



Alaska Board of Game

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ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

Work Session

Anchorage, Alaska

January 10, 2019

MEETING SUMMARY

The Board of Game (board) convened the Work Session at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 10, 2019 in Petersburg at the Sons of Norway Hall. Six of seven board members were present: Chairman Ted Spraker, Vice-Chairman Nate Turner, Stosh Hoffman, Karen Linnell, Larry Van Daele, and Tom Lamal; one seat was vacant.

The meeting was open to the public for listening only. Meeting materials and audio are available online at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=01-10-2019&meeting=petersburg .

Election of Officers:

The board re-elected Ted Spraker to serve as Chairman and Nate Turner as Vice-chairman.

Agency Reports and Updates:

The following agency updates were provided:

- Ryan Scott, Assistant Director, Division of Wildlife Conservation (*Audio log: 09:10:47*)
- Lisa Olson, Director, Division of Subsistence (*Audio log: 09:28:47*)
- Kristy Tibbles, Boards Support Section (*Audio log: 09:33:39 AM*)
- Cheryl Brooking, Department of Law (*RC 7; Audio log: 09:33:39 AM*)
- Lt Aaron Frenzel, Alaska Wildlife Troopers (*Audio log: 09:33:39 AM*)

Board Committee Assignments:

Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB): Member Van Daele agreed to continue representing the Board of Game on the Big Game Commercial Services Board. He provided an update of the BGCSB's activities over the past year which is available in the RC 1 meeting workbook. (*Audio log: 10:30:18 AM*)

Approval of the 2019/2020 Meeting Dates & Location: (*Audio log: 10:41:11*)

The board set the following meeting dates and locations for the 2019/2020 meeting cycle:

- Work Session: January 16, 2020, Nome
- Arctic/Western Region: January 17-20, 2020, Nome

- Interior/Northeast Region: March 6-14, 2020, location to be determined at the next meeting. The board requested the executive director to provide information for options for meeting locations such as Fort Yukon, Galena, and McGrath.

Board Findings for Allocating Nelchina Caribou Hunting Permits (*Audio log: 01:33:33*)

The board received a presentation (RC 6) from ADF&G on Nelchina caribou harvest plans and was provided a memo (RC 5) outlining the previous hunting season harvest and allocation, and the 2019 projected harvest and allocation. The board asked the department to prepare draft board findings for allocating Nelchina caribou harvest based on the board's action at the Central/Southwest Region meeting in February 2018, and the board discussion at the November 2018 teleconference and the current meeting. That draft findings are scheduled for consideration under miscellaneous business for the Southeast Region meeting on January 15.

Drawing Permits: Discussion for Allowing Permits to be Returned by a Deadline Without Penalty (*Audio log: 01:33:33*)

Assistant director Ryan Scott and Natalie Weber, Regulations Program Coordinator provided information to the board on the impacts and complexities for establishing a system to allow permit holders to return permits by a set deadline, to be reissued to other applicants. The department will bring the board draft regulatory language for a few options at the next work session, scheduled for January 16, 2020.

Board Suggestions for the Department on Photo Guidelines for the Hunting Regulations Booklet (*Audio log: 02:54:50*)

Chairman Spraker led the discussion about the photos printed in the regulations booklet (handy dandy) expressing some concern about the occasional use of photos of very young hunters next to big game animals and photos exhibiting unsafe firearm handling. The board suggested the department to utilize more pictures depicting other aspects of hunting such as field dressing and meat processing, modes of transportation, camp sites, and the family and cultural experience of hunting. Natalie Weber, Regulations Program Coordinator summarized the department's process and guidelines for selecting photos which takes into consideration the same concerns. She commented that 90% of the photos are of youth hunters sent in by proud parents, and many pictures received to not meet the standards for printing quality.

***Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (M. Ovi) Surveillance and Research and the Sheep and Goat Working Group Update** (*Audio log: 04:15:28*)

Assistant Director Ryan Scott provided a brief overview to the board on M. Ovi research and the results of the ongoing *M. ovi* testing (RC 04). The department will continue provide updates about research and testing to the board at future meetings.

Chairman Spraker updated the board on the status of the working group which met December 16, 2018 and January 5-6, 2019. The December meeting summary is provided in RC 2; the January summary was not available. The working group was unable to come to agreement on the conditions each side was asking for protecting wild sheep and goat populations in Alaska, and decided not to continue with holding future meetings. The working group facilitator, Heather Bergman is scheduled to provide a report to the board at the March 2019 Southcentral Region meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:40 p.m.