

Lower Kobuk AC
12/12/13
Kiana School Library

- I. Call to Order: Time 11:47 am by Raymond Stoney

- II. Roll Call:
Members Present: Raymond Stoney-Chairman, Glenn Miller-Secretary, Larry Westlake Sr.,
Lonnie Tebbits, Leonard Brown, and Clyde Ramoth (telephonic)
Members Absent: Wilbur Howarth Sr. & George Sheldon
Number Needed for Quorum on AC:5

List of User Groups Present:
Subsistence Hunters, Trappers, IRA Council, High School Class, Teachers

- III. Approval of Agenda: Agenda Approved

- IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: 2.19.13
Minutes for the Upper Kobuk and Lower Kobuk Joint Meeting reviewed but were unofficial
minutes reviewed them for information only
Minutes approved

- V. Fish and Game Staff Present: Carmen Daggett-Boards Support, Brandon Saito-Unit 23 Area
Biologist

- VI. Guests Present:
Kathy Scott-Kiana Principal
Dan Douglas
Jack Johnson
Millie Sheldon
Delores Barr
Phillip Anderson
Anne Walker
Kirsten Beecroft
Herman Schaeffer
Lee Barr
Jenny Westlake
Michael Schuerch
Mason Morris
Frank Jackson Jr.
Brandon Sheldon
Christina Westlake
Lindsey Westlake-Reich

Inukuk Gerhardt-Cyrus
Katie Ahkpuk
Elysa Mackenzie
Amber Barr
Daniel Mink

VII. New Business:
Public Comments and Concerns:

Lonnie Tebbits I went through the last meeting's minutes. It looks like you had a good discussion about the musk ox and the bear.

Dan Douglas: What are we going to do with these wolves? We are concerned when they start trying to kill dogs they are really going to be a nuisance. We have kids going to school in the morning in the dark. We have kids playing out with dark spots. We have just started patrolling on the outskirts of town and VPO and VPSO are patrolling in town. They are trying to get the alpha male so that they will scattered. The whole town is concerned about wolves. We need advice from Fish and Game. We got information that you can't chase wolf with a snow machine.

Brandon Saito: Under a regular hunting license you can shoot up to 20 wolves. You just need to seal the hides. The deal with snow machines, says you cannot shoot a wolf from a machine that is running. You are not supposed to shoot from a moving vehicle. There was a member from the Upper Tanana area on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group that held a wolf snaring course and offered to come teach about wolf snaring and trapping.

Larry Westlake: There is city ordinance that you cannot shoot a wolf in town. In case of an emergency can you use a firearm.

Brandon Saito: I would leave that to VPSO to fill you in on the situation of town ordinances. I would imagine that if you are threatened you could deal with that, but you should talk to the VPSO.

Raymond Stoney: The only way to control it you have to be authorized by the city to discharge firearms in town. The city can authorize someone to be designated to discharge weapons in town. Off of city limits it is your choice, otherwise you have to be assigned by the city to shoot within city limits. There is a lot of concern in Noorvik they want to do the same thing in Kiana. The wolf population in Noorvik has grown too and the wolves are not very friendly either.

Thomas Jackson: On an emergency basis can we do aerial hunts with a plane.

Brandon Saito: What sort of emergency are you talking about shooting from a plane. I don't think so, I think in those cases Fish and Game would have to do aerial take for predator control.

Glenn Miller: Are they aware that we have a serious predator problem.

Lonnie Tebbits: There are a lot of wolves close by all over. It is quiet as far as caribou go. In the delta there are pockets here and there.

Raymond Stoney: Inquires if the caribou around Lockheart Point?

Carmen Daggett: Explains people haven't been hunting much because of the weather.

VIII. Department Reports

Carmen Daggett: Explains new meeting minute set up and necessary time frame. Requests a reviewer for meeting minutes that is responsive and timely.

Glenn Miller & Lonnie Tebbits: Contacts for minute review and will help distribute minutes in advance.

Presented findings from the Joint Board pertinent to the region.

Mandatory- Please Summarize Your Proposal Comments in this Form			
All motions must be made in the affirmative.			
BOG or BOF	Proposal Number	Proposal Description	
Supports or Opposes?	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal
BOG	18	Extend the wolf hunting season in Unit 22.	
No action			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The time frame is too late in the year. I don't like to hunt when there are pups and the fur won't be good. If they want to hunt till April 1st let them.
BOG	25	Change the Noatak River musk ox hunt area boundary to include the entire Noatak drainage and all areas north and west of the Kobuk River drainage.	
Support	5	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Buckland and Deering there are human made boundaries, like state and federal land, that animals don't abide by. There should be one hunting area that encompasses the population expanse. Concern about musk ox abundance expressed. Musk ox numbers are not really declining their range is just increasing. Lonnie Tebbits: Expresses concern over that the same people keep getting the Tier II musk ox permits. Larry: I don't see any problem in changing the boundaries Glenn Miller: If you were on one side of the river, and they are the other then you wouldn't be able to allow. Glenn Miller: Motion to support.
BOG	26	Reauthorize antlerless moose seasons in Unit 23.	
Support	5	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brandon Saito: There are only 10 antlerless moose harvested each year and the department supports an antlerless take from this population. The last meeting people have been see a steady drop in the moose because of increase in the number of predators. At the last meeting people were saying there were high numbers on the Lower Kobuk there

			<p>has been a sharp decline in the moose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have seen a 50% decrease in calves in the Lower Kobuk and Lower Noatak. It is possible that people might exchange moose for caribou if caribou populations decline. It is possible that this take might increase and it might affect the population later. • Larry Westlake: It sounds like there is no change in the moose and not a significant take of moose. The cow moose season is a minimal hunt. I would go for no change in this hunt. • Glenn Miller: The moose were a blessing this year with the caribou being late. There were a lot more people hunting moose. Up the Squirrel there were so many big moose that were getting over populated. • Motion to support proposal 26
BOG	27	Modify brown bear harvest in Unit 23 on lands managed by the National Park Service.	
Opposed	0	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brandon Saito: The department opposes this proposal. If anything we have seen increases in brown bears. In 1983 was the first bear census one bear was every 26 sq miles and now there are 2-3 bears per 26 sq miles. People, locals, hunters, and guides, have been saying that they are seeing more bears • We haven't seen more people killing more bears. The non-residents seem to want to hunt more. We only have 68 permits that are being used by non-residents. There are hunts in the spring that aren't getting used. The proposal reinstates the tag fees for residents. Everything is so expensive to go hunting it is meant to encourage resident participation. Right now you can hunt one bear every year and now you have to wait. • Glenn Miller: Who is the National Park Conservation Association? Do they just want a bigger piece of the pie? • Carmen Daggett: This a group that works to fund some National Park activities and research. They are not the national park service. The national park service is neutral on this proposal. • Larry Westlake: I think we are trying to cut down the number of bears that we can take. We can get a bear every year with a permit on federal land we can get a bear without a permit on federal land. It was just last year or a couple years ago we had bear problems here and the population is still around. This group is not here they are from somewhere else and they don't eat bear meat. It is subsistence meat. I would go against this proposal. • Lonnie Tebbits: I would go against this proposal, I have a camp on Kobuk Lake and we never used to see bears at that camp they were more up river and inland and now we see them almost every day. Too much. • Glenn Miller: There are a lot of bears around the Salmon River it is a scary place. This is group just wants a bigger piece of pie. Their data around Red Dog.. • Carmen Daggett: The data about Red Dog was given by Brandon Saito. • The data from the National Park Service hasn't been entirely released and it doesn't agree with the data that Brandon presented. • Glenn Miller: you look at who submits the proposal it tells you a lot. • Raymond Stoney: We could write a proposal ourselves. It doesn't make

			<p>any sense for someone who is 1,000 miles away to write a proposal for here. We need to write a proposal ourselves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmen Daggett: Refers back to the minutes about proposals and amendments for this proposal. • Raymond Stoney: When should an amendment be submitted. • Carmen Daggett: Explains amendment procedures. • Raymond Stoney: This has been some problems with brown bears with cubs. There was a discussion last time with Jim Dau about dealing with brown bears and cubs and if there is a sow that is causing problems under defense of life and property, what should be done with the cubs. There should be regulations that state that if you kill the sow with young cubs you should kill the young cubs too. Discussion was that if you kill the sow you should kill the two cubs and surrender the hide and the skulls to the state. • Carmen Daggett: Explains that it is not regulation to shoot cubs and situations where a sow is taken under DLP the situation should be discussed with a wildlife trooper and if the cubs are taken the hide and skulls should be surrendered to the state. The troopers need to be talked with about this situation though before anything regarding the cubs is done. Be up front up as possible. The law does not say you should shoot the cubs. • Lonnie Tebbits: I don't know how you could amend this one. It looks all wrong. I would like to see we get more bears for residents or have more guided hunts. What this thing is doing, you wait for a few years to get bear mortality. Let's not go there where there is no morality. There are bears at my camp where we never used to see them and now we see them frequently. I don't see how we can amend this proposal. • Carmen Daggett: Explains how this proposal opens the code for discussion at the board of game meeting and amendments can be made. You can take this proposal and make it be something completely opposite. • Explains Lance Kramer thought two bears every one year would be sufficient to get the job done. • Refers back to discussion in the Upper Kobuk and Lower Kobuk Joint AC meeting that several amendments were offered as possibilities by Jim Dau and Brandon Saito. • Increase non-resident hunting, with a two year sunset. The non-residents would still have to pay the tag fee, they would still need a guide, but they wouldn't have to draw. It would just be a registration hunt. That is the highest demand for bears. Local people are taking a very small number of bears. Jim was saying that is the group of people you want to target to get the numbers down. He was not sure if you wanted to have that many non-residents in this region. Jim was saying that guides were expressing that their clients would have liked to have gone out and gotten a brown bear, but they couldn't because they had to draw for them. They said if they would have been able to guarantee getting a brown bear they would have come back in from the field and
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			<p>gotten a tag and gone back out if they could have, but they couldn't because they had to draw for them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lonnie Tebbits: Would we eliminate all of these three and put what we want in here? • Carmen Daggett: As long as you stay within in this section of code. • Glenn Miller: I think we should oppose on this and I think we should wait to amend the proposal, till we have some time to deal with it. I know Bill is a big bear hunter or people from Selawik that are bear hunters. If there is someone who wants to sit down and write this proposal. • Lonnie Tebbits: Can we just say we reject this proposal and traditional ecological knowledge says there are a lot of bear numbers? Instead of amending it. • Carmen Daggett: Explains procedures to using the RCs as a way to extend time for an amendment to be submitted. Explains the clout of ACs and the time to testify in front of the board. • Larry Westlake: Suggests to have a bear that residents could get one in the spring and one in the fall, every year. Inquires about getting a subsistence bear and a sport bear from the fall and the spring as a possible proposal. We hunt them for meat. • Brandon Saito: Explains current regulations for a bear taken under subsistence regulations versus state regulations. • Carmen Daggett: Explains if you want to make an amendment you could submit it as an RC to the board and have it signed by the AC members. • Larry Westlake: We could still get a permit from the state in the spring and the fall and still get a subsistence bear. • Lonnie Tebbits: Does the subsistence bear have to be in federal land? • Larry Westlake: The subsistence bear has to be on federal land. The Federal would be best in the spring time, where you could travel a long ways inland because of more snow and longer days. The state better one for the fall. I don't know if it works that way or not. This affects all of the other villages. • Lonnie Tebbits: I motion to not support this proposal.
BOG	28	Change the hunting season and bag limit for coyote in Unit 23 to a no closed season and no limit	
Support	5	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raymond Stoney: I think I saw a coyote once. • Lonnie Tebbits: I have seen a lot of coyotes along the pipeline. • Brandon Saito: Department supported this proposal. • Glenn Miller: I know Bill Zibell killed a coyote. There are too many wolves here, they will kill coyotes. Why would we want to introduce another natural born killer for caribou and sheep. I am for opening it up. Motions to adopt proposal 28.
BOG	29	Allow the sale of caribou antlers harvested in Unit 23.	
Opposed	0	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brandon Saito: Gives history, current law, and department comments. What Jim Dau and others have reported in the past is that people were willing caribou to make money off of the antlers. Caribou numbers were high and it was an easy way to get a lot of cash. It created a bad situation for want and waste. Now is a time we need to be more

			<p>concerned about them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clyde Ramoth: We had people from Anchorage and the valley came into Selawik to purchase antlers, and we had people that left the meat behind and took the antlers. Antlers were stolen from people's yards. • Raymond Stoney: 20 years ago this got out control. There was a lot of want and waste of caribou, when extra caribou were shot for their antlers. You can't buy or sell antlers that are not naturally shed or made into a handicraft. • There have been discussion about the use of money instead of getting used for gas coming back the money was being used for drugs and alcohol not gas. It is up to you now to decide if these should be sold. They are saying that is going to be uncontrolled. • There should be a big penalty if you get caught selling antlers. Otherwise you will see dead caribou all over the place without any antlers. • Lonnie Tebbits: I think this is a proposal is in the wrong time, the herd is in decline and referring back to the minutes, I see it as stressor to decline. I would wait a few years to see the herd to come back. I think when that happens we can thing about this. • I see the minutes from the Upper Kobuk Lower Kobuk Joint meeting and I like the idea of having students or an organization use the money from the antlers. • Have a tab at the store for gas. • I am opposed to this right now; I don't think we should allow this right now while the herd is in decline. • Clyde Ramoth: I agree with Raymond Stoney and Lonnie Tebbits because of what I saw in Selawik. • Brandon Saito refers to old minutes where Jim Dau said enforcement is a problem and people were stealing antlers and there is only one Wildlife Trooper for this entire region. • Brandon Saito: It is really quick to kill and take the antlers and be gone and it takes too long for troopers to get to the site before people are gone. • Raymond Stoney: Previously they were marketed as handicraft. • Larry Westlake: I agree with Lonnie and the law what it is right now. My problem is that they are still selling the antlers. We need more enforcement to make the law. What I don't like is something that doesn't work. We have this law that it is illegal to sell antlers that are raw and it is still happening. • Brandon: Explains it is legal to sell antlers that are naturally shed. There haven't been any busts to catching people who have been selling antlers. People need to call the trooper. • Larry Westlake: Would it be possible to get something in the trespass program? • Brandon: I am familiar with program; I am not sure how that would work. • Clyde Ramoth: There were people buying them and selling them in
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			<p>Selawik at night. This time of year elders like to keep their antlers for memory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raymond Stoney: It is our decision to approve or disapprove of this proposal. We don't want to see it happen like it did 20 years ago. It got way out of control. When you harvest a caribou and leave the meat the fine is \$6000 and you lose your hunting license. • Glenn Miller: I already had someone steal a moose rack out of my yard in order to sell it from the middle of the night, sawed it up and sold it to the buyer illegally. My philosophy I want the meat, you can't eat antlers. I agree with my Noorvik and Kiana colleagues. I would like to go to opposing this proposal. • Lonnie Tebbits: The bulls are rutted by the time they get here and who wants a rutted caribou or moose? • Lindsay- I agree that I do not want to allow the sale of antlers because I don't want to see caribou go to waste, I don't want to see meat wasted. • Raymond Stoney: There would be a lot of buyers and we won't know where they come from on where the antlers go and there will be a big mark up on them and the profit won't stay local. They charter a C130 to come get antlers and sell them for five times what we will get paid for them. • Jack from Elder Council: We shouldn't be selling all of the antlers. We use them at the high school. • Lonnie Tebbits: I don't agree with what will happen with nothing is done. Antlers won't go to waste. They go back to the Earth and people can use them to make things. • All opposed this proposal
BOG	30	Open resident sheep seasons ten days before nonresident seasons in Region V.	
No action			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glenn Miller: With the weather events that we had, because the sheep are taking a beating. We talked with Umericks about doing a survey about doing surveys. I wouldn't want to bend them if you want. It would be good to know that first before we start to decide that on any proposals. Has Jim mentioned if he has been flying? • Carmen Daggett: Jim hasn't been flying. • Larry Westlake: We got a lot of rain and it went all the way to the North Slope, so there animals higher up are going to experience a pounding with the rain. There should be a survey before making this decision because of rainfall. • Lonnie Tebbits: Inquires when the subsistence hunt dates are? • Raymond Stoney: It takes about 7 years to get a full curl and there are not that many full curl sheep. • Glenn Miller: Inquires if Kotzebue Sound voted on this? • Carmen Daggett: They did not vote on these. • Glenn Miller: I am all for taking no action on this one till we get more information.

BOG	31	Open resident sheep seasons seven days before nonresident seasons in Region V	
Support	5	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would rather have 10 days over 7 days, you can run over time. Until we have more data we are just going to be spinning our wheels. You can get socked in up there. • I have seen sheep coming down in the spring time. • I have seen them in Cleary Creek. • There are a few guides out of Kotzebue. • I think they want to spread people and guide outfits out. • Lonnie Tebbits: It is quite a hunt and an experience to climb 4-5,000 feet and have that experience. • Glenn Miller: I think we should have an advantage of residents over the non-residents. • Raymond Stoney: There are a few sheep around. • I have seen some sheep in Timber Creek, but man that is a dangerous place. • Glenn Miller: I think we should have an advantage over people who have a lot of money.
BOG	32	Create a bowhunting only season for Dall sheep in Region V.	
Opposed	0	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I wouldn't support the bow hunting. • This is more for the guide people. • You are going to go up on top of the mountain slip and kill yourself. • Are there any people in this area that hunt with a bow? • There are few people that hunt with bows in this area, not sure if they hunt sheep. • There are some sheep that get stuck with an arrow in it. It takes one tough person to get an animal with a bow. • There should be a survey done before we do this. • We should have a crack at sheep not non-locals.
BOG	33	Change nonresident sheep hunts to drawing hunts and limit permit distribution to ten percent of the annual ten year average in Region V	
No action			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glenn Miller: We bigger fish to fry. Don't they have committee for this? • I am not a biologist and we don't have enough information. We are flying wide. • I would like the numbers front of me. They haven't flown the sheep herd lately. They don't know what is going on today. • You need a lot of data to start to change this sort of thing. We don't know where we are at. • Lonnie Tebbits: If there has been a significant drop in numbers of sheep and if we average that over ten years that is a scary decision to make. • Larry Westlake: We don't have an open season on Dall Sheep? • Raymond Stoney: There have been emergency closures for sheep for non-residents. There were a lot of people in Wisconsin and New York, same day they arrive there is always an emergency closure, they pay all of that money to get here and then don't get to hunt. • We need to have a biologist here to answer this question. • There was a guy from a non-resident took a full curl sheep took the head

			and didn't salvage the sheep. • I don't like the 10 year average part of this proposal. It is unreliable.
BOG	35	Prohibit the use of snares to take bears in Region V.	
Support	5	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glenn Miller: I am not a big guy on snares; this is not a good way to get bears. You would get incidental catch. You would have to run that thing every day. You don't want to deal a bear caught in a snare. We don't bait bears. Who put this proposal in? Alaska Wildlife Alliance I don't agree with running traps, snares or baiting bears. We don't do that here.
BOG	36	Allocate 90% of drawing permits to residents in Region V.	
Support	5	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These make it easier for residents to have an advantage over non-residents which is a good thing. Support proposals 36 and 37
BOG	37	Allocate 90% of drawing permits to residents in Region V.	
Support	5	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These make it easier for residents to have an advantage over non-residents which is a good thing. Support proposals 36 and 37
BOG	38	Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.	
Support	5	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I don't like being nickel and dimed by the state.

Old Business:

Adjournment: 3:30 pm

Minutes Recorded By: _Carmen Daggett & Glenn Miller

Minutes Approved By: *glenn a miller*

Date: 12/19/2013