

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Teleconference May 28, 2015
On Time Advisory Committee Comment Index

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Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Comments for the May 28, 2015 BOG teleconference.

The Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee decided to hold a May meeting this year in response to the Board of Game actions to reconsider Proposal 207 and the extension of the proposal deadline. The AC met on May 11, 2015 at the Fairbanks Hunter Education Indoor Shooting Range beginning at 6:30 pm and discussed several proposals for the statewide meeting in March 2016, though no proposals related to sheep have been brought forward by the public or AC members.

Committee members at that meeting were as follows:

Jeff Lucas, Valerie Baxter, Kirk Schwalm, Lee Hazen, Mike Tinker, Larry Morris, Andrew Glasgow, Virgil Umphenour, Bill Larry, Emma Lee Grennan, Al Barrette, and Chuck Derrick. Members absent included Mike Kramer and Warren Giuchici. There is one vacant seat on the committee at this time.

Guests present included ADFG Staff Don Young and Tony Hollis (DWC), and Nissa Pilcher (BDS). Also in attendance was Justin Rodgers (DPS), Vince Holton, Sam Friedman, and Helen Cold.

The AC discussed Proposal 207 again and the recent actions of the Board of Game regarding 207 and the possibility of a sheep working group. The AC decided to re-submit our original comments on Proposal 207, first made to the Board at the February 2015 meeting in Wasilla and the AC position on the potential of a sheep working group remains unchanged.

The text below is taken from the minutes of the AC meeting of 01/21/2015, which was a special sheep meeting the Fairbanks AC called in order to hear from the public specifically on sheep issues and Proposals 207 and 208.

“VII. Guests: Nate Turner (BoG), Teresa Sager-Albaugh (BoG), Henry Tiffany (BGCSB), Lt. Justin Rodgers (AWT), Dick Bishop, Vern Aiken. Delta AC, Middle Nenana AC, and Upper Tanana AC telephonic. Others listed under public testimony. Others who did not sign in, estimate 60 members of the public in attendance.

VIII. Chair and AC Member Comments:

Barette—wood bison meeting on Jan 29, need access fee comments

Valerie—need to take up 201 after sheep.

Umphenour—compared current situation to the BoF sustainable salmon policy & outlined the testimony process. Fish & Game fund and Pitman-Robertson. Different goals contained in the old sheep management plans.

Public Comments



Nate Turner—update on how the board got here. Surveys and reports, trying to maximize public comment and process. Maybe take action in Wasilla and maybe defer to anchorage. Answered questions from Al and Kramer regarding transparency. Answered questions from AC members concerning the possible working group.

Tom Kirstein—master guide in 20A, problem is increased guides not residents. Draw destroys opportunity.

John Giuchici—opposes the board generated proposal and agrees with Kramer that the board process is predetermined.

Steven Hollenbeck—resident sheep hunter supports 207 option 3 and opposes 208.

Joe Letarte—resident guide, support status quo and opposes 208. No overcrowding problem, hunters are lazy.

Eric Milender—resident sheep hunter does not support any of the board generated proposals

Seth Wietgrafe—resident sheep hunter. Populations are fine, no overcrowding, questions the transparency of the process. Supports status quo.

Mike Roylance—resident sheep hunter. Does not support resident restrictions, if restrictions needed then non-resident.

Henry Tiffany—Guide and member BGCSB. Studies were overdue. 80% hunters resident. Spatial distribution problem. Opposes draw. 1 in 4 is a potential solution. Opposes Tom Lamal's comments.

Eric Umphenour—resident guide 20A. Supports aircraft restrictions. No issue with resident crowding.

Jason Franklin—supports aircraft restrictions

Edmund Gaines—resident sheep hunter. Supports 207 aircraft restrictions. Supports status quo otherwise. Tag fees should be increased, even for residents.

Jeff Whipple—resident sheep hunter. Has experienced crowding and aircraft issues. Non-resident tags are too cheap. Supports 207 aircraft restrictions. Supports 1 in 4 over a draw.

Leonard Jewkes—not resident versus guides, seeking to benefit everybody.

Karen Gordon (Wild Sheep Foundation)—supports status quo. Supports an update of management plans.

Mark Richards (ABCHA)—supports 111. Limit non-residents to draw only. Supports working group. Supports same day airborne limits.

Dave Lorring—does not believe the board predetermines its actions. Full curl is sufficient to protect the resource. Supports status quo.

Don Quarberg—crowding an early season problem only. 207 1&3 are unenforceable. Opposes 201, supports use of aircraft to retrieve wounded game.

The AC comments on Proposal 207 (these are copies of written and verbal submissions):

“The Fairbanks AC unanimously opposed Proposal 207. These restrictions would be costly to the public, are not enforceable, will be extended to other species if passed, and federal law and guide ethics already prohibit much of this behavior. We believe these are localized problems and this behavior does not make profit for transporters so they won’t do it.”

The AC comments on a Sheep Working Group (as discussed at the 2/11/2015 Fairbanks AC meeting):

“1. The sheep management plans are the purview of ADF&G and they should be allowed to complete the review and update first.

2. Once those plans are revisited, then ADF&G may come to the ACs and public with the new plans and begin a discourse.

3. The FAC does not favor a statewide focused working group, it would be too broad and difficult to make it effective. Successful working groups have been very focused such as the 40 mile group, Western Arctic caribou group, etc.

4. The FAC is opposed to having too many special interest groups involved and thinks it should mainly be an effort between the ACs and ADF&G.

5. We took a vote at the end of our discussion on the following motion, “The FAC opposed a working group as the only solution to the proposals and issues surrounding Dall sheep hunting. The issues are too diverse and complex for solution by a working group.” The vote was 9 in support, 1 against, and 1 abstention.”

This concludes the comments from the Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

Comments compiled/recorded by Valerie Baxter, Game Subcommittee Chair

**EXCERPT OF
Koyukuk River Advisory Committee
1/27/2015
Teleconference**

- I. Call to Order: 1:45 pm by Chairman Jack Reakoff
- II. Roll Call:
Members Present: Wilmer Beetus, Hugh Bifelt, [Allakaket]; Jack Wholecheese, Darrel Vent, William Derendoff (arrived late), Shawn Huffman [Huslia], Gary Hanchett (had to sign off early)[Bettles/Evensville], Jack Reakoff [Undesignated, Wiseman]
- Members Absent:Hudson Sam Sr [Huslia], Pollock Simon Jr [Unedisgnated; Allakaket]*, Pollock Simon Jr, Warner Bergman, Andy Simon Sr [Allakaket]* Harding Sam, Eddie Bergman [Alatna]*
- *please see bottom of minutes for additional notes on quorum*
- Number Needed for Quorum on AC:8*
- *please see bottom of minutes for additional notes on quorum*
- List of User Groups Present:N/A
- III. Approval of Agenda: Addition of discussion of Proposal 202
- IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Waved until next in person meeting
- V. Fish and Game Staff Present: Glenn Stout, Lincoln Parrett DWC; Seth Wilson SUBS; Nissa Pilcher, BDS
- VI. Guests Present: Trooper Lanier, AWT; Marcy Okada, NPS; Don Honea Jr & Ed Sarten, Ruby AC
- VII. Old Business: None
- VIII. New Business:

Comment on Proposals before the Board of Game at the 2015 Central/Southwest Meeting
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The Koyukuk River AC very much supports the concept of further restrictions of aircraft use for dall sheep hunting.

Measure 1. To prohibit the use of aircraft to spot or locate dall sheep during the open hunting season is critical to equitable participation of all sheep hunters. Hunters that have aircraft at their disposal fly all of the hills to locate sheep. If they screw up the first stalk, they fly until they find the rams again and land nearby for consecutive hunts until the sheep are taken. With the dwindling sheep populations and very limited number of legal rams available, fair chase hunters have little chance to compete. There are a large percentage of hunters in the sheep survey that feel there is a need to address the combat aspect of sheep hunting today. We are in agreement with hunters that feel there is a need to address the user conflicts.

We feel measure 2 to make it against the law to take or assist some else to take dall sheep until 2 PM of the following day you have been air born, would be the easiest to enforce. It also would be fairest to all sheep hunters, to not allow hunters to take or assist in taking sheep until 2 PM until the following day of flight.

Measure 3, that sets a starting time for 24 hours after being air born is not equitable. Hunters that use air service to access a sheep hunting area do not have any control over when they may be dropped of on a given day. If they are dropped off late on the previous day they would be at a disadvantage to hunters that are dropped off earlier in the previous day. Or to hunters that have their own aircraft and fly and land earlier the previous day. It would also be problematic to enforce a 24-hour rule. It would be hard for an enforcement officer to know exactly the hour when a hunter had actually flown the previous day.

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****The phone lines were down to both Allakaket and Alatna so neither community was able to participate. This subsistence practice is very important to both communities' identity as Upper Koyukon Athabascans/Inupiaq people. Therefore while quorum was not met, after draft recommendations from this meeting were signed off by the chairman of the AC, they were forwarded on to the Allakaket and Alatna Tribal Council for distribution to the members who were not able to take part in the meeting for review, as well as all other participants in the meeting. This document is the result of that process, and was signed off by those AC members as being in line with the desires of the Koyukuk River AC as a whole.***

For a full set of minutes, please see Koyukuk River AC's meeting website at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.acinfo&ac=koyukuk>

Or contact the Interior Regional Coordinator

EXCERPT OF:
Middle Nenana River Advisory Committee
4 Feb 2015
Healy

I. Call to Order: 6:13, John Basile (Chair)

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: **9**

Allan Mortenson – V. Chair (Clear/Anderson C)

Robert Kohlsdorf – (Clear A)

Myron Stokes (Clear/Anderson B)

Wayne Valcq(Ferry)

John Basile – Chair (Healy B)

Jacob Mattila (Healy D)

Nan Eagleson (McKinley Village)

Paul VanDyke (Alt. Clear/Anderson)

Matt Nustvold (Healy seat A)

John Carter (undesignated)

Excused: **3**

Leroy Sutton (Alt.) – absent

Jason Reppert – Secretary (Healy E)

Members Absent: 2

Coke Wallace (Healy C)

Joseph Chattfield (Alt. Healy)

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 6

User Groups Present:

III. Approval of Agenda: approved

IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Approved

V. Fish and Game Staff Present: Don Young, Trooper Dave Bump

VI. Guests Present:

VII. Old Business:

None

VIII. New Business:

For a full set of minutes, please see Middle Nenana River AC's meeting website at
http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.acinfo&ac=middle_nenana_river

Or contact the Interior Regional Coordinator

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Proposal 207 **Approved** 9 in favor 0 opposed

John- Suggests that enforcement may cause issues.

Dave – If it does pass they will do their best to enforce the issue.

John C. - Reported a violation last year. John suggests limiting the use of planes by drawing permits.

Dave- FAA is the proper authority to call to report aviation violations.

John B- Law abiding citizens will abide by the rules. Criminals will be criminals regardless.

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Meeting Adjourned 9:45pm

EXCERPT OF:

01/20/2015 Upper Tanana/40 Mile Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7PM at the Tok Fish & Game office conference room.

Committee members present were: Leif Wilson, Matt Snyder, Lyle Cronk, Danny Grangaard, Mike Cronk, Thor Jorgensen, Jake Combs and Peter Talus.

Motion to approve the agenda was made with two additions. To record the minutes for compiling to submit to local committee and Fairbanks office was added at the beginning and the ACEC with BLM in the Mosquito Flats Area was added to the end of the agenda.

Guests attending were: Doreen Parker(ADF&G), Jerry Hill (FWS; TNWR), Aaron Atchley, Sue Stancliff, Russ Landers, Bob Gingue, Teresa Sager(BOG), Jeff Wells(ADF&G), Jeff Gross(ADF&G) and Aaron Bloomquist.

Minutes

Minutes from the December 16th meeting were just received and will be approved at the next meeting. The committee will now be using a tape recorder to give to Vanessa to compile the minutes for submission to local advisory committee and to the Fairbanks office, all agreed with this.

Proposal 207

Jake Combs made the motion to support, Lyle Cronk seconded. (7-0). After much discussion it was decided to change #1 from August 10th to Sept. 20th, to read August 7th to Sept. 20th and to eliminate #2 and #3. Mike Cronk made motion to support with these changes, Matt Snyder seconded. (7-0)

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Next Meeting

February 24, 2015 will be the next Advisory Committee meeting.