

Petersburg Advisory Committee

1/7/26 5:00-8:15pm

Meetings Minutes

Elections:

- Vote for Secretary, Jacob Rasmussen voted in unanimously
- Alternate position, Caleb Lutomski 3 votes, **Seth McCallum 8 votes**

Board of Game Proposals

Proposal 58 Opposed unanimously

- Not a sustainable management plan

Proposal 59-62 Opposed

- David Benitz (AC): Proposals as written may allow for more non-resident opportunities, which is not what the committee desires.
- Jacob Rasmussen (AC): Opposed because the proposal needs to be rewritten to address the issue that these hunts will be listed separately between residents and nonresidents, potentially giving more tags to nonresidents.
- Caleb Baird (AC): The state manages these hunts as two different hunts between residents and nonresidents. This proposal may allot more tags to nonresidents than exist now.
- Opposed: 10
- Abstention: 2

Proposal 63 Opposed unanimously

- State is concerned about over harvest

Proposal 66 Supported unanimously

- State is opposed because of low population numbers
- Caleb Baird (Proposer): Vast majority of brown bear hunters will use this tag as tool for protection and this tag will allow the hunter to control the situation if there is a chance of threat to life.
- Nyle Thomas (AC): Populations seem to be expanding; the tag gives hunters peace of mind while hunting deer and moose in the fall.
- Megan O'Neil (AC): Supports proposal, increased harvest number shows increased population. The State has authority to adjust the number of tags if needed to manage the population sustainably.

Proposal 67 Split Decision

- David Beebe (Public): Concerned that deer populations are not high enough to support more hunting opportunities.
- Becky Knight (Public): The current regulations are properly managing the deer populations. This closed area prevents conflicts between hunters and other recreation users in the area.
- Eric Lee (Public): Severe winters have devastating impacts on deer populations. These closed areas offer refuge and protection for deer in high stress times. Hunter and recreational users will have increased conflicts. Wounded animals could cause a problem for public safety.
- Kaleb Baird (Proposer): Wolf hunting with a rifle is allowed in the closed area. The PMA has given 19 years of evidence that bow hunting near residential and recreational areas with no conflict. This proposal creates an opportunity to hunt brown bears that is not currently allowed with rifle.
- Ben Case (AC): Concerned about user conflict.
- Opposed:4
- Support: 4
- Abstained 4

Proposal 68 Opposed

- Nyle Thomas (AC): Doesn't see a conflict with hunters and recreational users in this area.
- Jacob Rasmussen (AC): Opposed there should be a closed area to all hunting that creates a refuge for all wildlife that this current area offers. This is a relatively small area that supports a waterfowl refuge and is a popular bird viewing area.
- Eric Castro (AC): This is a Wild and scenic river that deserves a small area of protection from hunting pressure, believes there should be a sanctuary for wildlife.
- Trooper Lister: Has concerns about enforcing the area if proposal is adopted.
- Opposed: 6
- Supported: 5
- Abstained: 1