

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**  
**MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission**  
**Regular Meeting: January 11, 2023**  
**MINUTES**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Andy Couch called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Present:

Andy Couch (AC)

Peter Probasco (PP)

Gabe Kitter (GK)

Howard Delo (HD)

Bill Gamble (BG)

Kendra Zamzow (KZ)

Jim Sykes (JS)

Larry Engel (LE) – Arrived at 4:04 pm

Absent:

Tim Hale

A quorum was established.

III. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Land acknowledgement was read by Andy Couch:

*"We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Dene people, and we are grateful for their continued stewardship of the land, fish, and wildlife throughout time immemorial."*

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**HD moved to approve the agenda, seconded by BG**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

V. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 16, 2023, Regular Meeting

**HD moved to approve the November 16<sup>th</sup> minutes, seconded by PP**

**Amendment: p. 6 – added text, "while opening up time for drifters"**

**Motion passed unanimously as amended.**

- B. December 7, 2023, Special Meeting  
HD moved to approve the December 7<sup>th</sup> minutes, seconded by PP  
Amendment: p. 12 added text: “go away”  
Amendment: p. 13 “they” listen instead of “you”  
Motion passed unanimously as amended.
- C. December 14, 2023, Regular Meeting  
KZ moved to approve the December 14<sup>th</sup> minutes, seconded by HD  
Amendment: p 16 “Eklutna continues to fight”  
Motion passed unanimously as amended.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Dan Suprak – guide with AK Chinook Charters  
Stefan Hinman – MSB Public Affairs  
Chennery Fife – Trout Unlimited  
Marc Lamoreaux – Native Village of Eklutna  
Neil DeWitt – member of the public  
Stephen Braund – Northern District Setnetters

VIII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

- A. Staff Report – Maija DiSalvo  
B. Chair’s Report – AC

- Little Su Sport Harvests  
Declines in sport harvest over 20 years look like stock of concern levels; LE had also mentioned entire susitna drainage could be listed for chinook, hardly any yield in last 5 years
- BOF Processes – Traditional Knowledge  
BOF having review, will be a virtual meeting; Kodiak was the first time had this opportunity; written report online
- DeLena Johnson re: Weir funding  
Discussion on priority funding projects and timeline on making requests to legislators; BG identified early March as an ideal time, and the importance of having specific projects and costs outlined; will be added to Feb 8<sup>th</sup> agenda.

- C. Waterbody Setback Advisory Board - KZ  
KZ reported on the first three meetings and discussions thus far; will follow up to commission as needed.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Board of Fisheries Planning

Comment Deadline is February 8<sup>th</sup> and 2024 It Takes Fish to Make Fish booklets are in

i. Outreach/Communications

Stefan Hinman reported on current outreach strategy for BOF. Request was made for staff to contact Art Nelson regarding livestreaming and online public comment. KZ requested utilizing Big Cabbage radio, Stefan will follow up.

ii. Partner Organizations

Discussion about sharing It Takes Fish to Make Fish booklet with local organizations and also what groups the FWC may work with during BOF. Discussion about developing a work group to tackle outreach and conversations with those organization, recognizing that the FWC would need to finalize positions first.

iii. Priority UCI Proposals

**PP moved to form a work group of three to develop the planning process to address management concerns to support and oppose, which would include PP, GK and LE, seconded by GK  
Motion passed unanimously.**

iv. Emergency Petition – Stocks of Concern

Requested to add to a future agenda, not adequate time to address before this BOF meeting

B. Eklutna Hydro Project

GK and PP have attended public meetings; will revise original FWC letter and have ready for FWC to review and approve at the next meeting.

C. NOAA Fisheries

i. Alaska Salmon Research Task Force

ii. NPFMC: Science & Statistical Committee

Waiting on release of draft Cook Inlet Salmon SAFE Report, staff will share with FWC once posted; FWC can use info from upcoming virtual meeting to advise next steps

iii. NPFMC: Council – Feb 8-12/Advisory Panel – Feb 6-9

JS and PP will listen to Jan 19<sup>th</sup> virtual meeting and will report back

**JS moves to send a commission member to Seattle for NPFMC meeting, seconded by HD**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- D. Beaver Meadows Subdivision  
No updates from DNR at this time

X. NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2024 Elections – Chair and Vice Chair

**GK nominates AC for Chair, seconded by PP  
PP moved for unanimous consent, seconded by JS  
Motion passed unanimously.**

**LE nominated PP as Vice Chair, seconded by KZ  
JS moved for unanimaous consent, seconded by PP  
Motion passed unanimously.**

- B. ADF&G Game Season Summary Meeting Planning

**PP moves to hold an ADF&G Game Season Summary meeting the first week of  
June, seconded by HD  
Motion passed unanimously.**

- C. Susitna Basin Rec Rivers Management Plan

Comment period on public review draft is open until March 5; public meetings  
between Jan 29-Feb 1. TU is working on summary of changes. Requested to add  
to next agenda.

XI. MEMBER COMMENTS

Peter Probasco – thank you to Gabe and Andy for stepping up  
Gabe Kitter – excited for BOF  
Howard Delo – compliment to Maija and Stefan in booklet preparations  
Larry Engel – No comment  
Bill Gamble – send copies of boolets to cc’s and get out to public  
Kendra Zamzow – Chickaloon loved the booklet  
Jim Sykes – thanks to group for stepping up; GK for reading proposals; BG for stepping  
up, good time to get involved  
Andy Couch – name on proposal to rearrange palmer Wasilla zone to allow pike fishing  
in spring down to big lake; ADFG suggested working together to readjust amended  
language

XII. NEXT MEETING DATE:

February 8, 2024 @ 4:00 pm – Regular Meeting  
**Jim Sykes moved to schedule a special meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm to discuss**

**Board of Fisheries UCI Proposals, NPFMC, and Susitna Rec Rivers Plan Update,  
seconded by BG  
Motion passed unanimously.**

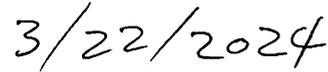
XIII. ADJOURNMENT

**HD moved to adjourn, seconded by JS  
Motion passed unanimously.**

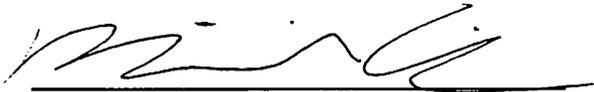
*Meeting stands adjourned at 6:23 pm*



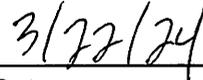
Andy Couch, FWC Chair



Date



Maija DiSalvo, Planning Division Staff



Date