

## OSM Winter 2020 Council Meeting Report

### Federal Register Notice Concerning Council Meeting Dates

As most Council members are aware, Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) had to reschedule the winter 2020 Council meetings until March and early April to assure compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, or FACA. Thank you all for your patience and for working with us to reschedule the meetings!

### Council Charters

Updated Council charters have been included in each Council book, which includes a new provision that allows Councils to have alternate members. We are pleased that the Secretary of Interior signed the Council Charters making them valid thru December 2021.

### New Council Member Appointments

Last year, the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) received 63 applications to fill 46 vacant or expired seats. The Board recommended to the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to appoint or reappoint 42 incumbents and new applicants to the ten Councils. Of these, 22 appointments were approved and arrangements were made for these individuals to participate in the winter 2020 Council meetings.

OSM has been pushing harder than ever to recruit for additional Council member nominations and applications for the current appointment cycle; plus, the Council nomination application deadline was extended thru March 2.

### Assistant Regional Director for OSM

Gene Peltola vacated the Assistant Regional Director (ARD) position at OSM in June, 2018. Over the past 21 months, Thomas Doolittle did an outstanding job leading OSM as the Acting ARD for OSM. Thank you very much, Tom!

Ms. Susan Detwiler was recently selected to be the new ARD for OSM. She expects to be here by the end of March. Susan has over 25 years of experience working in Alaska with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and U.S. Forest Service. She first went to work for OSM and the Fish and Wildlife Service in 1989, when the subsistence program consisted of just two people. After leaving OSM in 2000, Susan went on to work in other arenas with the FWS, including as the Congressional and Native American Liaison and Endangered Species Coordinator in Alaska, and the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Division Chief in Region 8 (California/Nevada). Susan has over 30 years in Federal service. She has a Master's Degree in Natural Resource Policy from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and a Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University. Most recently Susan comes from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as the Director of the Alaska Operations Office. Susan says that she enjoyed her time in the subsistence program and is very happy to be coming back. Please join us in welcoming Susan back to OSM!

## Other OSM Staffing

Since the fall 2019 Council meetings, there have been a number of staffing changes at OSM. Tom Evans, one of our Wildlife Biologists, retired, while another Wildlife Biologist, Megan Klosterman, left OSM for a position with the National Park Service in North Dakota. Our Budget Analyst, Durand Tyler, took a promotion with the new Joint Administrative Operations Division, or JAO. Even in his new position, Durand has continued to help arrange travel and other logistics for the winter 2020 Council meetings. OSM's Executive Secretary, Pam Raygor, left for a promotion at the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. Our Pathways Anthropology Student, Christine Brummer, left to finish her Master's Degree, and Jarred Stone, a Fisheries Biologist with the Fisheries Division, took a promotion with the Alaska FWS, Marine Mammals Program. With these departures, OSM staffing was down about 40%.

The good news is that OSM filled four vacancies this past month! Tina Baker took a lateral transfer from the JAO Division to become OSM's Administrative Specialist; Michelle St. Peters returned to OSM after working for the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program for about a month to resume her duties as the Grants and Agreements Specialist; while Sabrina Schmidt and Catherine Avery were selected to fill two vacant Administrative Assistant positions. With these new arrivals, OSM is still down about 35%. However, by the end of this calendar year, we hope to fill at least 3-4 additional vacancies. OSM is currently waiting on Human Resources to advertise one Fisheries Biologist position, and the Anthropology and Council Coordination Supervisory positions, leaving us down 28%.