

**Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
of March 13, 2018
held at Cabela's Conference Room, located at 155 W 104th Avenue**

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Frank Neumann.
2. Invocation led by Frank Neumann
3. Pledge of Allegiance led by Frank Neumann
4. Advise Guests of Public Testimony signup sheet
5. **Members Present:** Frank Neumann, Kevin Taylor, Matt Moore, Neil DeWitt, Bryce Eckroth, Tyler Loken, Phillip Calhoun, Ernie Weiss, Shawna Williams Buchanan, Gerold Gugel

Members Absent Excused: Willow Hetrick, 'Martin Weiser, Brian Nelson, Dino Sutherland, J R . Gates.

Members Absent Unexcused: Kenny Rodgers

Public Present: Richard Freisinger, Art Jones, Chuck Goentzel, Clinton Lageson, Mike Wann, Dan Wright, Ira Edwards

6. Approved Agenda
7. Introduce Department: Dave Battle, Cory Stantorf, Tom Lohuis, Kyle Smith, and Sherry Wright.
8. Approve Minutes of prior Meeting: Minutes were approved by the Chair for the BOF Comments.
9. Public testimony: Ira Edwards is going to propose a moose hunt in Kincaid for disabled hunters. The City of Anchorage is more aligned than they were last time around. A Park survey gave strong support for hunting in state parks. He will seek support of other ACs in the area. It will be for an antlerless moose hunt with a low velocity weapon. He has a meeting with city parks also.
10. Old Business: None
11. New Business: Department Reports

a. Moose Darting Effort Report was provided by Dave Battle. They will use a comparative analysis of the two-year study. There was a lot of public involvement with people contacting ADFG on moose that ADFG would not have been able to count otherwise (for example, those in people's back yards). Members of the public were encouraged to volunteer. Anchorage cannot hold an aerial survey due to aviation restrictions. Populations are based on a GMU-wide estimate. They are also collecting information on any moose that died in Anchorage (whether road kill or other mortality issues). The road kill teams are required to turn in the lower jaw, which provides information for ADFG. AC members Matt Moore and Kevin Taylor participated in the survey effort and shared their experience. Dave Soffeld put together an iPad mapping tool that assisted greatly with gathering the data.

b. Sheep Study Status 2009 – 2015 Update Report was provided by Tom Lohuis and Kyle Smith. 13D and 14C were the areas the studies were conducted in. Tom shared some maps that showed the Chugach study areas. There are comparative studies going on in the Alaska and Brooks Range as well. Weather, predation and survival rates of lambs and adults, habitat, nutrition, disease, pregnancy rates, ewe mortality are factors considered. Avalanche, wolverine, wolves, bears, eagles, rock slide, age, starvation, pneumonia were some of the causes of mortality.

Determining if summer or winter nutrition is more important for lamb mortality is one of the topics of the study. There is another project in the Wrangell St Elias also underway and a report will be brought to the committee at a later date.

Kyle is looking at what factors determine the habitat selection of Dall sheep on the Chugach Mountains. The resource components include distance to water, slope, elevation, ruggedness, aspect, landcover type, distance to escape terrain and distance to trails. A Ram winter/summer and Ewe winter/summer are the four models that are being prepared. Kyle spoke about the methods used to gather data.

Tom and Kyle gave an opportunity for questions.

A question was asked about the nutritional factors on the sheep currently as compared to the earlier reported starving. ADFG now has ultrasound technology so they can better assess this information and provide that to the AC.

Determining the carrying capacity of any given area is one of the goals, that is very difficult to actually find – as there are constant variables at play in any given year.

Tom spoke briefly about today's news release about the MOVI bacteria recently detected for the first time in Alaska Dall sheep and mountain goats in 13A. Specific questions are directed to Director Bruce Dale.

12. Possible Future Proposals: BOG Southcentral Region deadline is May 1st and BOF proposal deadline is April 10th.

Black Bear Proposals for GMU 14C special weapon (muzzle loader, shotgun, archery) hunt in Anchorage Management Area (McHugh Creek area and in Upper Campbell Creek area) as defined in DM666 hunt. AC suggested removing archery in order to get broader support, so probably would want muzzle loader and shotgun only. It would be wise to approach the Chugach State Advisory Council with the proposal. Matt will work with ADFG staff to clarify details for these two proposals. Matt will submit them as Anchorage AC proposals. 10 – 0 Support.

Baiting of bears in the same area has been shot down by the park, probably will not be supported by ADFG. One of the difficulties is a rule that requires bait stations be at least ½ mile away from homes, recreational trails, etc.

13. Committee Reports

a. BOG Central/SW meeting in Dillingham report was provided by Frank Neumann. Summary of the meeting is posted online.

b. BOF meeting report was provided by Shawna Williams Buchanan and Sherry Wright. Summary of the meeting will be posted online soon.

c. 40 Mile Caribou Working Group report was provided by Phillip Calhoun, who attended the Fairbanks meeting while Frank was in Hawaii. There was a biologist from Canada and Fairbanks present. Discussion of population varied. They are hoping to slow the pace of the herd growth. The animals are moving into Canada, which haven't been seen for years. Percentage of harvest has been 2 – 3 % from Alaskan hunters. They would like to continue to allow the herd to grow and re-habituate areas it formerly inhabited. Youth hunt August 1 – 9 and an open hunt from August 10 – September 30 with another hunt 3rd week of

October if harvest has not been at the level desired. They want to increase bag limit to two. There was a question of 2 or 3% of what? Is that based on a variable population? One of the issues was the short hunting season. By adding a few more opportunities to hunt it may spread effort and contain the population to desired levels.

d. Federal Subsistence's meeting report was provided by Neil DeWitt. Neil has been attending RAC meetings telephonically. The FSB will meet April 10 – 13 in Anchorage on Wildlife. GMU 23 closures are still in discussion.

14. Upcoming April AC Election, and Discussion. Seats with term ending 6/17 that are up for re-election include: Phillip Calhoun, Gerold Gugel, Neil DeWitt, Brian Nelson, Kenny Rodgers, and Alternates, Tyler Loken, and Bryce Eckroth. Art Nelson (6/18) also up for election as Art Resigned. Committee had some discussion about the term end dates. They are the way they are, in part, as a result of moving elections to April when we changed from the December 31 term expirations to June 30. We also were complying with the three year maximum terms and the one third turnover rules in regulation.

15. Meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.

The next regular Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 3rd at 6:30 pm at the King Career Center Multi-Purpose Room, located at 2650 E Northern Lights Blvd. Agenda will include elections and discussion of Fisheries and Joint Board proposals, if any.

Minutes recorded by: Ernie Weiss
Approved by: Advisory Committee
Date Approved: 4/3/2018