

Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**Thursday, January 14, 2021 via Zoom**

Via web conference:

<https://zoom.us/j/94055905597?pwd=WXNNVVZQZkoxU1lrT3Q4RmljWWZ4dz09>

OR

Via teleconference: +1 253 215 8782

Meeting ID: 940 5590 5597**Passcode:** 907

1. Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:01 pm.
2. Establish a Quorum: 13 members present; quorum established by Chair.

Members Present:

1. Kevin Taylor
2. Martin Weiser
3. Willow Hetrick
4. Rick Rogers
5. Jim Nabulsi
6. Shawna Buchannan
7. Neil DeWitt
8. Matt Moore
9. Tyler Loken
10. Georgie Heaverley
11. Bryce Eckroth
12. JR Gates
13. Joel Doner

Members Absent Excused: None

Members Absent Unexcused:

1. Lynette Hinz
2. Phillip Calhoun

3. List of User groups present: Mark Richards, Resident Hunters of Alaska & Fairbanks Advisory Committee.
4. Introduce Fish and Game staff present: Charity Lehman (Board Support) and Jay Baumer (Southcentral Region Fishery Biologist III)
5. Public present: Katie Herzner, Erin Shew, Scott Crowther
6. Approve the Agenda: Neil DeWitt motioned; Tyler Loken seconded. Carried unanimously.
7. Approve the November 10, 2020 minutes: Neil DeWitt motioned, Shawna Buchannan. Carried unanimously.
8. Public testimony: Mark Richards, Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK) & Fairbanks Advisory Committee (FBX AC). RHAK put in a request to the Board of Game to limit non-resident allocation of the DC827 caribou permit to no more than 10% of the permits be allocated to non-residents. Non-residents have historically received ~25% of the permits for this hunt. Department

changed proposal against AC input. RHAK is asking for Anchorage AC support to the Board of Game does not change the intent of the proposal (proposal #146 at regional meeting this past spring); suggest either voting it down or generating a board generated proposal. Mat-Su AC voted unanimously in support of the RHAK's efforts. JR Gates read the draft letter into the record to the Anchorage AC for consideration.

JR Gates motioned a short letter referencing the RHAK letter in support; Martin Weiser seconded. 12 support, 0 opposed, 1 abstain. See letter at end of meeting minutes.

9. Committee Reports: None

10. Old Business: None

11. New Business

1. Prepare comments for the Joint Board Committee meeting, re: Board schedules in light of Covid-19. Language is provided below:

It is our opinion that Board of Fish and Board of Game meetings work best when the public and the Advisory Committees can provide input and feedback freely and in person. We think it will be extremely difficult to have meaningful meetings and discussions with the current format that is allowed. Zoom will not work when there are multiple groups and hundreds of individuals that want to participate. The impact of public testimony will be minimized when done with video.

The COVID 19 virus remains highly contagious and state medical experts still do not have it under control. The entire state of Alaska has been adversely impacted and it will be months before we return to anything resembling normal if ever. The vaccine timeline is still in flux and it might take 6-9 months before that is completed.

The Anchorage AC is in favor of taking a pause with Board of Fish and Board of Game meetings for this cycle and moving everything back a year. Meetings should be postponed until Alaskans can safely meet and travel to the communities throughout the state. It is difficult to have AC meetings via Zoom, we cannot imagine trying to hold a Board meeting with this venue.

We also realize that there may be some proposals that cannot be paused like the cow moose hunt authorizations. We will participate in whatever methods are designed to cover the issues that cannot be postponed for a year (i.e., antlerless moose reauthorizations and brown bear fee tag exemptions).

The Anchorage AC suggests that the Department consider accepting new proposals per each regulatory cycle as there will be new information and data to consider when Board of Fish and Board of Game meetings are postponed for a year..

Martin Weiser made motion to approve the letter as written accept as amended to accept new proposals and identify which Board meetings being referred to; Matt Moore seconded. 13 support, 0 opposed, 0 abstain.

12. Adjourn: 6:38pm.

The next regular Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee meeting is TBD.

April 22, 2020

To: Alaska Board of Game

From: Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK)

Re: For consideration during the January 21, 2021 Work Session meeting to be held in Wasilla

Dear Board Members,

RHAK had initially drafted this as a proposal for the 2021 Statewide meeting, and in discussion with Executive Director Tibbles, she felt this may be the best avenue to approach a proposal to adopt a Finding or Policy. However, we certainly don't want this to get denied for the Work Session and/or lost in the myriad of other issues that will come before the board during the Work Session.

Here's what we want to address, and this is from our original proposal draft for the Statewide 2021 meeting:

Amendments to Proposals submitted by the public that run completely contrary to the original proposal

At the last Region III BOG Meeting in 2020, Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK) submitted a proposal (#146) to limit the number of nonresident hunters being awarded the DC 827 caribou draw permit, asking that no more than 10 percent of the permits be awarded to nonresidents, and a minimum of 90 percent of the permits to residents. At that time the DC 827 caribou draw permit was open to all equally, and due to an influx of hunt booking agents flooding the draw permit application pool nonresidents were typically receiving 25 percent of the permits, which we strongly disagreed with.

When the Board deliberated our proposal, they successfully amended and passed it guaranteeing nonresident caribou hunters at least 25 percent of the DC 827 permits.

This decision was the complete opposite of the intent of our proposal! The Board could have just voted down our proposal, allowing hunt bookers to continue to flood the application pool for the DC 827 caribou permit leading to the same high nonresident percentage of awarded permits. Instead, they forever guaranteed nonresidents a minimum of 25 percent of those permits.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries has Standing Rules that address this issue in their Finding #91-128-FB1, and in that Finding it states: "Do not change or reverse the

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<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/findings/ff91128x.pdf>

intent of a proposal/issue. For example, if a proposal's intent is to restrict a particular fishery and the board wishes to close or expand the fishery, the board will not amend the original proposal. The board will defeat, table or take no action on that proposal and then develop a board generated proposal to accomplish the action they feel is needed."

We would like to see the Board of Game adopt a similar Finding or Policy or Standing Rules governing amendments that change or reverse the intent of public proposals, as happened with RHAK proposal #146 at the Region III 2020 meeting.

We understand that amendments to public proposals are often necessary for clarification, and that minor changes are often warranted. We are not asking that the Board not be allowed to make

amendments to proposals. But these kinds of amendments that take the complete opposite position of the proposer should not be allowed.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mark Richards Executive Director Resident Hunters of Alaska (907) 371-7436