

Call to Order: 6:09pm

Roll Call: P-Present A-Absent E-Excused

Dennis Nickerson-P
Kurt Whitehead-P
Brenda Leask-A
Nick Nickerson-P
Tom Leask-A
Tylo Kennedy-P
Marvin George-P
Mike Kennedy Sr.-P
John Skan-P
Ivring Langmaid-P
Vaughn Skinna-A
Algie Frisby-A
Thomas Barlow (Youth Representative)-A

Residents present: Thomas George & Mike George of Klawock

ADFG Representatives Present:

Ross Dorendorf
Tessa Bergmann
Jessalyn Rintala

A Quorum is Present

Did not approve minutes from previous meeting.

Motion by Nick Nickerson to Approve Agenda, seconded by Irving Langmaid.

New business:

Nominations/elections of officers:

Dennis Nickerson was reelected as Chairperson
Kurt Whitehead was reelected as Vice-Chairperson
Brenda Leask was reelected as Secretary

Kurt volunteered to take the minutes since Brenda was absent. Jessalyn recorded the second half of the meeting pertaining to the fishing proposals.

ADFG Unit 2 Wolf Harvest proposal for a 7 day sealing period.

Ross gave a comprehensive overview of why ADFG was requesting a change to a 7 day sealing period. The main reason was to fight the proposed ESA listing and to get better data for the wolf hair board/population estimate by having accurate harvest locations when and where the wolf was removed before the trappers forget the exact location/time. He also stated that with the timber harvest in Unit 2, the wolf is under a magnifying glass. No one wants the wolf listed under the ESA and if it is listed it will be a long time before it gets delisted. Ross was questioned by Irving about the population data estimate derived from hairboards and Irving stated the hairboard methodology is not accurate for many reasons on Unit 2. Ross emphasized that everyone can and should report wolf sightings/locations year round to help ADFG. He said about 60-70% of Unit 2 is covered with hairboards.

Tom George spoke at length about how the proposal will be very difficult for the trappers that operate by boat and are camping for several days while they run their trapline. There are several hardcore trappers that trap by boat and are out of cell range for multiple days and have to contend with the SE weather and ocean conditions.

We would like our subsistence needs taken into consideration when management issues are made. There has been a major crash of deer harvest/population on Unit 2. All of us locals do not want the wolf listed under the Endangered Species Act. We need our deer meat in Unit 2. Subsistence is supposed to be number one in the State of Alaska.

RC006

Irving spoke about surveying hunters in Unit 2 about wolf sightings/harvests as well. Nick suggested to get all the tribes involved to help provide more accurate data.

After lengthy discussion, Kurt suggested we accept the proposal with an amendment for a 14 day sealing period to accommodate the multi-day trappers and still get good data so ADFG can fight the potential ESA listing.

There was a lot of discussion about how many wolves are on PoW, how few deer we have and how our subsistence needs are not being met. Many of us believe the deer population is at an all time low and the wolf population is at an all time high.

Kurt asked Ross for an update on using trail cameras to help estimate the wolf population and Ross reported they are moving forward with that research. Kurt also asked Ross to consider utilizing local knowledge from longtime trustworthy residents to supplement their knowledge base similar to how the federal subsistence board operates.

Many of us pointed out that it is very frustrating for us locals to watch our dwindling deer herd being depleted every year by the abundant wolves meanwhile many of us don't have venison for our freezers.

A motion was made to approve the proposal with an amendment for a 14 day sealing period instead of the proposed 7 day period.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Board of Fish is requesting more info from us regarding why we submitted the following proposals.

Board of Fish proposal #129 (Modify closed waters and remove the annual coho limit for the Klawock River)

The coho return on the Klawock River is doing very well. The fish are plentiful. We are asking to remove the annual limit so locals can harvest the surplus fish. Our deer numbers are low and this will help with our subsistence needs.

Board of Fish proposal #130 (Modify fishing time and location for subsistence salmon fishery in the Klawock River)

We are requesting this change so the many locals that are working during the day can fish before and/or after work. Currently, the fishing time limit doesn't allow fishing in the early morning or evenings so it is very difficult for locals to participate and many are having to take off work so they can fish. We are willing to shorten the overall season dates in exchange for the ability to fish during the entire day. Our Klawock River sockeye salmon is a vital part of our heritage and it is very important for most of us to put up fish. Trying to figure out what day to take off work so we can fish because we can't fish after 5pm is dysfunctional.

Adjourned: 7:28pm