

BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Via Teleconference based on public health and safety restrictions in effect due to
COVID-19
October 26-27, 2021

Invocation

Lary Hill gave an invocation.

Call to Order, Roll Call and Quorum Establishment

The meeting was called to order Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 8:43 AM. Council members Dan Dunaway, Lary Hill, Nanci Morris Lyon, William Trefon, and Richard Wilson were present via teleconference. Samantha Herrick moved out of the Bristol Bay Region and is no longer a member of the Council. The Council currently has 4 vacant seats. A quorum was established with five of six seated Council members participating by phone. Ms. Robbin La Vine served as acting Council Coordinator.

Attendees participating via teleconference:

- Chignik InterTribal Coalition: George Anderson
- Curyung Tribe: Courtenay Carty
- Nondalton Tribal Council: Daren Carltikoff
- Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA): Gayla Hoseth, Cody Larson, Renee Roque, and Heidi Kritz
- Bureau of Indian Affairs: Dr. Glenn Chen
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): Jon Gerken and Jill Klein (Anchorage); Danny Moss and Bill Smith (Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuges (NWR), King Salmon); Frank Harris (Kenai); Vince Mathews (Fairbanks); Kenton Moss, Pat Walsh, and Andy Aderman (Togiak NWR, Dillingham)
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM): Walker Gussie, Bruce Seppi, and Bonnie Million (Anchorage)
- National Park Service (NPS): Chris Ryan (Katmai National Park and Preserve (NP&P)), Alagnak Wild River and Aniakchak National Monument (NM) and Preserve; Linda Chisholm (Aniakchak NM); Mark Sturm and Leslie Skora (Aniakchak NM and Katmai NP&P); Dylan Patterson (Anchorage); Lisa Rupp and Susanne Fleek-Green (Lake Clark NP&P); and Troy Hammond (King Salmon)
- U.S. Forest Service: Greg Risdahl (Anchorage)
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G): Bronwyn Jones (Anchorage); Mark Burch and Todd Rinaldi (Palmer); Rick Merizon; Dave Crowley (King Salmon); and Ryan Scott (Juneau)

- Office of Subsistence Management (OSM, USFWS): Orville Lind, Robbin La Vine, Katya Wessels, Lisa Grediagin, Pippa Kenner, Brent Vickers, Kendra Holman and Jarred Stone
- KDLG Radio: Izzy Ross
- Alaska Seafood Cooperative: Mark Fina and Chris Woodley
- At-Sea Processors Assn.: Stephanie Madsen

Election of Officers

The Council held an election for the Chair to complete the remaining term of one year. Based on a motion by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Hill, Nanci Morris Lyon was unanimously elected Chair.

Review and Adopt Agenda

Motion by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Larson, to adopt the alternate agenda as read. The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by Vice-Chair Dunaway, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to approve the winter 2021 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member and Chair Reports

Vice-Chair Dan Dunaway of Dillingham reported that he would like to acknowledge the passing of Ralph Anderson. Mr. Anderson has been very instrumental in the work of this Council. They had bumper salmon returns last summer. There were concerns about the low number and small size of Chinook Salmon in the Nushagak. He said that he wasn't sure how to rate the subsistence hunt for moose last fall. He knew that people were pretty successful, but overall didn't know how to view it. One aspect that has changed for non-Tribal Dillingham residents is that Curyung Tribal Council closed their lands to berry picking and hunting. These lands are still open to hiking. He welcomes any corrections.

Mr. Richard Wilson of Naknek noted that they had a busy summer. There were challenges with COVID-19 in the communities. Fish ran late on their side of the Bay, but the return was decent. We can see a bit more ptarmigan around, and that is good. The Moose season was pretty good depending on the area. He is interested in permit reports.

Mr. Lary Hill of Iliamna reported that moose hunting was pretty successful. Some areas were better than others. There were a lot of fish despite the late return, and they got more fish into the lake. There were a lot of carcasses building up on the beaches and lots of bears. A group of bears arrived later in the season that were not as well fed. He saw one ptarmigan last summer. They still see lots of trespass on private lands and Tribal allotments by guides and hunters, and would like to see less of that. COVID-19 issues have led him to be a hermit.

Mr. Billy Trefon of Nondalton was on fire assignments all summer. Salmon returns continue to be strong. There were more bears than usual, but they didn't bother people in the village. He has no knowledge of small game, but there are lots of grouse. Moose are being affected by air traffic and sport hunting has been limited on the Chilitna, and success is also limited.

Chair Nancy Morris Lyon of King Salmon also recognized Ralph Anderson's huge contribution to the region. She asked for a moment of silence in his honor. There are major concerns for the Chigniks. There are concerns about shorebird die-offs; she is looking forward to updates. There are lots of bears.

Old Business

2021 805(c) Report Summary

Ms. La Vine presented the 805(c) report to the Council.

Board's FY-2020 Annual Report Reply Summary

Ms. La Vine presented a summary of the Board's comments on the Annual Report process. She thanked the Council for the concerns in the Bristol Bay Region through the Annual Report.

New Business

Wildlife Proposals and Closure Reviews

Regional:

WP22-39: Hare. Units 9 and 17. Establish season/harvest limit for Alaska hare. Ms. Kendra Holman presented the analysis. The proposal requested the establishment of a harvest limit of 1 hare per day and 4 person, and to establish a season from November 1 through January 31. Motion by Vice-Chair Dunaway to support the proposal, seconded by Mr. Wilson. The motion was amended by Vice-Chair Dunaway, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to change the end date for the Alaska hare season to March 31. The motion to amend and the original motion as amended passed on a unanimous vote. The Council notes that the number of Alaska hares being seen in recent years has decreased, and they appreciate the effort to be attentive to the population. The Council stated that Alaska hare is a winter resource and that as winters are starting later in the year, an extension of the proposed season is reasonable.

WP22-40: Wolf, wolverine. Units 9B, 9C, 17B, 17C. Allow use of snowmachines for positioning animals. Ms. Robbin La Vine presented the analysis. Motion by Vice-Chair Dunaway to support the proposal with the OSM modification, seconded by Mr. Trefon. The Council supported the OSM modification stating that this would help with hunting by improving access to animals. However, the Council found the language OSM used to clarify "Assist in the taking of a wolf or wolverine" too confusing. After discussion, Chair Lyon proposed to modify the language clarifying that a snowmachine may be used to approach a wolf or a wolverine, but when you are within 300 yards, your speed must be at or under 15 mile/hour. The proposed regulatory language as amended by the Council would be as follows: *(D) In Unit 17, on Federal-managed lands, a snowmachine may be used to assist in the taking of*

a wolf or wolverine and a wolf or wolverine may be shot from a stationary snowmachine. "Assist in the taking of a wolf or wolverine" means a snowmachine may be used to approach a wolf or wolverine but when you are within 300 yards, your speed must be at or under 15 miles per hour. A snow machine may be used in a manner that does not involve repeated approaches or that causes the animal to run. A snowmachine may not be used to contact an animal or to pursue a fleeing animal. With this clarification, the Council voted unanimously to support WP22-40 as modified by OSM.

WP22-41: Caribou. Units 9, 17, 18, and 19. Delegate authority to announce harvest limits, set sex restrictions, and open/close seasons. Ms. Kendra Holman presented the analysis. Motion by Vice-Chair Dunaway to support as submitted. He noted that he liked the language by the YKDRAC and encouraged local consultation. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. The Council voted unanimously to support WP22-41. The Council notes that the number of Alaska hares being seen in recent years has decreased, and they appreciate the effort to be attentive to the population. The Council stated that Alaska hare is a winter resource and that as winters are starting later in the year, an extension of the proposed season is reasonable.

WCR22-05: Moose. Unit 9C. Naknek River – December closure to non-Federally qualified users. Ms. Kendra Holman presented the analysis. Vice-Chair Dunaway made a motion to maintain status quo, and Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Council believes that there appears to be available moose for harvest in December. However, the population may not be high enough for the elimination of the closure to be sustainable. The Council agrees that maintaining the subsistence priority should continue.

WCR22-07: Caribou. Unit 17. Nushagak Peninsula – closed to non-Federally qualified users unless population exceeds 900 caribou. Ms. Kendra Holman presented the analysis. Vice-Chair Dunaway made a motion to maintain status quo, and Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Council admires how the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge manager uses the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd Planning Committee and believes that the system is working. The Council agrees that maintaining the subsistence priority should continue.

Statewide:

WP22-01: Various. Define who is/is not a participant in a community harvest program and effects on harvest limits. Ms. Pippa Kenner presented the analysis. Mr. Wilson made a motion to support WP22-01 and Mr. Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Council says that the proposal allows a community harvest system in the region to operate under clearer guidelines

WP22-02: Various. Units 6, 9, 10, 22, 23, and 26. Rescind restrictions for designated hunters in areas with community harvest systems in place. Ms. Kenner presented the analysis. This proposal affects general regulations and unit-specific regulations in Units 6, 9, 10, 22, 23, and 26 and rescinds restrictions for designated hunters in areas with community harvest systems in place. Vice-Chair Dunaway made a motion to support WP22-02 as recommended by the EIRAC, and Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. These hunting regulations would be simpler, provide clarity,

and protect the hunting opportunity of individual Federally qualified subsistence users who cares to hunt separately.

WP22-37: Ptarmigan. Unit 9D. Establish C&T Use Determination. Mr. Vickers presented the analysis. Mr. Wilson made a motion to support WP22-37 as modified by OSM, and Vice-Chair Dunaway seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Council shared anecdotes from the past of residents of Sand Point, King Cove, Nelson Lagoon, and other communities in Unit 9D harvesting local ptarmigan. The Council determined that these communities should be recognized for their customary and traditional use of Unit 9D ptarmigan.

2022 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program

Mr. Jarred Stone with OSM presented the Council with the 2022 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP) Statewide and Regional overviews.

Identifying Issues for FY-2021 Annual Report

Ms. La Vine with OSM introduced the Annual Report. The Council identified the following topics for inclusion into their FY-2021 Annual Report:

- The need for agencies and staff within the region to represent the region and keep up to date information
- Chinook Salmon declines around the area
- Chignik Area Fishery
- Bear predation on moose and caribou in the Nushagak area
- Shorebird die-off
- Consolidation of the teleconferences and the Teams platforms in one meeting, so just one can be used
- Thanks to retired Council Coordinator Donald Mike and other OSM staff
- The need to refill and maintain a fully seated Council. The Council needs representation from the Togiak area, and Southern Bristol Bay and/or the Chignik area.
- Board consideration for ANILCA vs agency specific regulations for the purposes of decision-making

Annual Report Reply Process Review

Ms. La Vine of OSM presented an overview of the Interagency Staff Committee proposal to review and improve the Annual Report reply process. The Council was not requested to provide a feedback, but this topic will be brought up again during the winter 2022 meetings and the Board hopes to receive Council's recommendations after that meeting cycle.

Alaska Board of Game proposals

The Council discussed Alaska Board of Game Proposal 204. ADF&G biologist Mr. Rinaldi gave an overview of this King Salmon area (Units 9B and 9C) moose proposal. Mr. Trefon made a motion to propose a season extension at the beginning of the season for a season of Aug. 26 - Sept. 20 instead of the

originally proposed extension at the end of the season for a season of Sept. 1-25. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Council's motion reflects consideration that bulls will be more vulnerable later in the season. The Council's modification supports hunting for meat rather than trophies.

The Council discussed Emperor goose proposals. Ryan Scott from ADF&G and Cody Larson from BBNA commented on this issue. The Council asked that their comments on this issue be shared with the Alaska Board of Game.

2022 Council application/nomination open season

Ms. La Vine with OSM informed the Council about 2022 Council application and nomination open season and requested Council's members help in reaching out to the rural communities in the region and recruit new applicants.

Agency Reports:

- Ms. Linda Chisholm gave an Aniakchak Subsistence Resource Commission update.
- Ms. Courtenay Carty gave a report for the Curyung Tribe.
- Mr. Daren Carltikoff gave a report for the Nondalton Tribal Council.
- Mr. George Anderson gave a report for the Chignik Area.
- Mr. Gayla Hoseth gave a report for BBNA.
- Mr. Jon Gerken gave the in-season management report for the USFWS for Bristol Bay, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, and the Aleutian Islands. John spent extra time discussing this year's escapements to Chignik Lake of 103,000 early run Sockeye Salmon, 317,000 late run Sockeye Salmon, and 1,160 Chinook Salmon.
- Mr. Andy Aderman gave the Togiak NWR report.
- Mr. Danny Moss and Mr. Bill Smith gave the Alaska Peninsula and Becharof NWR report.
- Ms. Susanne Fleek-Green and Ms. Lisa Rupp gave the Lake Clark NP&P report.
- Mr. Chris Ryan, Ms. Linda Chisholm, Ms. Leslie Skora, and Mr. Dylan Patterson gave the report for Katmai and Aniakchak NP&P and the Alagnak Wild and Scenic River.
- Ms. Bonnie Million gave the BLM report for the Anchorage Field Office.
- Mr. Todd Rinaldi gave the ADF&G report on Mulchatna caribou and Unit 17A moose.
- Mr. Orville Lind gave the OSM report. The Council noted that they wanted to thank Donald Mike for his good work as Council Coordinator over the years.
- Mr. Mark Fina and Mr. Chris Woodley gave a report for the Alaska Seafood Cooperative.
- Ms. Stephanie Madsen gave a report for the At-Sea Processors Association.
- Mr. Rick Merizon from ADF&G gave a report on Alaska hare.
- Mr. Todd Rinaldi from ADF&G gave a report on the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and moose in Unit 17 and Wildlife Conservation Division staffing in the Bristol Bay area. The July, 2021 survey estimate for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd was 12,850 animals.

Future Meeting Dates:

Winter 2022 meeting to be held Feb. 8 and 9, tentatively in Naknek.
Fall 2022 meeting to be held Nov. 1 and 2, tentatively in Dillingham.



Leigh Honig, Council Coordinator, on behalf of Robbin La Vine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator and Designated Federal Officer, USFWS, Office of Subsistence Management.



Nanci Morris Lyon, Chair
Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its winter 2022 meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes at that meeting.

A more detailed report of this meeting, copies of the transcript, and meeting handouts are available upon request. Contact Katya Wessels, Council Coordination Division Supervisor, at 1-800-478-1456 or 1-907-786-3885, or email katerina_wessels@fws.gov.