

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission
Regular Meeting: September 26, 2024
DSJ Building, Assembly Chambers/TEAMS
Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Andy Couch called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Present:

Andy Couch

Peter Probasco

Gabe Kitter

Howard Delo

Larry Engel

Kendra Zamzow

Jim Sykes

Bill Gamble (arrived at 4:49 pm)

Absent:

Tim Hale

III. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

AC read the land acknowledgement:

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

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

HD moved to approve the agenda; seconded by LE.

HD amendment: remove the Aug 29th Minutes & West Su presentation from the agenda; seconded by LE.

No objections, amendment passed unanimously.

Main motion: No objection, motion passed unanimously as amended.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

LE moved to approve the August 22nd Special Meeting minutes; seconded by GK.

No objection, motion passed unanimously.

- VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person*)
Stephen Braund – Northern District Setnetters Association
June Okada – Susitna River Coalition, Energy Coordinator
Chennery Fife – Trout Unlimited
Neil Dewitt – member of the public
Dewey Bitler – discussed desire to adjust river otter trapping locations as a method to control invasive pike in salmon streams
Representative McCabe – appreciate invite to designate Stock of Concern; here to support the FWC efforts
Pete Imhoff – member of the public
Cory Byrd – local guide
Benjamin Americus – fish biologist with Chickaloon Native Village

VIII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

- A. Staff Report – Maija DiSalvo
AC will attend Assembly Meeting to provide support for Assembly Reso regarding stock of concern designations
- B. Chair’s Report – Andy Couch
- C. Waterbody Setback Advisory Board Update – Kendra Zamzow
- D. Unit 13 Nelchina Caribou Survey Info – Pete Probasco

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Board of Fisheries Planning

PP moved to approve letter in support of ACR 3; seconded by HD.

Bill Gamble arrived at 4:49 pm

No objection, motion passed unanimously.

Prince William Sound/Upper Copper Proposals – Comment Deadline November 26, 2024 – Keep on agenda; if see anything to address, bring it up at the next meeting

X. NEW BUSINESS

- A. ADF&G/NOAA Fishing Season Summary Meeting

Staff will coordinate early December meeting with ADF&G.

- A. Board of Game

Keep as ongoing agenda item, no action at this time.

B. Susitna Gas Exploration Licenses

Work Group (KZ, GK, JS) will write a letter using the previously written letter, additionally expressing FWC understanding the change of the need and concerns regarding gas exploration, and importance of plugging wells and DEC inspections; Work group will submit final comments on behalf of the FWC in advance of the October 7 deadline; FWC will wait until best interest findings come out to comment in more detail; seconded by LE.

No objection, motion passed unanimously.

C. Mat-Su Salmon Symposium

GK will present on behalf of the FWC.

II. MEMBER COMMENTS

JS – NPFMC meeting September 30-October 8; UCI not on agenda – board members were interested in what we had to say about kings and coho

JS directed to send thank you letter regarding appreciation of expertise and involvement.

LE – no comment

PP – Nelchina caribou objectives (way below); cold water refugia should be on a future agenda – request presentation from Sue Mauger

KZ – thank you for river otter idea regarding management of pike; continue to advocate for additional research – better picture of what is driving changes in kings and cohos; when will we get federal vs state fishery numbers? AC – sometimes a summary from the state, around this time of year

GK – no comment

AC – appreciate involvement; thank you to Rep. McCabe; thank you for river otter discussion

HD – thank you to Rep. McCabe; good discussions

III. NEXT MEETING DATE: October 24, 2024 – 4:00 pm Conference Room 203 (as amended)

PP moved to change October meeting date to October 24, 2024 at 4:00 pm; seconded by GK.

No objection, motion passed unanimously.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

JS moved to adjourn; seconded by KZ.

No objection, motion passed unanimously.

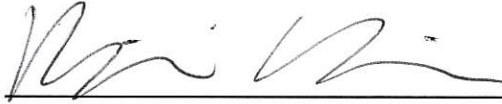
Meeting adjourned at 6:02 PM.



Andy Couch, FWC Chair

11-13-24

Date



Maija DiSalvo, Planning Division Staff

11/15/24

Date