

Nushagak ADFG Advisory Committee Meeting BOG

Condensed to comply w BOG late comments requirements. Detailed notes available on request.

January 8, 2013

Dillingham City Council Chambers

Minutes

I. Call To Order: 9:10 AM

II. Roll Call: Present in chambers

Frank Woods – Dlg acting Chair, Vice-Chair

Dan Dunaway – Dlg Secretary

Lloyd (Tom) O'Connor – Dlg

Louie Alakayak - Manokotak

Curt Armstrong - Dlg.

Joe Chythlook -Dlg

Peter Christopher New Stuyahok

Jonathan Forsling – Togiak

Chris Carr - Portage Cr.

Absent

Joe Wassily - Clark's Point (arr 10:30)

Gusty Chythlook - Aleknagik

Roger Skogen – Koliganek alternate

Joe Kazimirowicz - Ekwok

Robin Samuelson – Dlg (arr 10:30)

Quorum established.

III. Approve Agenda:

Dan D. move to adopt Chris C 2nd.

Frank W. reviewed the agenda.

Chris Carr under old business, requested to review outcome of proposal 239 at the Dec. BOF meeting.

Tom O. under old business requested to discuss Dec BOF meeting results on Wood R. Management Plan regarding set nets.

Jon Forsling under new business requested the AC consider the Statewide Fin Fish Forage Fish proposal (243).

Agenda adopted unanimously with above additions.

IV. Approve Minutes of November 20,2012 meeting:

Joe C. . moved, Chris C. 2nd. Adopted by unanimous consent.

V. Introductions: Frank Woods acting as chair since Hans Nicholson announced resignation December 31, 2012.

Remaining AC members introduced themselves.

ADFG Staff present:

Jim Woolington, Lem Butler - Wildlife Conservation

Jason Dye, Craig Schwanke Sport Fish

Tim Sands, Matt Jones- Com Fish

Sarah Evans - Subsistence

Susie Brito - Boards

USFWS, Togiak Refuge Staff
Tevis Underwood Acting Refuge Manager
Pat Walsh
Andy Aderman

GUESTS

All people in attendance introduced themselves and who they represented. (See Sign-in sheet attached - audience was large). Megan McCambly listening by teleconference.

Frank Woods suggested a letter of recognition for Hans' long service as an AC member and chairman.

Board Support is in the process of developing an awards system and when it is complete, she has already submitted Hans' name for recognition.

VI. Election Process Overview - Susie Brito

Susie described new election system and issued prepared ballots.

- Dillingham Seat, 3 Year Term
- Dillingham Seat, 1 Year Term
- Dillingham Seat, 1 Year Term
- At Large Seat A, 1 year Term
- At Large Seat B, 2 year Term
- Alternate Seat, 1 Year Term
- Alternate Seat, 1 Year Term

It was decided by consensus to tear the ballots in two and conduct nominations and elections for the Dillingham Seats first. With the nominee getting the most votes to take the 3 year seat and the next highest votes the 1 year seats. Orange ballot holders only.

After the Dillingham election, new nominations and voting would be done for the At Large and Alternate seats. The nominee with the most votes to get the 2 year At Large seat, next highest the 1 year At Large, next highest the Alternate seats. All ballot holders, orange and blue ballots holders participate.

VII. Elections

Frank asked Susie to conduct meeting for nominations and election.

Dillingham Seats:

Nominees: Frank Woods, Robert Heyano, Curt Armstrong, Dan Dunaway, Kenny Wilson, Joe Chythlook, Robert Heyano

Joe C. moved to close nominations, 2nd unknown from audience.

Dillingham Seat election results:

Joe Chythlook	21 votes	3 yr term
Frank Woods	20 votes	1 yr term
Curt Armstrong	20 votes	1 yr term

At Large and Alternate seats:

The expired seats had been held by:

Nominees: Gary Cline, Kevin McCambly, Steve Perkins, Kenny Wilson, Travis Ball, Dan Dunaway, Robert Heyano, Kathryn Carscallen, Greg Marxmiller, Gayla Woods, Malcom

Wright.

At Large and Alternate seats election results:

Dan Dunaway	count?	2 yr term
Robert Heyano	?	1 yr term

Alternates:

Travis Ball	?	1 yr term
Gary Cline	?	1 yr term

Susie explained future voting cycles and seat rotation. Also a new AC manual is getting made.

Robin moved, Joe C 2nd to seat new members. Carried unanimous.

The new alternates filled in for the missing reps from Ekwok and Aleknagik.

Election of Officers:

Chair: nominations were opened for chair.

Robert moved Jon F. 2nd to nominate Frank Woods.

Robin moved, Joe C. 2nd to close nominations.

Nominations closed by unanimous consent.

Vice Chair: nominations were opened for chair by a motion from Robert, 2nd by Chris.

Frank W nominated Robert Heyano who declined.

Robert move, Robin 2nd to nominate Joe Chythlook.

Nominations closed by unanimous consent.

Secretary: Jon F moved and Chris C 2nd to open nominations.

Jon F moved Robin 2nd to nominate Dan Dunaway.

Nominations closed by unanimous consent.

New Officers:

Chair: Frank Woods

Vice Chair: Joe Chythlook

Secretary: Dan Dunaway

VIII Staff Reports:

GMU 17A Moose Management Plan, Jim Woolington, Lem Butler ADFG Wildlife Conservation, Pat Walsh, Andy Aderman, Tevis Underwood USFWS Togiak Refuge.

Caribou

Woolington discussed the status of the Mulchatna caribou herd, management and research, current statistics.

Moose

Woolington handout summarizing historical moose hunt data for GMU 17. He reviewed the tables and noted that recent harvest has been fairly consistent. Noted that the 2012 season had a lot of bad weather and high water. ADFG hope to do 17C or B, where ever conditions are best at the time. Experienced pilots needed; poor survey weather all over the state, they are in short supply when conditions are good. There aren't that many available.

Frank W thanked Jim for the reports and all his work to have the studies set up.

Bears

Woolington reviewed the regulation changes and reduced hunt requirements for brown bears: 2 per year and no tag required to go hunting. He provided a handout summarizing brown bear harvest data. First year after the new regulations there was a big increase in harvest.

This fall 2012, about 7 were taken by locals and in 2011 6 hunters took 2 bears.

There was a discussion about how to increase the bear kill - with an eye to aiding moose survival.

Wolf

Woolington: 2 wolf control maps and a harvest summary handed out. 104 wolves taken in 2011 with a good male / female ratio. He presented and discussed the map of the control area with symbols of collared calves and wolf harvests, mortality studies.

Only 11 wolves were taken with the special permit hunt. New Stuyahok and Koliganek locals got 60 wolves. We need hunt effort in the upper Kokwok but its hard to get into.

Woolington explained the wolf control program and that to be most effective, wolves need to be removed just before calving time so there is no time for new wolves to move into the area.

Woolington then discussed the caribou calf mortality study handout relative to wolf control .

The collared newborn calves while they're still catch-able.

2011- 78 collars in Kemuk area 75% survival to fall

2012 52 collars 92% survival - no mortalities were wolf kills.

With 2 yrs of heavy wolf removal it has resulted in good calf survival.

While in the Tundra Lake calving area with little wolf control

65 collars, 45% survival with some wolf kills but mostly brown bears taking the calves.

Plan to repeat the study in both areas.

Trooper Burk: discussing hunting wolverines - you can't chase wolverine. You can't "position a snogo" to take wolverine like you can for wolf.

Robert H: asked about plans for moose surveys.

Woolington and Butler: its a statewide issue and there is lots of need and pressure to count moose in the fall and even late winter. Its very hard - we try every year. Prior to Woolington coming to Dillingham there had never been a good moose survey in 17.

Robert: well we need to get population information somehow.

12:05 - 1:15 Lunch break

1:15 Resume Meeting:

Moose Management In GMU 17A

Tevis Underwood, USFWS, acting Manager for Togiak National Wildlife Refuge introduced the draft moose plan. then turned to USFWS biologist Andy Aderman to make his presentation on the history and management of the moose population in 17A dominated by the Togiak River drainage.

Aderman: presentation on the history and management of the moose population in 17A dominated by the Togiak River drainage.

ADFG and USFWS recently revised habitat estimate down from the former 560 sq. miles to 450 sq miles using higher resolution GIS information. They have revised down the estimate of carrying capacity of the habitat.

Aderman showed a graphic of the known population growth and then possible scenarios of

predicted future growth. He said its not reasonable to expect unlimited future growth, especially seeing the slight down trends in various population statistics. Most likely to see growth slow and then decline, possibly sharply if habitat is over used by moose.

17A Moose Management Plan Revisions

Aderman reviewed the 2004 moose management plan; while not formally adopted at the time, has guided 17A moose management ever since and worked very well. Under the plan and with close cooperation of local residents the moose pop. grew to where annual hunts were possible and up to about 50 bull moose taken. The plan has worked well but after 8 years, growth of the moose population, new data, new estimates of habitat, the plan was out of date and needs revision. Given the population appears to be fast approaching the peak potential of the habitat, action needs to be taken soon.

Nov. 1-2 meeting the Nushagak AC voted to coordinate with the Togiak AC, ADFG, USFWS and Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council develop an updated moose management plan for 17A. The plan would be the basis for a constructive response to Game proposal 48 as well. The goal was to have a revised and signed plan ready for the February 2013 BOG meeting. Members of the ACs and BBRAC as well as agency staff were asked to form a working group.

The working group met December 13 in Dillingham to review and discuss plan revisions developed and suggested by the biologists. Members included Togiak AC chair, Nushagak AC chair, vice chair, secretary, 1 BBRAC member, , USFWS & ADFG staff, BBNA Natural Resources staff, and a big game guide. (see attached summary of this meeting). The meeting was very productive with a lot of cooperative effort and productive suggestions. The resulting modified draft was sent back to all groups for review; particularly the Togiak AC.

A subsequent teleconference was held on December 28 to address some new concerns & uncertainty from the community and AC in Togiak. Main points of concern were local harvest options, whether to suggest a harvest option of "up to two bulls", hunter eligibility, harvest opportunity to recommend for non-resident hunters, how data would be used to follow the plan.

There were several comments that local residents weren't getting enough meat under current hunting opportunities. Not enough people are able to go out. It was discovered that many 17A hunters did not know how to use the Proxy Hunting option. In addition the hunt falls under federal and State jurisdiction so local hunters may use the federal "designated hunter" option. This resolved much of the concerns.

Aderman showed some population projections & graphic with a harvest of 55 bulls and 25 cows designed to maintain a population of about 1,000 animals over the next 10 years.

To keep population from getting too high need to have a greater harvest including cows as the best way to keep a stable population at 1,000. This is expected to keep the habitat healthy and population.

Discussion on aerial access to spread hunting pressure across more of the available moose habitat instead of just along the river. About 80% of the area allowed to be fly-in access to lakes.

Taking cows is a tool to keep the population at the best level - not likely to do it only taking bulls.

Extended discussion on the process of "close coordination of plan participants".

At the October federal RAC meeting, the out-of-date state of the 2004 moose plan had been

discussed. The habitat revisions, population revisions and other changes needed were presented by USFWS. The RAC is expecting the revised plan to be brought before it in the spring 2013 meeting after the AC have done their revisions. "We decided to let the State system take the lead on this."

How are other parts of the refuge moose hunt are managed: 1 fall hunt and no winter hunt.

Togiak AC has agreed to work on this plan and sign it. There was a lot of give and take. We need to look at the plan as needed [in the future?] and keep in mind proposal 48.

Frank W. said that the State is revising its guide regulations and they are working with the Feds and there are going to be huge changes.

Butler reminded the AC that if the antlerless hunt option is adopted it will have to be reauthorized every year by the AC.

Joe C. moved Curt and Roger 2nd: To adopt the revised moose management plan for 17A dated 1-8-2013.

He recognizes this issue is coming to the BOG through proposal 48.

Robert moved Jon 2nd: Amend Moose plan page 1 paragraph 2, 3)cooperation and commitment [by Togiak and Twin Hills residents]..by local residents of GMU 17.....

Robert spoke to his amendment: The Nushagak AC and residents around Dillingham and Aleknagik also contributed to the improved moose population by restrictive regulations that allow moose to move over to 17A.

The motion for this amendment Carried Unanimously

Dan called the question for the full revised plan as amended.

Robert felt the plan should be opposed, is short sighted as it doesn't address rural preference under a Federal hunt or all C&T users for GMU17.

A roll call vote was requested.

MOOSE PLAN MOTION FINAL ACTION ABOUT 3:45 PM.

On the motion to Support the revised 17a moose plan as written and amended 1-8-13.

Roll call vote 7 Support, 5 Oppose, 2 Abstain, 1 absent. Motion Failed

AC Member	Support	Oppose	Abstain
Gary Cline		XX	
Curt Armstrong	XX		
Louie Alakayak			XX
Jonathan Forsling			XX
Tom O'Connor	XX		
Joe Chythlook	XX		
Robert Heyano		XX	
Frank Woods	XX		
Joe Wassily		XX	
Peter Christopher		XX	
Dan Dunaway	XX		
Chris Carr		XX	
Travis Ball	XX		

Roger Skogen	XX		
Totals	7	5	2

NOTE: Initially it was thought the motion carried. In the days following the meeting, parliamentary review suggested the motion FAILED, discussion arose as to when abstention is appropriate and whether the above vote constituted a proper majority. Two days later one of the individuals abstaining for this vote, voted for full support of the Plan as written in his capacity on the Togiak AC Committee. The discussions resulted in a request to the Nushagak AC chair to readdress the plan at the February 4 meeting of this committee.

Summary of Feb 4 meeting actions on 17A Moose plan. Complete minutes available separately.

February 4: The Nushagak AC met with 11 members attending in person or by teleconference to reconsider the 17A Moose Plan. There was a discussion of when and why members may abstain and how they are counted and what constituted a majority vote.

Joe C. moved to reconsider the 17A Moose Plan. Dunaway 2nd. Motion carried unanimously.

Adermnan noted that on Jan. 10 the Togiak AC voted unanimously to support the Moose Plan with no changes.

Joe C. moved to adopt the 17A Moose Plan as written January 8, 2013. Dunaway 2nd.

Robert H. objected as we had a meeting and the plan failed. I question the protocol here.

Curt A. I think this is ok as it doesn't deviate from the plan.

Dan D. I support reconsideration due to our parliamentary confusion on abstentions, they were not quite proper and given the one abstainer present supported the Moose Plan in Togiak 2 days later.

Jon F. I do support the Plan, I was confused and abstained at the Jan 8 meeting.

Joe C. Feds and State are supporting the plan, the subcommittee did a lot of work, the plan has a good chance, my vote stays I support it.

Tom O. this plan is pro-active so moose won't overgraze, I don't want the population to collapse.

Joe C. the meeting has been duly called, the motion to reconsider passed, last meeting there was confusion, lets move on.

Chair called for a Roll Call vote.

AC Member	Support	Oppose	Abstain
Joe Chythlook	XX		
Dan Dunaway	XX		
Chris Carr	XX		
Tom O'Connor	XX		
Frank Woods	XX		

Robert Heyano		XX	
Jon Forsling	XX		
Curt Armstrong	XX		
Mariano Floresta	XX		
Travis Ball	XX		
Totals	9	1	0

Motion Carried 9 yes 1 no.

RESUME JAN 8 MEETING MINUTES:

Jonathan started a motion for the Nushagak AC to request the RAC / Federal Subsistence Board to adopt the Plan but with some amendments. His intent and language were very unclear in the first effort. This created a lot more discussion, with several attempts at better or more clear language, efforts to clarify intent, concern for how such an action on record might affect the Board of Game's view of the plan just adopted.

Chris Carr left about 4:10 pm

Jon moved, Joe C 2nd, to have the Nushagak AC recommend to the Bristol Bay RAC that the Moose Plan be adopted as written. **Motion carried 9 , 2 opposed.**

Next a long discussion about people qualified under Federal C&T for the area. Some AC members fear the Plan does not provide opportunity for all people "Federally qualified" for 17A.

Jon moved, Robert H 2nd to have the AC request the BBRAC explore obtaining a rural preference hunt in unit 17A for all villages and people with Federal C&T status.

Travis Ball said such an action might detract from the Plan just adopted. The herd is good now and we have time to address this if something isn't working. Joe Chythlook spoke to the effect that after some consideration he agreed. w Travis. Other members too said that this motion at this time would send a confusing message to the BOG. Its too confusing at this time, we have time to fix it later, the herd appears strong for now.

Jon's motion to request the BBRAC explore creating a rural preference federal hunt in 17A **failed 3 in support, 9 opposed.**

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS:

WASSIP information in ADFGffice for people to view, borrow.

Separate WASSIP working group meeting at BBEDC n Dlg Jan 17.

Jonathan asked Susie to get more information on Board Generated Proposal 243 and bring to the WASSIP meeting.

GAME PROPOSALS:

Proposal 45. Robert move Joe 2nd. - change caribou hunt to registration hunt to get better harvest information - main problem is poor card returns from GMU 18.

Question, under a registration hunt would seasons and bag limit changes have to go before the BOG or could ADFG change as needed?

Woolington: Only in very serious emergencies, special situations can I do an EO. So no, all

others go before the BOG.

Included in the proposal are some housekeeping items to clean up some oversights, get consistency across seasons and bags in some isolated parts of GMU 17 etc. **AC Supported Unanimous**

Proposal 46. Robert move Joe 2nd. - Nush AC proposal to close GMU 17 caribou for the month of October and then extend spring closure from March 15 to March 31. Few caribou taken in Oct [6-8 in recent seasons] so Oct closure not much compensation for March extension. Jon moved to amend 46 to remove the October closure language - no second - motion died. Considerable discussion on EO authority of local wildlife biologists (very little). Need for March 31 closure vs current 15th closure. Peter C: lately caribou have come close to town late in the season, I've tried to get extensions. Discussions on extension request process.

Joe C: If we adopt 45 it will be a helpful tool and with the herd improving and with predator control still going it might be too early to change season dates. **Failed, 5 Support 6 opposed**

Proposal 47. Robert move Joe 2nd. - Make a GMU 17 Nonresident caribou hunt guided only, tags to cost \$1,000, etc. In most points, this proposal seeks actions outside the authority of the BOG and lie with the Legislature. The only part of the proposal within authority of the BOG was to create a nonresident caribou season. ADFG lacks strong harvest information by resident hunters, no strong population count for several seasons. **AC Opposed Unanimous**

Proposal 48 Robert suggested no action. - Open Non resident Moose hunt in 17A. Whole purpose of the 17A Moose Plan we discussed for most of the day was to oppose this proposal. ADFG plans to submit amended language for 48 that would implement the Moose Plan. Woolington itemized the points: 31 day winter hunt sometime from Dec 1 - Jan 31, bag limit up to 2 moose, nonresident fall hunt 9/5-9/15. Woolington hopes include video moose hunt orientation video requirement but is waiting for information from regulatory specialist.

Peter C: I want it on record I'm opposed to the original language in 48.

Curt: I want to oppose 48. I want it clear in case BOG doesn't support the plan. So we make it clear we don't want a nonresident hunt without the plan.

Woolington noted he planned to have the local only corridor stipulation a condition of the registration permit and not a regulation. See plan.

Robert moved to take no action on 48, Joe 2nd. **AC decided no action on 48 in light of their support for the 17A Moose Plan vote was 9 support no action, 2 opposed.**

Proposal 49 Robert move Joe 2nd. - Brown Bear bag limit reduce to 1 bear. Short discussion. Joe Wassily said the 2 bear limit and no bear tags was a big help in Clarks Point, Chris Carr was complaining about many bears around Portage killing moose calves. Dan voiced support for 2 bear limit and no tag - its less hassle even tho I have not used the opportunity yet. **AC Opposed Unanimous**

Proposal 50, Robert move Joe 2nd - Sale of brown bear skull and hide - Nushagak AC proposal.

Effort to provide some economic incentive to take more bears. Discussion on what is allowed by State now - sale allowed where there is bear predator control. Other concerns for bootlegging bears from other areas, getting accurate harvest data, excessive harvest. Dan - feds allow sale of handicrafts and its not a problem, can change regulation. **AC Supported Unanimous**

Proposal 51, Robert move Joe 2nd - Increase black bear bag limit to 3. ADFG generated at request of BOG. Designed to make consistent with adjacent GMU where there is concerns for abundant black bears killing moose. Robert opposed based especially on concerns he's heard from Koliganek area regarding black bears not as abundant, it sends wrong message and may attract nonlocal hunters. Some discussion of when we asked BOG to reduce black bear bag limit because of guides taking a lot in upper Nushagak in 90's. Peter C, rumors of lots of bears on Nuyakuk this year but most tracks he saw didn't look like black bears, but he didn't see the bears. Tom O, its ok to be different from adjacent GMUs. **AC Opposed Unanimous**

NEW BUSINESS

AREA M BOF Meeting: "In the interest of time" Robert moved to direct the chair to form a subcommittee to consider and act on Area M proposals on behalf of the whole AC ASAP after the WASSIP meeting Jan. 17. **Adopted Unanimous**.

Frank picked Robert H., Tom O, Dan D, Travis B., and will ask Robin S. Other members & public welcome to attend.

BBEDC WASSIP's work group to meet January 17.

AC Subcommittee meeting to happen shortly after - 22-25th.

Proposal 243 - Board generated proposal to address forage fish, protect for overexploitation. Adds Herring to list of fish. Proposal states it won't effect existing herring fisheries. Not much info available need to talk to Sands or other ADFG biologist for more info and impacts. Delegated to area M subcommittee. Susie will try to find out who in ADFG to talk to.

OLD BUSINESS

Representation at Board of Game meeting, Area M meeting: AC agreed the Nushagak AC chair should be the representative.

- * **Proposal 239** - update on status / results of Board generated proposal for Nushagak Kings, and single hook regulations. AC did not take action on this at this point.

- * **Wood River Management Plan** - some AC members are concerned that recent board may find significant regulatory conflicts. Delegated to the Area M subcommittee.

- * **Joint Board, Advisory Committee restructuring**: No proposals address Nush AC, except for rules about removing an AC member for cause, maybe some other minor items. Some proposals are very broad and may be used as a platform for amended language, other actions.

- * **Pre season salmon mgt meeting**: AC Requested a preseason salmon mgt meeting. Supported by consensus.

- * **Authorization of AC representative attending Board of Game and area M Board of Fish meeting**: Robert moved, Joe C 2nd, to have the full AC authorize the AC rep attending the BOG and area M BOF meetings to negotiate and compromise on behalf of the AC during those meetings. The AC rep needs to be able to negotiate and make compromises. **Supported by consensus**.

Adjourn 6:55 pm