



Alaska Board of Game

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ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
July 20, 2023 - Web Conference
Special Meeting to Discuss Formation of a Unit 19C Sheep Committee
And Other Administrative Business

Meeting Summary

The Board of Game (board) met by web-conference Thursday, July 20, 2023, convening at approximately 3:35 p.m. Seven board members were present: Chair Jerry Burnett, Vice-Chair Stosh Hoffman, Al Barrette, Jake Fletcher, James Cooney, and Ruth Cusack, and Dave Lorrington.

The purpose of the board meeting was to discuss the following topics:

1. Formation of a board committee with authority to form a working group for the purpose of making recommendations to the Board for future management of Dall sheep in Unit 19C.
2. Assign Board member to serve on the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB); and
3. Submitting a letter to the Federal Subsistence Board regarding federal Nelchina caribou hunts.

The board voted 5-2, to establish a special committee to work with the Department and stakeholders to form a working group. Members Burnett, Hoffman and Fletcher were selected as committee members. The chair will be decided by the committee, and that member will also serve as the chair of the working group. The committee is expected to provide an update to the full board at the November 2023 ACR meeting.

Chairman Burnett expressed a desire for recommendations from the working group to be available for public comment in advance of the March 2024 board meeting. He also recognized the process may take much longer, and that an agenda change request may be necessary for the 2024/2025 meeting cycle.

Funding for the working group is not determined. The department provided preliminary information about the expenses associated with a working group and expressed concerns with the desired timeline to provide recommendations to the board at its March 2024 meeting. It was also clarified that the department's involvement with the working group would be to provide biologic and harvest data and will leave the allocative discussions to the committee.

Member Dave Lorrington was assigned to represent the Board of Game on the BGCSB per the membership requirements in Alaska Statute 08.54.591.

The board agreed to submit a letter to the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) requesting the closure of Nelchina caribou herd hunts in Units 11, 12, and 13. The FSB is expected to act on this topic in late July. Member Barrette was assigned to write the letter to be submitted prior to the FSB's action.

All meeting material and the audio recording are available on the Board of Game meeting information webpage at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=07-20-2023&meeting=webconference.

The board adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:35 p.m.