Bethel Advisory Committee Meeting

February 13, 2018

ADF&G Office, 6:00 p.m.

Teleconference: 1.800.504.8071 **Code:** 543-2709

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: 6:01PM

ROLL CALL/ ESTABLISH QUORUM: Quorum Established, 7 members present. Robert Lekandar, Thad Tikiun, Jaimie Kassman, Jon LaValle, Henry Hunter (6:25PM), Jerry White (7:07PM),

INVOCATION/ Moment of Silence:

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Evon Waska, Bethel.
Teleconference: Dave Runfola, Subsistence Division. Doug Carney, SHAC Chair. Josh Pierce, 19A Area Biologist Lisa Olsen, Subsistence Division.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion- Henry Kohl 2nd- Mike Riley, Unanimous Approval

APPROVAL OF MINUTES *October 24, 2017* **:** Motion- Alissa Rogers 2nd- Henry Kohl, Unanimous Approval

COMMENTS:

- CONCERNS/COMMENTS OF **PUBLIC**:va
  Evon Waska, Subsistence fish hunter and fisher: Discharge- I Highly oppose the discharge. My people are highly reliant on the Kuskokwim River food source and they drink from the Kuskokwim River. They highly look forward to salmon. IF the discharge happens it will be a bad thing for the Kuskokwim. Page 42, second paragraph. "Catastophic..." I highly oppose the gold mine, due to the fact that people heavily rely on subsistence. If there is any leakage from the poison tailing pond, Donlin is going to leave it up there. It is an accident waiting to happen. I say no to the Donlin Gold to opening up. All the living things on the Kuskokwim are going to die and everything will be destroyed. Doug Carney, He (Evon Waska) is 100% right. You can't keep the mercury out of the water or the ground water or the standing water. It will naturally high in sulfide and it will get into the water. There are big problems with mines. Don't believe it. It is going to destroy the river.

- CONCERNS/COMMENTS OF **AC MEMBERS**:
  (*Note: If concern/comment needs more than 5 minutes, item should be placed on the agenda to be presented later in the meeting*)
  Robert Lekandar- I've been. This moose deal on funerals, I myself say that we should get a handle on it before it gets out of hand. There is a lot of people dying and there is no one checking on people that are going out to get moose. I don't know if there is proper documentation on it. I request that we get a handle on it.

NEW BUSINESS:

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- **Moose count / numbers for 19A.** *(Josh Peirce, ADF&G Wildlife Biologist)*
  Josh Peirce, ADFG- (reference to 19A Map) The west half is a Tier 2 (200 permits) issued per year. USFWS issues 100 permits per year. TM684 (Lime Village). The area in white, includes the Bear Control Focus Area is where the proposal was to open. This regulation itself would open this area and upon the SHAC recommendation (see SHAC meeting minutes). There was way too much pressure in 2004/2005, it was over the sustainable harvest at that time. The area shut down in 2006. The moose survey, over the last several years poor weather patterns and get the right conditions to conduct a moose survey. Survey of 19A, findings of corrected 5200 moose. Estimated amount 252 moose. Three survey areas to make comparisons. ID as Western portion (yellow), Central Portion (Blue), Eastern Portion (purple). 165 moose Harvest. 10 Moose Harvest. 77 Moose Harvest. BOG decided that any population growth was going to be used to rebuild the population. 2017- TM680: 0.6 moose per square mile. Moose numbers are improving, but they are very slowly. Were close to the harvest number, but still lower than the objective. NOTE: Bulls:100 Cow ratio is at 36 prior year of 58 '16-17, 55 '13-14, 38 '11-12. As long as this is closed, the average will stay in the high 40's- low 50's.

  Doug Carney- Spring '06 we wanted a closure on the moose hunt. Instead of hunting, we rebuild the herd. AC's went to BOG and were approved the closure. Predator Control had made a difference to improve the moose population. SHAC didn't want to open the moose hunt for Unit 19A. There could be a hunt in 19A, but there has to be a very limited hunt. We would like to wait till 2020 to get composition counts. This year the moose hunting dropped. 30 bulls/ 100 cows. SHAC opposed BOG proposal 165.
  A lot of people showed up to the meeting at SHAC and voiced their concerns. They had a lot of time to discuss how they wanted their moose hunt for 19A.

  Henry Kohl- In the western portion, why don't we lighten the permits being used.
  John Pierce- 200 permits are issued on western portion.
  Robert Lekandar- Clarification of opening of 2020 and the consideration on the side of caution.
  Jon LaValleve- What was our harvestable surplus? How many permits were from GMU18?
  Josh Pierce- Close to 60% percent were GMU 18 hunters.
  Patrick Jones- RM 16 was a quota hunt: 1500 permits. We can close by E.O. We opened up here for 75-surplus.
  Robert Lekandar- We can phone in right away, but up there what are they going to do.
  Patrick Jones: If you can issue the number of permits, time and place. With the registration hunts to make sure that we don't over harvest.
  Henry Hunter- Did majority of those village oppose this proposal? Is there concern for law enforcement if this hunt is to take place?
  Doug Carney- Yes, you are absolutely right.

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- **Proposal 165: 5 AAC 85.045 - Open a registration hunt for moose in Unit 19A**.
  **This issue was discussed and voted on as ACR 1 during the Oct. 3, 2017 Bethel AC meeting prior to it becoming Proposal 165. Members would like to provide additional information to the Bethel AC to consider and discuss/vote on it as Proposal 165. Discussion/comments will be submitted as a Record Copy (RC) to the BOG Southwest/Central meeting Feb. 16-23, 2018 where Prop. 165 will be taken up.*

Doug Carney- I'm asking the BAC supports SHAC with our recommendations. We do not want it to open with the little we have gained.

Chairman request clarification of BAC review of ACR1/ Proposal 165:

- **Donlin Gold comments due Feb. 13** *(Alissa Rogers)*
  - **Comments on water discharge and permits**

Kohl- We have someone proposing to dump water, but there no parameters. Are they stating that they are going to stay with the clean water act? ADEC allows mixing zone from the hearsay that they will create this big damn that they have done with the leaching by creating the big lake. They will slowly dump it out into crooked creek that will be the dilution that discharges into the Kuskowkim River. All of the contaminant will be in that lake. There is no way to get out of the storm water, look it has been leaking for months.

Hunter- all of our concerns with Donlin creek of waste water going into Donlin creek. If it goes into he Kuskokwim it will harm the animals and fish. I'm wondering where the state of Alaska stands on this. When they are talking about economic development, they get the state revenue from that. They will pollute the crooked creek and Kuskokwim with mercury. Donlin Gold has done a good job of PR on Bethel. They have a poor record in lower 48. NOVA Gold had poor record in South America. What is the state of Alaska's stand on mining? What is the potential of contamination on Kuskowkim River?

Jerry White- There is no cleaning out of the Kuskowim River. All the fish and animals will be affected by the contaminants from the leaking damn.

Thad Tikiun- All the water that is going to the pit, where they dug it out. It would be dumped back into the pit that has been dug out. It will be a very deep mine. All the material that is used will be contaminated.

Evon Waska- If you want conservation of King Salmon. How are they going to keep conservation for king salmon if the Donlin Gold Mine. Cynide port,Tailing pond, Water Discharge, and heavy Barge Traffic. How are they going to keep Chinook Salmon open if they open the mine.

Dave Runfola, ADFG Subsistence- States position on the mine. The fish and game position, when the permit application comes to fish and game. They will address the permit application and go through the process in the Habitat Division. That is when ADFG will start working on comments.

OTHER/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

- **Upcoming meeting and elections:**
- **Dillingham AC- Look at Props 149** (Jon LaVallve)
- **North Pacific Management Council:** Review prohibited chinook salmon limits for gulf of Alaska catcher vessels. Meeting starts on March 6th.

Alaska Board of Game Central/Southwest Region Meeting
February 16 – 23, 2018 | Dillingham

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
149	Furbearer trapping, and 92.095(a)(3). Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.		
Oppose	3	4	Motion to Adopt Proposal 149 (as written)- Alissa Rogers 2nd- Jerry White Discussion: Henry Hunter- I believe they are trying to mimic our Unit 18 Regulations. There is no open season, there is no bag limit, you can destroy dams, and you can't destroy homes. Jon LaVallve- Nushagak AC would like BAC to review and support Nushagak AC decision to oppose. Jerry White- I would have to support this proposal, because they have the means to make a living and they are having a problem with Beavers. Jen Peeks- The department is neutral. Question: Roll Call: Robert Lekandar- No Thad Tikiun- No Mike Riley- No Henry Hunter- No Jaimie Kassaman- Abstain, not enough info Henry Kohl- Yes Alissa Rogers- Yes Jerry White- Yes
165	Open a registration hunt for moose in Unit 19A		
Oppose	1	7	Motion to Adopt Proposal 165 (as written)- Alissa Rogers 2nd- Thad Tikiun Discussion: Thad Tikiun- I just want to clarify, if we are for the opening the registration hunt, we go for it? Right now the State thinks that there are enough numbers to open? Clarification on the proposal reads that they would only be available in Sleetmute. Chairman clarification on Vote: Support- Yes Oppose- No Josh Pierce- The state is neutral on this proposal. BOG wanted to use that growth to rebuild the population. It is up to the public if they want to open it in 2020. We

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			are not in a biological issue and the moose population can grow. Doug Carney- BOG is going to decide if they are going to close/ open the moose hunt. I don't want to see this moose hunt open. Henry Hunter- My worry is about the residence that oppose the hunt and law enforcement. Basically, it will be an honesty hunt. Jon LaVallve- Potlach during mortuary. How many moose are taken? Josh Pierce- 5 in any given year. Jerry White will abstain from this vote, because he arrived late to the meeting. Motion to amend proposal 165- Jon LaVallve: Registration permits should be made available at all licensed vendors in the Kuskokwim drainage. 2nd- Henry Kohl Discussion: Henry Hunter- I'm worried about the number of moose in the area. Can it sustain if we opened the hunt to the whole river? Josh Pierce- At a minimum would need a cap of 30 moose. We wouldn't need to have a potlach hunt here, if that was to happen. Henry Hunter- Were talking about 30 moose that are open up there. I would like to see the moose population to increase so that the whole river can hunt up there. There will be no enforcement up there. Thad Tikiun- Is there a way to address a limit of 30 permits. Pat Jones, ADFG- We can address how many that can be allocated. We still limit the number of permits, but the regulations are address the location. Alissa Rogers- I would not like to see this hunt opened. Jon rescind motion 2nd- Henry Kohl Pat Jones- Clarify the surplus? Josh Pierce- moose count of 75 surplus, objective 30- 1st year (feel for demand) Question- Henry Hunter Roll Call: Robert Lekandar- oppose Thad Tikiun- oppose Mike Riley- oppose Hunter Hunter-oppose Jon LaVallve- oppose Henry Kohl-support, The hunt has to start somewhere and it should be allocated 50% of the permits to Kuskokwim River as it has been done historically. It's been

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			closed for 11 years. Alissa- oppose

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tentative: March 22nd, 2018, 6PM

ADJOURN: Motion- Henry Hunter 2nd- Thad Tikiun

Minutes Recorded By: _____

Minutes Approved By: _____

Date: _____

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