

Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes of March 28, 2018
MTA Building in Palmer

RC 6

Meeting called to order by Herb Mansavage a little after 7 p.m.

Members present, Has Nordstrom, Neil DeWitt, Andy Couch, Austin Manelik, Dan Montgomery, Chad Lipse, Terry Nininger,

Members Absent: Steve Bartelli, Tim Stephens, Mel Grove, Chris Alderman, Dave Young, Mike Buirge, Danny Lewis, Bob Marshall, Birch Yuknis,

8 members present

Public Present: Amanda Wolf, Israel Payton

Public Comments: Israel Payton mentioned attending the Mount Yenlo AC meeting — and talked about the petition that the AC had submitted to allow a subsistence king salmon fishery — this is a fish wheel fishery. Israel mentioned that he participates in the subsistence fishery. He said that about 20 - 25 permits are issued per year — most of those permits are issued to people in the Palmer / Wasilla area according to Israel. Currently there has been no subsistence king salmon fishery in the Upper Yentna area. Some of the same Northwest king salmon stock are harvested in the Tyonek subsistence fishery. Currently the subsistence fishery starts on July 15. Petition asks for openings from June 1 — 30. Periods are Monday, Wednesday, Friday. It was discussed that all Alaskans should have an opportunity to participate in a subsistence fishery — and that is some ways a fish wheel fishery limits people from outside the area from participating. A dip net fishery might allow more Alaskans an opportunity to participate. In 2018 sport harvest of king salmon is not allowed anywhere in the Susitna River / Yentna River drainage — the way most Mat-Su residents have harvested will start with zero harvest opportunity. Hans does not know if the future might see a dip net opportunity for the subsistence fishery. The point was made that Alaska residents through the subsistence regulation should have a better opportunity in times of shortage. Why the difference in the Tyonek. Harvest could increase dramatically if this was the only place in the Susitna River drainage to harvest king salmon. Dan mentioned we are talking about a fish wheel fishery on a stressed stock that at this point does not have enough fish to provide any harvest in the sport fishery. Austin mentioned that the whole fishery should maybe shut down, because of shortage of king salmon. Andy Couch made a motion to support the Mt Yenlo emergency petition for a fish wheel subsistence king salmon fishery on the Upper Yentna River fishery. 2nd by Chad Lipse Motion passed 6-2-0.

Amanda Wolf — concerned about livestock particularly sheep and goats. Dan Montgomery asked if she had her livestock tested. Answer was no. Dan mentioned she could get a hold of Fish and Game and learn where to have an opportunity to test the livestock. Hans is thinking that the AC representing fish and game issues does not have much to say about livestock.

Chad Lipse gave a report on the Board of Fisheries meeting. He mentioned discussion of hatchery stocks effect on wild salmon as something that was discussed at the Board meeting. He has a link talking about this in the report. The AC proposal to allow a personal use dredge for scallops would not be allowed. Chad talked about the shrimp proposals that regulations pretty much stayed status quo. Anyone with questions may want to e-mail Chad for more information about the Board of Fisheries meeting.

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Dan Montgomery provided a written and oral report from the Board of Game — unit 14A antlerless moose permits increased from up to 1000 to up to 2000 permits — ADF&G's digression as to how many permits they allow. AC proposal passed and regulations will now allow people to shoot beaver in unit 16 during trapping season under a trapping license. Dan has much more information available if AC members want to contact him.

IT was mentioned that Duncan Fields had withdrawn for consideration on the Board of Fisheries and that Al Cain will continue to serve on the Board.

AC elections — hopeful at Wasilla High School — Herb will check with the Wasilla High School considering available dates possible April 25 or May 2. Steve Bartelli, Mike, Buirge, Mel Grove, Herb Mansavage, Birch Yuknis, Dave Young, Chad Lipse are all up for re-election.

Anchorage AC elections April 3 at King Career Center at 6:30 according to Neil

Member Comments: Terry glad we took time to consider the emergency petition submitted by Yenlo AC. Appreciated the reports from Chad and Dan.

Austin thanked Dan and Chad for their reports.

April 2 - 10 North Pacific Fisheries Council at Hilton

April 10 - 18 Federal Subsistence Meeting at Egan Convention Center.

Dan Montgomery wondered if AC would be interested in a goat proposal for Eagle River — May 10 deadline. Wild Sheep Banquet on April 14 in Anchorage.

Hans will get an e-mail about the elections meeting sent out tomorrow.

Andy Couch told what the emergency sport king salmon regulations for the Mat-Su Valley were for 2018.

Chad mentioned some other commercial fishery regulation proposals that the Board of Fisheries dealt with.

Dan Montgomery made a motion that the AC write a letter in support of Theresa Albaugh for Board of Game reappointment. 2nd by Chad Motion 8-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12.

Minutes taken by Andy Couch
Approved by Herb Mansavage, Chair
4/11/2018