

Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee minutes for Monday October 9th, 2017 at the MTA building large meeting room Palmer, Alaska 7pm

Meeting called to order at 7:14 pm by Herb Mansavage

Members present: Steve Bartelli, Bob Cassell, Herb Mansavage, Hans Nordstrom, David Young, Birch Yuknis, Mel Grove and Austin Manelick.

Members absent: Andy Couch, Jehn Ehmann, Mike Buirge, Chris Watchus, Dan Montgomery, Bob Marshall, Terry Nininger, Chad Lipse, Herman Greise. All Excused

Public present: Tim Peltier with ADF&G (Wildlife Bio III), Joel Holyoak with ADF&G (Project Assistant), Kassidy Colson with ADF&G (Wildlife Biologist II), Patrick O'Connor member of the public, Neil DeWitt Anchorage AC member and William Schenk member of the public

Public comment:

Patrick O'Connor stated that the regulations should not be that complicated. That the regulation book should be thinner not thicker and that if a page is added a page should be removed.

Motion to accept the Agenda by Bartelli, 2nd by Nordstrom Passed 8-0-0

Alaska Board of Game 2017/2018 Proposed Changes to Regulations: Statewide and Central/Southwest Region

Prop #1 ADF&G is neutral. Due to recent BOG vote in 2016 AC chose NA with no objections

Prop #2 Mel felt there was no problem now with the current system. Steve felt hunter's ed was important. Mel called the question Failed 0-8-0

Prop #3 Steve asked for NA, no objections

Prop #4 Hans stated it was difficult to remove any more meat from the birds than is already required. Failed 0-8-0

Prop #5 ADF&G stated that this is already in regulations in parts of the State. Steve stated that it is hard to see a 2" projection at 100yds. Steve opposes based on complexity. Austin felt this should be added to the moose hunter orientation video rather than a regulation. Mel asked ADF&G if there was a biological concern for this proposal? ADF&G stated that there was not, that it was more of a Law Enforcement concern. Hans Called the question. Failed 0-7-1. (I didn't get who abstained)

Prop #6 Steve asked ADF&G what they felt, ADF&G is opposed. ADF&G said currently there is not allot of incidental take. Birch asked if ADF&G was oppose in part because they do make some money off of these incidental takes and this proposition would probably reduce the amount they would receive, ADF&G stated they don't receive much money from it and not sure if it goes to general fund or not. Dave could see some abuse happening if this regulation is passed.

Bob stated that if money is involved there is going to be abuse. Herb called for the question. Failed 0-8-0

Prop #7 Steve was concerned that there was no mention of limits or retrieval methods. ADF&G is neutral, no biological concern. Mel asked the department why there were so many different rules for different parts of the State? ADF&G stated that different Units have different rules. Mel asked ADF&G if this was currently legal in Unit 14? ADF&G said no, as it has never been proposed. Steve now likes this proposal for the added opportunity. Herb calls the question. Passed 8-0-0

Prop #8 Birch read the department of Law comments and asked for NA due to them. (This proposal can't be done in regulation has to be legislative) No objections

Prop #9 Steve sees a lot more coyotes when he is flying in the winter, so he will support. Hans concurs with Steve. Herb called the question. Passed 8-0-0

Prop #10 Steve stated that the author of this proposal is a nonconsumptive user. That the author has been removed from an AC meeting (Not sure which AC) and that Steve will strongly oppose this proposal. Herb calls the question. Failed 0-7-1 (Bob)

Prop #11 Steve opposes based on that this is just a modification of Prop 207 and how does one prove intent. Birch feels this regulation adds more complexity, wants to simplify the regulations, plus who is going to measure 1000 feet. Bob concurs with Steve. Bob also brought up the Unit 23 caribou airplane permit that one needs to hunt caribou in that unit. Feels something like that may be better but would rather have a full repeal of Prop 207. Herb called the question. Failed 0-8-0.

Prop #12 Dave feels that this is a repeal of Prop 207 and concurs with the authors reasoning. Hans concurs. AC stated to see the previous testimony from the last two years concerning prop 207. Herb called the question. Passed 8-0-0

Prop #13 Steve felt it was time for regulations to catch up with technology and not be so subjective. Dave is skeptical of Law Enforcement adding another layer, but would like clarification and he wants to support this proposal. Birch brought up from the ADF&G comments that email currently is not covered. Austin brought up the cellphone game cameras people are using for moose and bear (especially at bait stations). Birch asked the ADF&G why cell phones were ok for Bison in 20D? Department stated that the Farmers were calling the hunters when the bison were damaging their fields. Herb is opposed, there could be some overreach by the BOG. Birch concurs with Herb, Birch does not trust this BOG to make the right choice. Hans concurs with Birch. Steve has trouble with people who use technology when he doesn't as it gives them an unfair advantage. Dave feels this could be abused either way. Dave would support if there was more direction in the proposal. Failed 1 (Steve)-7-0

Prop #14 Hans feels the language in the proposal is offensive, specifically slaughter. Herb called the question. Failed 0-8-0

Prop #15 Herb was not familiar with the author. ADF&G is neutral. Steve opposes. Mel asked ADF&G if this was traditional use only? ADF&G stated that there can be no discrimination on ethnicity or residency. Birch pointed out in the ADF&G comments that ADF&G felt it would be hard for hunters to differentiate male and female bears in the den. Hans called the question. Failed 0-8-0

Prop #16 Birch feels there are enough avenues for harvest that the State does not need more regulations on new methods. ADF&G was concerned about wounding loss and that they would have to adopt standards. Bob stated that you need at least 700 foot pounds for big game, that 100 foot pounds is not enough. Dave compared the ballistics for muzzleloaders and how one had to use very heavy loads to meet ADGF&G standards for foot pounds. Herb asked ADF&G if they get many questions on air guns? ADF&G said they do not and that this proposal was more driven by a company that has invented this new technology. Steve is opposed. Austin stated there would have to be new education classes. Young felt that air guns are ok for small game but not big game, that there is just not enough energy. Herb calls the question. Failed 0-8-0

Part #17 Steve supports, see comments on proposition #16. Herb calls the question. Passed 8-0-0

Prop #18-Prop #23 All deal with Falconry. AC wanted to table those for a later meeting when Herman was present.

Prop #24 Birch felt this was a proposition so that the author would not have to remove his bait stand. ADF&G stated that the land managers decide what can be left in the field. Mel has run into issues with people who leave their stands out illegally over the winter. First to show up claims the stand. Mel felt it was the public's tree and the hunter could keep his stand but Mel was taking the tree. Birch is opposed as 14 days allows for others to access an area if a stand cannot stay more than 14 days. Bob stated that the author is a commercial operator. Mel has seen where someone puts up a large camp for more than 14 days and one has to really push DNR or the troopers to get the big camp to move after 14 days. Herb wanted to know what constituted the "Field?" Dave was not sure this issue could be solved with this proposal. Austin has seen people put up a blue tarp at every corner of a river and claim them as camps, attempting to reserve a large area. Steve is now opposed. Steve sees a stand and moves on. Mel stated that one has to complain to DNR. Bob said that DNR just sends a strongly worded letter. Bob stated that people, mainly commercial operators, are getting ticketed and that is the reason for the proposal. Bob has had to deal with DNR personally at great expense to try and get someone to move. Steve calls the question. Failed 0-7-1(Herb)

During debate on Prop #24 Mr. O'Connor spoke about how he is opposed to the Federal takeover of Alaska waterways and that he wants this committee to send a letter to the appropriate people stating that.

Prop #25 Steve stated this proposition would reduce incidental take where harvest tickets are currently not needed. ADF&G is neutral. Mel is opposed as he was not pleased when the State required black bear harvest tickets. Herb asked ADF&G if they have gotten better data since the black bear harvest ticket requirement? ADF&G said yes and gave a specific example of 14B, as

this is the only data they get for that unit as sealing is not required. Birch asked why ADF&G was neutral on this proposal when it was ADF&G who proposed the black bear harvest ticket requirement in 2008/2009? ADF&G stated different times. Mel stated that if he forgets his black bear harvest ticket he can't hunt a black bear now and he doesn't like that. Mel would rather require sealing Statewide over a harvest ticket. Herb stated that if black bear harvest tickets are not required Statewide then no need for brown bear to be required. Dave concurs with Herb. Hans calls the question. Failed 0-8-0

Prop #26 Birch felt this only concerns a handful of people. Dave stated that if someone wins a governor's tag they can gift it to someone else within seven days, not sell. Hans is against as it only concerns a few people. Herb concurs with Hans. Birch asked ADF&G if a governor's tag meant someone could get a double bag limit then? ADF&G said yes. Dave is familiar with the process as he is involved with a nonprofit. The nonprofit asks ADF&G for a tag and the nonprofit can auction the tag off. Birch asked Dave if he felt that his nonprofit would see less money if this was not passed? Dave said "no." ADF&G stated that there are less than 50 permits awarded per year currently. Bob stated that some of these tags bring in allot of money. Herb called the question. Failed 0-7-1(Bob)

Herb confirmed the next few meeting dates, times and locations. Herb stated that the comments for the BOG are due October 29th. Herb mentioned that Bob Cassell, Mike Buirge, Jehn Ehmann, Herman Griesse, Dave Young and Chris Watchus are up for election November 1st, 2017 at the Moose Lodge in Palmer (behind the MVFC). Herb stated that Chris Watchus will not be running. Dave is trying to convince Mike and himself to run again.

Dave stated it was good to be back

Herb gave thanks to everyone for showing up and helping him with his first meeting as Chair and that he couldn't get a Wednesday this week and thank you to everyone for showing up on a Monday.

Mel wanted to follow up with what Mr. O'Connor had mentioned earlier on the Federal take over of Alaskan waters. Specifically the Klutina road access and the Sturgeon case. Mel wanted everyone to know that letters help but it ultimately takes money. Also that the Sturgeon case will probably be headed back to the SCOTUS.

Austin offered thanks for his first meeting.

Next meeting October 18, 2017 MTA large meeting room

Adjourn at 9:14 pm

Minutes taken by Birch Yuknis

Approved by AC at the October 18th meeting.