

## 10/25/2017 Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7PM at Fast Eddy's with Peter Talus, Jake Combs, Thor Jorgensen, Mike Cronk, Matt Snyder, Lyle Cronk, Frank Entsminger and Leif Wilson (chair) in attendance. A quorum was established.

Adding an update from the caribou coalition meeting to the agenda, it was approved.

Leif introduced the guests attending the meeting which included: Nisa Pilcher, ADF & G coordinator, Vern Aiton, Lee Tolliver, Arron Atchley, Tim & one other from Tetlin Refuge, Don Woodruff, Eagle advisory committee member, Jeff Wells, Jeff Gross & Bob Gingue from Tok ADF & G, along with Doreen Parker, Darren Bruney, Torsten Benztsen, Heather MacFarland from Fairbanks ADF & G. Teresa Sager-Albaugh from Board of Game was also in attendance.

Minutes from April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting had previously been emailed to committee members but were not available to approve, tabled until next meeting.

Nisa presented certificates of recognition of length of service to Leif, Lyle, Mike, Matt, Thor and Danny.

Staff Updates: Jeff Wells gave a quick overview of moose survey work in the southern portion of GMU20E and GMU12. Less money available this year and they are on hold waiting more snow.

There was also discussion on 20E moose registration hunt permit and the registration permits for moose & caribou as a whole. Moose permits are available on line however caribou permits must be picked up in Tok which is an inconvenience to the hunter when they arrive in Tok after office and retail outlet closures. Plus all that are obtained in person must be manually entered into the computer which causes an overload to the Tok office to get them entered prior to the hunter trying to enter hunt results online as the permit suggests. 2017 harvest shows approximately 180 moose were taken and all results are not back in yet. Frank made a motion to bring up and vote on at this meeting, Thor seconded. Motion was made to discontinue both and to support both items. Call for vote 8 – 0 motion passed.

TMA sheep permits for 2017, projections are being met. More sheep were surveyed with above average numbers. An increase in legal rams and 3 good years of lamb crops attributed. With 30 – 45 full curl taken as the objective, 38 were harvested in 2017. In the past two years, average harvested horn size was 37.2". Using this objective matrix, there will be 100 permits issued for 2018. The plan has been successful and the numbers are up. Most years there is 85- 90% participation.

### Board of Game Proposals:

Proposal 1 Modify the definition of "take" to kill or harvest. Frank moved to support, Lyle seconded. Motion passed 8 – 0.

Proposal 3 Modify the definition of regulatory year. Synchronize the calendar year with the regulatory year. Frank moved to support, Thor seconded. 0 – 8 opposed.

Proposal 4 Change definition of edible meat for large game birds. Thor moved to support, Jake seconded. Should be personal choice on salvage. 0 – 8 opposed.

Proposal 9 Modify the land and shoot requirements for harvesting coyotes. Jake moved to continue support, Thor seconded. Motion passed 8 – 0.

Proposal 11 & 12 Modify and remove restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting. Jake moved to support both proposals, Frank seconded. Opposed to any changes or removal. 0 – 8 opposed.

Proposal 24 Define the term “equipment” for bear baiting. Mike moved to support, Lyle seconded. 8 – 0 passed.

Proposal 25 Require harvest tickets for all brown bear hunts state wide. Mike moved to support, Frank seconded. 0 – 8 opposed.

Proposal 31 & 32 Establish a preference point system for drawing hunts and bonus point system for bison and muskox drawing hunts. Mike moved to support both proposals, Matt seconded. Local A/C has never supported point systems. 0 – 8 opposed.

Proposal 36 & 37 Change nonresident general sheep hunts to drawing permit hunts with 10% allocation cap and limit nonresident sheep harvest to no more than 10% of total harvest per subunit. Matt moved to support, Frank seconded. 0 – 8 opposed.

Proposal 38 & 39 To implement sliding scale bag limit for Dall sheep hunting for residents and same for residents and nonresidents. Mike moved to approve both, Frank seconded. 0 – 8 opposed.

Proposal 45 Require antlers to be sealed for all antler restricted hunts. Thor moved to approve, Frank seconded. 0 – 8 opposed. Possibly make area specific if warranted, not statewide.

Proposal 46 Modify the transfer of possession regulations as it pertains to guided and transported hunters. Frank moved to approve, Lyle seconded. Eliminate excess red tape when already under contract with the hunter. 8 – 0 motion passed.

Proposal 48 Modify the transfer of possession regulations to include reporting requirements. Matt moved to approve, Peter seconded. 0 – 8 opposed.

Proposal 49 Require a permit before brown bear skulls and hides with claws attached can be sold. Frank moved to approve, Lyle seconded. 8 – 0 motion passed.

Proposal 52 Prohibit nonresident hunting of moose & caribou under intensive management until harvest and population objectives are met. Jake moved to approve, Thor seconded. 0 – 8 opposed.

Proposal 53 Reevaluate the customary and traditional use finding for migratory game birds state wide. Teresa provided extensive explanation of the proposal. Frank moved to approve, Peter seconded. 8 – 0 motion passed.

Proposal 55 Combine the regulations allowing the take of big game for religious ceremonies and ceremonial potlaches. Mike moved to approve, Lyle seconded. This proposal would make it more difficult to obtain a permit , proposal was to make it easier to find instead of by GMU. 0 – 8 opposed.

Lee Tolliver wanted to speak with the committee about being a disabled hunter and the 100' corridor on the Taylor Highway during caribou season. Seeing how it was getting late, the committee permitted him to speak at this time. He feels there should be some sort of disabled tag that could be put in a hunter's windshield to show that the hunter is disabled and he should be permitted to hunt from the highway for caribou. Leif thanked him for his input and stated it would be brought up during discussion of proposal 65.

Proposal 57 Change the definition of "community" or "group" for community subsistence harvest hunts. Frank moved to approve, Jake seconded. This has been taken advantage of by some hunt groups and should be revised. 8 – 0 motion passed.

Proposal 64 Eliminate domestic sheep and goats from the "clean list" and require a permit for possession with stipulations if located within 15 air miles of all sheep habitat. Mike moved to approve, Peter seconded. BOG can't regulate what a farmer does, why do the stock need to be fenced if it has been certified clean of disease. Possible testing of domestics and destroy if necessary so as not to spread to Dall sheep population. Mike amended his motion to only thing BOG can do is take off the clean list. Peter seconded. 8 – 0 motion passed.

Proposal 65 Close area ¼ mile on either side of the Taylor Highway during caribou season and limit the number of permits. Frank moved to approve, Thor seconded. It's a safety issue and wounded animal mortality is also. Frank amended his motion to caribou only is our intent, with it being 100' off the highway from the Y to Alder Creek bridge. Thor seconded. 8 – 0 motion passed. Don't want to implement but allow the department to use their discretion as to where it is needed in new revised harvest plan.

Proposal 66 Update the BOG's policy for accepting agenda change requests to make it more consistent with the Joint Board Petition Policy. Frank moved to approve, Mike seconded. Have a hard fast deadline instead of the 60 days prior currently it's a floating deadline. E & F just biological concerns to establish quotas etc, allow more changes to standard agenda. 8 – 0 motion passed.

Proposal 115 Lengthen trapping season for wolverine in GMU 11 & 13 Matt moved to approve, Mike seconded. 8 – 0 motion passed.

Proposal 162 Reactivate 12 & 20 brown bear resident hunting Mike moved to approve, Thor seconded. 8 – 0 motion passed.

Caribou Coalition Report : Frank reported that with the newer technology an accurate count had been done on the Forty Mile Caribou herd with numbers being 71,425 in 2017. Contemplating what to do, maybe cap growth to avoid a crash but the Canadians are in favor of allowing the herd to continuing growing for a few more years. No decisions to be made at this meeting but to exchange ideas and come up with a plan. This is the last winter of the wolf predator control plan and this could also affect the numbers in the next few years.

Next meeting will be Jan 9<sup>th</sup> 2018. Meeting adjourned at 10:05PM.