



## Alaska Board of Game

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### **Alaska Board of Game Committee Meeting on Sheep Management August 5 & 6, 2015 Atwood Conference Center, Anchorage Alaska**

#### ***Meeting Summary***

The Board of Game Committee on Dall sheep management met in Anchorage on August 5 and 6, 2015 at the Atwood Building Conference Center. The committee consists of three board members, Nate Turner, Stosh Hoffman, and Dave Brown with Teresa Sager Albaugh appointed as an alternate. The meeting was chaired by Nate Turner. Members Hoffman and Sager Albaugh attended the meeting in person and Dave Brown attended via teleconference. The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Alistair Bath, a renowned professional facilitator with expertise in resource management and public involvement in the decision making process. Director Bruce Dale, Assistant Director Tony Kavalok, Division of Wildlife Conservation, and James Van Lanen, Division of Subsistence, participated in the facilitated discussion with the board members led by Dr. Bath.

Meeting materials and background information are available on the committee meeting website at: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=sheepcomm.meetinginfo](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=sheepcomm.meetinginfo) along with the meeting audio excluding the breakout group discussions which were not recorded. Meeting attendees including agency representatives and members of the public are listed on page 3.

During both meeting days, Dr. Bath asked the committee to break into two groups to discuss goals, issues, and concerns with sheep management in Alaska. The meeting results of their discussions are portrayed on a series of flip charts (attachment A.) Membership of the groups alternated for each question. Specific questions the groups addressed included:

1. What are key issues with sheep management in Alaska.
2. What should the future of sheep management look like in the next thirty years?
3. What are the biggest obstacles and how should they be addressed?
4. What is working well with sheep management in Alaska?
5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a sheep working group?
6. What should the working group be able to do and not do?

Following the facilitated discussion on August 6, Tom Lohuis, Dall sheep researcher with ADF&G, provided a presentation on sheep mortality. Director Bruce Dale also provided the committee with information on sheep management challenges and concerns.

The committee agreed to establish a working group on Dall sheep management, which would be reported to the Board of Game at their August 7 teleconference. The next steps for the board committee will be to meet again to discuss the working group goals, authorities and membership. Dr. Bath will help the committee provide invitations to interest groups to designate representatives to serve on the committee.

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*Note: On August 7, 2015 the Board of Game endorsed the recommendation by the committee to establish a working group. The committee indicated its next meeting will be held in late October. Dr. Bath will continue interviewing interested groups and sheep hunters to gather input. Anyone interested in speaking to him can reach him at: [abath@mun.ca](mailto:abath@mun.ca) or by telephone 709-864-4733.*

## Meeting Attendance

### Committee Members

Nate Turner, Committee Chair  
Stosh Hoffman  
Dave Brown  
Teresa Sager Albaugh, Alternate

### ADF&G Staff

Bruce Dale, ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation  
Tony Kavalok, ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation  
Lem Butler, ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation  
Natalie Weber, ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation  
Lisa Olson, ADF&G, Division of Subsistence  
James Van Lanen, Division of Subsistence  
Kristy Tibbles, ADF&G, Boards Support Section  
Jessalynn Rintala, ADF&G, Boards Support Section

### Other Agencies

Seth Beausang, Department of Law  
Lt. Paul Fussey, Alaska Wildlife Troopers  
Rex Laith, Alaska Wildlife Troopers  
Ct. Bernard Chastain, Alaska Wildlife Troopers  
George Pappas, USF&WS, Office of Subsistence Management  
Suzanne Worker, USF&WS, Office of Subsistence Management  
Clarence Summers, National Park Services

### Public

Ted Spraker, Board of Game  
Deb Moore, AK Professional Hunters Association  
Thor Stacey, AK Professional Hunters Association  
Mark Richards, Alaska Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
Bob Mumford  
Nancy Bale  
Israel Payton, Mat Valley AC  
Rod Arno, Alaska Outdoor Council  
Matthew Morrison  
Karen Gordon

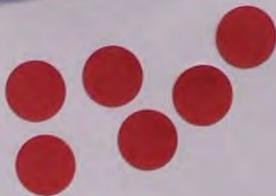
I KNOW WHY I AM  
HERE AT THIS  
WORKSHOP.

— —

—

+

+ +



RECENTLY MANY PUBLIC  
PROPOSALS → NEED  
FOR DISCUSSION

SHEEP HUNTING IS  
EXTREMELY IMPORTANT  
→ SUBSISTENCE &  
CUSTOMARY

IN PROCESS FOR YEARS  
• DISCUSSIONS NEEDS  
TO ADDRESS OLD PLANS  
• SOME PUBLIC INTEREST

QUESTIONS ABOUT ↓  
POP'NS & ↑ CONFLICTS  
→ NEED FOR FUTURE  
DIRECTION

NEEDS TO BE CHANGE  
FULL CURC DISCUSSION  
NEEDS TO OCCUR

SUPPORT FOR  
WORKING GROUP BY MANY  
→ WHAT DOES IT DO?  
→ INTERESTS?

①

WORK TOWARD UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING THE KEY ISSUES FACING SHEEP MANAGEMENT IN ALASKA.

UNDERSTAND THE CURRENT SITUATION

WHAT ARE THE KEY ISSUES?

WHAT ARE THE DISADVANTAGES OF CREATING A SHEEP TEAM/WORKING GROUP?

UNDERSTAND WHAT WE WANT FOR THE FUTURE

WHAT IS OUR VISION?  
→ OUR VALUES?

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF CREATING A SHEEP TEAM/WORKING GROUP?

WHAT QUESTIONS DO WE NEED TO ANSWER?  
→ REPRESENTATIVENESS?  
→ ROLES? → ETC?

WHAT ARE THE OBSTACLES TO ACHIEVING OUR VISION?

SPIN THESE OBSTACLES TO OUR OBJECTIVES

SPECIFIC  
MEASURABLE  
ATTAINABLE  
REALISTIC  
TIMED  
TARGETS

HOW DO WE ADDRESS THESE OBSTACLES?

DO WE NEED A SHEEP TEAM/WORKING GROUP?

OVERVIEW/ASSESSMENT OF THE EXISTING SHEEP SITUATION - SHARING OF EXISTING INFORMATION.

LISTEN, LEARN AND CONNECT TO ISSUES RAISED.

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# DISCUSSION RULES

FOR FLOWING  
AND EFFICIENT  
DEBATE/DISCUSSION

30 SECONDS SPEAKING  
TIME (APPROXIMATELY)

😊 EXPRESS 1 IDEA  
AT A TIME.

WRITE DOWN ALL  
IDEAS

7 WORDS ARE  
USUALLY ENOUGH

BUT NOT  
JUST KEY WORDS.

~~FLASH FOR OBJECTIONS,  
CLARIFICATION AND  
COMMENTS, ETC.~~

ADD COMMENT  
ON AN OVAL CARD

WILLINGNESS TO WORK IN  
SMALLER GROUPS AND WORK  
TOWARD SOLUTIONS.

SAYING "YES" WHILE  
THINKING "NO" JUST LEADS  
TO GREATER PROBLEMS  
LATER.

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IN THE BATTLE TOWARD UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING THE KEY ISSUES FACING SHEEP MANAGEMENT IN ALASKA, ARE WE:

LOSING

LOSING GROUND

GAINING THE UPPER HAND

WINNING

WHAT DARKENS THE PICTURE?

→ MAKES YOU PESSIMISTIC?

LOSS OF HUNTABLE LANDS  
(REDUCED ACCESS)  
→ MORE ON FED LAND

~~- NOT AS RESPONSIVE TO CURRENT SITUATION  
→ PUBLIC WANTS ACTION~~

~~Mgmt / Board of Game & Dept A F & G~~

~~Portion of public? Majority of public?~~

Portion of Public.

→ PUBLIC OUTCRY OVER CURRENT MANAGEMENT (FROM SOME)

Perception that "more sheep"  
will solve "all the problems"

- takes time
- hasn't been true in other cases

Portion of public with  
unchanged opinion regard-  
less of Date

Not universally  
true.  
eg. Not all big  
sheep killed.  
→ changed.

- DISEASE MONITORING  
& CONCERN

Possibility of  
southern diseases  
occurring in  
Alaska

Little  
monitoring but  
changing.

→ "UNLIMITED" NON-RESIDENTS

Perception  
of unlimited tags  
for non-residents

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tendency of portion of public to fight for status quo - regardless of risk to resource (opportunity)

Resource expenditure on this topic has impact on other needs

→ REDUCED OPPORTUNITY - HARSH WINTERS

Increasing sense of loss by portion of public (potential)

Fear that loss is coming.

Loss has occurred in past.  
→ bad winters

Both belong  
We'd would take action.  
→ fear.

- LACK OF CURRENT/COMPLETE DATA TO EVALUATE POP. + MGT.

- PUBLIC CONCERN OVER PREDATION ON SHEEP  
- GIVEN CURRENT SITUATION, EASY TO POINT FINGERS + BLAME OTHERS

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WHAT MAKES YOU  
OPTIMISTIC?

→ WHAT IS GOING WELL?

Some sense that diverse  
groups are finding common  
ground

Public has stepped  
forward through this  
process

INCREASED INTEREST  
IN SHEEP MGT.  
& CURRENT POPULATIONS  
BY SHEEP HUNTERS + OTHERS

WSF PRESENCE IN  
AK AGAIN - BRINGING  
ISSUE TO PROCESS

We have capable and  
interested folk interested  
in addressing issues

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INCREASED INTEREST BY PUBLIC HAS ~~LEAD TO~~ <sup>RESULTED IN</sup> THE DEPARTMENT SPENDING MORE TIME + RESOURCES ON SHEEP ISSUES

Public sees dept. and Board taking issue seriously

TWO RES BIOLOGISTS WORKING ON SHEEP

OPTIMISM - TAKING ACTION WITH THIS PROCESS

GIVEN a new focus toward sheep

Everyone now focused on sheep.

DATA FROM HARVEST + SURVEYS INDICATES MORE "LEGAL" RAMS REMAINING ON THE MTL

Public understanding of specifics has improved

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WHAT DO YOU WANT  
THE SITUATION TO  
LOOK LIKE IN 30 YEARS?

HAPPY HUNTER  
EATING SHEEP

ALL USERS  
ACCOMMODATED  
& HAPPY

LOTS OF SHEEP  
ON MTN.

FUTURE GENERATIONS  
(GRANDSON & SON)

ROBUST POPULATION

HUNTER & YOUTH  
→ HAVE HOPE  
SHEEP ON MTN.

HEALTHY HABITAT

ROOM FOR MORE  
CAMPS

OPPORTUNITIES  
BY MEANS OF  
TRANSPORTATION &  
METHOD

OCCURRING IN  
NAT'L PRESERVE

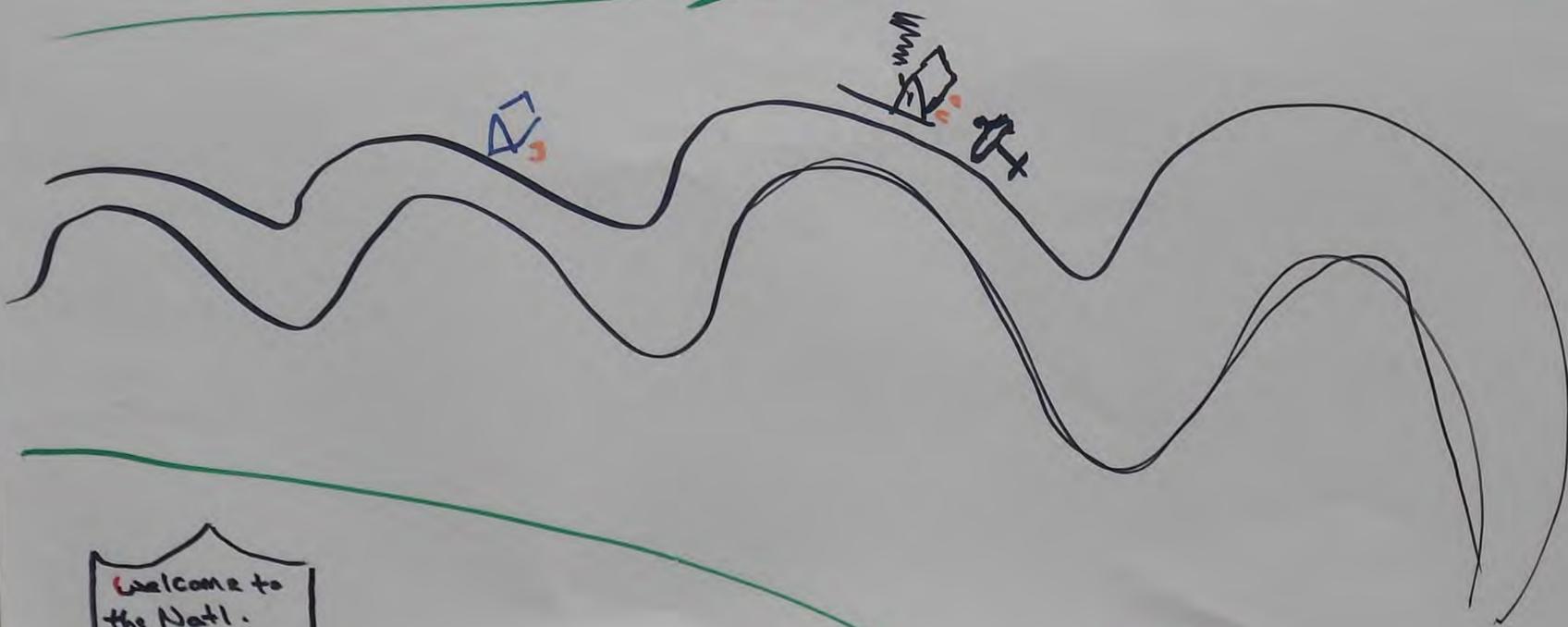
USERS SEPARATED  
BY TIME

TROPHY VALUE  
42" BEING  
MAINTAINED.

ng  
round

91

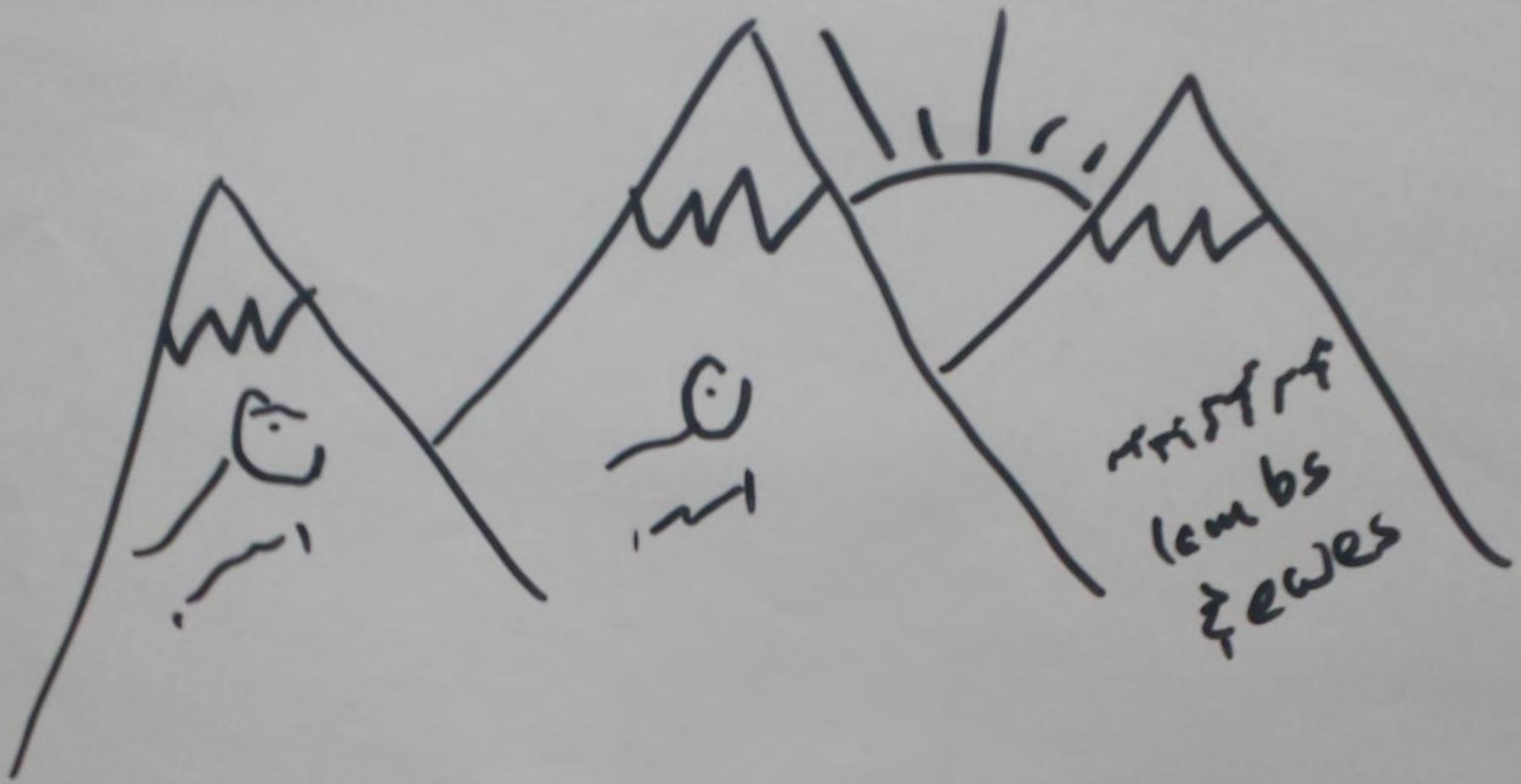




Welcome to  
the Natl.  
Preserve



11 DAVE



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# VISION

MANAGE SHEEP POPULATIONS AND HUMAN EXPERIENCES FOR DIVERSITY AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL FOR THIS GENERATION AND THOSE TO COME.

ENSURING DALL SHEEP HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES FOREVER AND FOR EVERYONE.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST OBSTACLES TO ACHIEVING THIS VISION?

1B

NATIONALLY INCREASED INTEREST IN SHEEP HUNTING INCREASING COMPETITION & DEMAND

Is it true?  
Finite # of places to go & guides.

4R 1B

LACK OF DESIRE TO CONSIDER OTHER OPTIONS & ALTERNATIVES

Conflicts between groups over management options

1R

WEATHER AS A LIMITING FACTOR TO SHEEP POPULATIONS

2B

Ability to Manage Sheep for desired Level of harvest

Limited tools & knowledge.

1R

Questions regarding  
Full Cwd Management

2R

Disagreement over the  
appropriate level of regulation  
for the Guide + Transportation  
Industries

Does it have  
a negative impact?

Understanding #  
of fawns leftover on  
Mtn - overharvesting  
or underharvesting?

INCREASING TECHNOLOGY  
e.g., LONG RANGE RIFLES, GPS,  
SMARTPH. APPS, DIGITAL MAPPING, AIRCRAFT  
CAPABILITY, etc.

2R

UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS  
OF SUCCESS BY HUNTERS  
- PER UNIT EFFORT

WHAT IS THE  
BIGGEST OBSTACLE?

2R, 2B

Reduced opportunity  
on Federal Lands

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WHAT IS THE BIGGEST  
OBSTACLE THAT YOU  
CAN DO SOMETHING  
ABOUT?

REDUCE CONFLICTS BETWEEN GROUPS  
OVER MANAGEMENT OPTIONS.

NEXT STEPS!

WHAT ARE THE  
DISADVANTAGES OF  
CREATING A SHEEP WORKING  
GROUP/TEAM?

WHAT ARE THE  
ADVANTAGES OF CREATING  
A SHEEP WORKING GROUP/  
TEAM?

WHAT QUESTIONS DO  
WE NEED TO ANSWER  
ABOUT THE NATURE OF  
SUCH A TEAM/GROUP?

DETERMINE  
APPROPRIATE LEVEL  
OF REGULATION FOR  
THE GUIDE AND  
TRANSPORTATION SECTORS.

MINIMIZE CONFLICT  
REGARDING  
INCREASING TECHNOL

UNDERSTAND EFFECTS OF WEATHER  
(E.G. ICE STORMS, ETC.) ON DALL SHEEP.

GENERATE TOOLS AND INCREASE  
KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SHEEP.

UNDERSTAND  
THE IMPACTS, IF ANY,  
OF FULL CURL  
MANAGEMENT

INCREASE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE ABOUT  
DALL SHEEP AND SHEEP MANAGEMENT.

WHAT ARE THE KEY  
TOPICS AND MESSAGES?

WHAT DO WE  
KNOW ABOUT  
EXISTING BELIEFS?

UNDERSTAND  
HUNTER  
EXPECTATIONS OF  
SUCCESS.

WHO ARE  
THE PUBLICS?

INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES ON  
FEDERAL LANDS.

DECREASE  
COMPETITION AND  
DEMAND IN SHEEP  
HUNTING.

# WHAT ARE THE DISADVANTAGES OF CREATING A SHEEP WORKING GROUP/TEAM?

SOME INTEREST GROUPS WILL STILL NOT BE SATISFIED

may not solve anything

Brown bear working group  
→ some successes do exist.

Mixed views about moose, western  
arctic ~~have~~ caribou,

Groups worked well in building relationships.

People continually oppose some of those groups.

TIME FRAME FOR MOVING FORWARD IS DELAYED - COMPLICATES

unnecessarily slows the process

Moving too quickly or stalling  
Have heard both

May need to take the time to keep public involved.

INCREASED STAFF RESOURCES & TIME

May stress already limited budgets

Could overcome this, if priorities set.

One group may dominate other views

Fear that some groups may be too vocal & thus not represented.

INCREASED COMPLEXITY  
IN DEVELOPING REGULATIONS  
& MGT. DIRECTION

Adds another layer → complicates process.

Working Group may weaken AC PROCESS

Strong comment from public.  
→ AC should be involved in some way.

Some groups may still feel not involved.

DISAGREEMENT  
WHETHER NON-BAG. MEMBS  
SHOULD BE EMPOWERED  
TO MAKE DECISIONS

Some ACs not focused on sheep. Some made up of fish people.

Board's job to do this.

Involve on AC issue on issues related to sheep.

Advantage Group may have more reps.

Striving to strengthen AC process.  
→ Need to be involved.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF CREATING A SHEEP WORKING GROUP/TEAM?

Compels dept. to gather more + better data

Recognition that sheep is now a higher priority.

MORE PEOPLE BECOME AWARE OF REGULATORY PROCESS

WITH MORE PEOPLE INVOLVED COMMUNICATION HAS IMPROVED IN A TRANSPARENT WAY

Added benefit  
→ New faces involved.  
→ Opportunity to share more info.  
→ Spin-offs

MORE PEOPLE GET TO BE INVOLVED IN THE DECISION PROCESS

Facilitates Discussion among diverse groups

Should result in mgmt that better represents public desire & informed decision.

Positive step toward understanding issues

This forum allows for a more detailed look at the issues

THIS PROCESS ALLOWS FOR MORE TIME TO BETTER UNDERSTAND + DEAL WITH THE COMPLEXITY

Venue Provides forum w/ a neutral facilitator leading

NEW APPROACH WAS NEEDED - THIS PROCESS HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL ELSEWHERE IN SOME CASES

Frustrated to keep putting in proposals but new process provides new way to be heard.

Brings State & Federal managers to the same table

Differences in approaches so any venue/opportunity to discuss preemptively

Will we move this idea forward by sub-committee?

YES

3-0

WHAT QUESTIONS  
DO WE NEED TO  
ANSWER ABOUT THE  
NATURE OF THE TEAM/  
WORKING GROUP?

What will be  
Produced

WHAT ARE THE  
LIMITS/SIDEBARDS  
FOR THE GROUP?

What Authority  
will this group  
have

WHAT IS THE LEVEL  
OF AUTHORITY GIVEN TO  
THE WORKGROUP

WHAT DO  
THEY DO?

What will be the group size?

DECIDE  
HOW DO YOU ~~THE~~ NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS?  
WHAT IS THE OPTIMUM NUMBER?

What is the time line

HOW IS THE WORKGROUP GOING TO BE MANAGED - TIME? PROCESS?

IS CONSENSUS THE ~~AN~~ APPROPRIATE GOAL?

WHAT ARE THE \$\$\$ RESOURCE LIMITATIONS TO THIS PROCESS?

How do we evaluate whether or not this is working?  
↳ Eval. tool?

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HOW DO WE DO IT?

SHOULD THERE BE  
REGIONAL  
REPRESENTATION?

ARE ONLY RESIDENTS  
COUNTED AS  
INTEREST GROUPS?

How will the  
AC's be  
represented/included

HOW IS THE WORKGROUP  
RELATED TO THE  
A.C. PROCESS

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How will members  
be selected  
- organized groups / indiv.

WHO ARE THE INTERESTED  
GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS?

Who should  
be included

HOW DO WE ASSURE  
THAT <sup>ALL</sup> VIEWPOINTS  
ARE CONSIDERED  
& BALANCED?

WHO IS IN IT?

WHAT SHOULD  
THE GROUP DO?

Should RECOMMEND  
ACTUAL changes to sheep  
REGULATIONS AND MANAGEMENT  
CANNOT RESULT IN STATUS quo

Keep open  
the possibility  
for all options.

A will to compromise somewhat  
should be FOUNDATIONAL to  
INVOLVEMENT in the working  
GROUP.

THE GROUP CAN MAKE  
RECOMMENDATIONS IN  
ALL MATERS

THE Diversity of Interest  
Group Views should be Heard  
And be WELL represented  
Via this working Group

Should cover ALL user  
Groups IN size w/o  
Becoming too  
CUMBERSOME

MEMBERS SHOULD  
IDENTIFY WHEN THEY  
ARE SPEAKING FOR  
SELF OR INT GRP

THE MEMBERS OF THE  
GROUP SHOULD BE  
ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE  
INTEREST GROUPS THEY REPRESENT

Agree on an OVERALL  
Vision AND commit to it -  
Do what it takes to  
MAKE IT HAPPEN

Group should use the Best  
Scientifically Based Data For  
Sustainability Minded  
Decision MAKING

THE GROUP SHOULD BE  
PROVIDED WITH THE BEST  
AVAILABLE DATA

THE GROUP SHOULD BE  
EMPOWERED TO INFORM  
THE DATA COLLECTION  
PROCESS

Group can  
make/ask for  
best available  
data & analysis.

WHAT SHOULD  
THE GROUP NOT  
DO?

This working Group  
Should not begin without  
A plan for <sup>an</sup> effective process  
AND timeline

Working group should not  
Fall into the Abyss  
of Politics

THE GROUP / MEMBERS  
SHOULD NOT SUBVERT  
THE PROCESS THROUGH  
ALTERNATE CHANNELS

Group Interests, Diversity,  
Should not be underrepresented

It should not  
Alienate ANY  
Interest group

Working Group should not  
Stray too far from the  
Legislative Mandate or BOG -  
Sustainable for budget and all matters

THE GROUP CANNOT  
HAVE FINAL SAY  
IN ALL MATTERS

SLEEPING

(26)