

MSB FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION Regular Meeting: March 18, 2021 – Minutes

MSB Lower Level Conference Room //TEAMS Remote Participation Option

Minutes prepared by Ted Eischeid, Planner II

REGULAR MEETING 4 P.M. March 18, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; ESTABLISH QUORUM

Meeting called to order at 4:05 PM.

Roll Call:

Present: Howard Delo (HD), Tam Boeve (TB), Andy Couch (AC), Larry Engel (LE), Pete Probasco (PP), Kendra Zamzow (KZ).

Absent: Mike Wood (excused), Tim Hale

Quorum established.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Motion: Moved to approve; AC
- Second: LE
- Discussion: None
- Action: Passed unanimously without objection.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Feb. 18, 2021

- Motion: Moved to approve by AC
- Second: LE
- Discussion: Change Pet to PETE on p. 3
- Action: Passed as corrected without objection.

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

1. Bill Stoltze, Birchwood:

- Gave AK Legislative update.

2. Becky Long, Talkeetna, via phone: SB 97 – is opposed to this bill, especially the rec rivers repeal; feels FWC should weigh in on this issue; this bill is similar to last year's SB 204; a review of the rec river plan by an advisory group would take care of any issues; repeal of rec rivers would result in damaged rivers.

3. Steve Braund, Northern District Set Netters Association of Cook Inlet.

4. Jessica Speed, Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership.

V. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

- a. West Susitna Access Road Project Update – Brad Sworts and Jesse Peterson
- b. Staff report/correspondence- Ted Eischeid
- c. Supplemental Wetland Mitigation Ordinance presentation – Ted Eischeid
- d. Senator Scott Kawasaki – SB 44
 - i. Described SB 44.
 - ii. In Senate Resources committee; faces an uphill battle.
 - iii. We have been getting letters of support/comments. Need more, and need to continue this every year.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. West Susitna Access Road Project – Brad Sworts and Jesse Peterson

1. New docs on WSAR Project web site.
2. Provided update to Assembly last Tuesday on Phase 2
3. Have several deliverables up on project web page.
4. Have a recording of the virtual open house online.
5. Highlights of engineering:
 - a. Road about 100 miles long;
 - b. Parallels Donlin Pipeline route in part.
 - c. Cost ranges identified for project.
 - d. Working on phase 3 scope of work to present to Assembly in May.
 - e. Road corridor is an early proposal subject to change, especially due to environmental permitting requirements. Early stage work.
 - f. Will learn more if phase 3 goes forward.

2. Supplemental Wetland Mitigation Ordinance (SWMO)

1. PUBLIC HEARING – opened at 5:50 PM.
 - No Comments
 - Public hearing closed at 5:55 PM.
 - AC Moved resolution FWC 21-01 in support of the draft ; PP second.
 - Discussion:

- Amendment: PP moved an amendment to add the phrase “and other fish and wildlife” whenever the word Salmon/salmonid was used in resolution FWC 21-01; AC seconded.
 - Amendment passes unanimously
- Amendment: AC moved to add word “commercial” to packet p. 74, after the word “subsistence” on line two of the third WHEREAS on that page; PP seconded.
 - Amendment passed unanimously.
- Resolution FWC 21-01 passed unanimously as amended.

3. Federal Subsistence Board upcoming wildlife regulatory cycle/proposals

- Discussion: Shared GMU 13/14 federal subsistence board hunting reg maps;
 - PP did overview of federal subsistence board.
 - HD reviewed information from our February minutes regarding this issue.
 - AC: subsistence regulations are complicated; we have never had anyone from the public ask us to take this issue on as a commission; since these are oftentimes contentious issues I’d prefer we not deal with this.
 - PP: I concur with AC; we need to know specifics on South Central issues that impact the MSB before pursuing any actions.
 - HD: I don’t know I’d write it off as a topic to explore in the future; it is something we should keep an eye on it.
- Motion:
- Second:
- Discussion:
- Action:

VII. MEMBER COMMENTS

1. LE: none.
2. KZ: none.
3. TB: thank you to Ted for SWMO presentation; wasn’t able to listen to SB 97 testimony, but told by a constituent that the testimony by AC was excellent.
4. AC: referred to blue p. 25 in handout on UCI PU fishery harvest estimates for 2020; has info on the Susitna River PU fishery; also, talked to MW and wants to add agenda item: a consideration of how the emergency order to expand the set net fishery for coho is developed; wants to have a further discussion on this at our April meeting; had mentioned the desire to get

FWC members out on local rivers fishing this year; might have to use small groups due to COVID and OMA.

5. PP: good meeting.

6. HD: MW went to Farewell Burn area for bison hunting.

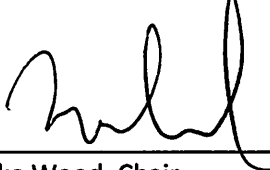
7. TE: will send new FWC orientation document I developed for new members to the whole FWC.

VIII. NEXT REGULAR MEETING – April, 2021, 4 PM – AGENDA AND PRESENTATION IDEAS?

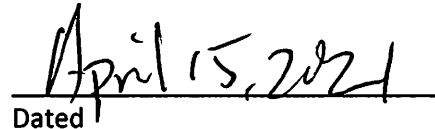
1. AC's Comment. Invite Brian Marston to present on this. AC will provide materials to Ted ahead of time.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- LE: moved to adjourn;
- PP: second
- Motion passed without objection.
- Meeting stands adjourned at 6:33 PM.



Mike Wood, Chair

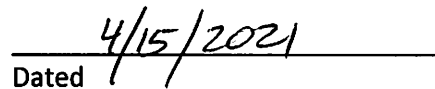


Dated

ATTEST:



Ted Eischeid, Planner II Staff



Dated