

Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee
 1/11/2022 Meeting Minutes
 J.P. Jones Community Center
 204 Rickert Street
 Fairbanks, AK
 &
 Teleconference

I. Call to Order: Chair at 6:05PM

II. Roll Call:

	<u>CHAIR</u> John Siegfried	<u>VICE-CHAIR</u> Mark Richards	<u>SECRETARY</u> Mark Oppe	Jeff Lucas	Gale Vick	Virgil Umphenour	Mike Tinker	John Wisniewski
Present	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Absent								
Abs/Excused							X	
	Levi Lewellyn	Austin Smith	Warren Guichici	Bill Larry	Mike Kramer	Chuck Derrick	Gabriel Davis	James Paine (alternate)
Present	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Absent								
Abs/Excused								
	Lance Nelson (alternate)							
Present	X							
Absent								
Abs/Excused								

III. Introduction of Guests: Diane & Lenny Jewkes, Al Barrette, Dave Kilbourn, Chris Bye, Tyrel Palmer

Fish & Game Staff Present: Andy Gryska, Deena Jallen, Christy Gleason, Kristy Tibbles, Shane Ransbury, Mark Nelson, Dan Valentine, Mike Potter, Sam Decker, Kyle Campbell

IV. Comments

Chair Comments: none

Vice Chair: none

Trapping: none

Game: none

Fish: Good subcommittee meeting on Monday with some members of the BOF, including Stan Zuray and Mackenzie Mitchell. Presentation on Area M; initial review of BOF proposals with follow-up meeting on Jan. 23 to address Area M issues. Motion by Virgil Umphenour to delegate authority to subcommittee to support Fairbanks AC Proposal 140, negotiate amendments with other stakeholders, and submit comments on behalf of the AC; seconded by Mark Richards. Virgil Umphenour spoke to history behind this proposal and justification for delegation of authority. Motion passed by unanimous consent. Significant support throughout northern Alaska for Proposal 140, according to Gale Vick

AC Member Comments: Chuck Derrick would like to commend Gale Vick and Virgil Umphenour for their efforts on Area M issues and the Jan. 9 subcommittee meeting.

Public Comments: none

V. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: approval of December 14 minutes by unanimous consent

VI. Approval of Agenda: approved by unanimous consent

VII. Old Business:

VIII. New Business:

Report from Dave Kilbourn on the Western Arctic Caribou Working Group's December Meeting: Dave Kilbourn provided handouts from WACH working group December meeting on management levels and census counts and gave brief overview of makeup of working group membership. Most recent herd census is 164,000 with declining population trend. There is no good estimate of harvest due to lack of reporting. ADF&G Kotzebue and Parks Service both count this herd, with questionable cooperation. Jeff Lucas asked if charts of migration patterns exist. Dave Kilbourn stated that maps based on collared animals are

available online.

Al Barrette asked about compliance with RC 907 permit. There is a proposal from the Kotzebue AC to change the caribou bag limit from 5 per day to 4 per season (1 may be a cow). This was endorsed by the working group. It is questionable how much difference this will make due to widespread non-compliance with permit conditions. Resolution was presented by Dave Kilbourn in support of better harvest data with engagement of locals in the count. Working group should be accountable for better data collection to inform decision making regarding management and harvest.

Discussion of Ambler Road by working group did not indicate unanimous position in support of or against construction.

Mark Richards asked about working group discussion of household subsistence reports. Dave Kilbourn stated that the onus of harvest reporting needs to fall primarily on local hunters and communities. Without this data there is not sufficient information to make management decisions. Kotzebue AC proposal on harvest limits was supported by the working group.

Chuck Derrick asked about establishment of subsistence harvest requirements if there is no good overall harvest data. If bag limit is reduced this is likely to result in claims that subsistence needs cannot be met.

Alaska Wildlife Troopers on Sublegal Sheep Citations: Trooper Potter gave overview of fall 2022 sublegal sheep harvest. 34 sublegal sheep harvested statewide; 16 citations, 15 warnings, 3 still under investigation. 12 of the sublegal sheep harvested by guided hunters; 3 sited, 8 warned, 1 case still pending. 22 sublegal sheep taken on non-guided hunts; 13 citations, 7 warnings, 2 cases still pending.

Question regarding what happens to guides in these cases. This depends on individual circumstances (guide may have directed hunter to harvest a different sheep, etc.).

Mark Richards asked for clarification on citations for guides. Trooper Potter stated that guides are usually cited. They may be cited under Title 8 in addition to any action taken by guide board.

Reasons for not citing hunters may depend on a variety of factors, including how close the sheep is to being legal, prior warnings/violations, and likelihood of winning the case in court.

Jeff Lucas asked about consequences of a warning for shooting a sublegal or questionable sheep. Trooper Potter stated that there is a record of this, but it

doesn't carry with it any legal ramifications. Trooper Valentine clarified that sheep is taken even if no citation is issued.

Levi Lewellyn asked if there is a specific demographic that is more likely to harvest sublegal sheep and would therefore benefit from better educational outreach. Trooper Potter was hesitant to speculate on this, but stated it was likely to be younger and less experienced hunters.

Game/Trap Subcommittee Meeting Date to go over Region II Southcentral BOG Proposals: February 1 at Fairbanks F&G office, 6PM.

Fisheries Subcommittee Updates & Set Next Meeting Date: Next meeting will be by Zoom on Feb. 23 at 6PM to go over proposals and get comments out.

Other: Gale Vick is looking for airfare and ground transport to go to the Area M meeting. Board Support should have funding to cover both Gale Vick and Virgil Umphenour to attend this meeting. Kyle Campbell asked for a written request for funding.

Jeff Lucas will be attending the BOG meeting in Soldotna. Kyle Campbell stated that there will be funding for this as well.

Al Barrette stated that the dept. will be coming up with a new planning team for the wood bison in the Upper/Middle Tanana on Jan. 25-27 in Fairbanks. Mark Richards and Jeff Lucas will be able to attend this meeting. Jeff Lucas will provide a brief on this meeting at the next Fairbanks AC meeting.

Mark Richards announced that Resident Hunters of Alaska will be having their first Fairbanks banquet on Jan. 28th at 5PM at Birch Hill.

IX. Adjourn: Chair at 8:05PM.

Minutes Recorded by Mark Oppe