

Nushagak ADFG Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2013

Dillingham City Council Chambers

Minutes

I. Call to Order: 10:05 AM

II. Roll Call: Present in chambers

Subcommittee

Frank Woods – Dlg Chair,
Dan Dunaway – Dlg Secretary
Lloyd (Tom) O'Connor – Dlg
Robert Heyano - Dlg
Kurt Armstrong - Dlg
Travis Ball - Aleknagik - Alt Aleknagik
Gary Kline - Alt.
Chris Carr - Portage - by phone
Mariano Floresta - Clark's Pt. - by phone
Peter Christopher - New Stuyahok - by phone

Absent

Joe Chythlook - Dlg - Vice Chair - excused
Robin Samuelson – Dlg - excused
Joe Kazmirowicz - Ekwok
Louie Alakayak - Manokotak
Jon Forsling - Togiak
Glen Wysoki - Koliganek
Gusty Chythlook - Aleknagik

Others in Attendance:

Susie Brito ADFG Boards
Matt Jones ADFG Com Fish
Jim Woolington - ADFG Wildlife

Tim Sands ADFG Com Fish
Dave Bendinger KDLG News

Fred Burke - Troopers

Gayla Woods BBNA
Danielle Stickman BBNA
Tim Troll - Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust
(see attached attendance sheet for full list)

Alannah Hurley

III. Approve Agenda:

Dan D move to adopt agenda and to use it as an open agenda for flexibility **Robert H** asked to include discussion on the Bristol Bay Area Plan then **seconded** the motion. **Carry unanimous.**

IV. Introductions: All present briefly introduced themselves.

Comment from Chris Carr: I have a prior commitment but I want to wish Jim Woolington well in his retirement. Thanks so much for working with us in Portage Creek, we really appreciate your hard work.

BELOW: minutes reported in the order they came on the floor vs. the order of the agenda.

V. Commercial Fisheries: ADF&G: 2013 Commercial Nushagak Salmon and Togiak Herring Management Overview (Tim Sands and Matt Jones).

Herring: Sands presented forecasts and overview of expectations for the 2013 Togiak Herring fishery. Harvest forecast, Seine 2,100 tons, Gillnet 9 tons, no regulation changes, maybe 7-14 day fishery, expect 6 processors, 40 gillnetters, 28 seiners - all increases from 2012. ADFG aerial surveys should start 1st week of May. ADFG will let buyers decide quality. Sands discussed various forecast models used by ADFG.

Salmon: King openers will be based on escapement counts. Sands hopes for a better king run. Sockeye fishing should begin when Wood R. escapement is close to 100,000 fish. Nushagak sonar to start June 5 or 6, Wood R. tower June 18. Sands does not expect a strong coho market this year - last year the interest was in pinks. Sands discussed new regulations for Wood R. Special Harvest Area and how he uses set net openings early in the season.

There was some discussion about interpreting management plans.

Togiak sockeye run is expected to be 25% less than 2012, conservative efforts on kings will extend into July. ADFG will be conservative on coho. Sands and Jones covered the new regulations for Togiak.

There was a strong public criticism of the December BOF meeting. The BOF didn't give sufficient attention to the public comments regarding the WRSMA and objections to the exclusion of public comment some issues.

11:10 to 11:20 short break

VI. Citizens' Alternative Presentation on Bristol Bay Area Plan. Tim Troll.

Troll presented hand-outs and discussed the history leading to the current re-opened public comment period and revision of the Plan. First plan was completed in 1984. 2005 DNR did a major revision with many changes to habitat (vastly reduced) and land use designations from habitat or recreation to mineral or general use among others - with insufficient public participation. Six groups including tribes sued the state and won; now there is a new plan and public meetings and comment opportunities. The Dillingham public meeting is scheduled for April 19, 6-9PM; all written comments due May 6. The court order requires DNR produce a revised draft by end of the year.

AC members discussed need for DNR to consult with AC's and ADFG in the formation of the plan; questioned whether and how ADFG participated in the plan formation.

When asked what the ADFG position is on the plan, are there any public statements - no one present could provide an answer.

Several AC member expressed need to find out if the Plan process included ADFG input. We need to ask the Commissioner of ADFG about this. Frank W. would like a resolution that seeks to include ADFG and the AC's in the process. A member also asked whether DNR had used the baseline environmental data from Pebble Partnership; the maps from the 2005 Plan don't use the new data that has been gathered since then.

Robert H moved to make 2 actions: 1) Provide formal response in the form of a resolution from the Nushagak AC to the BBAP 2) Draft a letter from AC to the Commissioner of Fish and Game specifically asking for an explanation of the ADFG participation and any comments on the BBAP draft. **Dan D second. Carried unanimous.**

There was a suggestion the AC vote on its position on the BBAP

Members spoke of their position on the plan; including Robert H. Dan D, Peter C. All speakers favored the land designations and fishery and wildlife habitat protections adopted in the 1984 Plan. All were opposed to the greatly reduced habitat & recreational land designations, expansion of mineral or "general use" lands set out in the 2005 plan. There was firm opposition for the process used to generate the 2005 plan. The need for the new plan to recognize and develop a government-to-government process was expressed. We should be SURE DNR records comments at these current public meetings.

VII. Nushagak AC retirement send off for Jim Woolington, ADF&G Wildlife Biologist

Frank Woods spoke highly of learning to work with Jim. Frank found him to be committed and much more flexible than expected. "Thanks Jim for the outreach to the villages."

Peter C. spoke in favor of Jim's hard work and willingness to come to the Nushagak River villages. "He's a righteous person and took his work and the local people seriously. All the comments I hear in the village are good."

Mariano F: "Yes, thanks Jim from all of us in Clark's Point."

Dan D; Jim worked hard and has been very committed to the fish, wildlife and his work.

Later Dan read a letter from the Dillingham Port Director and Port Advisory Board thanking Jim for his service, providing him harbor stickers for 2013 and in the future.

Break 1:00 to 1:17.

VIII. Board of Fish Membership: There is a vacancy on the BOF and the Gov has announced that he wants a Bristol Bay person to fill it. There was a discussion of possible candidates the difficulty of the position, challenge to time and family. Everybody needs to work on finding a suitable person to apply. A couple names were mentioned but since we don't know who all is likely to be a candidate the AC agreed to wait for more information to make any endorsements.

IX. Letter to Office of the Governor supporting Bristol Bay representation on BOF. By consensus of the AC.

X. Nushagak Single Hook regulation. Submitting an Agenda Change Request (ACR) to the BOF next fall. A draft could be written and circulated but not submitted until the summer season is over and more information on the regulation's effect is available. Chris Carr eager to participate. Troopers were requested to collect data on single hook enforcement. ACR Submission deadline August 27.

XI. Date of next meeting to address Joint Board proposals: Meet before ACR Submission deadline August 27. Need meeting before comment deadline September 25, 2013, scheduled meeting October 12-16, 2013. The AC decided that the subcommittee formed to address

area M proposals and other BOF issues is still in force and can carry on with the ACR process this fall.

Comment: regarding Joint Boards proposals, all AC members and public need to pay close attention to these. They need a lot of thought as there are potentials for profound changes to the process.

Comment: regarding Joint Boards proposals it would be good to get a legal opinion on those claiming nonsubsistence areas are unconstitutional. Consider the effects on the Chitna dipnet fishery and other similar fisheries.

Brito: I hope we can have a face to face AC meeting in the fall when there will be more info available on some of the Joint Board proposals.

Consensus: Next meeting tentatively **September 20 or close**. Brito will poll members for best day as that time approaches.

Adjourn 13:50

4-17-13 Nushagak AC Roll 2013

Frank Woods - Dlg Chair

Joe Chythlook Dlg - vice chair

Dan Dunaway - At large Secretary

Curt Armstrong - Dlg

Lloyd (Tom) O'Connor - Dlg

Robin Samuelson - Dlg

Robert Heyano - At Large

Glen Wysoki - Koliganek

Joe Kazimirowicz - Ekwok

Chris Carr - Portage

Gusty Chythlook - Aleknagik

Roger Skogen - Koliganek alt

Peter Christopher - New Stuyahok

Jon Forsling - Togiak

Louie Alakayak - Manokotak

Mariano Floresta - Clark's Point

Travis Ball ALT at large

Gary Cline ALT at large