

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission
Regular Meeting: February 8, 2024
DSJ Building, Assembly Chambers/TEAMS
MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Andy Couch called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM

I. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Present:

Andy Couch

Peter Probasco

Gabe Kitter

Bill Gamble

Larry Engel

Howard Delo

Kendra Zamzow – arrived at 4:16 pm

Absent:

Jim Sykes

Tim Hale

Quorum was established.

II. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

AC read the land acknowledgement:

"We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Dene people, and we are grateful for their continued stewardship of the land, fish, and wildlife throughout time immemorial."

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

LE moved to approve the agenda; seconded by PP.

No objections, motion approved unanimously.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Chennery Fife – Trout Unlimited

Marc Lamoreaux – Native Village of Eklutna

Margaret Stern – Susitna River Coalition

Neil Dewitt – public

Stefan Hinman – MSB Public Affairs
Stephen Braund – ND Setnetters

VI. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Staff Report – Maija DiSalvo
Chair’s Report – AC
Waterbody Setback Advisory Board – KZ

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. BOF Planning

Discussion about Big Cabbage and KTNA radio shows, booklet distribution, group signups for BOF testimony, public work session, and additional meeting details.

LE moved to form a work group to prepare for and participate in a public work session via zoom and in person, consisting of AC, HD, and LE; seconded by HD.

No objections, motion passed unanimously.

B. NPFMC

KZ attended Science & Statistical Committee meeting; JS currently attending Advisory Panel discussions, both in Seattle, WA; KZ reported that in the future the focus to SSC should be more data-specific; SSC agreed they are concerned about overfishing but don’t have tools to deal with it before setting regulations this year. There was no discussion about gear type, TAC would apply to all users.

C. Eklutna Hydro Project

PP and GK gave reports regarding public meetings they attended; members of the public on both sides; Governor will make the final decision.

PP moved to resend original letter regarding the Eklutna Hydro Project, with a footnote referencing the original submission; seconded by LE.

No objections, motion passes unanimously.

D. Susitna Basin Recreational Rivers Plan Update

HD moved to designate AC and Maija (planning staff) to draft letter regarding Susitna Basic Rec Rivers Plan update, requesting comment deadline extension and expressing opposition to EO 134; seconded by KZ.

No objection, motion passes unanimously.

E. ADF&G Game Season Summary Planning

GK moved to request a game harvest summary from ADF&G that includes: harvest by species (sheep, moose, caribou, goat, black and brown bears, wolves), sex, GMU – 13, 14, 16 (broken down by subunit), participants, by year (20 years) that will be available ahead of the June Game Summary meeting; seconded by PP.
No objections, motion passed unanimously.

F. State Legislative Support for Weir/Scientific Study Funding

BG moves to send up to 3 commissioners to Juneau between March 1-15 to meet with legislators to discuss priorities, dependent on funding; seconded by LE.

KZ amendment: "...legislators and other relevant state and federal agency representatives...", seconded by LE.
No objections, amendment passed unanimously.

No objections, main motion passed unanimously.

VIII. MEMBER COMMENTS

LE – See everyone at BOF

PP – Will need to discuss who will travel to Juneau

BG – Happy to contribute

GK – If budget is tight, would be willing to sacrifice BOF time/funds for Juneau

AC – Good work folks, as usual; appreciate everyone contributing and having conversations; thanks to KZ for going to Seattle

KZ – thanks to everyone; a lot of work for all of us, thanks for pitching in; thanks to Jim for putting things together on the fly, thought he did a really good job with what he had in front of a potentially not very friendly audience; good learning experience; should consider lobbying at state and federal level

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, March 21, 2024 @ 4:00 pm – Assembly Chambers

X. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.



Andy Couch, FWC Chair

May 9, 2024

Date



Maija DiSalvo, Planning Division Staff

5/9/24

Date