

**RC61**

**Paxson Fish and Game Advisory Minutes of October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

The Paxson Advisory Committee met on at 6:00 pm., Monday Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> at Paxson Lodge.

A quorum was present with Chair John Schandelmeier, Vice-chair Gary Alcott and members, Mark Schlenker, Lee Harper and Alan Echols also attending.

Several members of the public and a representative from ADF&G Glennallen were also in attendance.

The agenda included an Agenda Change Request proposal concerning the Community Hunt for moose and caribou, comments on the proposal in front of the Joint Board concerning Advisory chair attendance during BOG deliberations, and the reauthorization of cow moose hunts in Unit 13.

The first item discussed was the ACR concerning Community Hunts. We will be submitting an ACR based on the premise that the current regulation has had unanticipated effects.

Item #2 was the cow hunts authorized for Unit 13A. There is some question whether or not the BOG has/had the authority to go ahead with the current hunt. Regulation requires the majority of active Advisory Committees within the Unit to authorize the hunt. At this point it appears that only Tok-Nabesna and Copper Basin authorized the hunt. Paxson opposed and Cantwell did not discuss it. The PF&G advisory authorized the chair, John Schandelmeier to investigate further and take appropriate action.

Discussion centered around credibility of the Board in following their own regulations, and also on the seeming lack of concern for Advisory committee testimony. We feel the cow hunt is tied directly to the intensive predator management program and that it needs to be addressed with that in mind. Mark Schlenker reiterated his testimony at the winter 2013 Board of Game meeting and the response he received.

**JOINT BOARD PROPOSALS Item #3; Proposals 28 and 29 concerning allowing Advisory committee chairs or representatives to sit in on Board deliberations.**

Our committee unanimously supports both of these proposals. None of our members see any downside to this proposal. We talked about the ADF&G comment that this would cost the private citizen more money and time. Consider the time and expense our members at Paxson spend now. Most of our members drive over 100 miles to attend our meetings at Paxson. We buy our own fuel, sometimes not getting back home until after midnight. We care enough about issues to absorb those costs. We are willing to handle the expenses necessary to attend a longer Board session. Cost to the State? A ridiculous premise. The State spends a terrific amount now or per diem etc. for it's employees involved in other aspects of government. The cost associated with advisory attendance at Board deliberations would be relatively minor. Nor---are we necessarily suggesting the State of Alaska cover these

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expenses. Motivated individuals who care about the health of our eco-system would pay their own expenses without complaint.

At this time the Board of Game in particular has seemed to divorce themselves from Advisory Committee input. Advisory Committees now have no way to directly contact Board members other than e-mail or a letter, which is impersonal, time-consuming and not open to communication about questions that may arise.

After all—what does a BOG or BOF member from Juneau know of the Kotzebue regions concerns? Likely very little, nor can they be expected to remember all of the public testimony presented. Also, Board members are sometimes not present for the entire public testimony. Having Advisory chairs or their representatives available for questions during Board deliberations would be invaluable in formatting informed, logical and reasonable regulations. The Paxson Advisory Committee strongly urges the Joint Boards to adopt Proposal 28 or 29 in some form.