

Fairbanks Advisory Committee
3/9/2016
La Quinta Inn, Fairbanks

I. Call to Order: 6:33 pm by Valerie Baxter, Vice Chair

II. Roll Call:

Members Present:

Virgil Umphenour: Chair

absent excused: @ RAC mtg Anchorage

Mike Tinker: present

Kirk Schwalm: present

Lee Hazen: present

Andrew Glasgow: present

Mike Kramer: present

Chuck Derrick: present

Glen Holt: present

Bill Larry: present

Warren Giuchici: absent excused

Al Barrette: present

Valerie Baxter: Vice Chair present

Jeff Lucas: present

Lyle Shelnut: present

Larry Morris present

Members Absent: Warren Giuchici and Virgil Umphenour

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: YES

List of User Groups Present: Mark Richards: Ex. Dir. Resident Hunters of Alaska (sheep issues and working group) residenthuntersofalaska.org. Mark resigned his position with the BCHA.

Chair Comments:

-Virgil is at the RAC in Anchorage: speaking and working on an Emergency Petition before the BOF requesting the Alaska BOF to adopt an emergency regulation reducing commercial fishing time in the south Unimak and Shumagin Islands June salmon fishery.

-Commercial Services Board Meeting in Fairbanks last couple of days and tomorrow; concerns being voiced over new fees and there are actions being considered from the transporters subcommittee, including some education outreach. At the meeting there was confusion about what is an air taxi versus a transporter.

-reminder that the BOG meeting starts Friday, March 18th.

-The FBKs Game Subcommittee: need to have a mtg for proposals due by April 29th in the Interior: The Game Sub com. meeting is Monday, April 4 @ 6 pm, location TBA.

-Fish Committee: Mike Kramer. Fish proposals due April 11th MTG if needed TBA. Fin Fish proposals being sought. Allocation issues concerning the UCI and LCI drainages. Proposals are needed soon.

-Our next Fairbanks AC meeting is April 13.

- III. Approval of Agenda: agenda amended. Agenda approved as amended. Amendments include
 - a. Al Barrette re-voting on 20B antlerless moose permit, change the dates of that hunt to earlier so it doesn't conflict with trapping season #124. Oppose it to change the dates. Put it on the agenda to more fully discuss 20B Antlerless hunts.
 - b. Jeff Lucas: wants to realign the grizzly on black bear bait hunts moving it earlier and later. Put it in subcommittee and on the general agenda of AC.
 - c. Chuck Derrick: concerned about condition of grizzly hides later in spring season. Move this to a different agenda.
 - d. Mike Tinker: committee hasn't taken up communicating with Leg. On Board appointments. Would like an agenda item to discuss SB 164 HB 137.
 - e. Kirk Schwalm: discussed GMU 23 and the NE RAC to shut down all non-local hunting of caribou on federal lands possible impacts on local economy including transporters.
 - a. Valerie Baxter: seasons and bag limits and proposal 140 to amend an ongoing issue of seasons and bag limits on caribou.
- IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: From (2-10 -16); In order to approve minutes we need to check the BOG Statewide comments. Amend to fix a couple of the support/oppose columns, they were incorrectly entered (Proposals 17 & 18, 94 & 95). Move to reconsider Proposal 52 will be discussed later in the agenda.
 - a. Move to approve the minutes: all approved as amended.
- V. Fish and Game Staff Present: Don Young Fairbanks Area Wildlife Biologist.
AWT Trooper Mike Potter.
- VI. Guests Present: David Loring resident, John Haddox - Ft Wainwright.
- VII. Guest Issues: Mark Richards: Ex. Dir. Resident Hunters of Alaska (sheep issues and working group) residenthuntersofalaska.org. He has resigned his position with the BCHA.
- VIII. Concerned comments from AC members: Changes made to the agenda covered this.
- IX. Old Business: None.
- X. New Business:
Don Young: updated us on the Intensive Management Feasibility Assessment for predator

control: how to interpret the range of management objectives for moose harvest numbers. GMU 20A has 5,200 square miles of moose habitat. Moose density at 2.5 moose/square mile w/a population of about 12, 800. No clear signals yet in the improvement of moose condition based on nutritional values, twinning and calf weights. Calves/100 cow counts. Twinning rates being a good indication of the habitat condition. Also looking at a more sensitive index which is moose calf weights. Don showed us some wolf survey work done in late winter – spring with population estimates and wolf harvest data. GMU 20A has twice the population of wolves compared to Denali National Park. Look for 30 moose/wolf to have a stable or slightly increasing moose population. The primary predator in 20A is wolves at this time. Mike Tinker is in favor of standardizing moose count methodology using the best technique to obtain more comparable population estimates and when setting harvest rates in other areas. Don reports a 25% under count on moose mortality. Non-reporting is a larger issue in remote areas.

Mike Kramer: updated us on the Sheep Working Group report. Currently there are no official proposals by the SWG. They discussed brooming, measuring curl angles, full curl measuring and age of sheep. A strong majority favored a resident head-start hunting program. Valerie; what do we want to say to the BOG? Mike Tinker: we are involved in the process. This is a conflicted process. We will stay involved. We have the biology so do something even if it has to be changed in the future, even if the outcome is status quo. The BOG has been given lots of direction from the AC's.

Mike Tinker: moves we adopt the emergency position petition we (fish~ Virgil) adopted. Seconded by Al Barrette: for the area M King salmon harvest. Several comments by the AC members were given. Unanimously in favor by the AC to submit the petition.

Statewide BOG proposal comments (Valerie Baxter). Clarify proposal 52. Al Barrette moved to adopt proposal 52. The original was a misunderstanding of the proposal and that we have changed our mind and our **vote on 52: 9 to 2 to 1 abstain**. We discussed what is “reasonable” with regard to salvaging game. There is a concern that hunters won't work hard to recover wounded game if without that provision in the regulations booklet.

Proposal 84: Mike Tinker will look at his original notes and get back to me on what the comments should say.

Proposal 124 to reauthorize antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20B and we would like to re-discuss the dates of those antlerless moose seasons in GMU 20B to not conflict with the opening of trapping season. Al Barrette withdrew his desire to reconsider the vote in favor of submitting a proposal to the BOG in the next cycle to change the dates of the winter antlerless hunt in Minto.

Move to adopt **proposal 141**: Change the wolf season near Denali Park...to not coincide w/black bear baiting. We are not in favor of letting the Park Service dictate on state land this kind of proposal given there is no biological reason for it. **Unanimous opposition to this proposal 0-12.**

Proposal 140: we support the compromise that was at the BOG meeting last March in Anchorage and by the western arctic caribou working group. Vote was 12 opposed, 0 support.

Proposals 139, 142, and 143 Take no Action.

Mike Tinker pointed out that the AC needs to appoint a new person to the 40 Mile Caribou Working Group since Emma Lee Buist has now left the AC. We can take that up at the next meeting in April.

There was discussion on whether or not the AC wanted to submit letters on the BOG & BOF appointee nominations. The Board of Fish nominees were Al Cain, Israel Peyton, and Robert Ruffner. Board of Game nominees were Nate Turner and Guy Trimmingham. There was no unanimity of opinion amongst the members on any of the nominees so no letters are to be sent. Everyone was encouraged to send in their own letters.

Mike Kramer: wanted to add to his previous report on the Sheep Working Group and did point out that there was discussion on changing the sheep drawing from three choices to six, upping the cost to \$10 a choice, and the potential of having a resident sheep tag, like grizzly metal tags, that would cost a fee.

Adjournment: 2209

Minutes Recorded By: Glen Holt
Minutes Approved By: Valerie Baxter
Date: 03-14-16