

Middle Nenana River Advisory Committee
2 Dec 2014
Anderson

I. Call to Order: 18:03, John Basile (Chair)

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: 9

Robert Kohlsdorf – (Clear A)
Myron Stokes (Clear/Anderson B)
Leroy Sutton (Alt.) – absent
Tyler Dynes (Ferry A)
John Basile – Chair (Healy B)
Coke Wallace (Healy C)
Jacob Mattila (Healy D) – excused
Jason Reppert – Secretary (Healy E)
Nan Eagleson (McKinley Village)

Excused: 3

Allan Mortenson – V. Chair (Clear/Anderson C)
Paul VanDyke (Alt. Clear/Anderson)
Joseph Chattfield (Alt. Healy)

Members Absent: 2

Pat Owen (Healy A)
Larry Haddock (undesignated)

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 6

User Groups Present:

III. Approval of Agenda: approved

IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:
Leroy was excused from the last meeting, not absent as recorded in the minutes.

V. Fish and Game Staff Present:

VI. Guests Present:

VII. Old Business:
None

VIII. New Business:

Elections:

Terms are now 2.5 years.

Leroy Sutton, Paul Van Dyke, Robert Kohlsdorf will stay.

Robert Kohlsdorf : Disgusted when BOG went against Advisory committee. Completely unhappy

John Basile: Agrees with Robert, but can also be a good thing that the biologists make the decision.

John: Nominates Robert, Nan seconds.

Leroy Sutton: Nominates Myron Stokes, Tyler seconds.

Tyler Dynes: Nominates Leroy, Coke seconds.

Jacob Mattila: Nominates Allan, Coke seconds.

All candidates approved, no one opposed.

Nan Eagleson: Agree with Robert, but it is still good to be on the committee.

Coke Wallace: To Robert, Can you elaborate on the situation?

Robert: More than half of the advisory committees opposed. BOG broke the law, sided with Fairbanks AC. Had to listen to us by law.

Leroy: Before Don Young we were the only ones that had the say.

Robert: We couldn't bring legal action against the BOG, it would be like the state suing itself.

ADF&G Staff updates

Moose: Population surveys not completed because of weather. Compositions surveys are complete. However, no results yet, just numbers.

Nan: Does Don fly them?

Robert: Always looking for volunteers.

Sheep Survey:

John: Looking to have a town hall type meeting to try and come to a conclusion. We as an AC could come.

Coke: Attended Presentation in Fairbanks. Heard it was better attended than Anchorage. A good comment that came from the meeting was; "it's the same problem we had 40 years ago".

Coke: Most sheep are shot with 24/48 hrs. of being spotted.

John: Are they spotted from the air?

Coke: Yes, lots of hunters are spotting from the air.

John: How would you police spotting?

Coke: It's one thing to see one on the way to camp. Another to actively spot.

Jacob Mattila: Do you use an airplane

Coke: Only to transport.

Jacob: Are others doing it? Have seen a lot of sheep running.

Coke: Weather is killing sheep

Robert: How do you know folks flying aren't photographing?

Leroy: Support what we put together

Coke: Agree

Jacob: Some of the other proposals seem a waste of paper.

Nan: How is what we put together used?

John: Carries more weight because we are a group

Nan: Is there anything that is legally binding?

John: Should the board go with it because it's the majority opinion, even if it's not good?

Leroy: Biggest issue with Robert's example it was illegal

Robert: If we break the law we get penalized

Proposals

John: According to sheep survey most people didn't want the sheep season to open early.

40% of sheep harvested are non-residents

Jason: Agree, non-resident harvest could be lower

Jacob: Thinks numbers are misrepresented. Most resident hunters don't put in effort. Non-residents are willing to pay. Disagrees with proposals to lessen non-resident take. Residents won't put in the effort.

Coke: Dall sheep are the most abundant sheep in North America

Leroy: Amazed at the number of residents that fly in. People focus on certain areas.

John: Fear its turning into a rich man's sport

Coke: If you're a sheep hunter you're a sheep hunter.

Leroy: People save money to hunt.

John: People pay money to be remote.

Coke: It's a couple real noisy people and it comes back around every few years.

John: Seems to be a crowding issue, way more compared to 5 years ago.

Nan: Feel I don't know much about the situation out there. We should support the proposals.

John: Looking for quality hunts

Jacob: Changing non-resident take won't change local, Healy crowding> Not sure of situation other than drawing, but doesn't want to see it.

John: Agrees, it's what is great about Alaska. There should be a percent of Alaskans that take sheep.

Leroy: The effort isn't being put in by residents.

Discussion of Proposal 114 (All is favor of supporting)

Jacob: Motion to discuss. We have supported it in the past, so that it is brought up.

Leroy: 2nd

Nan: John, are you on board?

John: Yeah, not sure what right answer is.

Tyler Coke, do you think it will help?

Coke: Not sure, too many guides. People trying to follow the rules get hampered by additional rules. Not policing up the ones that don't follow the rules. Government spends about a million to put bad guides out. Need to enforce current rules better. Needs to be fixed, but not by DNR.

Jacob: Thought he heard they lost funding

Nan: All the meeting were for not?

Coke: They're been studying it to death and lost funding.

Nan: Is Tom Lamual a guide?

Coke: No, just another hunter

John: Knows that some of these proposals are put in by people who hunt hard. Its definitely overcrowded.

Jacob: By the end of Sept. it's pretty barren in Healy creek.

Coke: 2013, lots of residents taking sheep. My son took one way out in the tundra

Leroy: Sheep may migrate

Myron: Know sheep are down in the train trestle area

Robert: Totatlanika always had a good population of sheep. Where did they go?

Leroy: Not sure

Ivana: Didn't trap in that area for two years. Took a break.

John: Should we wait to hear from Don?

Jacob: Probably a good idea

Nan: Will Don have numbers for Jan. survey?

John: Was wondering the same

Coke: As of last year, they are in range?

Jacob: Late winter probably affected.

John: Seems like we are still in a low, Don said last rabbit high was really high.

Nan: Did he suggest why? Read an article that talks about crash and tannins in willow.

Leroy: Moose also, don't like high tannins. Something I see

John: Someone in circle are studying hares.

Tyler: What is proposal 138, targeted moose?

Jacob: Thought this was tied to the cow hunt, that is why we supported reauthorizing cow hunt to allow target hunts.

John: We should wait until Don has the numbers.

Robert: Has it ever been explained why Brown bear tag was dropped but not black bear?

Coke: redundant because of sealing

Jacob: Sealing was dropped in 20A. But need to be sealed to be sent out of state to be tanned. State doesn't seem to like to deal with it.

Nan: It's not filed somewhere?

Jason: I'm sure it is.

Discussion of proposal 139 (All support 139)

John: Motion to discuss

Jacob: 2nd

Nan: Does it encourage the hunt?

John: Becomes incidental

Nan: The animal is worth more than the fee

Leroy: Too bad more people don't eat them.

Nan: What is the % of bears taken incidentally?

Jacob: Thinks Don's numbers are low

John: Likes the proposal and the opportunity it creates

Nan: It could be tracked? Would be important to have the information

Leroy: They have that info. Taking one sow could impact that area for 30 years.

Jacob: A proposal about salvaging meat from a spring bear taken over bait.

John: Are the periods for black bear and grizzly bear the same? Seems like a good deterrent to harvest?

Jacob: Just curious if it's a deterrent. Assume more would bait brown bears.

John: Anyone have anything else?

Discussion of Proposal 143 (all opposed to supporting)

Jacob: Not in favor of it. Motion to support

John: Agrees with Jacob

Jacob: Seems to micro manage the harvest

Leroy: 2nd

Jacob: Would like to oppose, if you hit a bear you must pursue it.

Nan: If a hunter doesn't pursue is it a wanton waste?

Leroy: Comes down to ethics

John: It allows too much flexibility

Jacob: Current regulations don't allow you to take another bear if you shoot and wound.

John: May encourage taking risky shots

Jacob: Elk is similar. Heard they were having issues, seems odd that reg is only for those two hunts.

Jacob: Proposal 182, thought there was a temporary ban on taking deer from a boat?

Nan: It's proposed by the advisory committee

Jacob: Maybe we should stay away from it. Coke, how many archery hunters do you guide for sheep?

Coke: Two or three

Discussion of Proposal 194 (all oppose supporting)

John: How about 194?

Jacob: Would be opposed. Would be better to spend some effort educating. Would like it seen brought to the table.

Jason: 2nd

Jacob: Proposal 195, doesn't think the Dept. would go for it. The regs require to clean it up

Robert: Should there be a vote?

Jacob: Don't think we need it

Discussion of 3 year cycle for BOG

Tyler: For it, saves money

Nan: Agree, gives us time to see proposals implemented

John: Agrees, same proposals keep coming up.

All support a change to a 3 year cycle

Next meeting:

27 Jan Tri-Valley High school, Healy

Healy seat elections to be held

Leroy: Motion to adjourn

Nan: 2nd

Meeting adjourn 20:31