

Delta Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 19th, 2023
Delta Junction City Hall and by web/teleconference

CALL TO ORDER at 6:34 PM By Chair Jacob White

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Jacob White, Alan Waldo, Tisha Kennell, Jeff Lipscomb, Vern Aiton, Tim Webb, Don Quarberg (alt), Tony Williams (alt)

EXCUSED Jesse Cummings, Mike Bender,

ABSENT: Earl McNabb, Carl Taylor, Rob Mathews,

ESTABLISH QUORUM (6): YES 9 Present

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

John Wisniewski – Fairbanks AC

Mark Richards – Fairbanks AC

Don Bunselmeier

Melanie Roed

Kyle Campbel – ADF&G Board Support

CHAIR'S REPORT: None

CONCERNS/COMMENTS OF PUBLIC: None

CONCERNS/COMMENTS OF AC MEMBERS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: March 15th, 2023 Motion: Jeff Lipscomb 2nd: Jacob White
VOTE: AYE 9 _____ NAY 0 _____ ABSTAIN 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: January 31, 2023 Motion: Jacob White 2nd: Tisha Kennel
VOTE: AYE 9 _____ NAY 0 _____ ABSTAIN 0

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Motion: Jeff Lipscomb 2nd: Jacob White
VOTE: AYE 9 _____ NAY 0 _____ ABSTAIN 0

ADF&G STAFF UPDATES AND REPORTS

Bob Schmidt:

- a. Sharptail Lekking Surveys ongoing this week – heavy snow but they are seeing some activity.
- b. Waiting for bison collars to come in. As soon as they get here, they will begin putting them on bison.
- c. Watching the weather and snow melt to see if bison range burns will be possible this year, as per plans.
- d. The Spring moose browse survey was completed. Results will be available by Fall.
- e. Alan Waldo asked if there was any indication of how the sheep population is doing after this winter (2022-2023). Bob Answered that we don't know yet. The next few weeks will be key as they start lambing. Snow levels where they lamb will be a big factor. Sheep surveys are planned for late June.

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Brandy Baker

- a. Hosted a class trip to quartz Lake. Low oxygen (like all the interior lakes right now) and abundant food from a shrimp bloom made fishing tough.
- b. Tangle Lakes lake trout work continues. Original efforts at tagging to determine if there were separate populations in different areas or if they migrated and/or co-mingled. There are distinct populations, so now doing tagging and other methods to determine abundance on these wild lake trout.
- c. Vern Aiton asked what Brandy's thought were on the Pogo Mine discharge. Brandy answered that the department had seen no evidence of contamination either in water sample tests or in testing done on juvenile Coho salmon.

OLD BUSINESS

Report from Jeff Lipscomb on attending BOG meeting in Soldotna. This was a discussion of the written report submitted right after the BOG meeting. It was suggested and gained general consensus that the discussion of what seems to be effective when addressing the BOG either in writing or in person be discussed again when the comment period is open prior to next March's meeting.

Fairbanks AC proposals being submitted for next March's BOG meeting. Mark Richards gave us info on several proposals:

- 1. Extend the Grizzly Bear baiting season in GMU 20A, 20B, and 25C by 15 days – from May 31st to June 15.
- 2. Within Wrangell St Elias National Preserve in Unit 12, east of the Nabesna River, south of the winter trail, southeast from Pickerel Lake to U.S./Canadian border: Increase the resident bag limit for brown bears to two bears per regulatory year.
- 3. Trapping standoff set to within one mile of a house or cabin, or on the opposite side of a major river. This will define which rivers qualify to meet this standoff.
- 4. Allow the use of night vision goggles and forward-looking infrared devices for hunting and trapping under a trapping license in all of Region III.

NEW BUSINESS

Final review of **Board of Game** Call for Interior Region Proposals (due May 1st)

Rescind Proposal 149 (DCUA Allocation)

Discussion centered around whether to include all three potential options for resolving this issue. In the end Jacob White moved to submit this proposal as is, except to remove options 2 & 3. Vern Aiton Seconded. Motion was approved unanimously. (9-0-0)

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Bear Baiting 20D SW

There was some discussion on various aspects of this proposal. Tisha Kennel suggested including information on the typical range of bears. Jeff Lipscomb suggested removing the words about it being a small portion of land, and concentrate on this proposal simplifying the regulations by making the same rules for all of 20D. Jacob White asked about matching seasons for all of GMU20. Discussion ensued on when was the right time to end seasons based on Moose calf predation and hide quality. Other discussion was on not wanting to lose opportunity in areas where it is currently 30 June, but most would like to see areas where the season ends on MAR 31st to be moved to June 15th. When asked if he had conservation concerns about Grizzly populations in the is area, Bob Schmidt responded that the Department has very little data upon which to base any such decisions, therefore he advises a cautious approach to management here. Don Quarberg asked the rest of the AC what data are we basing this action on? He does not think there is any shortage of bears, but the data is all anecdotal. Jeff Lipscomb moved the Delta AC submit this proposal as amended per the AC discussion. Don Quarberg Seconded. Motion passed unanimously (9-0-0). Tisha kennel will revise the proposal and send to Jeff Lipscomb for submission to the BOG.

Registration tags for 20D

This proposal to change al Harvest ticket moose hunts in 20D to a single registration hunt sparked little additional conversation. Jacob White moved that the Delta AC submit this proposal to the BOG. Vern Aiton seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously (9-0-0).

Youth hunt drawing tag

This proposal to remove DM791 and expand the Youth Hunt moose hunt in area 20D was pretty much as discussed in previous meetings and invoked little additional discussion. Jeff Lipscomb asked if we need to include proposed regulatory or “handy-Dandy” language as per the instruction sheet? Kyle Campbell of the Board Support Staff, said the while that makes it easier on the Board Staff, he does not think it diminishes traction for proposals with the board. He added that if we desired to propose language, it could be submitted as written comment during the comment period next year. Jeff Lipscomb moved that the Delta AC submit this proposal to the BOG. Vern Aiton Seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

Extend Grizzly Bear Baiting Season in Unit 20A.

Don Bunselmeier drafted a proposal to do this. Discussion did not reveal any opposition among the AC members, and Don Bunselmeier was asked to submit the proposal and the AC will provide support during the comment period next Spring. Kyle Campbell told us that the Healy AC also plans to submit a proposal to extend the season in 20A to June 15th.

Discuss Joint Board 2023-2024 Call for Proposals (due May 1st, 2023)

NONE

Other fisheries and wildlife business as needed

None

Next Delta AC meeting set for 17 MAY 2023.

At that meeting we will have elections for three seats (Jacob White, Alan Waldo, and Earl McNabb) also both Alternate seats have to be elected annually (Don Quarberg, Tony Williams)

ADJOURNED AT 7:56 PM by Chair Jacob White.