

MSB FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION Regular Meeting: January 21, 2021 – Minutes

MSB Lower Level Conference Room //Teams Remote Participation Option

Minutes prepared by Ted Eischeid, Planner II

I. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; ESTABLISH QUORUM

- a. Call to Order at: 4:04 PM by Chair Mike Wood.
- b. Present: Mike Wood (MW); Howard Delo (HD); Larry Engel (LE); Tim Hale (TH); Tam Boeve (TB).
- c. Absent: None.
- d. Quorum (5 minimum): Quorum established.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- a. Moved by: *AC moved to approve the agenda as presented;*
- b. *Seconded by: TH*
- c. Motion result: ***Motion passed unanimously.***

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. December 17, 2020
 - i. *Moved by: HD;*
 - ii. *Seconded by: AC*
 - iii. Corrections? None.
 - iv. Motion result: ***Motion passed unanimously.***

IV. AUDIENCE INTRODUCTIONS & PARTICIPATION (3 min./person, chair's discretion)

- a. Peter Probasco, FWC Candidate.
- b. Steve Braund, NDSNCI
- c. Brad Sworts, staff
- d. Jesse Peterson, AIDEA.
- e. Kendra Zamzow, FWC Candidate.

V. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

- a. Staff report/correspondence
 - i. Brad Sworts/Jesse Peterson gave an update on the West Susitna Access Road project.

-Had virtual open house about a month ago, with supporting web site; went well.

- Update: getting up on the tail end of phase 2 with a finish by early March with deliverables coming soon. Virtual open house recording is available online. Finalizing wetland and preliminary engineering reports.

Looking to discuss phase 3 in early summer;

Pleased with the number of open house/meeting participants.

-TB: when you are compiling information, will we be seeing any attendance lists along with the specific comments made?; ANS: We have attendee list along with specific comments that will be made available in summary report; target date for info sharing is March;

-MW: Phase 3 discussion will be internal or open to the public? ANS: It will be a combination of both, depending upon further conversation with consultants and the MSB; it will be a work in progress after our phase 2 deliverables;

ii. Ted Eischeid gave a staff report.

1. MW: how can we impact Assembly on wetlands?

a. TH: one-on-one contacts/discussions.

b. TB: agrees with TH; appreciates Mayor's decision.

c. TH: some of the assembly members don't seem to understand relationship between wetlands and fish.

2. LE: Suggestion in making an informal contact with the new Mgr; set up a meeting with 3 or less FWC members to discuss main FWC issues with the MGR.

3. SN: maybe have an Assembly Workshop on wetlands prior to Assembly action? Would have to go through the manager.

4. TH: maybe put off wetlands to after budget deliberations?

5. TB: I myself and the Mayor have asked Mgr. Brown for a workshop; I anticipate something coming soon. Just want to make sure FWC is available for this.

6. AC: concerning what Tam just mentioned; since COVID and fisheries regulation have had an impact on my business, I'd chose the charter business over attending a wetland workshop if the two conflicted.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Alaska Board of Game Proposal – Comments and Actions

i. Discussion:

- a. HD: gave a summary of the committee work on BOG proposals by the committee consisting of HD, AC, and MW. Noted LE's motion to postpone BOG action until FWC has more information from ACs/ADFG. Perhaps a way forward is to put proposals in priority groups and just try to deal with the most critical ones; HD was going to do this, but didn't get it done; sounds like BOG is leaning towards delaying actions by a year because of COVID, and dealing with these issues in 2021-22; does anyone know what the BOG has decided on regarding a future meeting schedule?
- b. AC: I was talking to a game guide, he said they decided they would hold a meeting later this year to discuss antlerless moose hunts and brown bear fee exemptions; would provide an opportunity to comment to support/oppose that new proposals may be allowed next year; during the next cycle; additional note regarding comments from ACs/ADFG – ACs did submit comments, not sure why the minutes weren't available; ADFG had produced some comments, but they weren't approved by higher up as official ADFG positions;
- c. HD: the antlerless moose hunt and brown bear fee exemption issues need to be addressed by BOG this year or those things won't happen; the BOF is meeting January 25th I believe, and there is a concern if the two boards don't coordinate that they might generate dueling conflicting meetings.

ii. Moved by: ***AC moved that FWC table BOG proposal comments other than brown bear/antlerless moose issues for 2020/21 BOG cycle.***

iii. *Seconded by: HD*

iv. Discussion:

v. Action: ***Motion passed unanimously.***

ii. Moved by: ***AC for 2021/22 BOG cycle to allow new proposals or amendments to proposals already submitted this year.***

iii. ***Seconded by HD.***

iv. Discussion – AC: for some of the proposals submitted already this year, there is some interest for proposal submitters to clarify their proposals through resubmittal; HD: Agenda Change Request procedure for BOG will still be available according to their web site, although that won't do any good if they aren't actually having a meeting.

MW: what will happen, what will we end up doing, if this motion passes? I feel our time on BOG is kind of wasted at this point, and would prefer we not put a lot of time into this, and would instead we focus more on BOF. HD: all this motion would do is tell the BOG that we support a resubmission option, otherwise proposals will be frozen and it might be 4 years before someone can do something this with new proposals.

AC: what else the FWC might need to do? Perhaps write a letter to the BOG about our position and the action we are suggesting they take.

v. Action: ***Motion passed unanimously.***

How to write the letter to BOG: AC will do this and see if we have time to bring the letter back to FEB. FWC meeting for consideration.

ii. ANC Watershed and Natural Resources Advisory Committee Collaboration Action

i. Discussion:

a. Discussed options for further collaboration.

ii. Moved by: AC moved that chair MW and staff Ted Eischeid listen in to the WNRAC meetings with HD as an alternate to MW.

iii. Seconded by: *TH*

iv. Discussion: Ted will share calendar.

v. Action: ***Motion passed unanimously.***

iii. West Susitna Access Road Project Update

i. Action: ***None***

iv. Governor's Conservationist of the Year Award nominations

i. Action: **None.**

v. Vacant FWC positions for 2021

i. Discussion:

- a. Peter Probasco and Kendra Zamzow have submitted applications.
- b. MW reached out to several people;
- c. Peter Probasco introduced himself. MSB resident for many years; long time fisheries manager, also wildlife knowledge; LE – I've known Pete for many years, and I think he would be a great addition to the FWC/he grew up here, raised a family here, and has worked elsewhere; I strongly urge Peter to join our FWC; HD – I'd like to echo what LE said, I've known him for over 40 years, including down in Kodiak; he has an excellent fisheries and waterfowl background.
- d. Kendra Zamzow – I can't match what Pete has; I recently joined Chickaloon Tribe as an environmental scientists; I was a PWS commercial fisher along with some CI comm fish; I hope to bring a tribal perspective to the FWC. Has a Ph.D. in environmental chemistry, and has expertise in water quality issues. HD – I don't know Kendra, but I was impressed with her background as well as her bringing the native perspective to FWC. AC- our FWC has been looking at water quality, and we don't have that expertise in that, so Kendra could be a good addition, along with Pete; Pete was the commercial fisheries manager in Kodiak.

ii. Moved by: AC moved that Ted write a FWC resolution supporting KZ and PP

iii. Seconded by: HD

iv. Discussion:

v. Action: **Motion passed unanimously.**

ii. Motion: AC moved that we write thank you letters to our recent FWC members whose terms has ended: AA, RC, and BK.

iii. Second: TH

iv. Action: Motion passed unanimously.

HD: should we recruit Jim Sykes for ex officio FWC member?

TH: I can text him right now about it?

MW: Yes.

VII. Member Comments

- a. HD: I'd like to thank Pete and Kendra to serve on the FWC; it can be a pain at time, and busy during certain times; I'm glad you are offering your services.
- b. AC: ADFG has still not clarified what king salmon sport fishery regs for the MSB; might want to put this topic on the agenda for next meeting; request ADFG to clear up the king salmon options will be for next season for sport fishery; second, I talked to Jared at 3 Rivers/used to work at Chickaloon – he wanted us to know of his concern about harvest of large rainbow trout and arctic char from Big Lake and wanted this to made a catch and release fishery there for those species; individual members may want to make comment on state fish stocking plans/open for comment until end of this month; finally, thank you to Pete and Kendra.
- c. LE: the ice fishing on Finger Lake has been excellent there for landlocked salmon.
- d. TH: None.
- e. TB: Thanks Pete and Kendra
- f. TE: None
- g. MW: Be sure to let me know if there are any future agenda items you desire. I've been enjoying the light; glad to have two new people on the FWC – thank you.
- h. Neil – BOG gave a short update: 5:49 PM.


VIII. NEXT REGULAR MEETING – February 18, 2021, 4 PM; LLCR & Remote Options – AGENDA AND PRESENTATION IDEAS?

- a. WNRAC Collaboration
- b. AC: ADFG king salmon fishing regs for MSB sport fishery for upcoming season.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Moved by: TH
- b. Seconded by: LE
- c. Motion result: ***Motion passed unanimously.***

Meeting stands adjourned at: 5:51 PM.



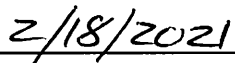
Mike Wood, Chair

Dated: 2/18/2021

ATTEST:



Ted Eischeid, Planner II Staff



Dated