

Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee

March 27th, 2019

MTA Building Palmer, Large room

I. Call to Order: 7:12 by Herb Mansavage

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: Herb Mansavage, Birch Yuknis, Austin Manelick, Dan Montgomery, Tim Stephens, Neil DeWitt, Danny Lewis, Dom Nickles, Bob Marshall, Andy Couch, Don Dygert, Mont Mahoney, Chad Lipse

Members Absent (Excused): Chris Alderman, Hans Nordstrom, Mel Grove

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: Eight

List of User Groups Present: ADF&G, SCADA (South Central Alaska Dipnetter's Association), Public

III. Approval of Agenda: Andy motions to approve Agenda, Neil seconds. No opposition

IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Done previously by Chair as approved by the AC

V. Fish and Game Staff Present: Sam Oslund Fishery Biologist II

VI. Guests Present: Israel Payton Current BOF member, Ken Frederico with SCADA, Cassandra Schoofs, Martin Schoofs, Kris Ogonowski

VII. Old Business: Dan went over his testimony for the AC at the recent BOG meeting in Anchorage. Dan stated that the BOG didn't really make any big changes. Neil reviewed the recent BOF meeting. It was unfortunate that the AC had no formal representation at that BOF meeting

VIII. New Business:

Dan went over his testimony for the AC at the recent BOG meeting in Anchorage. Dan stated that the BOG didn't really make any big changes. Neil reviewed the recent BOF meeting. It was unfortunate that the AC had no formal representation at that BOF meeting.

Israel also gave some BOF meeting suggestions, Secretary needs solid notes so the BOF members can understand why the AC voted the way it voted. It is important to attend BOF meetings and testify to get your points across. People in seats attending the meetings and participating with Board members is critical, especially on issues where the other side is well represented.

Andy was asked what proposals the Matanuska Fish and Game commission is working on. The Commission is working on an effort to pass salmon through the Central District waters into Northern Cook Inlet waters for both conservation and harvest opportunities in Northern Cook Inlet.

Neil stated that at the BOF meeting the Comfish people feel that there is overescapement on the Kenai and would like to harvest more of them. Neil is

Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee
March 27th, 2019
MTA Building Palmer, Large room

contemplating a proposal to allow Kenai PU dipnetting into August so that they may have an opportunity to harvest surplus Kenai sockeye.

It was brought up that currently the Valley does not have the harvesting power, perhaps a PU fishery could help to increase the Valley's harvesting power. The Valley population is growing and therefore there are more inriver users. Northern Cook Inlet needs to be allowed more fish to harvest. Population has grown, has harvest grown???

There is an inriver abundance of salmon. There are fish to be harvested inriver.

ADF&G data seems to indicate that a vast majority of the Susitna River sockeye that are harvested are being harvested by Commercial fishery interests. The point that inriver users are not getting many salmon to harvest.

Another handout for 2014-2016 average harvest rates in relation to total run size of Susitna Sockeye using genetic data. So who is harvesting Susitna sockeye? It appears that the Central drifters are getting the majority of them. Again we need more salmon to get through the corridor and reach Northern Cook Inlet.

AC felt that the Conservation corridor should actually be renamed to what it actually is, an Allocation corridor.

According to the handouts, the N district set netters and the inriver users are not getting their share of the fish. That more fish need to be let through to get to us. That the N District set netters and the AC could actually be on board together for allowing more fish through the corridor.

It was brought up that the whoever makes the Agenda at a BOF meeting really can set the tone for the meeting. It seems that the Northern District and inriver users are generally at the end of these meetings when all the fish have been allocated in prior days of the meeting and the BOF members are tired and just want to end the meeting.

Chad is going to work with Andy on an Allocation Proposal.

Birch and Austin will work on a PU proposal. Mr Frederico wants to help too. The AC felt that this proposal needs to be conservative enough that the BOF would approve it and allow for a successful harvest opportunity for Alaskan Residents.

Andy motioned for a Log Book Data letter to be sent in advance of the UCI meeting.

Danny seconded. (ADF&G needs this info to make accurate decisions) **Approved 13-0**

Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee

March 27th, 2019

MTA Building Palmer, Large room

Andy will draft said letter.

Chad asked Sam from the Department if E log books would be easier? Sam said probably.

Andy motions for more sportfishing for salmon in the small section of Fish Creek that is open to salmon fishing. Birch seconds. Neil motioned to amend and Bob seconded that we did not want this to interfere with the youth fishery that happens on Fish Creek.

Amended proposal **Approved 13-0** to be supported by the AC

Andy motions and Neil seconds A proposal to allow for Bait the first ten days of September for Unit 2. Due to concerns over Rainbows dropping down into the streams and the Special trout areas the motion was tabled to the next meeting for Andy to work with the Department on more exact wording and Rainbow conflicts.

Andy motions and Birch seconded for a proposal to have a physically large chinook escapement goal for the Doshka. This was tabled until the next meeting to work on the exact wording.

There was some discussion on a Doshka King escapement Goal for next meeting.

Andy brought up that the Commission has addressed the escapement goals in the past to no avail.

Adjournment: 8:57pm, the lights went out and hard to see the clock

Minutes Recorded By: Birch Yuknis

Minutes Approved By: Advisory Committee

Date: April 3, 2019