



Alaska Board of Game

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ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

Work Session

Anchorage, Alaska

November 9, 2017

MEETING SUMMARY

The Board of Game (board) convened the Work Session at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 9, 2017 at the Lakefront Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska. Seven board members were present: Chairman Ted Spraker, Vice-chairman Nate Turner, Stosh Hoffman, Teresa Sager Albaugh, Karen Linnell, Larry Van Daele, and Tom Lamal.

The meeting was open to the public for listening only. Meeting materials and audio are available online at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=11-09-2017&meeting=anchorage.

Election of Officers:

The board re-elected Ted Spraker to serve as Chairman and Nate Turner as Vice-chairman.

Agency Reports and Updates:

Bruce Dale, ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation Director updated the board of the division's receipt of increased revenue from the recent license fee increase legislation and Pittman Robertson funds. He also explained some challenges related to spending authority and hiring new positions. (*Audio log 09:19:48*)

Assistant Attorney General Cheryl Brooking provided an update on wildlife related litigation. Assistant Attorney General Brad Meyen updated the board on litigation and related to the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. (*Audio log 09:20:41*)

Board Committee Assignments:

Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB): The board discussed filling the designated seat for the Board of Game on the BGCSB. Alaska Statute 08.54.591 specifies the membership of the BGCSB includes "one member of the BOG who is chosen by the BOG and who does not hold a guide or transporter license." The board postponed the assignment to the miscellaneous business agenda for the Statewide Regulations meeting. (*10:03:53*)

Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game: Members Teresa Sager Albaugh and Karen Linnell were assigned to work with Board of Fisheries members to discuss the need and timeline for scheduling a future Joint Board meeting. (*3:24:40*)

2018/2019 Meeting Dates & Location: (10:11:34)

The board set the following meeting dates and locations for the 2018/2019 meeting cycle:

Work Session: January 10, 2019, Petersburg

Southeast Region: January 11-15, 2019, Petersburg

Southcentral Region: March 15-19, 2019

The board tabled the decision for the Southcentral Region meeting location to the miscellaneous business agenda for the Statewide Regulations meeting.

Proposal and Comment Review Process: (11:15:38)

ADF&G staff asked the board for guidance on the types of proposals to include in proposal books such as those requesting action the board is not authorized to take due to statutory requirements, and proposals that do not require a change to regulation. The board also discussed requirements for submitting public comments such as first and last names, and specifying proposal numbers. The board agreed to discuss the topic further under miscellaneous business for the Statewide Regulations meeting.

Letters: (01:45:43)

The board deferred the following requests for letters (see RC 1) to the miscellaneous business agenda for Statewide Regulations meeting:

- 1) Request for Attorney General Opinion on the Authority of the Board and/or ADF&G to Enforce Community Subsistence Harvest Permit Conditions; and
- 2) Request for a letter of support the taking and use of golden eagles for falconry.

Copper Basin Community Subsistence Harvest Hunt Post Season Questionnaires: (11:38:36)

Brian Davis and Dave Koster from the Division of Subsistence reported to the board an overview of the 2016/2017 community report data for the Copper Basin community subsistence harvest hunt (RCs 2-4).

Implementation of the MOA for Cooperative Management of Customary and Traditional Subsistence Uses in the Ahtna Region: (1:33:21)

Gene Peltola and Tom Doolittle from the Office of Subsistence Management provided an update on the Implementation of the MOA Between Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission & the Department of Interior. Implementation of the MOA has been delayed because of the need to change federal regulations. However, some other aspects of the MOA may be addressed through an agreement between the Department of Interior and Alaska Federation of Natives for a food security and emergency preparedness review. There are also a proposals scheduled for consideration by the Federal Subsistence Board in April 2018.

Nonresident Hunting Allocation Policy (1:58:39)

The board was referred to RC 6 which is a revision to the 2007 nonresident hunting allocation policy. Vice-Chair Turner explained the intent of the revision is to describe the statutory and constitutional provisions for providing nonresident opportunity, and commonly held views expressed by board members – both the benefits and the problems that arise from it. The board deferred action to the miscellaneous business agenda for the Statewide Regulations meeting.

ADF&G Population and Harvest Objectives: (02:04:32)

Director Bruce Dale provided information to the board on how existing population and harvest objectives were set and are based on constitutional management mandate for sustained yield. He reviewed the history of the intensive management law which was enacted in the mid-90s and required the board to identify populations for high level of human harvest and to set harvest and population objectives regulation. He also discussed the science for evaluating feasibility of the objectives and informing the board when the objectives are not biologically appropriate.

ADF&G Positions on Board of Game Proposals: (2:23:57)

Director Bruce Dale spoke to the board about ADF&G analysis and recommendations (A&Rs) for Board of Game proposals including the positions statements and the process for developing the A&Rs. He referred the board to RC 8 which is a commentary piece about the role of state wildlife managers under the public trust doctrine. The discussion focused on ADF&G taking mostly neutral positions on proposals instead of supporting or opposing to maintain public trust as the state's wildlife management agency, and to not influence board allocation decisions. Board members agreed with ADF&G's neutrality on proposals to maintain public trust, and suggested to ADF&G, it would be helpful to the advisory committee and the board, if additional considerations are provided under the A&R section that describes the effect of the proposal is adopted.

Public Outreach and Communication: (02:57:17)

Member Van Daele led the discussion about the need to encourage public involvement with the board process, including those who are non-hunters. The board discussed different tools for expanding communication including attendance by board members at different organization meetings and the use of social media to communicate with younger audiences. The board also discussed a suggestion for using the committee of the whole process at board meetings for improved public involvement.

Other Business: (03:35:59)

Member Sager Albaugh raised a question about the process for notifying advisory committees (ACs) of board actions and providing the reasons when the board does not follow the AC recommendations, which is required under Alaska Statute 16.05.260. Executive Director Tibbles explained that board meeting summaries are provided to the public and advisory committees following the meetings. The summaries include audio log information for each sections of proposals, to guide the public to the board deliberation. Board members recognized that writing letters to the ACs would be difficult for accurately capturing board intent. Providing the meeting summary of actions taken with audio tracking information and the website link minimally meets the statutory requirements. Board members also commented that listening to the board discussion via the audio is very valuable for better understanding board actions on proposals.

Executive Session:

The board held an executive session at approximately 4:00 pm for the purpose of hearing a confidential discussion with state attorneys on issues concerning pending wildlife-related litigation.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:34 p.m.