

Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee
December 19, 2018
MTA Building in Palmer — 7 pm start time

Members present: Tim Stephen, Neil Dewitt, Andy Couch, Herb Mansavage, Birch Yuknis, Austin Manelik, Don, Terry Nininger, Mel Grove, Bob Marshall, Dan Montgomery, Austin Manelick, Don, Hans Nordstrom,

Members Absent: chad —excused, Danny Lewis, Dom Nichols — excused, Mont —, Terry Nininger — resigned,

Public Present: Chris Brockton — ADF&G, Ron Miller, Pete Burella (registered guide wants to get involved with AC, Representative — staff member,

Meeting Called to order at 7:06

Roll Call taken

Ron Miller — says moose population out of whack in Unit 14A on Little Susitna River — feels there are more bull moose than cows in this area. Permits allow huge number of antler less moose permits in unit 14A along the Little Susitna River.

Concerned with king salmon on Little Susitna River — weir was not in order most of this season. This was only location where wild fish could be harvested in Mat-Su area. Would like to see a sonar counter on the Little Susitna River.

Herb Mentioned that first two weeks in March he would like to have the AC work on writing proposals and the public would have some opportunity to participate.

Mel mentioned that elections for Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee will occur in the spring. Herb mentioned April.

Motion to accept agenda by Dan Montgomery —second by Neil DeWitt — supported with no objection. Birch wanted to add game proposals 8 and 9, Don wanted to add 1, 2, 13, 14, Dan wanted to add proposals 33, 34..

Board of Game Proposals for Southeast Alaska

1. Would allow crossbows as a legal method and means. Andy supports. Hans supports as long as not a bow and arrow area only. Danny Lewis mentioned Department was OK with proposals as long as course is taken ahead of time. proposals supported 12-0-0.
2. Would allow feeding of deer in Southeast Alaska. Birch mentioned troopers opposed. Hans opposed. Andy sees this type of thing happening all over in the lower 48 states and welcome the discussion before the Board of Game. Herb does not support. Bob mentioned that some of the food plots from the lower 48 states may not be good things to plant in Alaska. Mel mentioned

that on private land people can plant any crop they want already — it may not be legal to do so with the thought of attracting deer. Dan will not vote for. Proposal 2 opposed 1-10-1.

3. Would make salvage of deer rib meat optional. Dan does not even want to bring it up. Troopers like consistent regulations — similar to other areas. Motion opposed 1-11-0.

8. Would remove nonresident must be guided requirement. According to Dan Montgomery nonresidents don't need to have a guide —however they would need to have a drawing permit. Andy's comment — this proposal should be working on the permit hunt rather than on a guided requirement that may not be in effect. Dan mentioned proposal 9 as an alternative. Motioned opposed 5-6-1.

9. Dan mentioned this ADF&G proposal taking some nonresident black bear hunts off of draw permits. HE will support. Andy feels this is a better written proposal. Motion supported 12-0-0.

13. Don did not want to see this go other places in Alaska. Birch comment was that Southeast may be predominately federally managed land. Last comment to the proposal — illegal activity is already illegal — outlaws who already trap out of season will likely not be stopped by an additional regulation. Motion opposed 0-12-0.

14. Would require signage of trap sets in Units 1-5. See comments to proposal 13. Motion opposed 0-12-0.

33. Dan mentioned this area has always had a small population (did not know if they population had ever had more than 50 goats) and that before being closed this area was open to a limit of 2 goats per person. He said this is an area that produces large goats and feels that a very few permits would be fine. 31 mile area with no road system. Dan mentioned that it is very difficult to hunt goats in this area. Harvest was already very limited in this area. Motion supported 11-1-0.

34. Hans would rather see this as a registration hunt than a permit. Others felt that it with a very low harvest opportunity the registration hunt could be closed. Motion opposed 1-11-0.

41. Would require harvest tickets be attached to deer killed in Unit 2. Hans would like to see. Dan could support statewide — but not just in one area for one species. He also mentioned that a new attaching system that would work and stay attached would need to be implemented. Birch mentioned Troopers had no comment and ADF&G was neutral. Chris Brockman mentioned he did not see a need to change — but also mentioned how easy it would be for people to harvest past what regulations allow. Herb mentioned that vendors would have problems if they had to issue all tags. Danny does not feel we need something additional as people wanting to be outlaws will still be outlaws. Don wanted to know how many metal locking tags ADF&G currently throws away. Chris did not know for certain. Motion opposed 0-9-3.

Skipped 42

43. ADF&G proposal to address the same issue that 42 would but in a better way. Motion supported unanimously 12-0-0.

47. Proposal as written makes sense. Motion supported 12-0-0.

49. ADF&G proposal — Motion supported 12-0-0.

50 ADF&G Proposal — motion would allow more nonresident non guided hunters to participate by increasing the permits. Motion supported 12-0-0.

52. ADF&G proposal supported 12-0-0.

Herb wanted to know if AC members wanted to consider Yukon - Kuskoquim - Fisheries proposals. Mel mentioned that rather than taking a vote the question should be does anyone have proposals they would like to consider.

AYK — Aleutian — Chignik Finfish

Herb would like to create an agenda for a possible Jan. 2 meeting considering finfish proposals if any AC members or public would like the AC to bring them. By Wednesday Dec 26 if no fin fish proposals are brought to Herbs attention then the Jan 2 meeting will be to start working on Southcentral Game Proposals.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Minutes taken by Andy Couch
Approved by Herb Mansavage, Chair
Date Approved: January 3, 2019