gus Gustafson of Sunshine to serve till 12/15; Todd Kingery of Talkeetna to serve till 12/13; Bruce Knowles, Undesignated to serve till 12/15; Craig Seime of Big Lake to serve till 12/14; Steve Runyan of Nancy Lake to serve till 12/13; Ted Schachle of Willow to serve till 12/13; Terrence Shanigan of Sheep Creek to serve till 12/13. The committee had a total of five members present and so a quorum was available for them to conduct business. They further determined that a subsequent election meeting may be held to fill a few more seats, if there is both interest and availability for participation. There has been a perpetual issue of getting a quorum in order for the committee to do its business. If more seats are filled, we also need to make sure there is not more than 1/3 committee turnover in any given year.

Officer elections were then held with the following results: Bruce Knowles was elected Chair, Steve Runyan was elected Vice Chair; Gus Gustafson was elected Secretary.

Joint Board proposal to modify the current designated seats assigned to the committee – Committee discussed the problems they have faced in trying to fill seats and get a quorum as the committee is currently configured and created a proposal as follows:

Motion and 2nd were made to modify the designated seats on the Susitna Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee as follows: Peter’s Creek/Trapper Creek – 1; Willow/Nancy Lake - 1; Big Lake/Houston – 1; Talkeetna/Sunshine – 1; and 7 Undesignated seats for a total of 11 seats (and two alternates as found in the other regulations for ACs). Committee voted in support unanimously.

Report from Rick Jandreau regarding the proposed Susitna State Forest (handout provided) Existing trails will be left and potentially expanded. Stream crossing questions were addressed that any roads built would have to comply with Title 16 (Habitat). A request for the current practices on the Tanana Forest was made and the response was that their management plans are available online. Logging roads can help local access and removing trees can also allow for new forest growth (which in turn may help in creating moose habitat). The concern of land being locked up by forestry activities was discussed, with a member testifying of seeing this occurring

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over time with more and more land being locked up. What begins as multiple use trails ends up restricted (in particular with motorized users seeing the most restrictions). Question of what is the Division of Forestry definition of "sustainable yield". Some of the problems locals had in the past were lack of operational plans, inability of understanding basic human needs (privacy, sleep) and damage by large trucks to the roads.

Rick emailed me information today to answer some of the questions. (see insert below)

The definition of sustained yield:

Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act. " AS 41.17.950(27) sustained yield" means the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of forest land and water without significant impairment of the productivity of the land and water, but does not require that timber be harvested in a non-declining yield basis over a rotation period."

The web page with info for the proposed state forest is <http://forestry.alaska.gov/whatsnew.htm>

and

the page with existing state forest management plans is <http://forestry.alaska.gov/stateforests.htm>.

Kenai River late run King Salmon Task Force meetings updated was provided by Tom Kluberton. There was a problem getting discussion started and more concern about escapement goals and how the department intends to manage next year. The committee voted to hold off for their next meeting until January when escapement numbers will be more readily available. Bruce expressed frustration in not being invited to the table for those meetings because the issues being discussed at those meetings directly impact the people in this area. When the setnetters are not allowed to fish, the drift fishers are given more time, which it is believed impacts those fish headed north. There was some effort to create a step down process as is currently in practice for the in-river fisheries, for the commercial fleet. The board may also generate a proposal for the statewide meeting.

Susitna Flats State Game Refuge – handouts were provided in order that comments from the committee could be received. ADF&G had a public scoping meeting scheduled in Palmer the same night as the AC elections and Sherry wanted to make sure the committee had an opportunity to comment on the issue if they so desired.

Central Region Board of Game proposals (in the light green Board of Game proposal booklet) covering Game Management Units 11, 13, 14 and 16 include Proposals 62 – 108 with Regional and Multiple Units including Proposal 109 – 122, Interior Region Proposals 123 – 125, and one Statewide Proposal 126. Bruce asked the committee members to email one another with the proposal numbers they would like to prepare comments on at their next meeting, so everyone can come prepared to discuss them.

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UCI BOF proposals to submit – Bruce spoke about the need for the committee to work together on proposals for the Upper Cook Inlet proposal deadline (April 10, 2013). This upcoming BOF meeting is extremely important – our runs are dying.

Statewide Board of Fisheries Proposal (in the blue Board of Fisheries proposal booklet) begins with Proposal 215 – 235. Please review these and let the committee members know prior to the next meeting which of these you would like to submit comments for the Board of Fisheries review, so everyone can come prepared to discuss them. Bruce spoke specifically about a couple of proposals that he would like to get committee comments.

PROPOSAL 217

Action – Discussed only

Description: Mandate statewide priority for management of king salmon.

Discussion: These are primarily set up by economic values and the understanding. The economic impact toward sport fisheries was barely mentioned in an Anchorage Daily News article. The committee has concern that the BOF will perceive the economic value of the sport fishery in the same manner. \$75 – 125 million dollars were lost in the Susitna Valley sport fishery.

PROPOSAL 230

Action – Discussed only

Description: If duplicate licenses are issued, ensure that the section for season or annual limits is removed from duplicate.

Discussion: Concern of people gerimandering the system is the reason this proposal was submitted.

Next meeting was scheduled Dec 19 or 20 to begin at 6:30 and Bruce will confirm the date once he can secure a location. Agenda will include BOG proposal discussion. There will be a tentative subsequent election meeting held in January to fill remaining seats.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.