

## Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee Election Meeting

Wednesday, November 12th, 2025, at 6:00 pm

JP Jones Community Center (2400 Rickert Street)

i. **Call to Order:** 1806 by Jeff Lucas

ii. **Roll Call**

- a. **Members Present:** Mark Richards, Gale Vick, John Wisnieski, Levi Lewellyn, Gabriel Davis, Mike Tinker, Warren Giuchici, Mike Kramer, Gabriel Davis, Chuck Davis, Lance Nelson, John Haddix, James Paine, Virgil Umphenour
- b. **Members Absent (Excused):** Austin Smith, Bill Larry
- c. **Number Needed for Quorum on AC:** 8 required – quorum met.

iii. **Fish and Game Staff Present:**

- a. *Note: Names and spellings may not be fully accurate due to poor audio quality. Some attendees may not have been recorded or may have been listed more than once if audio was unclear.*
- b. Mark Nelson, Northeast area, a wildlife biologist.
- c. Lindsay Drees, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Fairbanks Assistant Area Biologist.
- d. Jeff Wells, Division of Wildlife Conservation Aerobiologist for the Fairbanks area.
- e. Jeff Gross with, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Tok Office
- f. Matt Olson, West Department of Fish and Game, Yukon River Fall Season Manager.
- g. Deena Jallen, Alaska Department of Fishing and Game, the Yukon River Summer Season Manager.
- h. Kyle Campbell with Board Support

iv. **Guests Present:**

- a. *Note: Names and spellings may not be fully accurate due to poor audio quality. Some attendees may not have been recorded or may have been listed more than once if audio was unclear.*
- b. Al Barrette from the Board of Game; Brooke McDavid with the Federal Subsistence Board; Olivia Irwin from the Board of Fisheries; Darlene Herbert of Fort Yukon; Jeffery Groenke of the Northern Alaska Environmental Center; and Krystal Lapp representing both Tanana Chiefs Conference and NAEC, Tyrell Palmer; Janessa Newman, Vice Chair of the Tanana–Rampart–Manley AC; and Fairbanks residents Peter Miller, Jock Echeverri, Alicia Singh, Dorothy Shockley, Alex Velez, Julia Anelica, Carrie Stevens, Ben Stevens, Diloola Erickson, Ricko DeWilde, Mike Gho of the Lake Minchumina AC, Brie Van Dam, Brett Morehouse, Matty Hole, Paul Rasmussen, Sue Bless, Ron Bless, Randy Brown, retired from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, John Gate, U.S. Senate candidate Ann Diener, Darcy Etcheverry, Thomas Lees, Parker (last name unclear), Greg Johnson, Deborah Davis, Virgil Davis, Isabella Rubio, Heather Rubio, Howard Baylor, Sherece Duquill, Craig Chythlook, Nicholas Barlotta, David Leslie - Northern Alaska Environmental Center, an individual identified only as “Dan,”, Dandhi'on, Emilia Hernandez, Toria Liu, Libby (last name unclear), Daniel

Matthew, Pharm Singh, Eric Anslinger, Bob Burke, and Rachel Malliard of the Nenana Tribe. Two members of the Gho family from Fairbanks were also present, along with Stu Davies and Robin Davies from Unit 20B.

**i. Approval of Agenda**

- a. Mark requested adding Randy Brown’s whitefish presentation.
- b. Mike requested adding the Pogo Road/DNR comment letter.
- c. Chair requested unanimous consent; none opposed.
- d. Agenda approved unanimously.

**v. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: 10/08/2025 & 10/22/2025**

- a. Motion to approve: Mike Tinker
- b. Second: Mark
- c. Passed unanimously

**vi. Reports**

- a. **Chair’s report:** none

**b. ADF&G**

**i. Jeff Gross – Forty Mile Caribou Herd Update**

1. Provided a detailed update on the 40-Mile Caribou Herd, noting the population has declined from 82,000 (2017) to about 26,000 today. Reported improvements in adult female survival and calf weights, but continued concern over a declining bull-to-cow ratio. Explained that the department is considering opening RC860 Zones 1 and 4 within the next week and would be consulting leadership the following morning. Current quota is 525, with ANS still set at 350–400 (unchanged since the 1990s). Stated that management remains conservative because of previous issues during roadside hunts, even when surplus appears available. Discussed Zone 2 harvest reporting and confirmed that hunters use SAT phones or in-Reach to report within 3 days.
2. Committed to providing additional data:
  - a. Breakdown of guided vs. non-guided hunters
  - b. Resident vs. nonresident military
  - c. Nonresidents hunting with resident family members
3. Noted that a draft updated 40-Mile Harvest Management Plan was circulated to coalition partners and will also be sent to all ACs.
  - a. Jeff Gross explained that the best way for Advisory Committee (AC) members and the public to participate in updating the 40-Mile plan is to engage through AC meetings that have a representative on the 40-Mile Caribou Harvest Management Coalition, identifying Mike Tinker as Fairbanks AC’s representative

**ii. Jeff Wells and Lindsey Dries**

1. Reported that the Delta Caribou hunt issued 96 permits with 52 successful harvests (approx. 54% success). Estimated the Delta herd population at roughly 2,100 animals, stable for about 20 years. Gave an update on the ongoing Unit 20C moose survey, which has identified over 500 moose, using a different methodology than prior GSPE surveys.
  2. Delta Clearwater Coho run (10,000; highest since 2017)
  3. Birch Lake burbot estimate (2,000 over 20")
- c. **Randy Brown:** Yukon River Whitefish (Sheefish) Migration & Life History
- i. Presented research on Yukon River sheefish, including: Migrations exceeding 1,000 miles upriver. Distinct populations with different spawning routes and survival strategies. Highly variable migration timing. Explained challenges in harvesting sheefish due to scattered runs and short spawning windows. Provided broader ecosystem context relevant to Interior Alaska fisheries and subsistence practices.
- d. **Yukon River Salmon Managers Present (but not reporting)**
- i. Matt Olson – Fall Yukon River Manager
  - ii. Deena Jallen – Summer Yukon River Manager
  - iii. They introduced themselves but did not give salmon or fishery reports at this meeting.
- vii. **Public Comment:** none
- viii. **Old Business:** none
- ix. **New Business**
- a. Elections for 5 undesignated seats to serve up to a three-year term ending 6/30/2028 members with expired terms are: Jeff Lucas, Gale Vick, Austin Smith, Mike Kramer, Chuck Derrick To be eligible to make nominations or vote in an election of a Fish & Game Advisory Committee, you must be a voting-age resident of the area served by the committee as defined in 5 AAC 96.910(10) and attending the election meeting. The areas served by the Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee as defined in 5 AAC 97.005 are Game Management Units 12, 20, 21, 24, 25, and 26 and the Tanana River. For more information, please contact the regional coordinator.
- x. **Call for Nominations**
- i. Chair Jeff Lucas opened the floor for nominations.
- xi. **Nominations Received**
- i. Self-nomination: Julia Hnilicka
  - ii. Self-nomination: Krystal Lapp
  - iii. Self-nomination: Ricko DeWilde
  - iv. Nomination by Mike Tinker: Gale Vick
  - v. Self-nomination: Jacques Etcheverry
  - vi. Nomination by Mark: Chuck Derrick
  - vii. Self-nomination: Eric Anslinger

**xii. Close of Nominations**

- i. Chair Jeff Lucas closed nominations.

**xiii. Final thoughts from stepping down AC members:**

1. **Mike Kramer:** Mike reflected on nearly three decades of service since first being elected in 1996. He served as both chair and fisheries chair and emphasized his continued interest in issues such as hatchery impacts and Yukon salmon restoration. He thanked the committee, ADF&G, and the public for their longstanding involvement and support
2. **Jeff Lucas:** Jeff announced he would not seek re-election due to personal commitments. He expressed appreciation for his time on the committee and intention to return in the future if circumstances allow. He noted that after voting he would step down and hand the meeting over to Mark.

**xiv. Chair opens the floor for candidate presentations:**

- a. **Gale Vick:** My name is Gale Vick, and I've been on the AC since 2019, so this will be my third term. My background in fisheries goes back to running a fishwheel on the Tanana River in the early 70s, and then I started my own business in 1991 working on fisheries regulatory policy statewide. But my biggest issue for the Yukon and the Interior, of course, is the rebuilding of salmon stocks — especially Chinook, Coho, and Chum. So that's my passion for now. Thank you very much.
- b. **Chuck Derrick:** Chuck introduced himself as President of the Chitina Dipnetters Association, hunter, trapper, sport fisherman, dipnetter, and UAF wildlife graduate. He noted this would be his 5th term (15–16 years) and emphasized his commitment to representing Interior users.
- c. **Julia Hnilicka:** Julia shared her upbringing in Nenana and deep connection to the Yukon River through her family's barge service. She spoke about subsistence traditions and expressed strong interest in ensuring future access and opportunities. This would be her first time serving on an AC.
- d. **Ricko DeWilde:** Ricko described his upbringing near Huslia and his continued seasonal return to trap wolves. He emphasized predator management experience and a desire to bring that knowledge and interior perspective to the AC.
- e. **Krystal Lapp:** Krystal discussed her extensive AC experience through the Tok 40-Mile AC (as alternate and designated seat for Healy Lake) and her work helping revitalize ACs in Interior communities. She emphasized advocacy for subsistence and responsible allocation for all user groups, as well as her long-term off-grid Interior living experience.
- f. **Eric Anslinger:** Eric highlighted his role as Vice President of the Alaska Outdoor Council and his work on access issues, youth shooting sports, and hunter education. He noted his involvement with the new Northern Alaska SCI chapter and his familiarity with regulatory and departmental processes.
- g. **Jacques Etcheverry:** Jacques introduced himself as a born-and-raised Alaskan living in Fairbanks. He hunts, fishes, and traps throughout the state and

maintains a cabin in the Wrangell Mountains. He and his wife, Darcy, are raising four children and live off the land, sharing what they harvest and teaching their children the importance of caring for wildlife and habitat. Jacques stated he would be a strong addition to the AC and looks forward to the opportunity to serve.

- xv. **Meeting Reconvenes:** Jeff Lucas calls the meeting back to order at 1921
    - i. The following vote totals were recorded:
      - 1. **Gale Vick – 76**
      - 2. **Chuck Derrick – 65**
      - 3. **Julia Hnilicka – 63**
      - 4. **Krystal Lapp – 58**
      - 5. **Ricko DeWilde – 58**
      - 6. Jacques Etcheverry – 32
      - 7. Eric Anslinger – 22
    - ii. **Top five candidates were elected.**
    - iii. Chair Transition: Following the elections, Jeff Lucas stepped down as Chair. Mark assumed the role of Acting Chair until officer elections.
  - b. Alternates (1-year terms, ending 6/30/2026):**
    - i. Appointed: Jacques Etcheverry and Eric Anslinger (next highest vote totals)
  - c. Officer elections for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Recorder**
  - d. Fisheries**
    - i. **Chair:** Levi Wisniewski (Nominated by Virgil; seconded by John W.) – Passed unanimously
    - ii. **Vice Chair:** Mark Nelson (Nominated by Mark; seconded by Gale) – *Passed unanimously*
    - iii. **Secretary:** Krystal Lapp (Self-nomination) – *Passed unanimously*
  - iv. Subcommittee Chairs:**
    - 1. Fish Subcommittee Chair: Gale Vick
    - 2. Game Subcommittee Chair: Mark Nelson
    - 3. Approved by unanimous consent
- xvi. **Select representative(s) for board meeting**
  - a. Bison Working Group Representation**
    - i. Motion: Mark moved to send Julia Hnilicka to the Bison Working Group meeting (Dec 2–4, Fairbanks).
    - ii. Second: Krystal
    - iii. Passed unanimously
  - b. The committee added the Pogo Road access issue to the agenda earlier in the meeting.**
    - i. Motion: Mark moved to have Mike Tinker draft a comment letter to DNR opposing restricted public access along the Pogo Mine Road.
    - ii. Second: *Not captured in transcript*
    - iii. Passed unanimously
  - c. Board of Fisheries Representation**

- i. A motion was made and approved to authorize Virgil and Gale to amend the FAC comments on Proposals 15 and 16 to incorporate the Eagle AC's recommendations. Gale will present the amended comments to the Board. This was affirmed during discussion, and no objections were raised.
- xvii. **Set next meeting date:** Next meeting date was not discussed but is listed on the agenda as December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- xviii. **Adjourn:** Mike Tinker motions to the Chair to adjourn, motion approved by the Chair. Meeting adjourns at 2130

Minutes Recorded By: Krystal Lapp  
Minutes Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: November 17, 2025