

DRAFT-Minutes from Minto-Nenana AC meeting  
March 7, 2011  
Nenana Community Center, Nenana AK

Members Present

Victor Lord-N  
Doug Bowers-N  
Tim McManus-N  
Ron Silas-M  
Jeremy Charlie-M  
Wayne Charlie-M  
Philip Titus-M  
David Titus-M

Don Young-ADFG  
Tony Hollis-ADFG  
Rita St Louis-ADFG  
Nissa Pilcher-ADFG  
Mike Potter-DPS  
Ray Heuer-Fairbanks AC  
Brent Keith-Middle Nenana AC

Meeting called to order at 11:10 am.

Agenda, with the addition of a Yukon update by Doug Bower, and Minutes from February 2010 approved.

Jeremy- The Community Harvest proposal put in by Minto for this year's BOG, Craig Fleener (DFG) talked with us and we agreed to table the proposal until 2012 and work on it and get it in prior to the April 29<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Don- Noted that since it is already tabled, you don't have to put it in again, it will already come up.

Don Young, filling in for Tom Seaton

- ◆ 20B Population estimates- fairly steady increase in moose from Salcha River to Manley, estimating 20,000 moose in 2009- 2010 we had really poor snow conditions. Estimated 4000 moose in Minto Flats in 2010, the only place we were able to do survey
- ◆ Harvest trend in 20B- Fairly steady between 600-800 moose (2009-over 900 moose harvested). Still need to harvest antlerless moose
- ◆ Map showing antlerless harvest distribution. Majority of harvest is in Fairbanks Management Area (FMA). Pretty high harvest near Minto as well- 70 moose. 2-3% of harvest in this area is currently cows, which is sustainable
- ◆ Ratio of bulls per cows is going up-
  - Concern with fall and winter registration hunt method, and discussion of the way the dispersal is handled in Minto, Nenana, and Fairbanks
- ◆ Moose population trend, stable population is shown
- ◆ Cow harvest in 2004-2006 shows a lot of cows taken in an attempt to reduce the overall population, has tapered off to maintain current population

- ◆ Reported harvest is a little low to maintain current objective, but overall doing good. Young productive population might be leaned on too heavily since there is the mandate on no cows with calves being killed, a lot of young ones might be getting killed-

Don Young spoke on 20B calf weight- 20A moose calf weights pretty poor, 20B moose calf weights are not in great conditions, but not as bad as 20A.

Ray spoke on Fairbanks AC's 2 proposals to the Minto Nenana AC, Yanert River and lengthening moose season in Unit 20B. Also spoke on potentially co-sponsoring a proposal on community hunt in Minto with FAC.

Victor spoke on the potential lengthening the hunting season- on how it might be a good idea, that it is hard to get moose in season, have to go across the river to get their moose since it has a longer hunting season. Talked about larger hunting pressure in the area, especially in the cow hunt.

Doug asked about Yanert Proposal-

Don- Yanert CUA proposal that FAC put in would open it to motorized vehicles from October 1-July, to align with Wood River CUA. It will provide more opportunity and spread the hunt out over more time and space.

Brent was asked how the Middle Nenana River AC handled the proposal- AC voted to not support it, but Brent abstained from the vote- personally viewed that he didn't think that it would impact the area as much as the AC thought- it is not a trophy hunt, it is a freezer hunt, and the overall number of permits would not go up. Only two access points, one is on Native allotment- so 4 wheelers wouldn't be too prevalent, but snow machines would be more in use.

Ray-Proposal was put in to spread out hunt, and spread out hunters- as a placeholder hunt. If someone has a better idea, then we would be interested in it.

Brent- didn't want to see increase in motorized access in the area

Ray- Only a small number of permits will be issued

Bruce- only one cow harvested out of that area last year due to the non-motorized limitation, and it is not the friendliest river to run in the winter.

Don- Yanert proposal won't have much effect on Nenana or Minto area, lengthening the bull season might have an effect on Nenana, allow 5 extra days for anyone hunting bull moose in Minto and areas- only five days extra, so it would not be into the rut.

Victor- First cow hunt it was unsafe, people walking up and down the road with loaded guns, afraid of getting shot

Jeremy- Almost hit a couple of people on our road hunting.

Don- General thought was that it would spread things out more- hunters might wait till the cooler weather later, but might be a boon to the hunters who hunt early.

Doug- I like to hunt at the end, seems like there is a lot of pressure at the beginning, extending the season would be an advantage with spreading time, give people more time to travel into the woods, as well as meat care with the cooler weather

Tim- Might draw one or two guys away from Nenana, but not really affected by this-

Don clarified the proposal dates and areas- Minto Flats is already open until the 25<sup>th</sup>-but surrounding areas are not

Ray- Might pull hunters from Minto into other areas with a longer season, Minto is not an easy place to get into

Victor- Yanert Proposal is no biggy to us, but the extension of the moose season might be a good idea for us to comment on...

**Proposal 232- No effect on Nenana or Minto really- No Action**

**Proposal 233-**

-Extra five days would be a good for increase of opportunity

-Would not directly affect Minto Flats

Question for enforcement- would this effect you guys?

Potter- not that much, would spread us out a bit more, but don't really see that being a problem

In favor -7; Opposed 1

Jeremy- talked about Minto Community Harvest proposal that was tabled by the Minto TC and the BOG for this round. Don't think it would pass the way it was written, it would go against the state constitution

Don pointed out since it was already agreed to be tabled till 2012, so a new proposal would not necessarily need to be written by the April 29<sup>th</sup> deadline, it will already been taken up at the next meeting, so have until then to change proposal.

Ray- All community hunt stuff is laid out in the codified- donate my 2010 one to use this to flesh out your proposal.

Ron- Lets talk about bear and selling bear parts-

Mike- Clarified that it is legal to sell hides, but not legal to sell rugs or mounts, and the troopers have issued citations for people trying to do this.

Philip- That is what the bait stations are there for-

Mike- That is another issue, if you run a bait station with traps and you get a brown bear. People could get citations for this.

Tim- I get calls from people know who have caught a black bear in traps. I go and skin the bear for them, they get the hide and I take the meat.

Victor- This AC has been on the record against bait stations

Doug-Where is the Fairbanks AC on this?

Ray- Torn...how many bear hides does one person need? I have shot multiple bears myself and I give hides away now. It would be nice to be able to sell them.

Philip- So black bears are no longer classified as big game?

Don- bears are both big game and furbearer- like wolves-

Jeremy-This could be inviting bear snaring, which I don't think is a good idea

Philip- For the road system, with so many people, don't think this is a good idea-

Potter- not allowed within 1/4 amount of distance from the road, and 1 mile from a house with bear baiting

Motion to insert Placeholder Proposal

**Proposal to amend the current regulation on the selling of black bear parts**

**Vote- unanimous**

Antlerless Hunt reauthorization- 20A

Don- Have to reauthorize the antlerless hunts every year. There are some changes, only FAC and DAC approved the hunts with changes, Middle Nenana didn't approve the hunts at all. Looking for ways we can spread out the hunt in time and space. Currently have the authorization to issue 1000 permits, issued 750, only got 114 cows. Don't let the number of permits scare you- many people don't go after they get the permit. Early hunt, then hunt during the general season, then one that runs after the general hunt- idea is that we want a certain number of cows out of each zone, but don't want to stack up hunters in the same time. Worked really well for 20B, would like to try it in 20B.

Change that happened between the department and the Joint 20A moose management meeting:

- ◆ Only allow one proxy hunt per household, slow the assembly line effect
- ◆ Lat-Long mark of the kill to see the distribution of the kill

You vote with these changes, vote without the changes, or vote to not approve the hunt at all.

Doug- Keep it simple- Let's reauthorize first with no changes

Ron- Long record of reauthorizing these hunts

**All in Favor of reauthorization of cow moose hunts 20A-**

**All in favor**

Don-FAC already approved. Explained the changes that are currently in the proposal

Jeremy- Not everyone has a GPS

Doug- How specific do you want us to get?

Don- Example- Rex Trail, would give the drainage, but is it at the headwaters, or all the way by the Tanana. We know that harvest is mostly near the Rex Trail, but it isn't on paper.

Mike- the more enforcement knows where people are harvesting, the better off we are to get the bad guys.

**All in favor of reauthorization of cow moose hunts 20B**

**All in favor**

Rita- wood bison update, 86 animals currently, healthy- skin, blood, hair, feces, all check out. Non essential experimental population since the wood bison are endangered down stateside. FWS still hasn't cleared the animals under this ruling, but we are still planning on releasing the animals. Planning on putting them in a corral- called soft release- corral them during the winter and feed them and then release them in the spring. Put collars on them to study them. How many of each sex are we taking- don't want too old or too young, need to transport them in planes and trailers, transport hay to feed them in the first winter. Planning on releasing at least 40 animals.

Planning on having a meeting May 11, 12, in Anchorage and would like a member of this committee to come to this meeting since this committee was very supportive of the idea of wood bison in the state.

The initial place we were going to put them was here, but faced opposition from Doyon and from Minto TC. Their release is currently slated for the Innoko area- near Shageluk.

Tim volunteered to go to the meeting-

Doug- presented information on Yukon River salmon openings 2005 downriver had 25 openings, upriver got 12. When we see the proposals that come from the downriver saying that the upriver are killing the run with the fishwheels, we have information about them to dispute this. Membership of the BOF changes every cycle so we need to educate them how fish wheels work- ability to put in a live box, vs gill nets which kill indiscriminately. Current change in mesh size that the BOF approved last go around wasn't enough. 6" would be more appropriate, but the BOF didn't go for that.

Jeremy- Visiting downriver, upset that they even have to go to 7 1/2". They say the fish are staying on their own side of the river...how do they know?

Doug- You can't tell. Fish tagged by Stan Zurey at his test net, drop down the river, swim up the Tanana and into the Kantishna- I've caught them.

Philip- there are hatchery fish up there sometimes

Tim- attended RAC meeting, changed the makeup of FSB, want to put a rural subsistence user on the board. AC's all want to add someone that they know. Don't have too many federal users around here

Victor- All the waters that the fish swim through are a lot of federal waters, so it does affect us.

Questions on who sits on there currently

Tim- Want someone on there who would actually live off the land, catches fish and hunts

Philip- so we want someone who puts food on their table themselves.

**Want a rural Alaskan on the FSB-**

**All in favor-**

Nissa-Ran over the flyer 2011 Yukon River rebuilding initiative and Statewide Cycle B

BOF and BOG

Victor- We have already approved of Mike Smith to the BOF, but what about Nate Turner to the BOG- he lists a Nenana PO address, but we don't know him...

Doug- He was raised on Kantishna, guides up there, have a commercial trap line out there, did guide brown bears down south

Victor- would be nice if we had met him at some point, be nice if he had been here [at an AC meeting], feel like we should have met him at some point in time...

Mention of one meeting a year being a hardship-

Ray- I wrote a letter to each representative requesting a budget increase

Son- worth pointed out that you need to meet twice a year in order to even stay active in accordance with the codified

Motion was made to pen a letter to representatives on budget deficite that restricts them to one meeting a year when they are guaranteed two.

Meeting adjourned 1:58 pm