

Mat Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee
October 25, 2017
MTA Building, Palmer, Alaska

I. **Call to Order:** 7:00 PM, Herman Griese, Acting Chair

II. **Roll Call:**

Members Present: Steve Bartelli, Bob Cassell, Herman Griese, Mel Grove, Austin Manelick, Bob Marshal, Terry Nininger, Hans Nordstrom, Chris Watchus, Birch Yuknis

Andy Couch arrived at 8:00 PM

Members Absent: Mike Buirge, Jehnifer Ehmann, Dan Montgomery, Dave Young

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8 needed for quorum: ten then 11 members present

List of User Groups Present:

III. **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda approved

IV. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** No previous minutes available for approval

V. **Fish and Game Staff Present:** Tim Peltier, ADFG: Tim said that the Department (ADFG) was going to be neutral on most proposals, He also said that allowing for snow cover, the Department would conduct moose surveys this winter on units 16A, 16 B-middle, 16 B-south and 14A.

VI. **Guests Present:** Israel Patton, Alaska Board of Fisheries, Tim Stevens, Neil DeWitt. Israel said that he encouraged AC members to suggest to BOG members to start implementing 'Committees As A Whole': given the issues last year with sheep hunters and proposal 207, this is a much better process. He also commented while advocating for proposals, he encouraged AC members to build relationships with BOG members and ADFG staff. He also noted that when testifying regarding proposals, don't just read off the proposals you support or don't support, speak specifically to the merits of problems with a proposal.

VII. **Old Business:** none

VIII. **New Business:** Discussion of BOG proposals #18-23, Falconry: Steve noted that the previous falconry proposals were tabled at the last meeting because Herman was not there, and he was the "bird guy". Hans also said there had not been a lot of interest on the AC. Herman said that this didn't seem to be a high priority, so all AC members agreed to take no action on proposals 18-23.

It was then moved to start review of BOG proposals #57-69. (see template below).

Alaska Board of Game Statewide Regulations Meeting

November 10 – 17, 2017 | Anchorage

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
50	Provide clarification for allowing guides to register additional guide use areas for taking predators, and to restrict the take of predators in those guide use areas		
			TNA (take no action): Birch said the AC should take no action; Steve agreed. Herman asked if there was an objection to TNA; no objections.
51	Change the implementation date for removing additional guide use areas under intensive management		
51	TNA		Tim Peltier (ADFG) indicated that the Dept. was neutral on this proposal; Herman asked why it was even there? It was agreed to TNA.
52	Prohibit nonresident hunting of moose and caribou under intensive management until harvest and population objectives are met		
Support	7	3	Steve makes a motion to adopt, Mel seconded. Tim said the Dept. was neutral on proposals; there was no biological concerns. Steve asked if there were any areas in the state where it was mandatory to have a guide? Tim believed there were one or two areas in the northern interior. Steve supports, Mel: if not a biological concern there is no reason that non-residents shouldn't hunt. He said the non-residents are paying a shit load of money to the state; Mel opposes. Herman was concerned the Dept. doesn't weigh in on intensive management issues. Motion passes 7-3-0.
53	Reevaluate the customary and traditional use finding for migratory game birds statewide		
Oppose	0	8	Two abstentions. Tim says the Dept. supports, and has no comments beyond what is referenced in the proposal and this is not an allocation issue. Mel moved to adopt, Steve seconds. Herman says that he believes this is an allocation issue. Why did it take to Dept. to get this out? Fails 0-8-2. Both abstentions because of the lack of information.
54	Modify the Tier II subsistence hunting permit point system		
Support	10	0	Birch moves to adopt, Mel seconds. Tim says the Dept. is neutral because it's an allocation issue. He also notes a number of issues raised by the State Dept. of Law and that the Alaska Supreme Court says it violates equal access to provisions of the Constitution. Steve: nearly impossible to understand the intent. Hans supports; Mel notes that the author is trying to get back to what Tier #2 used to be. Herman comments that this AC has long been opposed to subsistence priority. Motions passed 10-0-0.
55	Combine the regulations allowing the take of big game for religious ceremonies and ceremony potlatches		
Support	10	0	Mel moves to adopt, Steve seconds. Tim says the Dept. is neutral, although he comments in an un-official capacity that this proposal expands the ability for out of season hunts. Hans asks Tim how many requests does he get a month. Tim says he gets a couple a month for the Valley area and about ¾ of applications take an animal. Mel asks if there is any time restriction, Tim says 12 months. Birch notes that this would be difficult to enforce. Herman supports: saying originally this process was wide open but this proposal puts restrictions and specifications in place. Herman says there needs to be some control on this process. Motion passes 10-0-0.
56	Modify the community subsistence harvest permit conditions		

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Oppose	0	10	<p>Birch moves to adopt, Steve seconds. Herman comments that this whole issue was discussed last fall. Tim notes that the Dept. is neutral. Steve references paragraph #2 on page 63: says that this is Ahtna's continued efforts take control of this hunting area. Bob C does not support. Birch does not think the proposal would pass the Dept. of Law language. Herman comments that this whole CHS program is going down the wrong road.</p> <p>8: PM: Andy Couch arrives at the meeting. This now changes the voting members from 10 to 11.</p>
57	Change the definition of "community" or "group" for community subsistence harvest hunts		
Oppose	1	10	<p>Hans moves to adopt, Birch seconds. Tim notes that the Dept. is neutral. Steve suggests that the AC TNA: noting that the BOG will do whatever they want anyway. Mel says that it is important for the AC to comment on the record for this.</p> <p>Birch did not support this proposal as it seemed to him that the Board of Game seems to be making a definition that might appear to limit community or group to a specific 8 communities. Herman believes this may be a way to focus on specific groups, by does not see how this criteria helps clarify anything. How for instance can the board or department objectively differentiate between communities or groups using these definitions.</p>
58	Modify the salvage requirements for moose and caribou taken under community subsistence harvest hunts		
Support	10	1	<p>One member cuts ribs and always bones out the neck before packing. If hunters bag their meat and get their meat out quickly the quality is fine with the current regulation. Herman mentioned that the current regulation may have been partly an attempt to get some hunters to take better care of their meat and better salvage meat — Herman felt most people who want to hunt this area will continue to hunt this area. At least one member felt that regulations should be more difficult for community subsistence hunters that can harvest any bull.</p>
60	Require hunter education for hunters 12 years of age or older, and those under 12 to be accompanied by someone who has successfully completed the course		
Oppose	3	8	<p>Birch mentioned Department said it would cost additional money. One AC member who is also an instructor said that the state flies instructors out to remote areas. Terry opposed to proposal finds it an affront to something he has master of already. Bob mentioned teaching a course to an individual who was 80 years old and also several other hunters. Bob will support. Stephens likes the courses, but feels that mandating in remote areas will be difficult. Bob</p>

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			Cassel supports hunter safety, but does not support this for whole state. Bob said cost is \$10 per person. Herman believes there is a large number of hunters in the state who have not taken hunter safety — he also believes it is needed in the villages and that a number of accidents happen in the villages. Bob said some of the old timers who are excluded at times pose some significant safety hazards.
61	Add Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec to the list of animals allowed to be possessed without a permit		
Oppose	0	8	Some members do not want to introduce new species to Alaska. 3 abstain one just does not care.
62	Allow the release of sterilized, feral cats into the wild		
Oppose	0	10	Members feel cats significantly harm bird populations and are not natural to Alaska.
63	Prohibit the release of feral or stray domesticated cats into the wild		
Support	10	0	The department calls animal control about stray cats rather than dealing with the issue currently. Herman feels in the Mat-Su Valley most residents have some type of control of their dogs — but that many cats are simply let out to run at night, and they catch and kill.
64	Eliminate domestic sheep (<i>Ovis aries</i>) and goats (<i>Capra hircus</i>) from the “Clean List” and require a permit for possession with stipulations if located within 15 air miles of all sheep habitat		
No action			Bob has several patients who own sheep and goats and are greatly offended by this type proposal.
65	Close an area ¼ mile on either side of the Taylor Highway to hunting during caribou season, and limit the number of permits		
Support	7	4	How does someone enforce 1/4 mile? Bob said in his experience there were lots of gut piles along the road. He feels that some people may be hunting and / or shooting from the highway. Austin mentioned possible allowing archery only in the 1/4 mile corridor. A member of the public mentioned that both moose and caribou hunting are currently allowed in this area at the same time. This is the area where he moose hunts and he would not want to see moose hunting closed near the highway. Mel mentioned that there are gut piles and it may be ugly along the road — but does not know what the safety really is. Concerning violations that occurred — lots of people are in the area with a lot of animals if this hunt was further from the highway would violations be reduced? It can open and close quickly because animals may be harvested quickly if they are along the highway.
66	Update the Board of Game’s policy for accepting agenda change requests to make it more consistent with the Joint Board Petition Policy		
Support	10	1	

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68	Create a new regulation to allow season openings and increased hunting opportunities in-season by emergency order		
Support	11	0	ADF&G feels they already have the authority. Members talked about when there are situations — mostly big game — but could also be used during large population of small game like snowshoe hares.
69	For all antler restricted hunts, require hunters to view an educational video for identifying legal moose		
Oppose	0	11	How would legality be satisfied? Bob mentioned that aircraft use in a specific area of the state is now required. To be legal a person has to watch a video, take a test, and print out a card. Mel does not see how this would reduce number of illegal kills. Bob does not believe there is any video out there that would keep people from making a mistake. Herman mentioned that even after watching a video hunters still have to make a judgement call as to whether a moose is legal or not.
164	Allow use of crossbows in archery hunts for hunters 60 years of age and older.		
Oppose	0	10	Does not feel that crossbows should be considered as bows. Ups the ante. good aspects were that more clean efficient kills could occur with less wounding loss. Another member mentioned that for archery only crossbow should not be allowed. 1 Abstained - Older folks use a crossbow in other states where they are allowed in archery hunts

Meeting adjourned at 9:25.

Minutes of October 25, 2017 taken by Terry Nininger and
Andy Couch

Minutes Approved By: Chair

Date: 10/27/2017