

Seward Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes of October 17, 2013
City of Seward Council Chambers

I. Call to order at 7:03 pm by Chairman McCracken

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: Jim McCracken, Jim Hubbard, Jeanette Hanneman, Jim Herbert, Bob White, John Flood, W.C. Casey, Diane Dubuc. McCracken offered introduction of the Committee members to any in the audience who were not familiar with individuals.

Quorum present; 8 members required.

Members Excused: Robin Collman, Mark Clemens

Members Absent: Matt Hall, Ezra Campbell, Trent Foldager, Arne Hatch

User groups present: Sport and Commercial Fish, Hunting, Conservation, Wildlife viewing, Guiding, non consumptive users, personal use

III. Approval of Agenda: [Motion–White; Dubuc] no objection

IV. Approval of minutes from of March 28, 2013. [Motion - Casey; Dubuc] were approved no objections

V. Agency Staff Present: None

VI. Public Present: Tom Prochazka, Wolfgang Kurtz

VII. Correspondence: none

VIII. Citizen's comments on F&G matters: none

IX. Presentations:

Diane Dubuc attended the recent Joint Boards of Fish (7 persons) and Game (6 persons) meeting and gave us a summary of results. Twenty-seven AC's were represented at the meeting. This is the first Joint Boards meeting since 2007. Our proposal to reduce the size of our AC to 11 plus 2 alternates passed. Potentially in the future the AC's will serve a term of July 1-June 30 the same as the State Board members. Deemed too unwieldy, the Boards rejected the proposal to have AC representatives sit at the table at the discretion of the Chair. For example there are 19 AC's in South Central that might all wish to sit at the table for certain key proposals.

There were discussions on the subsistence status of Kodiak and Bethel but in the end the status quo was followed. Dianne spoke to the effectiveness of AC's in the Board process and noted the disadvantage of certain communities where English is a second language or there are different cultural norms. Some regions almost need a dedicated spokesperson to represent their views.

Diane noted with frustration that a person who submitted numerous proposals to the Boards for consideration did not even speak to them in the public portion of the meeting.

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She reminded us that to be considered viable, an AC must have at least two meetings a year.

Jeanette Hanneman gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Kid's Fishing Day last May, Collman was out of state, but was thanked for his efforts to organize the event which was attended by over 100 kids. Prizes donated by local businesses were such that almost every child received something. Hot dogs and snacks were also donated. It was agreed that given the ice on First Lake that the portable tank to hold the fish delivered by Dan Bosch was advantageous. Especially for the youngest children it was felt the best way to let them see and go after the fish. Thanks to Jeff for bringing the fish and being the face of F&G.

Next year we hope we can have the ADFG Lab Truck to stimulate further interest in the science of fish and game.

Jeanette will submit her slide show to Sherry Wright to document AC outreach. If permission can be obtained from parents, perhaps photos can be submitted for the cover of the sport fishing regulation booklet.

W.C Casey suggests that we may not want to advertise the Kid's Fishing Day too much as the 100 participants this year was at the upper limit of our resources. We need to keep it as a local event aimed at the youngest fishermen.

X. Old Business: none

XI. New Business:

We decided to set dates in November to deliberate on Cook Inlet fish proposals and statewide game proposals. Biologists have not compiled their statistics as yet and we want to have the benefit of their data and counsel when we go over these matters.

Diane suggested we create an educational effort to inform the area public about the King Salmon regulations that are proposed. She feels this will be an important issue for many local sport fishermen and business owners. She hopes a good turn out at our next meeting will give proper guidance to the AC. With the concurrence of the committee she will bring factual information to local media.

McCracken said the brown bear harvest from all sources was currently at 40 from the registration hunt and 23 from other events. More data would be coming from F&G at a November meeting. White spoke about the scarcity of moose and abundance of brown bears in areas that he is familiar with. He also expressed dissatisfaction with management associated with certain drawing permits when he did not feel the numbers of harvestable moose were there.

Tom Prochazka was asked questions about the cost recovery aspects of Tutka Bay and Bear Lake. He also spoke about the fact there would only be a decrease in sockeye smolt release next year due to a lack of hatchery smolt. The smolt would only be coming from Bear Lake. He also said the Port Graham Hatchery might be operational in 2014 but more likely in 2015. This would be another cost recovery opportunity beyond Bear Lake reds.

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Comments suggested the AC members were not pleased with the killing of two black bears in town recently by police. One bear was inadvertently killed by a cracker shell fired in its direction. Perhaps the Chief of Police will come up with a tighter policy and training on how to effectively deal with bears in town.

The next scheduled Seward AC meeting will be November 7, 2013 at 1800 hours to discuss Cook Inlet sport fish proposals including controversial King Salmon bag limits. On November 14, 2013 at 1800 hours Game proposals will be discussed. F&G biologists should be able to assist us with deliberations at both of these sessions. [Motion Hubbard; Dubuc – Passed 8-0-0]

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm. [Hubbard, Casey]

Minutes created October 21, 2013
J. Herbert, Secretary

Minutes approved with minor edits at the meeting of November 7, 2013.
Submitted to Sherry Wright 16 November 2013
J. Herbert, Secretary