

McGrath Fish & Game Advisory Committee Election Meeting
Friday, January 26th, 2024 at 11:00 am
McGrath City Office

Meeting: McGrath Advisory Committee

Date: Friday, January 26, 2024.

Time: 11:00am to 5:00pm

Location: McGrath City building, conference room, internet, and phone

In Attendance: Lewis Egrass, Brett Gibbons, Josh Peirce, Patrick Simasko, Jason Carter, Brad Sturm, Shane Ransbury, Doug Carney, Ken Deardorff, Jimmy Nikolai, Jesse Grady, Andrew Runkle, Daryl Petruska, Betty Ross, Clinton Goods, David Runfola, Luise Standish, Kyle

Actions taken:

1. Roll Call
2. Motion to approve agenda by Egrass, 2nd by Nikolai.
3. Motion to begin elections by Egrass, 2nd by Gibbons.
4. Motion to nominate Egrass for reelection, 2nd by Nikolai. Egrass accepts. Unanimous approval.
5. Motion to nominate Brad Sturm and Jason Carter by Gibbons, 2nd by Egrass. Unanimous approval.
6. Gibbons opens nominations for Brad Sturm and Jason Carter. Unanimous approval.
7. Marty Runkle requests undesignated seat. Nominations are opened by unanimous vote, and closed by unanimous vote.
8. Officer elections. Egrass nominates Brett Gibbons for Chair, 2nd by Carter. Nominations closed. Unanimous approval.
9. Egrass nominates Jesse Grady for vice chair, 2nd by Gibbons. Nominations closed. Unanimous approval.
10. Egrass nominates Brad Sturm for secretary, 2nd by Gibbons. Nominations closed. Unanimous approval.
11. Reports.
 1. David Runkle gives report on Fish and Game Fisheries.
 2. Gibbons gives chair report. Discusses his involvement with the unit 19C sheep working group.
 - Petruska nominates Gibbons for AC Rep to unit 19C Sheep Working Group, 2nd by Egrass. Egrass comments on Gibbons as best option. Unanimous vote.
 - Josh Peirce gives report on area wildlife. Discuss Moose numbers, Hunting trends, Intensive management, Caribou monitoring, Proposal 66, Sheep data, Bison numbers.
 - Petruska asks Trooper Simasko if troopers are spread too thin in 19C. Simasko answers no.

- Petruska asks Peirce if November is the best time for counting moose. Peirce answer yes due to antlers and snow.
- Petruska comments that we need to be aggressive in protecting Sheep in 19C.
- Proposals.
 - 43-46. Egrass motion to TNA with comment that we wait for Sheep Working Group findings, 2nd by Nikolai. Unanimous approval.
 - 48. Gibbons move to support, 2nd by Nikolai. Unanimous approval.
 - 49. Egrass move to Support with rivers Main stem Kuskokwim, Takotna, North Fork, East Fork, South Fork, Middle Fork, Nixon, Big River, Salmon, Innoko, Windy, and Pitka Fork, 2nd by Gibbons. Unanimous approval.
 - 50. Egrass move to oppose, 2nd by Grady. Unanimous approval
 - 51. Deardorf move to TNA, 2nd by Egrass. Unanimous Approval
 - 52. Carter move to oppose, 2nd by Egrass. Unanimous approval
 - 53-54. Gibbons move to support, 2nd by Nikolai. Unanimous approval
 - 55. Gibbons move to support, 2nd by Grady. Unanimous approval
 - 56. Gibbons move to support with amendment that unit 19a have a positive finding of 4300-5300 and harvest of 175-225, unit 19b have a positive finding of 5900-7200 and harvest of 235-290, and unit 19e have a positive finding of 3300-4000 and a harvest of 130-160, 2nd by Grady. Unanimous approval
 - 57. Grady move to support, 2nd by Egrass. Unanimous approval
 - 58. Egrass move to support, 2nd by Carter. Unanimous approval
 - 59. Egrass move to TNA, 2nd by Nikolai. Unanimous approval
 - 60. Egrass move to support, 2nd by Andrew Runkle. Unanimous approval
 - 61-62. Gibbons move to TNA with comment that we support the concept of predator control, 2nd by Egrass. Unanimous approval
 - 63. Grady move to TNA, 2nd Egrass. Unanimous approval
 - 64. Gibbons moves to oppose, 2nd by Egrass. Unanimous approval
 - 65. Egrass moves to support, 2nd by Deardorf. Unanimous approval
 - 66. Grady moves to support with comment the this is to be implemented and managed at the discretion of the Area Biologist, 2nd by Deardorf. Unanimous approval
 - 67. Deardorf moves to support, 2nd by Andrew Runkle. Unanimous approval
 - 68-72. Gibbons moves to oppose, 2nd by Egrass. Unanimous approval
 - 73. Grady moves to support, 2nd by Egrass. Unanimous approval
 - 74. Grady moves to support, 2nd by Deardorf. Unanimous approval

- 75. No Action
- 76-88. Egrass moves to oppose with comment we will defer to Sheep working group, 2nd by Nikolai. Unanimous approval
- 89-90. Gibbons moves to TNA, 2nd by Egrass. Unanimous approval
- 91.
 - Gibbons moves to support, 2nd by Carter. Unanimous approval
 - Gibbons move to retract proposal 91 vote, 2nd by Carter. Unanimous approval
 - Gibbons move to TNA with comment we support 19D sheep management group plan development, 2nd by Egrass. Unanimous approval

27. 92. Egrass moves to support, 2nd by Gibbons. Unanimous approval

28. 93-107. Doug Carney gives reasons for support. Grady moves to support with addendum A, 2nd by Sturm. Unanimous approval

1. Addendum A: Following

Black & Brown Bear Regulations for GMU 19 & GMUs 21A & E Standardization of Regulations.

The many proposals for liberalization of bear regulations for these GMUs, (93-107), illustrate the differences in regulation between them & the benefits of regulation standardization, as well as the need for liberalization of bear regulations, increasing deer harvest.

There is unanimous support the villages of 19E for proposals 10, 101, & 103, which are specific to 19E. This includes support for proposals that are for similar regulation change in all 19 and 21 subunits. There are resolutions of support from the Village Councils within 19E, Documents E, for these proposals and for the Bear Plan SHAC is submitting

Building on the content of bear proposals, many of which come from 19 & 21 advisory committees

- SHAC agreed that making 19B & C the same, and also making 19A, D, E & 21 A&E the same seasons & bag limits & conditions will make things better for village safety, hunters, enforcement, & relieve pressure on moose calves.
- Listed below & in the table, are liberalization & standardization of seasons, bag limits, and baiting regulations in 19 and 21A & E. They will be positive changes for village safety, hunters, enforcement, and for prey populations that suffer from the large number of bears in these subunits

Brown bear:

Unit 19B and 19C

Aug 10 - June 30

2 bear bag limit for everyone

Take at bait Apr 15 - June 30 & Aug 1 - Oct. 31

Units 19A, 19D, 19E, 21A and 21E (contain villages)

No closed season

2 bear bag limit for everyone

Take at bait Apr 15 - June 03 & Aug 1 - Oct 31

Black bear:

Unit 19, 21A, 21E

No closed season

5 bear bag limit for everyone

Take at bait Apr 15- June 30 and Aug 1- Oct 31

No harvest ticket required

- Joint Board Proposals
 - 1. Carter moves to oppose, 2nd Egrass. Unanimous approval
 - 2. Gibbons moves to oppose, 2nd by Egrass. Unanimous approval
 - 3. Deardorf moves to oppose, 2nd by Grady. Unanimous approval
 - 4. Gibbons moves to oppose, 2nd by Nikolai. Unanimous approval
 - 5. Gibbons moves to oppose, 2nd by Sturm. Unanimous approval
 - 6-7. Egrass moves to TNA, 2nd by Nikolai. Unanimous approval
 - 8. Sturm moves to TNA, 2nd by Nikolai. Unanimous approval
 - 9. Petruska moves to oppose, 2nd by Deardorf. Unanimous approval
 - 10. Deardorf moves to oppose, 2nd by Carter. Unanimous approval
 - 11. No action
 - 12. Deardorf moves to oppose, 2nd by Egrass. Unanimous approval
 - 13. Deardorf moves to oppose, 2nd by Egrass. Unanimous approval
 - 14. Deardorf moves to oppose, 2nd by Nikolai. Unanimous approval
 - 15. Grady moves to oppose, 2nd by Egrass. Unanimous approval
 - 16. No action
 - 17. Sturm moves to oppose, 2nd by Egrass. Unanimous approval
 - 18. Deardorf moves to oppose, 2nd by Egrass. Unanimous approval
- No one is assigned to attend the Fairbanks Board of Game meeting, or the Anchorage Joint Board meeting.
- Next meeting date is to be announced.
- Doug Carney expresses gratitude for everyone's involvement
- Nikolai moves to adjourn, 2nd by Egrass. Unanimous approval

Alaska Board of Game Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Meeting Proposals

March 15-22, 2024 | Fairbanks, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
43	Change all general season sheep harvest tickets in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C to registration permits, and allow hunters to obtain a registration permit once every two years		
NO ACTION			Waiting for sheep working group findings
44	Reduce the sheep bag limit for resident hunters in Units 12, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26B and 26C to one ram with full-curl horn or larger every two regulatory years		
NO ACTION			Waiting for sheep working group findings
45	Reduce the Unit 12, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C sheep bag limit for residents to one ram with full-curl horn or larger every four regulatory years		
NO ACTION			Waiting for sheep working group findings
46	Change all sheep hunting in Units 12, 19, and 20 to drawing permit only for residents and nonresidents, with a set allocation of permits between user groups		
NO ACTION			Waiting for sheep working group findings
48	Reauthorize resident grizzly/brown bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Northeast Alaska		
SUPPORT	10	0	
49	Clarify which rivers in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C are major rivers for the purposes of bear baiting		
SUPPORT	10	0	Rivers Main stem Kuskokwim, Takotna, North Fork, East Fork, South Fork, Middle Fork, Nixon, Big River, Salmon, Innoko, Windy, and Pitka Fork
50	Lengthen the marten trapping season in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24 and 25 by two weeks to end March 15		
OPPOSE	0	10	
51	Align muskrat trapping seasons with beaver trapping seasons in Units 19, 20 (except 20E), 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C		
NO ACTION			
52	Allow the use of night vision goggles and forward-looking infrared devices for taking furbearers with a trapping license in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C		
OPPOSE	0	10	
53	Revise the Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) for moose in Unit 19		
SUPPORT	10	0	
54	Review the Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) for moose in Unit 19		
SUPPORT	10	0	

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
55	Establish a positive Intensive Management finding for moose in Unit 19C		
SUPPORT	10	0	
56	Create separate Intensive Management (IM) population and harvest objectives for Unit 19A, Unit 19B and Unit 19E		
SUPPORT AS AMENDED	10	0	support with amendment that unit 19a have a positive finding of 4300-5300 and harvest of 175-225, unit 19b have a positive finding of 5900-7200 and harvest of 235-290, and unit 19e have a positive finding of 3300-4000 and a harvest of 130-160,
57	Modify the Intensive Management Plan for Unit 19		
SUPPORT	10	0	
58	Authorize a Unit 19A predation control program		
SUPPORT	10	0	
59	Lengthen the resident only Tier II moose hunt, TM680, in Unit 19A by opening the season five days earlier		
NO ACTION			
60	Allow aerial wolf control in a portion of Unit 19C		
SUPPORT	10	0	
61	Allow the take of wolves in Unit 19C the same day a person has been airborne and create an Intensive Management Plan for Unit 19C		
NO ACTION			TNA with comment that we support the concept of predator control
62	Establish an Intensive Management program for Unit 19C		
NO ACTION			TNA with comment that we support the concept of predator control
63	Change the Unit 19C registration permit moose hunt RM653, to a drawing permit for nonresidents, issue up to 20 permits, and shorten the season to September 8-17		
NO ACTION			
64	Change the Unit 19C moose hunts to a drawing hunt for both residents and nonresidents, and specify the number of permits available for residents, guided nonresidents, and nonguided nonresidents		
OPPOSE	0	10	
65	Reauthorize the Unit 19D Intensive Management Plan		
SUPPORT	10	0	
66	Modify the moose hunting season dates and permit requirements in Unit 19D		
SUPPORT	10	0	support with comment the this is to be implemented and managed at the discretion of the Area Biologist
67	Reauthorize a winter any-moose season during February in a portion of Unit 19D		
SUPPORT	10	0	
68	Allow moose registration permit RM682 to be obtained online		

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
OPPOSE	0	10	
69	Allow hunters that hold registration moose permit RM682 in Unit 19 to be eligible to hold other moose permits in the Kuskokwim River drainage		
OPPOSE	0	10	
70	Make fifteen registration moose permits for the Unit 19E moose hunt available in Bethel		
OPPOSE	0	10	
71	Eliminate the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area in Unit 19		
OPPOSE	0	10	
72	Change the restrictions of the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area by allowing outboards with greater than 40 horsepower to hunt a portion of the season		
OPPOSE	0	10	
73	Reauthorize the Intensive Management Plan for Unit 21E for six years		
SUPPORT	10	0	
74	Require applicants for Unit 21E moose drawing hunt DM837 to provide a unique verification number when applying for that hunt		
SUPPORT	10	0	
75	Reauthorize a winter any-moose season during part of February and March in Unit 21E		
76	Reopen all Unit 19C sheep hunts		
OPPOSE	0	10	oppose with comment we will defer to Sheep working group
77	Reopen Unit 19C to sheep hunting		
OPPOSE	0	10	oppose with comment we will defer to Sheep working group
78	Reauthorize nonresident Dall sheep hunting in Unit 19C		
OPPOSE	0	10	oppose with comment we will defer to Sheep working group
79	Reopen Unit 19C to nonresident sheep hunters		
OPPOSE	0	10	oppose with comment we will defer to Sheep working group
80	Reopen sheep hunting in Unit 19C to nonresidents		
OPPOSE	0	10	oppose with comment we will defer to Sheep working group
81	Reestablish seasons and bag limits for sheep hunting in Unit 19C		
OPPOSE	0	10	oppose with comment we will defer to Sheep working group
82	Change nonresident sheep hunting in Unit 19C		
OPPOSE	0	10	oppose with comment we will defer to Sheep working group
83	Reopen sheep hunting in Unit 19C to nonresidents, by bow and arrow only		
OPPOSE	0	10	oppose with comment we will defer to Sheep working group

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
84	Change the sheep bag limit in Unit 19C for resident hunters to one ram with full-curl horn or larger every two regulatory years		
OPPOSE	0	10	oppose with comment we will defer to Sheep working group
85	Set the sheep bag limit in Unit 19C for resident hunters based on the age of the ram harvested, for six- to eight-year-old rams		
OPPOSE	0	10	oppose with comment we will defer to Sheep working group
86	Set the sheep bag limit in Unit 19C for resident hunters based on the age of the ram harvested, for six- to ten-year-old rams		
OPPOSE	0	10	oppose with comment we will defer to Sheep working group
87	Shorten the sheep hunting season in Unit 19C for residents and open a season for nonresidents in Unit 19C		
OPPOSE	0	10	oppose with comment we will defer to Sheep working group
88	Change all sheep hunting in Unit 19C to archery only, and require future nonresident sheep hunting in Unit 19C to be by bow and arrow only		
OPPOSE	0	10	oppose with comment we will defer to Sheep working group
89	Reopen the subsistence winter sheep hunts in Unit 19C		
NO ACTION			
90	Reopen the late season resident only subsistence sheep registration hunt RS380 in Unit 19C		
NO ACTION			
91	Modify sheep hunting opportunity in Unit 19C or other subunits in the western Alaska Range by implementing a sheep management plan		
NO ACTION			TNA with comment we support 19D sheep management group plan development
92	Close all nonresident sheep hunting in Unit 19		
SUPPORT	10	0	
93	Lengthen the resident and nonresident brown/grizzly bear season in Unit 19C by opening the season on August 10		
SUPPORT AS AMENDED	10	0	<p>Support as amended; See addendum A from Stony/Holitna AC:</p> <p>Black & Brown Bear Regulations for GMU 19 & GMUs 21A & E Standardization of Regulations.</p> <p>The many proposals for liberalization of bear regulations for these GMUs, (93-107), illustrate the differences in regulation between them & the benefits of regulation standardization, as well as the need for liberalization of bear regulations, increasing deer harvest.</p> <p>There is unanimous support the villages of 19E for proposals 10, 101, & 103, which are specific to 19E. This includes support for proposals that are for similar regulation change in all 19 and 21 subunits. There are resolutions of support from the Village Councils within 19E, Documents E, for these proposals and for the Bear Plan SHAC is submitting</p>

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March 15-22, 2024 | Fairbanks, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>Building on the content of bear proposals, many of which come from 19 & 21 advisory committees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SHAC agreed that making 19B & C the same, and also making 19A, D, E & 21 A&E the same seasons & bag limits & conditions will make things better for village safety, hunters, enforcement, & relieve pressure on moose calves. Listed below & in the table, are liberalization & standardization of seasons, bag limits, and baiting regulations in 19 and 21A & E. They will be positive changes for village safety, hunters, enforcement, and for prey populations that suffer from the large number of bears in these subunits <p>Brown bear: <u>Unit 19B and 19C</u> Aug 10 - June 30 2 bear bag limit for everyone Take at bait Apr 15 - June 30 & Aug 1 - Oct. 31</p> <p><u>Units 19A, 19D, 19E, 21A and 21E (contain villages)</u> No closed season 2 bear bag limit for everyone Take at bait Apr 15 - June 03 & Aug 1- Oct 31</p> <p>Black bear: <u>Unit 19, 21A, 21E</u> No closed season 5 bear bag limit for everyone Take at bait Apr 15- June 30 and Aug 1- Oct 31 No harvest ticket required</p>
94	Lengthen the brown/grizzly bear season by opening the hunt in the fall on the same day as the sheep and caribou seasons and closing the hunt on June 30		
SUPPORT AS AMENDED	10	0	See Comments for Proposal 93
95	Lengthen the brown/grizzly bear hunting season in Unit 19C		
SUPPORT AS AMENDED	10	0	See Comments for Proposal 93
96	Lengthen the resident and nonresident brown/grizzly bear hunting season by changing the start date to August 10 .		
SUPPORT AS AMENDED	10	0	See Comments for Proposal 93
97	Lengthen the brown/grizzly bear hunting season and increase the bag limit in Unit 19C		
SUPPORT AS AMENDED	10	0	See Comments for Proposal 93
98	Lengthen the brown/grizzly bear hunting season in Unit 19C by one month to align with Units 19A, 19D, and 19E		

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Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
SUPPORT AS AMENDED	10	0	See Comments for Proposal 93
99	Open the brown/grizzly bear hunting season in Unit 19C for residents and nonresidents on August 10		
SUPPORT AS AMENDED	10	0	See Comments for Proposal 93
100	Lengthen the brown/grizzly bear season in Unit 19E to year-round		
SUPPORT AS AMENDED	10	0	See Comments for Proposal 93
101	Allow brown/grizzly bears to be taken over bait in Unit 19C, and to be taken at a bait site the same day a hunter has flown		
SUPPORT AS AMENDED	10	0	See Comments for Proposal 93
102	Open a fall bear bait season in Unit 19E		
SUPPORT AS AMENDED	10	0	See Comments for Proposal 93
103	Increase the bag limit for black bear in Units 19B and 19C from three to five		
SUPPORT AS AMENDED	10	0	See Comments for Proposal 93
104	Remove the requirement for a general season black bear harvest ticket in Unit 19D		
SUPPORT AS AMENDED	10	0	See Comments for Proposal 93
105	Allow brown/grizzly bears to be taken over bait in Unit 21A		
SUPPORT AS AMENDED	10	0	See Comments for Proposal 93
106	Allow hunting of black and brown bear with the use of bait or scent lures in Unit 21E		
SUPPORT AS AMENDED	10	0	See Comments for Proposal 93
107	Open a fall brown/grizzly bear baiting season in Unit 21E		
SUPPORT AS AMENDED	10	0	See Comments for Proposal 93

Joint Board of Fisheries and Game Meeting Proposals

March 25-28, 2024 | Anchorage, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
1	Require one-month public notice for advisory committee election meetings and 14 days-notice for regular meetings.		
OPPOSE	0	10	
2	Require all advisory committee meetings be accessible via call-in option.		
OPPOSE	0	10	
3	Reduce the terms for advisory committee officers from two years to one.		
OPPOSE	0	10	
4	Clarify the responsibilities for advisory committee chairs.		
OPPOSE	0	10	
5	Clarify the responsibilities for the officer position of secretary/recorder		
OPPOSE	0	10	
6	Allow advisory committees with community designated seats to appoint alternates for those communities.		
NO ACTION			
7	Clarify the process for appointing advisory committee alternates, allow alternates for communities having more than one designated seat, and establish one year term limits for alternates.		
NO ACTION			
8	Allow advisory committees the discretion to set membership term dates.		
NO ACTION			
9	Limit the number of consecutive terms advisory committee members can serve.		
OPPOSE	0	10	
10	Designate one seat on each advisory committee for non-consumptive representation.		
OPPOSE	0	10	
11	Designate non-consumptive user seats for the Anchorage, Cooper Landing, Fairbanks, Homer, and Matanuska Valley advisory committees.		
12	Clarify the provision that advisory committees may not reject a nomination for an undesignated seat when membership is less than the number of members authorized.		
OPPOSE	0	10	
13	Clarify the process for declaring vacancies and filling expired seats.		
OPPOSE	0	10	

Joint Board of Fisheries and Game Meeting Proposals

March 25-28, 2024 | Anchorage, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
14	Adopt an absence policy allowing advisory committees to remove members who miss more than 50% of meetings without reasonable justification.		
OPPOSE	0	10	
15	Allow advisory committees to provide additional recommendations.		
OPPOSE	0	10	
16	Dissolve seven advisory committees in the Southeast Region due to inactive status.		
17	Establish a process in regulation for developing board proposals.		
OPPOSE	0	10	
18	Adopt a regulation or a Joint Board policy to limit certain types of amendments.		
OPPOSE	0	10	
19	Redefine the boundaries for the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area.		

Minutes Recorded By: Brad Sturm

Minutes Approved By: _____

Date: _____