

Anne Rittgers

From: Grace Ellsworth
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 1:51 PM
To: Anne Rittgers
Subject: LRS 24-093: Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council
Attachments: CH 86 SLA 1978.pdf; WTSPMC Bylaws (Updated and Adopted Oct 2021).pdf; 2019 WTSPMC Minutes 12.20.19 draft.pdf; 2020 WTSPMC 5.27.20 minutes.pdf; 2020 WTSPMC Minutes 11.6.20.pdf; 2021 WTSPMC Minutes 3.26.21.pdf; 2021 WTSPMC minutes 10.22.21 (draft).pdf; 2022 WTSPMC Mintues 3.23.22 (draft).pdf; 2022 WTSPMC minutes 11.3.22 (draft).pdf; 2022 WTSPMC Minutes 11.23.22 (draft).pdf; 2023 WTSPMC minutes 5.4.23.pdf; 2013 WTSPMC Minutes 12.5.13.pdf; 2018 WTSPMC Minutes 3.30.18.pdf; 2019 WTSPMC minutes 5.23.19.pdf; 2019 WTSPMC Minutes 12.3.19.pdf

Anne,

You requested a brief legislative history and relevant general overview of the Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council, with a focus on the last ten years.

The Wood-Tikchik State Park was established in 1978 to, “to protect the area's fish and wildlife breeding and support systems and to preserve the continued use of the area for subsistence and recreational activities. The state park is also created to protect the area's recreational and scenic resources” (Ch. 86 SLA 1978, attached). Its designation was reportedly in response to a 1978 Homestead Initiative and related threats to subsistence values (page 5-2 of [Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Plan](#)). According to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) [website](#), it is the largest state park in the nation, encompassing almost 1.6 million acres, nearly all of which is owned by the state, with a total of roughly 38 acres held by several entities (Table 2.1, p. 2-2)

The same legislation established the Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council (WTSPMC) to develop a park management plan with the assistance of DNR. Pursuant to [AS 41.21.165](#), DNR may not adopt regulations prior to public hearings, or without the consultation of the Council and the Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), which is responsible for management of wildlife resources within the park. Notably, escapement from the Wood and Nuyakuk rivers within the park represents twenty percent or more of the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon run (p. 3-3).

Laws specifically pertaining to the state park and council ([AS 41.21.160 - 41.21.167](#)) have only been amended once since enactment in 1978. In 2019, the passage of [SB 91 \(Ch. 20 SLA 2019\)](#) codified [AS 41.21.167\(e\)](#), allowing for the development and operation of a hydroelectric site at the Nuyakuk River Falls.

Overview of WTSPMC and Recent Activity

The seven council members are appointed by the governor from a list of nominees provided by the commissioners of DNR and ADFG, local councils, and the Bristol Bay Native Association, Inc. According to the management plan, having a majority of members representing local village councils and the local Native association reflects the Legislature's concern for traditional subsistence practices (p. 5-2). Subject to appropriations, members may receive per diem and travel expenses, and pursuant to regulations in [Article 5 of 11 AAC 20](#), serve three-year terms and must be residents of the area represented by the nominating body. A [fact sheet](#) and [roster of current members](#) is available on the Alaska Boards and Commissions [website](#).

According to Article II of the WTSPMC adopted in 2021 bylaws (attached), the Council's stated purposes are to:

1. Monitor management of the park in accordance with the current plan.
2. Provide a forum for the collection and expression of opinions.
3. Promote the protection of resources.
4. Promote communications between the public and administrators.

5. Inquire into matters of public interest.
6. Provide recommendations to the director of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation within DNR concerning:
 - a. Public recreation uses and management, and the allowance or denial of incompatible uses.
 - b. Mitigation of conflicts between user groups.
 - c. Promotion of interpretation and public presentation of the natural and human history within the park.
 - d. Increase public awareness of and understanding of human impacts on the park and its users.
 - e. Cooperation between the Council and other service organizations.
 - f. Enlistment of public and legislative support for the Council's policies and programs, and
 - g. Education, scientific, and charitable purposes.

In 2002, DNR adopted a [revised management plan](#), superseding the original plan adopted in 1987, to provide guidance over the next 15-20 years for both the park and the [Lake Aleknagik State Recreation Site](#), the gateway to the park. According to Art. II, Section 7 of the bylaws adopted in 2021, the management plan is updated as conditions change, and needs arise.

In addition to goals, practices, and policies found within the plan, chapter five categorizes twelve issues the park faces. This includes subsistence and traditional activities; fish and wildlife habitat conservation and enhancement; fish and wildlife species introduction; recreational facility development; private land development within the park; commercial activities; trails and access; hydropower development; additions to the park; selections and reconveyances, research activities; and wilderness management.

According to [11 AAC 20.350](#), the Council must meet at least once per year. Several reports of meeting minutes were received upon request, and while levels of detail vary and some years are missing due to lack of digitization, the broad array of issues covered reflect the balancing act between various user groups, stakeholders, and the public, and we therefore, attach the minutes for your review. Below we provide a brief overview of each meeting.

Lastly, an [online public notice](#) indicates a Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 10:00. The [agenda](#) includes discussion of [Executive Order 126](#), issued in January 2024 by Governor Dunleavy, ordering the transfer of functions of the Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council to the DNR to provide a single point of responsibility and increase performance and accountability.

December 5, 2013

- Feasibility study for the development and operation of a hydroelectric site at Chikuminuk Lake, a project for which the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) granted Nuvista Light & Electric Cooperative, Inc. a preliminary permit in 2012 allowing exclusive rights to study the project. Reference made to SB 37 (misidentified – related legislation is [SB 32](#), [HB 77](#), and [HB 137](#))
- Maintenance of Aircraft used by park rangers
- Trail Work
- Lake Aleknagik Fueling Concerns, Designated Swimming Area, Float Plane Road Update

March 30, 2018

- Native Allotments Update - Bristol Bay Native Association
- Hydroelectric project on Nuyakuk River
- Lake Aleknagik State Recreation Site Interagency Land Management Agreement
- Park Ranger Operations – staffing, visitation, various projects, aircraft update

May 23, 2019

- [SB 91/HB 99](#) - development and operation of a hydroelectric site at the Nuyakuk River Falls
- Park Ranger Operations – staffing, public use cabins, park fees, Elodea (high-risk invasive species for western Alaska and Bristol Bay), various projects

December 3, 2019

- Passage of [SB 91 \(Ch. 20 SLA 2019\)](#) and Management Council's role in planning process

December 20, 2019

- Nushagak Electric and Telephone Cooperative (NETC) Pre-Application Document with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and study plans for hydroelectric project at Nuyakuk River Falls
- Review of Management Council Bylaws

May 27, 2020

- Nushagak Electric and Telephone Cooperative (NETC) Proposed Study Plan
- Park Ranger Operations update – boat ramps, online passes available, Agulukpuk Cabin Foundation, hiring

November 6, 2020

- Election of Management Council chair and vice-chairperson
- NETC update for proposed Nuyakuk Hydroelectric Project
- Park Ranger Operations update – impacts of COVID on visitors, hiring, maintenance work, water levels, Agulukpuk Ranger Station cabin

March 26, 2021

- ADF&G Updates – moose and caribou populations, fisheries
- Management Plan Land Additions, Special Use Land Designations (SUD)
- Presentation by Nushagak Electric and Telephone Cooperative (NETC)
- Presentation by Dr. Daniel Schindler- UW/ Fisheries Research Institute
- Council Member Alternates
- Presentation by Daniel Schindler, Fisheries Research Institute (FRI)
- Mention of [SB 97](#) (companion bill [HB 120](#)) – proposal by Governor Dunleavy to amend the management of state lands to allow for leases for economic or industrial development and repealing recreational rivers and corridors statutes

October 22, 2021

- Election of Management Council chair and vice-chairperson
- NETC update for proposed Nuyakuk Hydroelectric Project
- ADF&G Updates – wildlife biologist, sport fish
- Proposed Regulation Package – Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR)
- Special Use Land Designation (SUD)

- Update of bylaws

March 23, 2022

- NETC update for proposed Nuyakuk Hydroelectric Project
- Special Use Land Designation (SUD)

November 3, 2022

- NETC update for proposed Nuyakuk Hydroelectric Project
- Special Use Land Designation (SUD)
- ADF&G Updates – bear removal and reported lack of communication between agency and Management Council
- Park Ranger Operations update – Division reorganization, increase of effort and interest in hunting in park, wilderness permits, road work, float plane access

November 23, 2022

- Firewood allowances ([11 AAC 20.385](#) was amended in May 2022)

May 4, 2023

- Public Use Cabin (PUC) planning

We hope this is helpful. Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Thanks,

Grace Ellsworth
Legislative Analyst
Alaska State Legislature
907-465-6607



LAWS OF ALASKA

1978

Source

HCS CSSB 562(Rules) am H

Chapter No.

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AN ACT

Creating the Wood-Tikchik State Park; and providing for an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

* Section 1. AS 41.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

ARTICLE 13. WOOD-TIKCHIK STATE PARK.

Sec. 41.20.460. DECLARATION OF PURPOSE. The purpose of secs. 460 - 490 of this chapter is to establish the state-owned land and water areas described in sec. 470 of this chapter as the Wood-Tikchik State Park. The primary purposes of creating the Wood-Tikchik State Park are to protect the area's fish and wildlife breeding and support systems and to preserve the continued use of the area for subsistence and recreational activities. The state park is also created to protect the area's recreational and scenic resources. Sections 460 - 490 of this chapter are intended to close the described land and water to multiple-purpose use in conformity with AS 38.05.300 and to dedicate them as a *special purpose site* in accordance with art. VIII, sec. 7 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska.

Sec. 41.20.470. DESIGNATED STATE LAND AND WATER. (a) The state-owned or acquired land and water lying within the following parcel, containing approximately 1,428,320 acres, is designated as the Wood-Tikchik State Park: beginning at the SE corner of T7S, R54W, S.M., which is the true point of beginning; thence westerly to the NE corner of T8S, R58W, S.M.; thence southerly to the SE corner of T8S, R58W, S.M.; thence westerly to the SW corner of T8S, R58W, S.M.; thence northerly to the NW corner of T5S, R58W, S.M.; thence westerly to the SW corner of Section 34, T4S, R58W, S.M.; thence northerly to the NE corner of Section 4, T1S, R58W, S.M.; thence westerly to the SW corner of T1N, R57W,

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S.M.; thence northerly to the NW corner of T2N, R57W, S.M.; thence easterly to the NE corner of T2N, R57W, S.M.; thence northerly to the NW corner of T4N, R56W, S.M.; thence easterly to the SW corner of T5N, R55W, S.M.; thence northerly to the NW corner of T5N, R55W, S.M.; thence easterly to the NE corner of T5N, R55W, S.M.; thence southerly to the SE corner of T5N, R55W, S.M.; thence easterly to the NE corner of T4N, R54W, S.M.; thence southerly to the SE corner of T4N, R54W, S.M.; thence easterly to the NE corner of T3N, R53W, S.M.; thence southerly to the SE corner of T3N, R53W, S.M.; thence easterly to the NE corner of T2N, R52W, S.M.; thence southerly to the SW corner of T1N, R51W, S.M.; thence easterly to the NE corner of T1S, R52W, S.M.; thence southerly to the SE corner of T2S, R52W, S.M.; thence easterly to the NE corner of T3S, R51W, S.M.; thence southerly to the SE corner of T3S, R51W, S.M.; thence westerly to the NE corner of T4S, R53W, S.M.; thence southerly to the SE corner of T4S, R53W, S.M.; thence westerly to the NE corner of T5S, R53W, S.M.; thence southerly to the SE corner of T7S, R54W, S.M., which point is the true point of beginning.

(b) All or part of the state-owned or acquired land and water within the following adjacent parcel, containing approximately 126,720 acres may be added to the Wood-Tikchik State Park by proclamation of the governor: beginning at the SE corner of T7S, R54W, S.M., which point is the true point of beginning; thence southerly to the SE corner of T8S, R54W, S.M.; thence westerly to the NE corner of T9S, R55W, S.M.; thence southerly to the SE corner of the NE quarter of T9S, R55W, S.M.; thence westerly to the SW corner of the NW quarter of T9S, R57W, S.M.; thence northerly to the NW corner of T9S, R57W, S.M.; thence westerly to the SE corner of T8S, R58W, S.M.; thence northerly to the NE corner of T8S, R58W, S.M.; thence easterly to the SE corner of T7S, R54W, S.M., which point is the true point of beginning.

(c) Land lying within the parcels described in (a) or (b) of this section, upon which there are valid entries, or which is withdrawn for or selected by Native village or regional corporations under secs. 11, 12, and 14 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (P.L. 92-203; 85 Stat. 688; 43 U.S.C. 1601 et. seq.), is excepted from (a) and (b) of this section; however, if any land excepted under this subsection is subsequently relinquished to the state, it shall be included as part of the Wood-Tikchik State Park.

Sec. 41.20.480. DESIGNATION OF MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY AND CRITERIA. (a) The land and water described in sec. 470 of this chapter is assigned to the Department of Natural Resources for control, maintenance and development consistent with the purposes and provisions of this chapter. The Department of Fish and Game is responsible for the management of fish and game resources in the Wood-Tikchik State Park, consistent with the purposes and provisions of this chapter.

(b) A seven-member Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council is created and shall be appointed by the governor. Management council members may, subject to appropriations, receive the same per diem and travel expenses authorized for members of state boards. The governor shall appoint

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one member of the council from three nominations submitted to him by each of the following:

- (1) the village council of Koliganek;
- (2) the village council of New Stuyahok;
- (3) the village council of Alegnagik;
- (4) the city council of Dillingham;
- (5) the Bristol Bay Native Association, Inc.;
- (6) the commissioner of natural resources;
- (7) the commissioner of fish and game;

(c) The Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council shall develop a management plan for the park with the advice and assistance of the Department of Natural Resources. The management plan shall be presented at a public meeting before approval and implementation.

(d) The Department of Natural Resources shall consult with Department of Fish and Game and the management council before adoption of regulations governing the public use of the park. The Department of Fish and Game shall consult with the Department of Natural Resources and the management council before adoption of regulations governing fish and wildlife management in the park. No regulations may be adopted by either department without prior review at public hearings.

(e) The fish and wildlife habitat breeding areas in the Wood-Tikchik State Park shall be managed to sustain the fish and wildlife resources of the park in perpetuity.

Sec. 41.20.490. INCOMPATIBLE USES. (a) The land and water areas described in sec. 470 of this chapter are not open to mineral entry under AS 38.05.135 - 38.05.280.

(b) The regulations adopted under sec. 480(d) of this chapter shall recognize that the current practice of traditional subsistence and recreational activities includes the use of small outboard motors and snow machines. Reasonable access by aircraft for recreational purposes shall be permitted.

(c) Development and operation of a hydroelectric site at Lake Elva or Grant Lake is not considered an incompatible use.

(d) Development and operation of campsites on or adjacent to major spawning and breeding areas are incompatible uses unless it can be shown by a preponderance of evidence that the fishery and wildlife habitat and breeding areas will not be adversely affected to a significant degree by the development and operation.

* Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.070(c).

**WOOD-TIKCHIK STATE PARK MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
BYLAWS**

Article I. Name

The name of this organization is the Wood-Tikchik State Park management council as provided in AS 41.21.163.

Article II. Purposes

Section 1. Monitor Management of the Park

To monitor the management of the Park is in accordance with the current Management Plan. The Director of State Parks is responsible for implementation and administration of the Plan as developed by the Management Council.

Section 2. Provide a Forum

To provide a forum for the collection and expression of opinions and recommendations on matters relating to the Wood-Tikchik State Park.

Section 3. Promote Protection of the Resources

To promote the protection of the resources of Wood-Tikchik State Park, including its scenery, vegetation, wildlife, soils, waters, historic features, and wilderness core and outdoor recreational opportunities, and the protection of traditional subsistence activities and the recognition of Native Allotment rights within the boundaries of the Park.

Section 4. Promote Communications

To promote communications between the public and the administrators of Wood-Tikchik State Park.

Section 5. Matters of Public Interest

To inquire into matters of public interest relating to Wood-Tikchik State Park; to bring matters of interest to attention of the public; to appear and testify at public hearings and legislative hearings as representatives of Wood-Tikchik State Park users and neighbors.

Section 6. Provide Recommendations

To make recommendations to the Director concerning, among other things, the following:

- a. Public recreation uses and management, and the allowance or denial of incompatible uses, within the Park;
- b. Mitigation of conflicts between user groups;
- c. Promotion of interpretation and public presentation of the natural and human history of the Park;
- d. Increase public awareness of and understanding of human impacts on the Park and its users;
- e. Cooperation between the Council and other service organizations;
- f. Enlistment of public and legislative support for the Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council's policies and programs;
- g. Education, scientific, and charitable purposes;

- h. Statutory and regulatory changes, which would enhance the protection, maintenance, or administration of the Park or any of its resources.

Section 7. Update the Park Management Plan

Pursuant to AS 41.21.164, to update the management plan as conditions change and needs arise with the following priorities:

- a. The first priority is the protection of the fish and wildlife resources of the Park including natural habitat and support systems.
- b. The second priority is the protection of the traditional subsistence activities and the recognition of Native Allotment rights within the boundaries of the Park.
- c. Other priorities to ensure Park development is administered consistent with the protection of the Park's scenic and natural resource values and additional management policies identified in the management plan.

Article III. Members

Section 1. Appointment

Consistent with AS 41.21.163, the Council shall consist of seven members. The nomination of members may be made by each organization listed below. Council members are appointed by the governor. The Council shall consist of one member from each of the following:

- a. The village Council of Koliganek
- b. The village Council of New Stuyahok
- c. The village Council of Aleknagik
- d. The city Council of Dillingham
- e. The Bristol Bay Native Association
- f. The Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources
- g. The Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game

Section 2. Alternates

Alternates may be made per 11 AAC 20.320. Alternates have full voting authority in the absence of regularly appointed members.

Section 3. Term

The term of membership on the Wood-Tikchik State Park management council is three years. The initial terms for the members appointed from the following nominations are as follows:

- (1) the village council of Koliganek - one year;
- (2) the village council of New Stuyahok - two years;
- (3) the village council of Aleknagik - three years;
- (4) the city council of Dillingham - one year;
- (5) the Bristol Bay Native Association, Inc. - two years.

The initial terms for the members appointed from the following nominations are as follows:

- (1) the commissioner of natural resources - three years; and
- (2) the commissioner of fish and game - one year.

Section 4. Council Member Duties

Council members shall have the following duties:

- a. Attend regular and special meetings unless excused by the Chairperson;
- b. Actively participate in Council meetings;
- c. Remain informed of Park issues and review relevant materials provided by the Park, the Chairperson and others;

Section 5. Council Member Statements

No council member shall make any informal or official statement to the State, other organizations or the public as representing the position of the Council, except when authorized by the Council to do so.

Section 6. Waiver of Notice

Whenever any notice is required to be given to any member of the Council under the provisions of these bylaws or under the provisions of the statutes of the State of Alaska, a waiver thereof in writing, signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

Article IV. Officers

Section 1. Composition

The officers of the Council shall be a Chairperson and one or more Vice-Chairpersons (the number thereof to be determined by the Council), each of whom shall be elected by majority vote of the Council. The commissioner of natural resources, or his or her designee, is ex officio secretary for the council. Such other officers and assistant officers as may be deemed necessary may be elected or appointed by the Council.

Section 2. Elections

The officers shall be elected annually at the fall meeting by the Council to serve without salaries. Each officer shall hold office until a successor has been duly elected and is qualified or until death or resignation or removal in the manner hereinafter provided. The term of the officers will be one calendar year.

Section 3. Removal

Any officer or agent elected or appointed by the Council may be removed by vote of majority of the full Council whenever in its judgement the best interests of the public would be served.

Section 4. Vacancies

A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification or otherwise, may be filled by the Council from recommendations from that organization represented, per Article III, Section 1.

Section 5. Chairperson

The Chairperson shall, in general, supervise and coordinate all of the affairs of the Council and shall, when present, preside at all meetings of the Council. The vice-chairperson shall assist the chairperson and shall assume his duties when the chairman is absent.

Section 6. Officer Designations

From time to time, the Council may designate one or more persons to attend and report at designated meetings of various State assembly, Councils, commissions, and committees.

Article V. Meetings

Section 1. The Open Meetings Act Applies

The Council shall comply with the Open Meetings Act as provided in AS 44.62.310 - .319.

Section 2. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings for the purpose of actual management shall normally be held in person or as publicly available through modern telecommunication systems in the Spring and Fall, with the objective to meet during the first two weeks in October and last two weeks in March.

Section 3. Rules of Procedure and Decorum

Robert's Rules of Order (latest edition) are hereby adopted as the rules of procedure and decorum by which the Council's business shall be conducted.

Section 4. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson (or in his or her absence, the Vice Chairperson), by any two Council members or by the Director of Parks. Notice of all special meetings shall be delivered by the Director of Parks to each member five days prior. All notices of special meetings shall state the purpose thereof.

Section 5. Quorum

A quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting of the members shall consist of a majority of the members of the Council; however, any number of members present at a duly called meeting constituting less than a quorum may postpone the meeting to a time and place where a quorum is expected to be present.

Section 6. Vacancies in the Council

Vacancies in the Council may be filled at any regular or special meeting of the members until the next fall meeting, at which time, if any remaining unexpired term exists, the position shall be filled according to Bylaw IV and V. A vacancy in the seat of any member may be declared to exist by the Council if that member has without previously being excused, failed to attend three consecutive meetings of the Council.

Section 7. Standing or Special Committees

The Council may appoint such standing and special committees as it deems appropriate and, in a manner, to further the efficient conduct of Council business and maximum active participation by the public. Each committee shall have at least one member of the Council on the committee and be comprised of individuals nominated by Council members and approved by a simple majority vote of the Council.

Section 8. Public Attendance

Even though meetings of the Council are open to the public, the Council may prescribe rules of procedure and decorum. Those rules of procedure and decorum may prescribe limits on, and the manner of, public participation in the meetings.

Article VI. Amendments

The power to adopt, alter, amend or repeal the bylaws is vested in the Council. Amendments shall be presented to the Council in writing at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which action is to occur. Approval of an amendment requires a simple majority vote for adoption.

Article VII. Special Provisions

Section 1. Director of Parks to furnish certain staff and services

The Director of Parks shall furnish the following staff and services to the Council:

- a. A designee to act ex-officio as Secretary of the Council;
- b. Mail out services for the notice of meeting, and provide public notice of meetings;
- c. Prepare, circulate, and keep minutes of the meetings;
- d. Furnish necessary maps, plans, and data for agenda items, and as otherwise agreed from time to time.

Section 2. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation Consultation

The Division shall affirmatively and without special council request consult with the Council concerning the Park

- a. Budget requests
- b. Construction plans
- c. Participation of other state agencies in the provision and maintenance of access routes
- d. Land use plans
- e. Regulation of uses
- f. Wildlife management
- g. Regulations of inholdings

Section 3. Meetings by Email

The Council may use telephone and email to provide timely consultation to the Director or Superintendent. Such use shall be limited to instances where time does not permit waiting for the next scheduled Council meeting nor is a special Council meeting warranted. For the Council to provide input other than through the normal meeting process the following procedure shall be followed:

- a. The Chair, Vice-Chair or committee chair shall define an issue for distribution by email and request comment from all Council members by a specified time and date, but not less than 24 hours from the time the original message is sent.
- b. Members who respond shall do so to the individual originating the message with copies to all Council members. Members may request more time to respond.
- c. A motion may be proposed by the Chair, Vice-Chair or committee chair simultaneously with defining an issue or subsequently. Council members shall indicate their support or opposition to the motion by the time specified.
- d. An affirmative response from a majority of all Council members is required to adopt a motion via email.

Appendix A – WTSPMC Bylaws

- e. The Chair or Vice-Chair shall communicate the result of the motion to the Director or Superintendent.
- f. When insufficient responses are received to approve a motion but there is no or minority opposition, the Chair or Vice-Chair may communicate the result as the Sense of the Council.
- g. Issues and actions resolved by email shall be information items on the next regular meeting agenda.
- h. Nothing herein is intended to limit the use of email by the Council for the distribution of information or the efficient conduct of its business.

Article VIII. Definitions

“Council” as used in these bylaws means the Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council, per AS 41.21.163.

“Director” means the Director of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation within the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, or his or her designee designated in writing and delivered to the Council.

“Superintendent” means the manager of the Chugach / Southwest Area State Parks of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

“Division” means the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation within the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

“Park” means lands and waters of Wood-Tikchik State Park designated under AS 41.21.161 plus any other units of the State Park system within the Southwest Area management.

“State” means the State of Alaska.

“Bylaw” means the bylaws of this Council.

“Plan” means the Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Plan, the latest adoption thereof.

**WOOD-TIKCHIK STATE PARK
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 4, 2023 at 10:00 am at
Bristol Bay Native Association or by
Teleconference with Microsoft Teams
Dillingham, Alaska**



I. Call to Order 10:04am

II. Roll Call/Establish Quorum

Present:

Cody Larson - BBNA
Lee Borden - ADFG
Ali Eskelin - ADNR
Delores Larson - Koliganek (Teams)
Bruce Ilutsik - Aleknagik (Teams)

Absent:

Wassillie Andrews- New Stuyahok
Dillingham seat vacant

III. Introductions

John Landsiedel- ADFG
Henry Wilson
Sue Flensburg
Mark Schwantes
Mark Romo
Andy Angstman
Pat Vermillion
Ben Shryock - DPOR
David Schwantes
CaSandera Johnson

IV. Review and Adopt Agenda

Lee motion to adopt 2nd by Delores - Approved

V. Approval of meeting minutes (March 22, 2023, November 3, 2022)

Lee motion to adopt November 3, 2022 minutes (Sue date November 23, update agenda) Bruce 2nd - Approved

Lee motion to adopt March 22, 2023 minutes, Bruce 2nd - Approved

VI. Public Use Cabin (PUC) planning

Ali provided a presentation on information potential PUC construction in the park and information from the management plan and potential site locations on Lake Nerka. PUCs compatible in Natural Area designations in consultation with Management Council, provide safety for park visitors, only undertaken to mitigate public safety, management or resource degradation issues. Facilities attract

Commented [CL1]: I have noted that we approved the Nov. 23 and March 22 minutes. We could possibly just email the Nov. 3 around, and get comments/approval via email. I think the bylaws allow that.

visitation to an area, new development could result in increased competition for limited resources. New visitors could also disturb the natural experience favored by many park users. Facilities can also bring a certain amount of environmental degradation.

Management Unit 7: Upper and Lower Lake Nerka, Management Intent, Guidelines (p. 9-25) Facilities will be constructed only to correct environmental or habitat degradation problems. Development will be limited to only that amount necessary to correct the problem and after consultation with the Management Council.

Zoning, Structures limited to two stories in height, Setback minimum 50 feet upland of ordinary high water (100' for commercial), Painting, siding on exterior walls limited to neutral colors subject to approval by DPOR.

Discussion Points

1. Management plan alignment
2. Habitat degradation
3. Wildlife breeding areas
4. Wildlife conflict areas
5. Eagle and migratory bird nesting
6. Accessibility/distance from launch
7. Public safety value
8. Mooring and protection
9. Resilience to resource abuse
10. Fisheries resource access
11. Hunting and viewing
12. Hiking and walking
13. Distance from private parcels
14. Compliance with zoning
15. Subsistence resource competition
16. Bear Safety

Timeline: State Park RTP project applications to run on a fall cycle. Public Notice deadline August 15th Application deadline September 15th. Public notice must be more than 30 consecutive days, can only be a max of 180 days prior to application submission. Planning for 2024 application due to time constraints. Possible Construction 2025 – 2026.

Discussion on 5 Potential Sites on Lake Nerka:

1. Site west of Teal Creek, accessible, 28 miles from Aleknagik, trail options on Bumyok Ridge, semi protected, less visible, scenic, flowing freshwater. Bear interaction potential, mooring marginal.

Mark Schwantes comment on site, shady if on south shore.

Delores questioned subsistence uses and nearby cabins. Ali little subsistence use seen, may exist, closest cabin 7-8 miles away.

Commented [EAM(2): Someone brought up another couple points, but I can't recall what they were or when. You also mentioned the rubric but I don't know if that was during or after the meeting.

Commented [CL3R2]: I think these could guide a rubric but not verbatim. There's overlap between hunting/fishing/subsistence criteria.

Sue Flensburg. questioned trespass issues with trail behind GCI. Ali discussed ANL CE, trespass issues.

John Landsiedel questioned if cabin would be open year round. Ali- yes, possible closure for seasonal maintenance.

Cody mentioned safety for off season use during freeze up and break up.

2. Site below Frog Mountain- 35 miles from Aleknagik. Trail option to alpine, loop trail, scenic, mooring marginal, some submerged hazards, limited fishing access, flowing freshwater potential, possible avalanche hazard, limited fishing.
John L. questioned zoning and visibility. Ali- zoning neutral colors, not necessarily camouflage.
Lee noted the visibility didn't bother him, added pros for access to hiking.
Delores 2nd Lee comments.
Henry Wilson noted benefit for hiking especially considering funding sources.
3. Elbow Point, Woody Island- 37 miles from Aleknagik. Great moorage/protection, accessibility from Aleknagik, less visible from main lake, very scenic, plenty of distance from private parcels, hiking potential Frog Mountain. No flowing fresh water, migratory nesting, less resilience to resource abuse on island, limited wood resource.
Mark S.- Site 2 heavy use in the fall, lots of bears, Site 3 crossing point for animals on south end of Woody Island.
Cody - option for west side of the island. Lee - campers may be eliminated with frequented campsite on island. Ali - current regs provide no camping within 300' of a PUC, could be sited far enough away to maintain camp.
4. Akuluktuk, peninsula north shore upper Nerka- 40 miles from Aleknagik. Provide good moorage on either side of peninsula or in cove just north. Peninsula may contain resource damage, less visible than most, hiking potential to Akuluktuk Peak, more involved to clear to alpine, within 1.5 miles from an allotment, very scenic.
Farther away, accessibility not great, possibly poor resilience to resource abuse on peninsula.
Lee noted weather considerations rounding Elbow Point. Cody- recap, Bermuda triangle of weather.
Henry Wilson questioned management, reservations, day limits and ability to just drop in. Ben Shryock addressed management, limit of 7 days elsewhere, formal reservation process.
Delores asked about emergency use. Cody addressed safety is a large component of purpose of PUC.
Ali asked about how long in advance cabins could be reserved. Ben S. 7 months.
Cody noted there could be flexibility in design of reservations including pre-booking limits, stay limits, blocked dates for maintenance or safety.
John L. recommended a meat cache. Ben noted history of caches in Kodiak, now use structures with no doors due to bear damages and maintenance issues. Ali noted other meat poles near campsites a decent compromise and reasonable safe if well situated.

5. Middle Island, Little Fish Island, Upper Nerka. 45 miles from Aleknagik. Very scenic, decent protection and moorage even though island is exposed. May limit resources damage but not resilient to wood harvest. Closer proximity to private parcels, less than 1 mile. Limited fisheries access. Exposed, no hiking. Delores noted 1 mile seems to close to private property. Lee noted it's farther away and additional weather concerns with prevailing swell would be different than what you'd get on Aleknagik and Lower Nerka. Not a great spot for a day trip and one night camping. Delores recommended site 2 or 3.

Cody opened the floor for additional comments or location ideas.

Mark Schwantes noted paddling distances should be taken into account for locations. Henry Wilson discussed Pak and Nuyakuk cabins.

Lee noted Boundary Island is a good site considering the Agulowak is a significant barrier to access to Nerka for novice boaters and some people with jet motors still don't go up the Wok.

Ali noted positive aspects of Boundary Island accessibility for use and construction. Cody noted Aleknagik has more traffic.

John L. questioned search and rescue and if cabin on Nerka would have provided a save. Cody provided there was no documented info but shared personal story of utilizing nearby cabin after snowmachine accident between Nerkas.

Ali noted Boundary Island is part of the SRS and management plan identifies PUC in Recreational Development lands is generally not compatible.

Cody requested any info on opposition to PUC in WTSP. None noted

Delores questioned rental costs. Ben S. discussed typical prices range \$45-55 per night. Monies go to program receipts and approx. 50% of parks funding comes from program receipts.

Bruce Ilutsik – Liked Nerka site 1 and 2. Some opposition to 3, 4 and 5 due to subsistence uses and allotments. Noted possibility of old Lynx Creek cabin site, may be collapsed, but open to use for safety.

Delores thanked Bruce for local perspective and noted Pros and Cons of PUCs. Likes sites 1 and 2. Sites 3, 4 and 5 are too close to private properties, conflict for subsistence uses.

VII. **Public Comments –**

Sue Flensburg – request minutes reflect timelines and next steps.

VIII. **Board Comments**

Delores – request to be involved in decision making process. Noted the importance of locals to protect our home.

Cody- Thanks to the public for attending and providing input on management of public lands. Will tag facility discussions at next meeting for PUC and boat ramp

improvements. Discussed importance of the potential pre-season sport fish guide meeting.

Bruce- no additional comments

Lee thanked the public for attendance and noted he will make efforts to visit the sites this summer.

Ali noted the history of the PUC discussion dating to 2011, with general positive feedback from the public on the topic it's a common request from users. Noted the facility should only be built to mitigate resource degradation of which there is little in the park. Noted positives for recreation and public use, but additional concerns of required maintenance needs and no complimentary funding or personnel if project were to be approved.

IX. Adjournment 12:11pm

DRAFT

**WOOD-TIKCHIK STATE PARK
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING
November 23, 2022 at 9:00 am
Meeting- BBNA or Microsoft Teams/Teleconference
Dillingham, Alaska**



I. Call to Order 9:06

II. Roll Call/Establish Quorum

Present

Cody Larson- BBNA (chair)
Bruce Ilutsik- Aleknagik (vice-chair)
Ali Eskelin- ADNR
John Landseidl- ADFG (alternate)
Delores Larson- Koliganek

Absent

Wassillie Andrew- New Stuyahok

III. Introductions

Wilson Hughes- GCI
Dave Roseman- GCI
Tim Troll- BBHLT
Laura Boomershine- DNR commissioner's office
Bud Hodson – TNL
Mark Romo
Sue Flensburg
Kay Andrews- City of Aleknagik
Will Chaney- Nushagak Electric
Mark Lisac
Bryce Edgmon – District 37 Representative
Kenton Moos - TNWR
Bruce Balthasar – BBNA general counsel

IV. Firewood Allowances

Chair Larson- Topic at hand firwood harvest allowances. A couple employees of GCI Corp. online. Thanks for joining us. This is your permit we're discussing, if either of you would like to brief the council and the public on your actions and operations there I'll give you the floor to do that right now.

Dave Roseman- GCI has a Retreat located at top of Agulowak River in WTSP. We entertain employees of the company and people the company works with. With guests we operate beginning of June to end of September. With set up beginning of May and stay until second week of October usually. The caretaker stays behind through the

winter and heats his cabin with firewood. He uses that all winter long. We have wood stoves in several staff and guest facilities that heat the buildings. We have fireplaces, that sort of thing.

Chair Larson- Ok, thanks. That sounds like the area of operations pertinent to the firewood permit.

Delores Larson- Are there other sources of heat to heat their cabins?

Dave Roseman- One of our buildings has an oil furnace that provides heat. The others we do not have other sources of heat, other than small electric space heaters in some staff cabins. We have close to 20 habitable buildings on site.

Kay Andrews and Allen Ilutsik requested proposal documents on the topic of the meeting to share with the city council.

Wilson Hughes- I wanted to try to get clarification. Are we discussing firewood permits in general or just GCI's application for a firewood permit and is the plan was to hold an hour or two meeting each time a lodge in the park applies for a firewood permit going forward?

Chair Larson- Thanks for the question, Wilson. The permit for discussion was put through a process for appeal. The first permit that was granted was for a traditional amount of firewood but appealed and that change is what we're discussing here this morning. I don't think we'll hold a meeting every time a permit is issued, that would be quite cumbersome. Thanks for that observation.

Wilson Hughes- I follow you. My impression is the Commissioner of DNR issued a ruling allowing permits to go to 15 cords, etc., certain timeframes and anyone else applying can apply under those rules. I guess I just wanted to understand, are we discussing our application permit under the established ruling by the commissioner or are we just discussing the ruling that the commissioner recently made which I believe is fact and not subject to change at this point.

Chair Larson- It's probably twofold. We are holding this forum for the public to be able to express their thoughts on this change. I think it is a significant departure from what has traditionally been allowed for harvest and outlined in the park plan. Our council responsibilities are to gather public input for any of these changes to uses of resources within the park.

Wilson Hughes- And that public input will be provided back to the Commissioner who's already made a ruling?

Chair Larson- It will be in our in our meeting minutes and some of the reason here is to inform this Council of public sentiment and the park users and their operations in order to best serve in amending and maintaining the permit systems and the park management plan, and so this information that will be documented is to serve as future information for this Council, amendments to the plan and reiterations of this Council into the future and so I feel it's important to document this change for information purposes in future planning.

Wilson Hughes – I appreciate that. I think I understand. I'm of the belief that we've been through a 5-month process with back and forth to the commissioner and have established his ruling and so I would assume, I believed I came to hear you share what the commissioners ruling was with all of us.

Chair Larson – I wanted to allow the corporation to give perspective on this permit application and the process you went through in order for the public to know from your position what it took and some of the reasoning behind this change. I appreciate your comments on explaining this for us. Chair Larson asked for public comment.

Sue Flensburg- What would be helpful, first and foremost, what does the management plan say about permit applications regarding firwood harvest? So, we know what the current parameters are. What the plan says and what the process has been so far and the purpose of the meeting.

Chair Larson- Thanks Sue, that's valid. So right now some language in the plan is somewhat up for interpretation. There are guidelines within the plan to allow for the personal or traditional personal use, dead and down firewood gathering, which also allows the use of a chainsaw, and another guideline is that commercial timber harvest is only allowed, permitted if necessary to protect human life and property, and so those are some of the guidelines that guide the division of parks in how to issue special use permits and commercial use permits to park users. Traditionally, in the decision to allow firewood harvest by the division of parks was for five cords of wood and an outline of the reasoning in a decision made by the division. That's been kind of the historic precedent is that 5 cords, within a certain time frame of the year has been allowed. This uh decision was issued.

Asked if screen sharing was working.

Delores Larson- If you're not speaking please mute your mic. There's a lot of background noise.

Chair Larson- Thanks for your patience as I stumble through how this has happened in the past and how that has departed from this year. This is a special park use permit that's allowed by the plan for personal use within the state park. . The description of what's been authorized is 5 cords of wood, of standing dead spruce trees and any timber that's been downed, so I'm presuming blowdown for personal and non-

commercial use as firewood, while adhering to attached special park permit stipulations. This is what a typical, special park use permit looks like and these have been issued for around a decade or so with five chords being the parameter. It shows some additional things to avoid, no cutting on islands, ANL land conservation easement, and there's a kind of a plethora of additional restrictions.

Chair Larson provided the map associated with the permit that outlines areas in red are closed, with additional stipulations on other things outside of those special stipulations. These other lands have been allowed as harvest areas for five cords a year. That's been kind of the standard practice here for a decade. This process that Wilson Hughes described, a five month process was an appeal to this permit and they wanted to have some additional harvest amounts and additional dates. That what we're discussing here today is that decision and implications to the park and other users. So that's why we're holding this forum, to collect those opinions from the public.

Dave Roseman- So far the permit as it's been interpreted, commercial use included any commercial fishing lodge in the area and it was illegal for a commercial fishing lodge to use any harvested wood from the park. So that that's one of the points that the Commissioner's Office kind of cleared up was that, as I understand it, commercial use would be commercial timber harvest for sale, whereas a lodge cutting wood within the park for use at the lodge for heating its buildings and for creating ambiance for its guests. That, under the current permit or the current interpretation, would be illegal. The Commissioner's office in its determination basically said that wasn't the right interpretation, that a commercial lodge using firewood for use within its operations was OK.

Chair Larson asked Dave Roseman to rephrase the last part, he missed it.

Dave Roseman - One of the main reasons why we filed the appeal was to clarify that point within the permit.

Tim Troll- Is the commissioner's decision is in writing?

Kay Andrews- In reference to non-commercial use of firewood, if the lodges are using the wood for their ambiance isn't that part of their commercial use?

Chair Larson- I'm not able to answer that. The commissioner's office made that determination.

Bryce Edmon- I'm trying to contextualize this. The purpose behind the permit, based on the brief discussion, clearly seems to be an anomaly. Wouldn't the council be involved in terms of input or wouldn't the commissioners office seek the council's take on this before the commissioners office in making a determination on this. Is that anywhere in the regulations?

Chair Larson- I don't believe it is required. One of the responsibilities of the Council is to comment on any activities that may affect the users or the park resources. I don't believe there's any regulation that says that it's required. Another example of this is the Board of Game and Board of Fish proposals that are proposed to have changes to users in the park is something that the Council weighs in on and so it's our responsibility to provide advice to changes like this and any other changes. With that said, the Council's counsel wasn't requested on this matter, but certainly it's our responsibility to weigh in on matters and I believe this is our attempt to do that, just not directly with the Commissioner's Office.

Bud Hodson – When I read the permit or the appeal and the decision that was just issued, it's a number of pages long and it reads like a legal brief. It discusses the permitting in the past; it discusses commercial non-commercial. It's really quite informative and as Wilson said it's been a five month process and I would have thought that this body this Council would have made comments earlier because they knew that the appeal was going or Ali knew that it was being appealed. If you look at the permit and the paperwork that goes with it, it's like a legal brief. He discusses all kinds of different, the same questions your asking are answered in that legal brief. When people read that, I think you'll have a more clear understanding of what the Commissioner {did} and why the Commissioner did what he did. Thank you.

Sue Flensburg- I haven't had a chance to read it yet, but one of the things that's a little bit confusing to me is given the determination by the governor's office on the appeal, what are the exact implications for other users in the park? You mentioned there's typically been a 5 cord threshold, but now it's being raised. Or does this pertain solely to GCI?

Chair Larson– great question I wish I was able to answer that, perhaps the Commissioner's office could weigh in on what this decision means to the other users who are requesting these special use permits. I believe Laura called in.

Laura Boomershine- I am only here as a listening position. I would encourage everyone on the Council to read the appeal. It goes through the reasons behind their decision. If you want anything specific, I think it's best to reach out to the subject matter experts. The best way to do that would be to e-mail the Commissioner's Office at dnr.commissioner@alaska.gov So when you have these questions for this meeting, please send them in a summary and we can get those back to you.

Chair Larson- Sue I'm not sure what the implications are for the other permittees but it is a great question and a part of why we're here to discuss this today.

Sue Flensburg - For any user that would be an important outcome to know what the parameters are.

Chair Larson provided commissioner's Decision on a shared screen. Here is the finding and decision of the appeal of the permit and as Mr. Hughes had stated, this has been a long process for the corporation, and this is a decision that the Commissioner's Office made and it's amending the permit originally issued for five cords to a maximum of 15 cords per year for personal use and then some specific dates expanded from the original permit. That's the decision that was made and the Council was made aware of this decision and therefore felt in the public's best interest to hold a meeting to discuss this and that's why we're here today.

Chair Larson asked Dave Roseman what changes in operations spurred this deviation from the traditional permit? It's just a question that I personally have.

Dave Roseman – What spurred it was the fact that the permit didn't allow GCI to use firewood in the summer. Basically, how it's been interpreted by Ali, who enforces the permit, is that the lodge caretaker is able to harvest firewood and use firewood through the winter but during GCI summer operations it's illegal for us to use any of the wood harvested in the park.

Chair Larson- So the dates of use were the point of conflict for you?

Dave Roseman- The ability to use firewood in the summertime was the main conflict. We also were hoping to be able to harvest firewood in the summertime. Leaving it up to our caretaker in the winter who is out there on his own handling a chainsaw, it's kind of a dangerous situation. So we felt that it would be a safer and just more efficient to be able to do it in the summertime, but that was one of the points that was upheld in the in the Commissioner's decision, limiting it to harvesting from October 1 until May 1, actually May 15.

Chair Larson- October 1 through May 15 is what the decision is amended to.

Bud Hodson- GCI is located in the park. Royal Coachmen is located in the park and Tikchik Narrows is located in the park. So the impact of this, if there is an impact, would be that there's two other possible permits that could be issued, to two other lodges. That's all that's up there. Goldenhorn is way private. And there's personal cabins, but as far as lodges are concerned, there's only two. So it's not like you're going to have 20 lodges out there harvesting wood. There's nobody there. There's no other cabins or buildings or anybody on either Tikchik Lake or Nuyakuk Lake. And same with Royal Coachman Lodge, there's nobody around them so there wouldn't be a conflict any way you look at it. So that's the impact of the possibility of naming a lodge non-commercial for the use of their own fireplace. So just to put it in perspective there's only two lodges up there.

Tim Troll- Is just limited to operations inside the park, or would say lodges that are on Aleknagik Lake but outside the park be able to go in the park to harvest as well? Does the plan make a distinction somewhere?

Chair Larson – Great question. My understanding is it doesn't reference inholdings and there's no limit to number of applicants. This is not just a permit for lodges, this is a permit for any individual to harvest firewood. Question for Ali- Is that residents of the Alaska?

Ali Eskelin- I don't think the state has the ability to limit it to just residents. I don't think that would be legal.

Chair Larson- So, as far as I know, it's just to any individual, not just lodges if that helps Tim.

Tim Troll- Depending upon how all this comes out, maybe there's going to need to be some clarification in the plan itself. If it goes forward, is this going to be a significant environmental concern in the region? Is it likely to open up a lot more firewood access? And if that's the case, do we have to do things like making sure it's limited in some fashion? Just thinking long term on this and again I don't have the decision in front of me so I have no basis to know and I assume at this point there's no appeal for this particular decision, is there? Is there a timeframe that's running or is this a done deal? The commissioner decided and that's it. What happens next I guess?

Chair Larson - That's another great question that I haven't been able to completely feel as though I understand if there is a time frame that's surrounding this appeal process. I did schedule the meeting on shorter notice as a special meeting just for that fact. I'm unsure of if there's a time frame for this appeal to have additional considerations. But that is a very good possibility. I can open that up for someone else.

Ali Eskelin- For a legal standpoint if there is an appeal option based on 11 AAC 02.020 and 02.040, which is the timely filing of such. If there is an appeal, it needs to be filed within 20 days, otherwise it would be up to appeal to the Superior Court. So there's two options, and it's yet to be determined which that is.

Chair Larson – I hope that helps your understanding Tim. This appeal is dated November 16, so apparently 20 days from the date that was issued. There has been some really great discussion here. There is reference to this activity in the state park management plan, it's just the regulations themselves. They're not, codified. When I first reviewed this and looked at the plan, there's a portion of the plan that stands out to me and I'm going to read it out here, it's in section 3-4. It states *commercial lodges also harvest significant amounts of firewood. Forests in these areas may be significantly impacted if firewood collecting is not closely monitored, and if park rules that address this use are not enforced.* So I believe that the folks writing this plan in 2001 did observe this as a

possible concern, and again, that's why we're taking it up here today is to hear some of the commentary around this use and it can inform future amendments and changes possibly to the plan and or regulations. So that's kind of what we're here for today. Alright, does anybody else have any other questions that maybe we could get answers from either? From the Commissioner's Office or any of the lodge operations? Or does any of the public have any additional comments questions?

Kay Andrews- Are all special park use permits filed with the Wood-Tikchik State Park? How was the map of the allowed areas developed? I look forward to the information in reference to the permit application and the appeal or whatever other documents that you're referencing today. Thank you.

Ali Eskelin- Most special use permits are filed with the Wood Tikchik State Park office. There are some permits that are issued out of the permitting office in association with commercial use permits as well, like boat storage and other items. The map was developed around 2014 or 2015 in accordance with park values, to protect scenic resources. There's setbacks on water bodies, the Sunshine Valley area was closed because it's a moose wintering ground. The larger areas that are depicted are wilderness and then setbacks from the main river corridors as well. So I hope that answers the question for you.

Kay Andrews - So when this decision was made, it was the State Park Council that made the decision and reviewed this, and public notice was applied as well?

Ali Eskelin – It was created with both staff members at the park.

Sue Flensburg- There's a process theoretically spelled out in the management plan. special use permits undergo review if they exceed whatever the thresholds are in this case, like harvesting firewood, so I guess. Was the park notified? I thought Wilson said this appeals process has been going on for five months and I'm not sure whether staff or the Council was made apprised of this and if you ask why it wasn't raised at the recent Council meeting. I'm starting to feel like this is sort of catching people by surprise, and the reason why the special meeting is being held because there is potentially procedural issues here.

Chair Larson - Thanks for that summary, Sue. The Council didn't weigh in on this appeal process. It is in the responsibilities of the Council to give advice on these types of topics but as chair I wasn't approached by the Commissioner's Office to weigh in on this as a Council. We briefly touched on it as it was in the process during our regular scheduled meeting. This appeal has passed, so I don't believe there's any additional steps outside of possibly this 20 day reconsideration process in the 11 AAC referenced earlier in the meeting here. I think that's outlined in the decision here. It's got some additional legalese that if someone was really interested in rolling their sleeves up, they could take a look at that. But again, this meeting is to get the public sentiment on the issue for

future use in regulation development and amendments to the plan. I'll entertain a couple more questions, but we're going to close it off at 10.

Tim Troll- If this is a an order of magnitude larger for this permit does the State Park have a plan? I assume the park is supposed to monitor this and make sure everything is done correctly et cetera. Do we have the staff? Is there going to be an ability to actually monitor this? I'm assuming you've doing at least some monitoring on the smaller permits. Is this going to be a big change in terms of the need for park personnel?

Chair Larson - That is a good question. It is certainly tripling the amount of allowed harvest the resource and what that may take too monitor is I think to be seen here this year, but a valid point. Alright, I think we're hopefully getting close to all the questions answered here. I'll be sending out some copies of these documents to folks that have been interested here. I really appreciate everyone weighing in and calling in to the meeting today I know it's kind of a poor time but I felt with the possible time constraints for. anyone interested in commenting on this action to have a short notice meeting here. I appreciate everyone's commentary and questions. We've got a couple more minutes left, but then we're going to call it a meeting. Anyone else with any other comments or questions for the folks online today?

Kay Andrews- I'm curious what the next step is and how the Wood-Tikchik State Park Council is going to respond. Thank you.

Chair Larson- At this point, I as the Council chair, I've considered how our input can be valued on this appeal process and in the decision. I've not found the appropriate channel to give advice on this matter. I think that in the best scenario input is requested from the Council on these matter earlier in the process and this has been something that we've sought to remedy on a variety of issues, but the Council's purpose certainly is to give advice and input in implementing the management plan. At this point I'm not aware of what sort of commentary other than getting these conversations documented for possible future changes to the plan to clarify how these uses are perceived by the users and or impacts they could have. I feel that in areas outside of the park there's different permits issued on general state lands and those guidelines are steered by the division of forestry and a different management plan, and so it's possible that this plan does need to have some additional staff time put into developing more well informed guidelines so that we don't risk the possibility of you damaging the resources or the breeding systems of the wildlife out here. So I don't know our next step, but certainly these minutes can inform future iterations of the plan and/or request regulations.

Alright, any other comments or questions before we call it a day.

Thanks again everyone for calling in. I really appreciate it. This Council would not be able to do what it does without the valued input by the public itself and appreciate the Council members calling again last minute and before the holidays. With that I'm going to adjourn the meeting and happy Thanksgiving. Happy holidays everybody. We'll see you next time.

V. **Adjournment 10:01**

DRAFT

**WOOD-TIKCHIK STATE PARK
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING
November 3, 2022 at 9:00 am
Meeting- BBNA or Microsoft Teams/Teleconference
Dillingham, Alaska**



I. Call to Order 9:07

II. Roll Call/Establish Quorum

Present

Cody Larson- BBNA
Delores Larson- Koliganek
Lee Borden- ADFG
Ali Eskelin- ADNR
Wassillie Andrew- New Stuyahok

Absent

Bruce Ilutsik- Aleknagik (joined later)

III. Introductions

Present

Scott Schumacher - Royal Coachmen Lodge
Todd Rinaldi – ADFG Wildlife Conservation
Henry Wilson
Mike Sanders – Bristol Bay Alaska Tourism, co. owns Mission Lodge
Bud Hodson – Tikchik Narrows Lodge
Jen Romo
Tim Adickes – ADFG sport fish
Bryan Nass – BBSRI
Evelyn Lichwa – ADFG Wildlife Conservation
Pat Vermillion – Royal Coachmen Lodge
Sarah (Fullhart)- Mission Lodge
Jennifer Brooks – BBNC

IV. Review and Adopt Agenda

Lee motion adopt, Delores 2nd – adopted by unanimous consent

V. Approval of March 23, 2022 meeting minutes

Ali provided notice of email request from Sue Flensburg, change WAISCH TO WAISC
Lee motion to approve, Delores 2nd – approved by unanimous consent

VI. Elections

Ali provided Chair and Vice Chair up for election

Lee nominated Cody Larson for Chair, Delores 2nd - adopted by unanimous consent
Delores nominated Bruce for vice-chair, Lee 2nd - adopted by unanimous consent

VII. NETC - Nuyakuk Hydro Update

Cory Warnock provided power point presentation with focus on activities of last six months. Info: Project site ~4.5 miles downstream of Tikchik Lake, provided overview schematic with conceptual layout, two straight line tunnels, intake upstream of the falls, airstrip in a different location than image, bypass reach $\frac{3}{4}$ mile through the falls. Produce ~10-12 megawatts annually, would do away with diesel for the majority of the year, power 7,500 households. Project does not involve a dam but a groin in the river to deflect water to the intake, groin may be underwater most of the year. Maximize power June to September, high demand and high power production correlations.

Aquatic Resources Working Group (ARWG) to work through the two-year study program to assess project. Proposed Study Plan finalized March 2022, Revised Study Plan finalized August 2022. FERC issued Study Plan Determination, the federal ok to move forward with study program in 2023/24.

Geotechnical and rock quality assessment - drilled bore holes at site, rock quality is consistent with what would be needed. Preliminary aquatic study methods assessment in August – Brian Nass and study contractors on site. Model coordination and development effort. 3 models – hydraulic, economic impacts, fisheries positive and negative. Work with ADFG for permits for studies. Aquatic methods study assessment- biologists on site in August, determine what methods are most applicable to the site, a challenging site seeing 20,000 CFS on most years, look at species use, abundance, passage corridors for juveniles and adults, movement patterns, anadromous upstream corridors for adults. Will use underwater video, netting, snorkeling, radio telemetry, tower downstream, upward and side scanning sonar, predatory angling in cooperative efforts with those onsite users.

Supplemental drone and fixed wing bathymetry and habitat mapping assessments. 4-5 days onsite. Comprehensive field studies in 2023-24. Onsite cabins for technicians for the duration of the study program, provide managerial efforts. Study reporting in 2023/24, meetings in late 2023 and 2024 with ARWG plus public, will define conceptual design. Provided senior staff and website info.

Delores identified the biggest concern after meeting in Koliganek was if the airstrip would provide public access and the potential for increased use and access to the area. Appreciate taking public input on decisions. Cory will defer to Will, have been open to public input on that, deferential to public preference.

Ramona (no last name provided) called in on behalf of the city of Aleknagik. Kay will not be in attendance but back in the office on Monday.

Ali questioned the airstrip length and requested it be shown to scale on future maps. Cory will provide info and have updated schematics in future presentations.

Delores inquired about the timeline of study seasons. Cory discussed personnel on site in late April early May to October, cameras currently in place to monitor ice

movement and flow scenarios for the winter, discrete personnel visits in off months in 2023/24

Cody inquired about the number of people on site at different times. Cory noted 8-10 people on site at any one time, including camp manager. Chuck Sauvageau - Natural resource study plan manager, managing logistics and planning. Stagger various study elements to be independent.

Todd inquired about terrestrial study activities specific to the project area and start date for helicopter use. ADFG will be using helicopter in the spring and overlap this area. Cory noted plans to assess caribou migration, calving impacts associated with the transmission line corridors. Helicopters assessing transmission corridor to determine impact to the population and use ADFG data for desktop assessment. Helicopter use possibly June or July, will keep in contact with ADFG.

Pat Vermillion requested info on future schedule air traffic in the summer, helicopter days negatively impacted RCL clients in 2022. Cory addressed helicopter use, geotech work involving the helo was an anomaly for 2022. Won't be as impactful as 10-12 day window was, can send out air traffic schedule.

Delores discussed a concern of the studies happening during the hunting season and questioned where they will be taking place. Cory addressed the effort to eliminate activity during hunting season, but ran into a couple issues, will try to avoid or minimize activities during that time. Bulk of the studies, aquatic resource studies should be within a mile up and down of the falls.

Cody invited comment from the working group (ARWG)

Bryan Nass described site visit with contractors in 2022. They identified several types of methods to get at what fish are there and when, even how many in some cases. Looking at habitat in particular and how they change over different discharge levels and methods are appropriate for different areas and different discharge levels, can't be doing all methods all the time.

Ali noted current special use permit ends May 1, 2023. Have discussed with Will previously. Cory will work with Will.

Cody and Cory discussed subsistence studies. Cory addressed the two-year assessment in 2023-2024, start early May 2023. Series of subconsultants for each area- fisheries, water, rec, terrestrial. Outreach to local communities occurring early 2023. Looking for locals to assist with the outreach for subsistence activities. Local much more in-tune than subconsultants.

Delores identified one of the biggest concerns from Koliganek meeting is whether the two year studies will be enough to determine impacts on fish and river system and asked who would determine if the study season are adequate or need to be

extended. Addressed concern it doesn't seem to be enough time to determine impacts especially based on the lifecycle of a salmon. Cory noted FERC guidance is a two-year study program, tried for a comprehensive study program. Will is committed to a 3rd year of discrete efforts to determine anomalies, in 2025. Developing a life-cycle model and using historical data we have to determine potential impacts, both positive and negative.

Bryan Nass touched on life cycle. Incorporate juveniles migrating to and through the ocean, returning to spawn as adults, coming up to project, moving through to the spawning grounds. We're able to model, based on assumptions, what the potential impacts are over multiple years based on changes in water levels, temperature and certain levels of mortality of fish in the project area. Being able to model that over time if there will be accumulated effects and what are those effects on the population. Predict to some extent what would go on in that time and see how reliable that is.

Delores questioned if the models take into effect climate change and noted two years ago the water levels were very low and this year very high. Believe two years is not enough. Bryan noted there are aspects of the modeling that can take into account those things for climate changes. What the predicted climate could be, not all fleshed out in terms of specifically what needs to be done in that regard, the climate and its effects on water temperature, timing and magnitude of discharge through the river.

Delores noted her observation the Nuyakuk supplies the Nushagak with clean cold fresh water and concern of temperature changes for spawning salmon. Cory identified proposed project is run of the river, remove and return water from a 1/2 a mile stretch of the Nuyakuk. The only area flow would be reduced is a 1/2 mile stretch.

Cody- Thank Delores for comments and dialogue.

Pat Vermillion noted same concern about the two-year window and ability to address all the variables in one study session in two years. Questioned protocols or if the hydro project goes in and it does affect the salmon runs. Cory FERC would mandate the coop to develop monitoring plans, as part of compliance process to develop plans to monitor the project to confirm feasibility, and impacts. Adaptive management plans to determine how to modify operations to live up to the license. Verify impacts are consistent with expectations.

Bud Hodson- TNL- questioned the runway and asked if there would be road. Using float planes or helicopters? Anticipate any more drilling? Cory identified no roads in and out of the project, other than local to the falls to move people. Float plane use to get people in and out of the project area, helicopter use for certain studies. More drilling would be based on the natural resource studies, a couple years down the road and site specific to tunnels.

Cody commented already some impacts to recreational activity. Rec and aesthetic study should show historical recreational use and something that takes into account that there may be less recreational activity in the area based on this research going on. Cory noted they hired recreational firm from Anchorage and will take into consideration development, and project.

Pat Vermillion – RCL questioned the maximum percent of water withdrawal, if they will look at taking more than 30%. Cory studies will determine the amount of water that can be taken. Legislative max is currently 30% of the system. Lead engineer will do a hydraulic model on how much could be taken from the river, will make a determination of the amount of water that needs to stay in the river for species.

VIII. Special Use Land Designation

Cody discussed the recommendation to add lands NW, W and SW corners of the state park. Subcommittee to move forward with special use designation (SUD) recommendation as an ear-marker prior to them being added by legislature. Section 11-1 (corrected from 8-11) highlights those lands and the suggestions to create an a designation so those lands are managed like park lands until the legislature deems appropriate to add those lands to the park. Guidance from DMLW as to how go forward with that. Looking for interest from the public to assist to draft the request for the SUD.

Tim Troll noted he is on the subcommittee.
Comments, concerns, for council.

Lee commented the NW lands, from ADFG perspective, would add area manager based out of Fairbanks to our group. Adding Kisaralik and Aniak areas are managed out of Fairbanks. John Chythlook the area management biologist to be included. Cody will reach out to John.

Bruce Ilutsik – joined conference call. Interested in joining SUD committee.
Mark Romo – Interested in joining committee.

IX. Agency Updates

a. ADFG

Todd Rinaldi noted the Board of Game (BOG) directed ADFG to do some bear removal on calving grounds of Mulchatna caribou to increase survival of caribou. To be conducted by ADFG staff. Wolves or bears found on the calving grounds adjacent and within WTSP would be removed. Meeting with WTSP next week. Providing info to the public for comments and questions.

Delores questioned what is done with the bears and wolves after they are caught and questioned timeframe. Todd noted animals are skinned and salvaged, fur and hides to fur auction, can donate bear meat to communities, want to utilize carcasses to the fullest extent. Portion of Mulchatna caribou where it filters out

in the flats in 17B and potentially 19B (outside the park). Proposed dates are week 1 or 2 May to week 1 or 2 of June. Evelyn noted tentative dates May 1 to June 5. ADFG will also be collaring caribou calves also. Predators not to be removed outside of calving grounds.

Gabe Davis – joined conference call.

Chair Cody Larson and Todd Rinaldi discussed the bear population, ADFG does not have an abundance estimate and BOG did not provide a target number to reduce to. ADFG is charged to remove the bears actively on calving grounds during calving, survival passed first two weeks of life may have significant consequence on first year of life. Preliminary flights of area in 2022, did not encounter a lot of bears on the calving grounds and don't anticipate taking a considerable number. Bears a challenging species to enumerate, vary narrow window from denning to vegetation cover, don't need to know abundance. Have documented significant bear predation of moose in 17C, has kept the moose population below objective levels. Reported take is not reaching harvest objective, program may benefit both species.

Gabe Davis and Todd Rinaldi discussed the program. Gabe noted calving grounds move, a vague explanation to not have a population estimate or quota. Concerned if ADFG doesn't know the bear population and don't have a quota and questioned if there is a defined target area for calving and if it would be a one year or multi-year cull. Todd discussed 30 years of data on calving areas. Proposed area covers the average of the calving area, a considerable area in western portion of 17B and eastern WTSP, Nuyakuk area north into 19B. Todd noted ADFG has been directed to do it this year, will get calf information with collars and will provide info to BOG. Determine if it is effective. BOG may give additional direction thereafter. ADFG is currently writing operational plan and it will be available to the public likely this winter and presented back to the BOG. BOG keen on this effort proposed by Staush Hoffman of Bethel.

Gabe and Todd discussed lacking public notice/comment for program. Gabe noted no people in the industry, guides or stakeholders were notified. Todd noted it came as proposed Intensive Management (IM) in GMU 18, but mostly refuge so would be unlikely to get federal concurrence for federal lands.. Amended proposal to (GMU) 18, but very limited state lands. BOG removed 10,000 sq. mile limitation on IM areas which opened opportunity to conduct predation control on historic range of Mulchatna caribou. BOG directed to specifically remove bears on the calving grounds in (GMU) 17, discussion by the BOG and they made a decision. Agencies and public didn't have an opportunity to comment, suggested working through local AC committees to provide comment.

Gabe noted it's hard to have a say if program is already budgeted and dates are set and concerned there is no quota, decision is arbitrary with no science backing, happening in his Guide Use Area so he may not have a way to make a living the following year because there's no bears in that concentrated area. The issue is not having a quota without knowing how many bears there are is irresponsible.

Todd noted ADFG had no discussions with the BOG regarding bear removal program. Funding came in the last couple months from the legislature. No conservation concern of brown bears in this area. Brown Bear predation on caribou and moose has been extremely high and has hampered the population in 17 B and C with additional factors, don't expect to remove 100 bears, maybe not beyond double digits. The project is about removing predation on Mulchatna caribou calves, don't need to know how many bears are out there. Want to see a numeric response in calf population. Program will be suspended if there is no numeric effect.

Gabe questioned if it's possible to limit it to 30 bears and reassess. Todd noted the BOG has directed ADFG to remove all bears and predators in this area. Not a decision by the Department, is from the BOG.

Todd work through AC committees for comments. Noted BOG meetings Jan 20-24 in Ketchikan and March 17-21 in south central region, Cordova, Kodiak, Kenai, Anchorage. Provide an opportunity for comment but not on the docket. Operational plan may be presented at one of the next meetings. RACs and AC can comment on this.

Cody identified the Department and Council have an obligation to get relevant information from the public and the Park has obligation to protect subsistence and recreational activities within the park. Noted this is the first presentation of the info to the council and questioned how the council could provide comment to the BOG. Further asked if there is an operational plan the public can look at and questioned how the department is interacting with the board, if it's a new IM plan or revision of current plan. Todd suggested members comment to State Parks, the area will overlap into the state park. Public can find operational plans at ADFG website, search IM operational plans, working to amend existing IM operational plan to add bears, identify a new predation removal area, majority is not in the public area. Similar plan ADFG hired professional skinners and provided black bear meat to communities. Is a directive by the BOG. Todd noted the original BOG proposal was amended, expanded to full 40,000 mile range of Mulchatna caribou, removed 10,000 square mile limit and added bears. BOG gave department discretion on plans. Dept. recognizes a problem with the lack of public comment. ADFG does not hijack our own proposals for that reason.

Lee Borden provided an update from ADFG sport fish division, discussed Bristol Bay Finfish proposals that would directly affect the park.

Fishing in the park has rebounded from COVID, 2020 was a low year Bay wide. Effort back at average for 2021 expect same for 2022. Two Emergency Orders (EO), restrictions on Nushagak for King Salmon, used step down approach, restricted bag limits and annual limits first, based on continued low returns went to full catch and release on the Nushagak. One management action that affected the park – issued EO restricting King Salmon Bay wide, all fresh and salt of BB. Annual and Bag limit down to 2 and 1, respectively. ADFG concerned about Kings in the Bay and will be acting conservatively.

Within council authority and responsibility to comment on regulatory changes that would affect activities (hunting, fishing etc.) in the park, submit comments from the board letter if council chooses to comment.

Proposals 18, 20, 28. Nov 14. deadline to comment.

Proposal 18 – far reaching, would prohibit use of salmon eggs for sport fishing in all Bristol Bay. Prohibit use of all salmon eggs, not specific skein of eggs, in the park for all species year round.

Pat Vermillion and Lee discussed chumming would be included, unsure but potentially, already a reg for chumming, Pat is strongly in favor of eliminating the use of salmon eggs in the park.

Andy Angstman, Pat Vermillion and Lee discussed use of salmon eggs and if it is detrimental to species or population of fish. Lee noted ADFG has no specific studies on topic but did look at the impact of bait in 2017/18 mortality study. Unable to tease out an effect with small sample size. Hook location influenced mortality. ADFG doesn't consider bait to be an additional mortality factor. General stance is that it limits opportunity. Pat Vermillion noted fish concentrate where there is chumming, affecting the natural migration of predator species.

Cody and Lee discussed ADFG authority to restrict use of bait. Lee noted Department would prohibit bait, not specifically salmon eggs, reduced catch rate without using bait. Species of concern is King Salmon, don't consider the Wood or Tikchik to be major King producers. Other species, chum has been a concern. Resident species are thriving. Large sockeye runs are benefiting resident species with an increase in size in char, pike, rainbows with increased food availability.

Delores and Lee discussed how EO's being communicated in region. Lee noted a mail delivery system, can sign up online and EO's are physically posted in Dillingham and King Salmon and announced on radio.

Ali and Lee discuss success rate of bait vs. non and how proposal may affect subsistence uses in the park. Lee noted catch rates are lower for king and coho without bait. Ice fishing using bait, mixed reports on effectiveness, more

variable. ACs discussed date and time limits to focus on king salmon in the summer.

Cody and Lee discussed sport fish management tools. Lee noted current protections are sufficient.

Proposal 20 – would prohibit the use of bait and barbed hooks on the Pak, north to Kulik and streams and tributaries. 9/1-6/7, lures, 6/8- 8/31 flies only. Bud Hodson, Pat Vermillion, Andy Angstman, Sarah (Mission), Mark Romo all opposed proposal, Bud, Sarah and Andy noted it discriminates against anglers that don't fly fish. Andy further noted a poorly fished bead on a fly rod is more dangerous than an properly fished spinner

Ali provided comments from guides on the Pak, noting injury to fish on the Pak.

Proposal 28 would close the upper Nushagak above confluence with the Nuyakuk, entire Nuyakuk and Mulchatna Rivers to sport fishing for king salmon, Protect spawning grounds to fishing for King Salmon. Couldn't target king salmon while sport fishing.

Cody and Lee discussed methods for sport fishing, could not target or retain kings.

Pat Vermillion strongly oppose proposal, lodge fishes that area, stay away from lower Nushagak and target areas with less people.

Ali and Lee discussed effort and catch in those areas. Lee noted most years no king harvest on Nuyakuk, average harvest for entire area is approximately 200 fish. Not a biological concern, approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of a $\frac{1}{2}$ percent.

Delores had no objections. Wassillie asked when the comments are due. Cody noted deadline to comment November 14. Delores questioned about scholarship apps for residents. Cody noted deadline.

b. ADNR – Ali provided an update on operations.

- Division Reorganization- Kodiak and WTSP combined into Southwest Region. New Superintendent Ben Shryock, may receive additional maintenance and patrol support. Ben noted similarities between Kodiak and WTSP, thanked all for participation.
- Increase of effort and interest in hunting in the park in last 5 years, especially upper Tikchik Lakes. Did receive a few complaints about congestion on the Tikchik River and people dropping in on camps or camps too close together. Wilderness Permits

2022 - 28 (24) during hunting season

2021 - 33 (30)

2020 - 14 (13) COVID YEAR

2019 - 22	(20)
2018 - 21	(19)

Cody, Ali and Lee discussed wilderness permits. Limits are being reached on Chikuminuk, Slate and Tikchik River, close to limits on Upnuk, Nishlik. A new regulation or changes to the management plan would be the only way to adopt new limits.

- Agulupkak Cabin continuing work - foundation, exterior sealant
- Potential to apply for grant funding to build a PUC on lower Wood River Lakes. Identified in Management Plan under Recommendations and Implementation for facilities Table 11-2 page 11-4

Cody, Henry Wilson, Lee and Ali discussed a public use cabin option, with potential to seek grant funding, possible location on Lower Nerka for reasonable access by boat from Aleknagik.

- Plan for a preseason sport fish guide meeting in early summer 2023 to discuss park rules, safety (Agulowak River), ANL conservation easement, private properties and any concerns stakeholders want addressed.
- Continuing effort for public safety, fee enforcement, resource protection and management.
- Several brown bears killed and left on Lake Aleknagik, Lake Nerka and Wood River. 2 reported 2020, 3 reported 2021, 4 reported 2022
- The Director's office received a permit application from a lodge employee to harvest 15 cords of wood annually from Lake Nerka, with no restriction on period of harvest or the use of the harvested firewood in guest and employee facilities. The Director issued a special use permit allowing 5 cords of firewood for personal, non-commercial use only, consistent with the management plan. Permit has been appealed and is under review by the commissioner's office. Any questions or comments should be directed to Eric Fossum- Director of Appeals & Policy Implementation (907)269-8429 erik.fossum@alaska.gov

Lee questioned the permit process and timeline and noted 75 cords of firewood harvested over 5 years would be substantial, it will leave a mark and will be visible from everywhere. It will clear an area around the lodge of all standing dead and realistically may not be possible to get that amount without cutting live trees. Envisioning a small clear cut operation. Ali noted regulations don't allow for cutting of any live vegetation, only standing dead spruce and dead and down is allowed. Ben Shryock noted nothing similar for firewood harvest in Kodiak.

- DOT road work scheduled for Lake Road in 2023, may see some improvements to drainage and flow at boat launch turnaround and ramp area.
- City of Aleknagik proposing city ordinance to limit float plane access to an area within and extending beyond the SRS to the city boundary. City doesn't appear to have authority to restrict public access to state waters. Invitation to city to work through the state process.

Jennifer Brooks asked if the state plans to respond to the city on float plane ordinance. Cody noted the overlap with city ordinance and the SRS. Ali plans to attend meeting and the state may develop a comment. Henry Wilson agreed it's not within the city's authority, it's navigable waters and they don't have any jurisdiction. City can't unilaterally dictate what goes on in the lake. Ali noted Aleknagik is a federally recognized seaplane base, steps to change or restrict use through federal government process. Cody and Ali addressed state park regs are shown in the Chart Supplement, state has authority in regulating the uses of state water and there is a path forward to work with the city to address concerns.

X. Public Comments

None

XI. Board Comments

Cody – todays' meeting helped me to recognize the council is not receiving the notifications directly from ADFG on activities that would be occurring within the state park. Activity of council was low. Authority and responsibility to be commenting on management activities by ADFG and ADNR. Urge departments to forward the info of things occurring within the park in a timely manner.

Suggest letter draft in regard to fisheries proposals trying to incorporate the array of perspectives and forward to advisory committees. Council can partially comment on those that would affect park waters, would take a motion.

Delegate rep for to speak to the advisory committee meetings.

Welcome Ben Shryock. Thanks to outgoing board member Paul Liedberg. Presenting Paul with nice print of the park and appreciate contributions to the council.

Warm welcome to Wassillie Andrew from New Stuyahok.

Lee always available at ADFG 842-2427. Comments for the board cycles.

Delores congrats to Cody for chair and congrats to Bruce for vice chair.

Identified alternate – Anuska Wysoki for Koliganek. Thanks to all for attendance and feedback for the park. Asked about funding for travel to have in person meetings in Dillingham. Cody noted first meeting, half virtual half in person. No substitute for in person meetings. More meaningful.

Bruce welcomed new board members. Meeting was very informational great working together to manage the largest state park in the nation, thank you for nominating me for vice chair.

Wassillie – first meeting here, interesting, great information, topics and studies and just getting a sense of how the council operates. Looking forward to more.

Ali – Thanks to BBNA for facility use, open invite to the city of Aleknagik to work through concerns of a potential noise ordinance regarding float plane use. Safe 2022 season, thanks to public and lodge owners. Thanks for all public participation at the meetings, helps guide the management of the park.

Cody - motion to designate Lee at advisory committee liaison.
January 19-24

Ask for discussion for January BOG IM. Ali nominate Cody for BOG liaison.

Cody motion to form subcommittee to relay public comments to RAC & BOG RE: IM activities within the park.

Ali 2nd –unanimous consent.

Discussion on committee members, Lee recused- may be a conflict. Ali offered as de facto secretary for council, will assist in that role. Bruce interested in serving on committee.

XII. Date/Agenda of Next Meeting

March 23, 2023 - 9 am at BBNA with virtual component as well.

XIII. Adjournment 12:52

**WOOD-TIKCHIK STATE PARK
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING
March 23, 2022 at 11:00 am
Virtual Meeting- Microsoft Teams/Teleconference
Dillingham, Alaska**



-Agenda-

Roberts Rules of Order

**I. Call to Order 11:04
II. Roll Call/Establish Quorum**

Present

Cody Larson - BBNA
Delores Larson - Koliganek
Bruce Ilutsik - Aleknagik
Lee Borden - ADFG
Ali Eskelin - ADNR

Absent

Peter Christopher - New Stuyahok
Paul Liedberg - Dillingham

III. Introductions

Andy Angstman
Bud Hodson – Tikchik Narrows Lodge
Ben Corwin - Park Superintendent
Dan Dunaway
Michael Link - BBSRI
Robert Mawson - Dillingham
Sue Flensburg - Dillingham
Wassillie Wonhola - New Stuyahok
Bryan Nass - BBSRI
Scott Schumacher – Royal Coachmen Lodge
Will Chaney - NETC

IV. Review and Adopt Agenda

Lee motion, Delores 2nd – adopted by unanimous consent

V. Approval of October 22, 2021 meeting minutes

Delores motion, Lee 2nd – adopted by unanimous consent

VI. Council Member Alternates

BBNA- Cody's alternate CaSandera Johnson
Koliganek- Delores' alternate none yet
ADFG- Lee Borden- alternate John Landsiedel DFG biologist

Ali Eskelin- alternate Park Ranger II, or Park Superintendent
Cody discussed New Stuyahok seat- Wassillie Wonhola Sr. nominated will have an active seat before fall meeting.

Wassillie VP and Andres secretary of village council. rep as council members.

VII. Presentations

a. Nuyakuk Hydro – NETC

Will Chaney guided council and public to NETC website for presentation recording from 2022 annual meeting. Nushtel.com. George Hornburger INN electric presentation about Tazimina Hydro project and issues and Cory Warnock presentations on NETC efforts. Out of abeyance as of March 1, not much change since. Re-entering ILP on the federal timeline, 2022 prelim study season, 2023/2024 study seasons. Uptick of activity at site, working on Geotech, bringing scientists and stakeholders visit site, starting next week to install stream gauge, to compare to USGS gauge and install time lapse cameras to show ice out. Working on facilities- finish cabin and install weather port on second platform. Coop made a trip to Juneau with Bob Himschoot (outgoing CEO) who will finalize retirement June 1, had 5 meetings. Shared info on project with delegation. Study funding is the concern, didn't leave with a check but meetings went well. Also met with Garret Boyle exec dir. of Denali commission and Curtis Thayer Alaska Energy Authority. Trip to DC scheduled for early April, Murkowski and Sullivan meetings. Present at Aleknagik city council meeting on 30th and would like to get to Koliganek, New Stu and Ekwok as well if acceptable.

Delores asked about when NETC anticipates going to villages for meetings. Will noted there is no timeframe yet, will work with village councils.

Cody asked how the public can get their comments on record through the process. Will discussed the current 120 day comment period, not the last comment period, attempted to find Cory Warnock's latest presentation for details.

Cody noted Henry Wilson asked about new legislation at last council meeting and asked about any new legislation regarding recent trips to Juneau. Will noted no activity in that direction but may need to update the sunset clause in the current legislation, scheduled 2024. Would fundamentally change any process or practice, just to effectively study the site may need to extend the access.

Cody asked if other trips were for fundraising
Will- meetings to keep the study process in front of the delegation- secure the funding is important because that drives anything to follow.

Ali noted the 120 day comment period would mean comments need to be in by around July 1.

Bruce- present, at meeting 10 minutes ago, didn't want to interrupt.

Delores asked when NETC anticipated studies, worried about the hunting season, potential of planes disturbing hunters in August.

Will discussed Geo Tech plans for 2022, drill 6 core samples, one at upper end of falls, four in raceway area, one at powerplant area, to be drilled in early August.

Actual study seasons will be 2023/24, full on study seasons and there will be some traffic, hunting and subsistence is a consideration for timing. No schedule yet but hopefully this study season will help formulate plan.

Cody asked for public comments for Will.

Scott Schumacher with Royal Coachmen Lodge discussed lodge fishes the area from mid-June to early September. Questioned access to portage trail and noted RCL keep boats below the falls during their operating season.

Will stated there will be access to the falls. NETC will remain as out of the way as we can. Access to trail gets dicey. Noted the permit allows for 100 sq foot dock, and plans to keep the boat there when not attended.

Cody questioned if NETC could provide some hard dates of operations so commercial operators can schedule business plan around activities.

Will noted geo tech will be during the first couple weeks in August to be in and out before hunting season. Comm fish and subsistence are important considerations and allow folks to not worry about getting fish in and getting comments sent. 3 day notice for activities, may be able to put that on the website when plans are made. Weather and travel will factor in. Uptick in activity and will communicate as best we can.

Bryan Nass confirmed PSP comments are due June 30.

Will asked public to view the presentation by Cory most up to date info.

Cody discussed timing and communication for helicopter use for public safety resources, etc. Will extended invite to the site for FRI and ADFG. Offer for assistance as we can.

Delores asked if there was a website for project and how to comment.

Will provided Nushtel.com and nuyukhydro.com for everything compiled and further offered public to reach out directly.

VIII. Special Use Land Designation

Cody- recap mechanisms for advancing part of the park management plan for adjacent lands west of the legislatively designated state park, there is a mechanism to manage those lands as SUD. Council formed subcommittee to develop letter of request to initiate SUD process, public process that incorporates steps from feedback from the public and what types of restrictions there would be on those lands and what activities would be continued. Subcommittee met twice, drafted

language to request DNR initiate that process. Not in the position for review yet. Will meet again before the fall meeting to finalize letter of request.

Call for additional council members on committee. None. Will have it at the next meeting for finalization.

IX. Public Comments

Dan Dunaway – questioned status of concrete planks- donating to the state.

Ali- in need of funding to get the planks moved and installed, planks are at the city facility at the harbor.

Robert Mawson- will check on my end.

Sue Flensburg – questioned if any increases in fees?

Ali- fees increased recently and no increases slated, no new director's order on fees.

X. Board Comments

Ali - Budget is tight, hiring for Park Ranger II for WT/Chugach, anticipate increasing numbers of visitors in the next couple weeks for wolf and bear hunting. Icy in the mountains but traveling is good in the park.

Lee - no comments

Bruce - asked for an update on fiberoptic project to connect from Levelock and discussed he had not yet chosen an alternate and will ask at the next meetings of councils. No interest yet.

Will- ops manager will be in Aleknagik for update on the hydro project.

Delores – hopes to see increased community engagement during the current comment period. many people not aware of the comment period, hope to get a sense of what people are thinking.

Will- make an effort to get the dates on the website, need community input and participation.

Sue - NETC will likely be presenting at the WAISCH April 21-22, online for those who hope to get an update.

Cody- meaningful participation in this project.

Concern price about accessing the park. Asking when the next increase is on people's minds. State park pass system is access to all of the state parks. Passes are sold as beneficial to all parks statewide. Worth discussing forming an additional restricted pass at a reduced rate because cannot access other parks, not seeing the full benefit of those stickers on our Dillingham road system.

XI. Date/Agenda of Next Meeting
Ali – SUD, meeting last two weeks of October.

XII. Adjournment 12:07

**WOOD-TIKCHIK STATE PARK
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING
October 22, 2021 at 09:00 am
Virtual Meeting- Microsoft Teams/Teleconference
Dillingham, Alaska**



I. Call to Order - 9:10

II. Roll Call/Establish Quorum

Present-

Paul Liedberg
Cody Larson
Lee Borden
Delores Larson
Ali Eskelin
Bruce Ilutsik

Absent-

Peter Christopher

III. Introductions

Will Chaney - Nushagak
Bryan Nass
Henry Wilson - public
Mark Lisac - public
Bob Himshoot - Nushagak
Kenton Moos - TNWR
Todd Rinaldi - ADFG DWC
Ben Corwin – Park Superintendent
Mario Pagni - PRII
Tim Adickes – ADFG
Mark Schwantes
Bryce Edgmon

IV. Election of Officers- Chair and Vice-Chairperson

Paul nominated Cody Larson for Chair- elected by unanimous consent
Ali nominated Delores Larson, Paul second- elected by unanimous consent

V. Review and Adopt Agenda

Paul motion to Adopt Agenda
Lee second, Approved by unanimous consent

VI. Approval of March 26, 2021 meeting minutes

Paul motion to approve meeting minutes from 3.26.21, Lee second
Cody- requested to add Monica Alvarez to minutes, Ali will add Monica
Adopted by unanimous consent

VII. Bi-annual meeting schedule

Ali discussed topic to formalize schedule discussion between Cody, Paul, Delores and Ali identified first two weeks of October and last two weeks of March. Cody request to add to bylaws.

VIII. Council Member Alternates

Ali discussed the action item to identify names of alternates for council member. Provided regulation language 11 AAC 20.320. Cody discussed nominations from organizations represented, authority to appoint our own alternates. Call for discussion, none. Identify alternates at next meeting with recommendation to bring alternates as guests to familiarize and have full attendance.

IX. Presentations

a. Nuyakuk Hydro Update - NETC

Will Chaney discussed timeline and intent to reinitiate ILP process March 2022, study seasons 2023 and 2024, prep season 2022 to finish camp, get stakeholders and scientist to the site. Bob Himschoot reiterated March 2022, sharing study plan early and we would like to hear concerns and comments before ILP process.

Cody questioned plan progress, key points or updates from the plan.

Bob H identified last 18 months working with ARWG (Aquatics Resource Working Group), agency reps, created study regimen based on lifecycle model.

Bryan Nass- Institute developed a list of high level points are considered shortcomings, working with ARWG team to address shortcomings. Development of new study on life cycle model and IRA (integrated risk assessment project)- take quantitative and qualitative info together to address potential impacts by the project that are deemed critical. Should bring us closer to a solid risk assessment. There are outstanding issues to address, further opportunity to make changes. ARWG has worked well and there has been lots of progress.

Cody noted public comment allowed later in the agenda.

Paul discussed prior outreach done by the cooperative, questioned if information is getting to the outlying villages and the need for good engagement with the residents.

Will discussed the goals to travel to villages. Engagement to see if villages want visitors and a public forum. Working to get information out to everyone.

Delores questioned timeline if Nushagak's intent to re-file was November 1 or March 1.

Will discussed March 2022 timeline. Study years 2023 and 2024.

Lee identified ADFG has been involved with ARWG and happy with the progress acknowledged still work to be done. Submitted formal comments through ADFG FERC coordinator.

Will discussed SB91- provides access to the park, sunsets July 2024. Addressing that should not be an issue, will have substantive information by that time, hoping it won't be much more than a formality.

Cody discussed senate bill in the future that will take some public comment. Questioned if any renegotiations planned for adjustments to the Bill.

Will discussed the SB91 is for access to the park- NETC can operate as is. Bob discussed three main considerations with Bill for access to the park. 1. Not to create a dam, 2. limit of 30% of the flow- set as part of the negotiations for access, 3. sunset required for operating permit by July 2024. Timeline didn't include pandemic or abeyance. Reengagement with legislature will be after a study season with initial data and passed a couple more go/no-go points. Intent to move the sunset date to a more realistic timeline for evaluation of the resource.

b. ADFG Update- Todd Rinaldi/Lee Borden

Todd Rinaldi – discussed ADFG operations in Dillingham. Wildlife Biologist Bryan Riley left, trouble hiring and keeping staff. Goal to have wildlife biologist and assistant biologist in Dillingham. Moose management plan- Population objective- 17B: 4,900-6,000, 17C: 2,800-3,500. Harvest Objective- 17B: 200-400, 17C: 165-350 moose, Minimum density- 17B: 1 moose/mi², 17C: ½ moose/mi². Moose Populations: 17B: ~1200 west, didn't include siteability correction factor 17C: 4000. surveys challenging w/inconsistent snow. No recent survey in 17B. population. Population continues to decline, well under objective. Production- good calving and twinning rates, survival rates abysmal. Bears taking huge proportion of calves in 17C. Developed moose feasibility assessment-evaluates intensive management, predation control, habitat manipulation, physically move bears. Present draft to BOG, may not take it up. Moose Harvest 17B/C: RM583- 750-800+ (resident) permittees, harvest reported 170 in 2020, huge increase from previous years. Typical 130-140 harvest. Request to extend RM583 by Manokotak – unable due to populations concerns. Encouraging take in 17A, to level out population.

General Harvest Ticket hunt- averaging 100+. Average non-res take 30 moose/yr. RM585 (winter) closed in 2020. Close it when 20 bulls taken, taken mostly by Dillingham.

Cody- opened to council for questions.

Ali questioned populations of 17B and 17C, 1200 vs. 4000

Todd explained 17B divided into east and west- Total 17B: ~3100. 4900 is the lower limit of population objective for that area.

Cody commented RM585- ~take 20/year near Dillingham. Disproportionate take near smaller communities, idea dates and numbers not contingent on Dillingham harvesters.

Todd discussed split RM585- can't close or split portions of a hunt. Dillingham communities have higher impact on population. 17C: in 2018: 438, +/-1500. In 2020: 2750, +/-400, better confidence. Below bottom end of pop obj. Concern is no calf survival, this year was 7%.

Mulchatna Caribou update – closed for entire range. Aggregation changed little in last 10 years. Population Estimate 2020: 12,837 +/-900. East 7000, west is 5800 respectively, well below 2019&20 and population objective of 30,000-80,000. Composition survey showing positive signs of growth. Discussed working group, Caribou Trails Newsletter outreach, public input in GMU 19/17/18 and 9. Conservation concern. Good support for closure, long road for population recovery.

Paul suggested adding public comment before bylaws.

ADFG Update- Lee Borden

Sport fish- staffing- new Assistant Area Manager- Tim Adickes to expand role. Still without admin support. 2021: Nushagak incredibly high return of sockeye- 4.5M escapement. Just under 4.5M in Wood River. King escapement 55,222, perspective from ADFG as under representation of what was on the river. June 27, 2021 limited annual and daily take for kings, average to below average on sport fishery. Projects- creel on Togiak river, 1st ever creel survey on Nushagak Coho fishery. Lodges for kings are staying late and fish for Coho.

Ali noted comments received from guide and lodges regarding concern for size of kings. Lee discussed high proportion of jacks, concern on the radar. Management actions- expect proposal to the board with something to address size, such as slot limits. Don't see the Dept. proposing anything but would suspect private proposal, not concern for management.

Break 9:56-10:52

c. Proposed Regulation Package – DPOR

Ben Corwin discussed regulation packages infrequent, goal to have smaller packets on regular basis to ease process. Steps – 1. Internal discussions on proposed regulations 2. public notice with opportunity to comment 3. Comments reviewed by staff and adjustments made 4. Dept. of Law review 5. signed by DNR commissioner 5. Lt. Gov signature for adoption. Current package has been reviewed by law and adjustments have been made, waiting on Commissioner's signature.

Ali discussed proposed regulations. Emergency vehicle use, Snowmobile codified change state-wide regulations no longer specific to Wood-Tikchik. Firearms- discharge change, closed within $\frac{1}{4}$ of developed facility, use of weapons allowed for lawful trapping and hunting.

Cody questioned if there is opportunity to comment and concern the council not able to put together comments. Questioned if discharge of weapon changed, repeal from hunting and trapping only, allow for less restrictive discharge.

Ben- through public comment period. Next opportunity for input is after Lt. Gov signature, an appeal process before regulations are adopted.

Ben/Ali- package went out for public comment in late June, sent to WTSP management council distribution and all council members. Change in firearm discharge only limits within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of developed facility, no target shooting in the park, only discharge firearm for lawful hunting and trapping.

Ali discussed added definition of camping 12 noon – 12 noon following day. And the addition of 'non-vegetated' gravel bars and beaches for campfires to identify allowable areas to minimize habitat damage.

Cody questioned if any stakeholders raised concerns about changes to this area.

Ali discussed one comment on snowmobiles and access the private property. Dan (Buetel) responded to concerns, specific property is accessed via the lake there is no potential habitat concerns since access is by water.

Cody- RM585, does regulation usurp opening date of moose hunt?

Ali discussed access is important for public land and private property, but state does not want to see habitat damage. Will defer to chain of command and ADFG as to how to handle the situation. It hasn't been an issue.

X. Special Use Land Designation

Cody- discussed long standing conversation to add adjacent state land to the park, recommended in management plan, BBAP, council recommendations to take action but hasn't gained traction. Plan suggested lands designated special use to be managed as park lands. Explanation from DNR last spring- First step write a letter to request the Dept. consider moving the process forward with public comments and similar to regulation packet process. Asked for comments or thoughts from the council.

Paul supports recommended lands be added to the park, provide justification for the special regulations and types of activities to manage more consistent with park. DNR advised mining claims could be grandfathered in. Discussed permitting for commercial activities and identify and clarify justifications.

Cody discussed the letter and specifics justifications, restrictions apply to park lands that don't apply to general state lands- ie: no permanent facilities, no airstrips, disposal of lands/sales. Intent to manage adjacent lands as park lands in BBAP and WTSPMP. Mineral leasing and exploration is a sign the lands have not been managed as park lands, take steps that lands aren't too altered before being added to the park, similar to park lands/wilderness areas right now. Further discussion on additional restrictions such as changes to hunting or fishing.

Ali- identify the lands that flow into WTSP, protect the water quality for lands draining into the park.

Lee- noted the majority of those areas in question are not managed within Dillingham area. Would need additional input from the Fairbanks office.

Kenton noted refuge supportive of addition, have same concerns. Others- Tim Troll with land trust and conservation fund, would be supportive of action also. TNWR and can contact other folks for support from non-profits as well.

Paul suggested a committee that can identify other groups or agencies that share concern and get input as well. Request should be complete, thorough and justified before sending. Suggest subcommittee to present to council at next meeting and move forward at the next meeting.

Paul – motion establish a special committee to address this Special Use Land Designation.,

Ali - second

Paul - nominated Cody, entertain up to 5 members - Ali volunteered for committee as park rep. Kenton interested in sitting on committee as well as support from other non-profits.

Paul suggested Cody and Ali the authority to identify additional members of committee.

Cody - Question called and motion to create subcommittee for SUD passed by unanimous consent.

XI. Public comment

Henry Wilson questioned the status of legislation, asked about camp facilities in the park, what will happen to structures if legislation is not passed.

Cody responded no current legislation.

Will SB91 allows access to the park until July 2024. Park guideline for facility installation, docks and camp facilities. COVID hampered construction.

Ali responded no permanent structures built, all must be removable.

Will questioned proposed firearm discharge regulation if only state facilities or private facilities as well, questioned cause of 7% calf survival.

Ali provided definition of developed facility- will reach out to Dept. of Law as to state vs. private building.

Todd discussed Intensive management for benefit of caribou- not for moose previously. Likely due to predation, bears a large factor. Bear control efforts by Dept. or public will likely not have effect, may give short term relief, not long term.

Cody questioned Mario on definition of facility. Mario will clarify w/ Dept. of Law.

Dan Dunaway requested clarify firearm discharge identified GCI and BBL trap shooting.

XII. Bylaws

Ali discussed bylaw updates provided by Dept. of Law as mostly formatting changes.

Discussion between Cody, Paul and Ali for approval.

Paul Motion to adopt the bylaws

Ali- second. Updated bylaws adopted by unanimous consent.

XIII. Board Comments

Paul thanked Ali for work in supporting council in the park as well as supervisors. Happy with progress on a couple items.

Lee- no comments

Bruce provide info for non-local permits. Asked about bycatch for trawlers and impact on escapement at next meeting. Thanked Ali for work on putting meetings together.

Ali provided info for Bruce on non-resident permits 140, take 30 per year. Unk of 17B,C or combined. Visitation up, lodges were at capacity up, hunting season and permits up for 2021; new staffing, welcome Mario Pagni the new supervisory park ranger for Chugach/SW. Working well with TNWR, joint facilities in Aleknagik. Thanks to the public and council for attendance and comments.

Cody discussed benefit for council to have more formal comment for regulations. Feel strongly hunting and trapping aligned with the intent of the plan and park- an area for subsistence, recreational and commercial hunting. Shooting range and such development would drastically change experience in the park. Discussed SUD, look forward to working with committee toward

final outcome lands added to the park. Thanked Ali for work on bylaws. (Mgmt) Plan is from 2002, think about updating.

Delores- No comments.

Paul thanked Chair for taking the lead, will do a great job.

Cody thanked Paul thanks for incredible service, guidance and longevity.

XIV. Date/Agenda of Next Meeting

Discussion between Cody, Delores and Ali- First two weeks of October and last two weeks of March- Cody next meeting March 25 1:30pm

SUD on agenda for next meeting

XV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned ~12:15

**WOOD-TIKCHIK STATE PARK
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 26, 2021 at 10:00 am
Videoconference via Microsoft Teams
Dillingham, Alaska**



I. Call to Order 10:03

II. Roll Call/Establish Quorum

Present: Bruce Ilutsik

Cody Larson

Lee Borden

Delores Larson

Ali Eskelin

Paul Liedberg

Absent: Peter Christopher

III. Introductions

Public: Mike Etukmelra Jr. (phone)

Marion Olsen- Aleknagik Traditional Council

Kay Andrews -City of Aleknagik

David Schwantes

Ben Corwin- Parks Superintendent

Cory Warnock- McMillian Jacobs and Asst.

Ramona Andrews- City of Aleknagik

Bryan Reiley- ADFG Area Biologist

Will Cheney- NETC

Bob Himschoot- NETC

Bryan Nass- BBSRI

Dan Dunaway

Sue Flensburg

Luke Schwantes

Monica Alvarez- DNR

IV. Review and Adopt Agenda

Motion to Review and Adopt- Lee Borden, second- Ali Eskelin

Amendments- Ali move ADFG Bryan Reiley forward on agenda

Paul Liedberg- insert ADFG after minutes

Approved by unanimous consent with amendments

Kay Andrews requested copies of presentations by email.

Unknown party statement about voting. Paul clarified only council voting.

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes – November 26, 2020

Motion to Approve- Cody Larson, Second- Ali Eskelin

Approved by unanimous consent.

VI. Presentations – (moved up in agenda per request)

a. ADF&G Updates

Bryan Reiley- ADFG Area game biologist, provided info moose and caribou populations in and around the park. Last survey in 2017- 1700 moose +293, trending up. 17B East pop. estimate from 2008, 1500 +/- 400.

Combining those two estimates, currently under populations objectives 4900-6000. Working to increase populations through regulatory change or intensive management. 17C objective is 2800-3500, survey Dec 2020 pop. est. at 2800 +/- 400, on lower end of pop. obj., trending down. Collaring short yearlings to east of wood river up lowithla and other areas. GPS collar on a cow, constrained due to weather. Capturing in may and twinning surveys in B&C.

Mulchatna caribou – numbers are down, 13,500 estimate, well below lower end of objective 30,000-80,000- expecting no hunts for next few years through Game board or Emergency Orders. Bull to cow and Calf to cow ratios suggest population is looking good and has potential to increase, ongoing predator control efforts. Same day airborne has been effective, wolf numbers near calving ground is low. Will be collaring of yearlings and capturing neonates and in fall a photo census or another method for population estimate. Recent finding of brucellosis bacteria in blood samples from the fall. May be affecting herd, shows exposure not necessarily active infection. No symptoms, enlarged joints, aborted fetuses. Will continue to look at this, collect blood samples from wolves and moose also. No hunting season for Mulchatna caribou.

Kimberly Beckman who deals with pathology.

Lee Borden- ADFG fisheries biologist. Hiring an assistant. State budget is tight, funding based on tourism and license sales. Two projects on Togiak and Nushagak, not much near the park. Park Related info- effort on Wok and Pak, Aleknagik Lake, Muklun Wood River trending down- 389 angler days 2019, 599 in 2018, 1026 in 2017. Numbers will be down for 2020. Wok is trending down on 1600 angler days in 2017, 1200 in 2019. Expect large drop in 2020 also.

Lakes stable effort Muklun, Aleknagik Lake, Wood River all stable. Wood River is about 800 angler days per year. BOF met and decided to postpone all meetings and 2021-22 schedule back. 2022 will be in calendar year of 2022. April of 2022 deadline for proposals. BOF topics relating to the park: Using Wood River special harvest area (SHA) for a tool for conservation of king salmon. May influence all populations of salmon in the park. Contact Lee or Tim regarding SHA.

Last few years resident species flourishing, more and larger pike, char and rainbow trout in Wood system. All species seem to be having an upswing likely due to environmental factors, good survival and good growth.

Bruce Ilutsik– question for Bryan- In (GMU)17C Dec 2020 moose population was 2080. Any specific reasons why the population got so low?

Bryan – May be the liberal regulations in terms in harvest, predators. Many factors may be influencing population. Research shows very few young are surviving. Brown bear predation on neonates is a big factor, twinning rates seem to be good, habitat seems good.

Cody- Thanked ADFG for updates and look forward to commenting on proposals that may affect park users.

Public questions- none

VII. Management Plan Land Additions, Special Use Land Designations– DNR

Paul- Discussed land addition recommendations in mgmt. plan- would take legislative input and action by DNR, opportunities to request areas identified as additions to the park be managed as park.

Monica Alvarez- Section chief for DNR Resource and Development, land use planning. Reviewed response letter- identified ways land can be managed as park. 1. Interagency land management agreement (ILMA)- limited to 640 acres. 2. Special Use designation (SUD) implemented by regulation, greater amount of acreage, restrictions promulgated through regulation. ie: require permit for activities they normally wouldn't need a permit for on general state lands.

Paul asked for examples of how SUD has been applied in similar situations.

Monica- Exit Glacier on Kenai Pen. Changes restriction to camping, shortens time limit on camping. SUD for lands identified as additions Kenai River Special Management Area (KRSMA) for habitat. Requires permitting for certain types of ground disturbances. There are several others.

Cody- noted habitat values in those areas and questioned examples of types of ground disturbances.

Monica – In generally allowed uses, there is a limit to how much ground disturbance can occur before a permit is required. Requires a permit for any type of ground disturbance. Modify uses on general state lands.

Cody- noted lands set for addition to the park are larger than 640 acres. The vehicle that would move the plan forward is the SUD, may be why its written into the park plan.

Questioned steps for the regulation change, if similar to other reg changes.

Monica- Steps for regulation change, 1. Propose area as SUD 2. Take public comment 3. Decision made by commissioner to make SUD, 4. Propose types of restrictions wanted in that area. 5. Once SUD is designated and established, then the regulation change afterwards.

Ali – questioned if current mining claims in the area would hold up the process.

Monica – No. Claims may be grandfathered in, would depend on the restrictions and how they would affect the mining claims. There is a vehicle for mineral closing order, but cannot on lands for more than 640 acres, anything larger the legislature would have to approve. Mineral order wouldn't apply to current claims, anything that comes after would apply to those lands for the purpose of mining.

Paul – asked about the process of formally proposing SUD.

Monica- addressed writing a letter to the DNR formally asking for this. DNR would work with the council to establish the SUD. Indicate why you want SUD and what restrictions would be appropriate to help formulate SUD. 11 AAC 96.014- can view SUD areas around the state and get an idea of the types of restrictions that occur in these types of areas.

Cody- discussed significant planning that went into the (mgmt.) plan to identify lands specifically in the plan. Plan states plainly use restrictions would mimic current park regulations. Easy to use the language that regulates the park lands and is already identified in the plan.

Paul- Open to public questions

Sue Flensburg questioned if SUDs are similar to those in the Nushagak River system in Nushagak Rivers Recreation Management Plan. Identified the intent to preserve areas for public camping so not be dominated by commercial interest. Unsure of permit requirement by limited camping 7 day stay limit without structures, to preserve those spaces at confluences. Just rejoined the call.

Monica- Yes, similar to Nush and requires permitting for camping.

Kay Andrews requested materials referencing the lands discussed, noted public process for the park and SUD.

Paul- noted the lands are in the management plan depicted on maps and discussed in the plan. Suggested special meeting for public input.

Ricky Gease- Helpful for DPOR to know what the area (council and public) would like to see in regard to WTSP and Lake Aleknagik SRS – formally include SRS into the park through the legislature or SUD. Discussed hydro project feasibility and legislature may look to change the boundaries of the state park. Helpful to the overall process to spend time carefully if there are changes to the boundaries the legislature can adjust what your recommendations would be, with public comment.

Paul- discussed proposed land additions are recommended in the management plan. Suspect some or most would like to see that as the ultimate outcome, looking at the SUD as possibility for protections for the watersheds that drains into the park.

Cody- discussed the conversation stemmed from the plan and the recommendations that were made it the plan. Those who wrote 1987 and 2002 plan made these recommendations for a reason and seem straight forward.

Monica- clarify Director Gease suggestion would be the best in terms of protection. LASRS is an ILMA and as such park regulations can apply there because it is at 640 acres. SUD can't manage lands as part of the state park. Generally allowed uses on general state lands are modified for a specific purpose. Cannot use park regs in SUD. Discussed if the concern was the watershed, you may require permitting for certain activities.

Ricky – discussed recreational areas Kasilof, Knik Arm SUA, Jonesville, get a lot of public recreational use, they do not have park regulations. No park enforcement or powers, no fee collection powers. Acreage less than 640, discussed House Bill 10, Hunter Bay State Marine Park, cemetery part of State Marine Park, including cemetery in state park lands. ILMA can be undone, administratively, doesn't take legislative authority. DNR would like feedback as to what level of protection you wish these lands to have. LASRS, move LASRS from ILMA into formal inclusion into the park with land exchanges through DMLW and DPOR through legislative process.

Cody- discussed public interest in the topic and, specific meeting in the future for public input.

Ali- second Cody's statement, noted lands for addition in plan ~290,000 acres.

Paul- discussed some lands drain into Kuskokwim side, would take some addition regional coordination. Recommend a future specific meeting as to how to address this and what the goals are.

Kay Andrews asked about an ILMA and requested a copy of the ILMA documents. Ali will provide.

VIII. Presentations –

a. Nushagak Cooperative

Will Chaney- Thanked council for allowing presentation to provide update. Electric Ops manager since Dec 2020, born and raised in Dillingham, raising family to appreciate the park. Fortunate lifelong relationship with park and the region, discussed vast history recreating, subsistence use in the park. Stated Nushagak Electric Mission statement, discussed potential of less fuel transport through river corridor, project is in viability state, NETC goal is not necessarily to build the project but rather assess the potential impacts, positive and negative, to determine overall benefit to the region. Recent Meetings- ARWG, board, council, SWIM, will continue presentations in region when pandemic subsides.

Discussed project activity- since June 2020 project is in abeyance. Plan to re-enter FERC process this summer, working to complete 2 structures, latrine, floating docks above and below the falls and study facilities at the site to support stream gauge and geotech work,

may be used for agencies in the future. Invite anyone with comments, questions or concerns to discuss.

Cory Warnock- Consulting project manager for Nuyakuk project. Bryan Nass w/ BBSRI will provide info also. Described the process and focused on last year. Project is in abeyance. Feasibility assessment late 2017 early 2018, applied for and received preliminary permit FERC June 2018 to evaluate as a hydro project. Internal Study Plan Assessment Jan 2019-Feb 2020. SB91 allowed the assessment feasibility inside the park. Filed Notice of Intent/Pre-Application Doc. (NOI/PAD) in Oct 2019. Scoping effort by FERC Nov 2019-Feb 2020 for public input. NETC 90 meetings, 31 in region.

Filed Initial Proposed Study Plan (PSP) March 2020, filed revised study plan (RSP) April 2020. Project website developed nuyakukhydro.com. 3 Study plan meetings in April 2020, identified additional coordinating needed with BBSRI and other resource agencies. Issues- weren't able to advance project within FERCs expectations. COVID issues, requested abeyance, put a hold on licensing process without abandoning it. Able to gather some baseline data during abeyance. Formed Aquatics Resource Working Group (ARWG). PSP/RSP to address Aquatic, Water Resources, Terrestrial, Cultural, Recreational/Visual. Continued refinement of conceptual project design- able to continue to revise infrastructural components of design. Baseline data collection during abeyance, formed and collaborating with ARWG.

Abeyance approved June 2020, until revised PSP filed, dependent on COVID, ARWG and study plan. Reinitiate ILP when we reach agreement on study plans, prelim permit has 4 year timeline, if there is substantive progress, can get 4-year extension. Multi-year study program- many technical documents to be developed.

Collected baseline data- topography bathymetry (topo below the water), aerial Green LiDAR (land contours and elevation underwater) and use the historical info from USGS stream flow data. Important data as bypass reach primary consideration is to make sure passage by fish is still possible with varying water levels. Flyovers at various water levels. Construct housing on site for biologists. Provided images from flyovers and LiDAR data. 1:24

Aquatic Resources Working Group -(ARWG) Provided a year to form ARWG to frame study program, will help through the entire project and duration of the license if project is built and will be a monitoring component post construction. Meetings in Oct, Jan, March ARWG meetings, more to come in April.

Bryan Nass- participating as a stakeholder will provide status update. Working on a conceptual framework to link fish and habitat to project operations and structure. Some technical concerns identified- temporal and spacial extents to assess potential impacts, relationships between fish in the project area to be compared pre and post project, how do we translate impacts to fish population level and how to assess for potential risk based on varying operational scenarios.

Working to develop a conceptual and analytical framework to state relationships between proposed project and fish and their habitat, described as primary relationships and processes that link fish and their habitat to project operations and structure. Discussed adult and juvenile fish passing upstream and downstream and the potential interactions that each

Analytical component is the mathematical equations, metrics and assumptions that quantitatively describe that conceptual framework.

Create a Lifecycle model- numerical tool allows us to test various scenarios to help us understand which relationships are most sensitive to changes and the factor that influence them. Currently, assessing applicability of such a model for assessing impacts on Nuyakuk. Planned Milestones – if lifecycle model is appropriate, can proceed to use it in conducting an integrated risk assessment- tying all these pieces together to help us evaluate risk, cost in various scenarios.

Example: What magnitude of effect would be necessary to cause a decline in productivity in fish population and how likely would that be.

Refine studies of PSP, to be come RSP, guide baseline studies and data collection.

Technical workshop to advance progress on these topics.

We have action items and we are working on them.

Cory- updating FERC through the process and ARWG progress. Will reentering FERC ILP process by re-filing PSP. 2021- Formalize aquatic study program agreement, re-file PSP, comment period, the process re-initiates ILP timeline. Review/respond to PSP comments and develop RSP. Study Plan Determination from FERC will allow studies.

Schedule: 2021- Stream gage installation, complete temporary housing, Geotechnical analysis- confirm rock quality is what is expected, Initiate study permitting process for 2022 and 2023, permits with ADFG & DPOR

2022 and beyond- Ongoing consultation/meetings/project updates throughout, cooperative committed to a transparent process, focus on more cost-effective and renewable energy for the region. Timeline:

Comprehensive Study Seasons – 2022 and 2023

Study Reporting – 2022 and 2023

Study Reporting Meetings – 2022 and 2023

Ongoing Infrastructural and Site Analysis and Design – 2022-2024

Further Geotechnical Analysis – 2023

Preliminary Licensing Proposal – 2023

PLP Comment Period – 2023

Final License Application – 2024

Kay- requested a copy of the NETC presentation and project website information.

Paul discussed future opportunities to comments, appreciate the update on timeline and status.

Bob Himschoot- Thanked management council for the opportunity to present.

Will Chaney- thanked the council, provided website info for Kay.

c. Dr. Daniel Schindler- UW/ Fisheries Research Institute

Discussed FRI history, inception in 1946 to figure out how to manage salmon (especially sockeye) in western Alaska, comm fish industry concerned overharvesting fish. In 1946, establish long term monitoring studies, established ecosystem monitoring system. Now the longest scientific studies of salmon ecosystem/aquatic ecosystem globally. Mostly now monitoring of what was started in 40s.

Technical difficulties- email presentation.

Break 12:01 to 12:06

Paul verified council members still in attendance Bruce, Delores, Lee, Paul, Ali in attendance. (Cody off temporarily, in attendance and commented later)

IX. Council Member Alternates

Paul – opportunity to inform members they can select Alternates. No requirement, but opportunity for that. Question if alternates need to be identified prior to or if not able to attend a meeting.

Ali- read regulation 11 AAC 20.320- Designation of Alternates. Requested to designate alternates for the record- so the secretary can contact council member and alternate if unable to reach member.

Paul- see the benefit of identifying alternates and encourage members identify an alternate for the next meeting.

Delores- who makes the determination of who is qualifications to be an alternate?

Paul and Ali- no specifics, could request interpretation by the Dept. of Law.

Paul- No interpretation request by Dept. of Law. Trust the council member's discretion, can change determination in the future.

Delores- Yes, designees can be presented to council and council can decide if that person is suitable.

Paul no formal action. Identify the need to designate alternates by next fall meeting and council can take action to approve those. Delores- approved.

X. Schedule for Spring and Fall meetings

Paul and Ali discussed meeting minutes from November and set target date of late October early November for fall meeting. Set aside to more formally identify weeks, will put it on agenda for fall meeting.

XI. Public Comments

Rob Carpenter- discussed Lake Aleknagik SRS, request SUD land additions, can be up for review. Presented w/ Mike Megli 2 years ago about research residents have been done,

mainly the lack of public process, created SRS by admin order, land area larger than 640 acres. A letter from Aleknagik Traditional Council and city of Aleknagik submitted to DNR, Parks, Governor and Bryce Edgmon. There has been no feedback to the council regarding that resolution. Met with both directors and no comments from submission. Resolution from City council and traditional council would like it reversed and it go out to a public process. Happy to represent information at future meeting.

Paul- discussed the director did meet with part of the group 1-1.5 years ago.

Rob- Yes, we did meet, Ali was at that meeting. No follow up on the REC area being well over the 640 acres. Multiple meetings since 2017, no follow up.

Kay Andrews requested support from the council for trails funding trail improvements in the community on Marsh mountain and Tripod trails.

Paul inquired as to when support deadline is needed, would like to give the council opportunity to review the matter.

Kay Andrews- identified April 1 deadline. Seeking additional funding for trails from the federal highway funding.

Cody, Paul and Ali discussed potential to utilize new bylaws to meet, form a resolution and hold a vote via email or special meeting before April 1 deadline, subject to Open Meetings Act. Discussed

Paul resolution and take action request. The Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council supports actions and proposals by the Aleknagik City Council in efforts to secure funding for trail improvements, establishment and maintenance.

Paul request a motion for resolution.

Delores- motion to support action. Ali- second

No discussion or opposition. Paul request secretary letter write up.

Kay Andrews- follow up for Mr. Carpenter. The City did pass a resolution in relation to Aleknagik SRS that was only partially supported, since the city council has rescinded that resolution.

Marion – Concerns by tribal members. Read Letters from Ben Tinker and Danny Togiak, residents of Aleknagik, which discussed his long history of trapping in the area. Complaint regarding Trooper Wittkop and her (Ranger Eskelin) traveling on trapline every day and WTSP and wildlife trooper are claiming our trap line as a public trail. Concern of marking trapline as a trail. Danny Togiak supports Ben Tinker’s letter. Helped Tinker make bridges on his trapline so he can have successful access to his trapline trail for subsistence uses and native handicraft. Concern that WTSP and Wildlife troopers claiming this trail as a public usage trail. If regulations change Aleknagik residents should be advised of new regulations.

Marion addressed her personal concern as to why people aren't able to cut down firewood in the state park anymore.

Paul – concerns noted by the council. Rely on staff person to meet with you and address how that would take place. Put that on the agenda for the next meeting.

Ali addressed firewood harvest concerns. Firewood harvest generally prohibited in state parks but is allowed by special use permit. The park boundary is near Jackknife Mountain and Lake Nerka so a significant distance away from Aleknagik, but people can get a permit to cut firewood in the park. Believe lands between Aleknagik and the park boundary are mostly Aleknagik Natives Limited lands. Inappropriate to address open case in a public meeting related to complaint letters.

VIII. Presentations Continued

b. Daniel Schindler- FRI

Recap, FRI- Based out of UW in Seattle. Started in 1946. Initial motivation was a request from commercial fishing industry to improve fisheries management. Concern of no local knowledge in managing runs, 1946 catches started to decline. Industry worried they were overharvesting fish. Studying ecosystem. Camp on Aleknagik and Nerka. Study Ice break and earlier breakup now about 2 weeks earlier is a fingerprint of global warming. Discussed juvenile sockeye studies and warm water is improving growth of salmon. Messages to Alaskan's is the whole system works because of the diversity, global adaptations of fish to the habitat translate to the biodiversity of salmon. Bears and gulls and juvenile salmon move throughout the system to feed depending on the spawn timing which is related to stream temperature. Habitat is gone in the lower 48, Bristol Bay we have the ability to study these things to advise and restore habitat.

Ali questioned FRI's plans for 2021.

2021 4-6 on Nerka and 10-15 in Aleknagik hope to get 3-4 grad students into the field this year, 2-3 at Aleknagik 1-2 Nerka. No additional projects just focused on long term monitoring.

Paul – Great points to protect the habitat. Asked about the size of juvenile salmon benefiting from warmer water and anecdotal info about catch of sockeye are smaller size each year. Is that true or correlation?

Daniel- working with ADFG to quantify that. Adults caught in fishery are smaller than they were 20 years ago. Fleet has move to smaller mesh, smaller mesh catching smaller fish. Last 6 years 50 million returning, when big run the fish are smaller, more competition. Small fish now because there are so many fish. Ocean has a finite ability to feed those fish. Many fish in the last couple years were 2-year ocean. Whether these things continue into the next decade, fish likely to be smaller with larger runs. Juvenile grow faster in the warmer lakes they are more likely to leave after one year, most growth put on as subadult in the ocean.

Paul – questioned how they measure bear activity? Thanks to Daniel.
Daniel- Bear trail cam about a mile up or so, photos. Apologized for lousy band width

XII. Management Council Bylaws update

Paul defer bylaws to next meeting.
Delores and Ali agree to defer bylaw to next meeting.

XIII. Board Comments

Bruce – letter from state of Alaska March 1, 2021 office of the Governor. Call in February last month appointed and renewed my seat to a three-year term. I accepted, Oath of Office. Look forward to serving on the council.

Lee- no comments

Delores, echo Bruce, appreciated updates from Nushagak Hydro Project as well as Dr. Daniel Schindler's presentation.

Cody thanked the public that attended the meeting. Bring up responsibilities of the council to advise legislative action, discussed SB97 that would change the way the state lands area lease and or sold for commercial development. Seemed broad enough to have implications to state park lands, repeal of recreational rivers corridors. BBNA staff put a lot of time into these plans. State park staff to notify the council of implications.

Ali discussed SB97 was sponsored by the Governor. Unsure of DNR/DPOR position. Use down in the park. 3700 in 2019 and 472 in 2020 commercial use.
ANSCA public easement to provide access to the park, park is public land for everyone to use. Ben Corwin new Superintendent for Chugach/SW, hiring currently for supervisory PRII.

Paul – Thanked presenters, public for attendance.

XIV. Date/Agenda of Next Meeting

In the fall at the call of the chair.

XV. Adjournment 1330

**WOOD-TIKCHIK STATE PARK
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 6, 2020 at 10:00 am
Teleconference
Dillingham, Alaska**



-Agenda-

Roberts Rules of Order

I. Call to Order 10:03

II. Roll Call/Establish Quorum

Present: Paul Liedberg
Cody Larson
Delores Larson
Bruce Ilutsik
Lee Borden
Ali Eskelin
Absent: Peter Christopher

III. Introductions

Public: Bryce Edgmon
Myron Angstman
Andy Angstman
Scott Schumacher
Dave Roseman
Mark Schwantes
Luke Schwantes
Cory Warnock
Henry Wilson
Ben Corwin – Park Ranger
Kurt Hensel – Superintendent
Kenton Moos-TNWR
Casandra Johnson- BBNA Environmental Program Mgr.
Bob Himschoot
Bob Armstrong
Susan Flensburg
Pat Vermillion- RCL
Heidi Kritz- BBNA

IV. Review and Adopt Agenda

Motion to review and adopt – Lee Borden, Second- Cody Larson

Amendments – Cody Larson request to add Park Additions Discussion

Paul Liedberg - Amend moving bylaws after public comment and park addition discussion before public comment.

Passed unanimous with amendments.

V. Approval of May 27, 2020 meeting minutes

Motion to Approve by Cody Larson. Second by Lee Borden

Paul Liedberg mentioned there are some acronyms some people may know. In the future spell out PSP etc. A couple typos on page 3 for edits.

Minutes approved unanimously with edits.

VI. Election of Chair and Vice Chairperson

Paul Liedberg - Secretary always maintained by DNR.

Nomination Paul Liedberg for Chair by Cody Larson. Second by Lee Borden.

Approved unanimously.

Nomination Cody Larson for Vice Chair by Lee Borden. Second by Paul Liedberg.

Approved unanimously.

VII. NETC update for proposed Nuyakuk Hydroelectric Project

Bob Himschoot discussed the Aquatic Working group meeting went well, Ali and Cody on the call. Came back with a mission statement. Scientists coming back with suggestions for aquatic studies. Next meeting (Dec) 4th.

Paul opened the floor to Cory Warnock and Bob Armstrong.

Cory Warnock added the abeyance in place because of participants' requests and product of COVID situation. Intent to get into formal process as soon as possible. Not any time this fall, winter or early spring. ARWG is to have technical conversations outside of formal FERC process so we are ready to go so we can show progress. Having conversations with FERC, intent is to reinitiate with refiling of PSP when time is right after COVID.

Bobby- nothing to add, reiterate the ARWG meeting progress.

Ali Eskelin request update from Bobby or Bob on the progress made in the field.

Bobby Armstrong discussed building a cabin at the site, cabin is built and ready for studies next year if COVID turns around.

Paul Liedberg questioned if work will be delayed until 2022 or if there will be work in 2021. Cory Warnock discussed COVID difficulties but hoped to reiterate the process and file a Proposed Study Plan (PSP) mid spring of next year. Fundamental resource plan with studies agreed to, we probably won't begin work until 2022.

Paul Liedberg call for public questions-

Pat Vermillion questioned if when COVID is under control and the process gets started again, if there was a way to get notified the process is moving forward.

Bob Himschoot discussed FERC notifications on the project. Nush will announce on the website and public meetings. There is no time limit to abeyance, we will submit another study plan to FERC and it reinitiates the process and ILP timeline.

Sue Flensburg mentioned the Nushagak Utilities website has two active links to the project: overview and the other is current in covering the process, links to FERC and video,

comments provided and Nushagak responses. There is a lot of good info on the NUSH Utilities website.

Cody Larson mentioned some of the study plans were desktop studies, further questioned if there was any progress on recreational studies being initiated without being able to be on site. Cory Warnock responded they will address those studies in the future given a time window over fall through spring to address aquatics, terrestrial, recreational or cultural. Evident the Aquatic studies were going to take the most time. Plan to initiate discussions on other study areas when we initiate filing a PSP, we found we had more work to do on Aquatics and that's why we kicked that off first.

VIII. Park Operations Update

Ali Eskelin provided an update for 2020 operations.

Local visitation across the state park system is up due to COVID but commercial use was down significantly. Stable or increased local traffic to Lake Aleknagik State Rec Site.

(LASRS) Only a couple lodges operated for a partial season. Some big game guides and air taxis operated but the travel restrictions into Dillingham seemed to limit visitors coming in. Revenue from commercial fees is down.

Hired Alaska Conservation Corp (ACC) seasonal employee Megan Wesselman in July for a 6-month position. She is originally from Eagle River worked most of the summer around the SRS in Aleknagik providing maintenance assistance. She was working at Grand Teton NP and was able to make the transition to Aleknagik safely.

Maintenance work at the Agulukpak River Ranger Station- installed 27 new concrete footings and new posts with over 200 x 80 pound bags of sacrete. Big thanks to the community for all volunteerism- University of Washington/FRI Crew, Dr. Daniel Schindler, Eli Fournier spent numerous multi-day stints at the cabin doing the heavy lifting and digging of post holes and hauling concrete to the site. Rick Grant with Tikchik Airventures made numerous trips hauling, loading and unloading the pressure treated 6x6 posts and probably at least half of the sacrete. Dave Roseman with GCI assisted in hauling most of the lumber to the Pak and Mike Weagley and crew provided bottle jacks and steel plates. Volunteer Matthew Stark and ACC Megan Wesselman provided labor as well on site and transporting Sacrete. Huge thank you to all who participated and assisted. The cabin is level and there is still some work to be done leveling the deck and fixing the stairs which we hope to complete in 2021.

2020 saw the lowest water levels on record in the park in July. With the lower levels the ramp was further exposed, some visitors had difficulty getting boats off trailers for a period of time. Brief discussions with staff from the city of Dillingham and there may be potential to secure cement planks from the city ramp to extend the state boat launch facility. Will be working to try to secure the planks and funding this winter.

Cody Larson discussed the Agulukpak Ranger Station cabin and the management of it per the 2002 management plan. Ali Eskelin discussed history of the site, previous cabin was a trespass facility open to the public with a host in the summer to monitor use on the river,

left open during the winter for the public and was used by trappers. The new facility was built in 2010 and has been used for host staffing to monitor the use at the Pak, is currently not open to the public unless staff is on site due to the equipment stored there. Cody identified the discrepancy is a different cabin facility.

Paul Liedberg questioned funding, reduced visitation resulted in reduced revenue and questioned how much revenue from fees goes into the system vs. dedicated revenue from the legislature. Kurt Hensel identified revenue generated in AK State Parks (ASP) goes into a general fund and reallocated to the parks general fund by the legislature, there is a funding shortfall and we will have some challenges. Further discussed allocation- Chugach State Park generates 80-85% of operating costs, Wood-Tikchik is substantially lower, not making operational costs out there and not getting revenue fed back that we're making directly so it's lower. It is specific to state parks, not the individual park, reallocated to individual parks from that fund.

Sue Flensburg- previous BBNA rep on WTSP management council. Recalled two contentious issues and a few resolutions from Aleknagik municipality and the tribe that dealt with Lake Aleknagik SRS. People questioned the boundary of whether it was accurate. Questioned steps to taken to address the discrepancy. The other issue was putting additional permit fees on the docks at the upper end of Wood River. Don't have prior meeting minutes on the website. Ali Eskelin discussed resolutions from Aleknagik municipality and the tribe regarding the boundary of the SRS. Some Aleknagik residents questioned the size of the Lake Aleknagik State Rec Site (LASRS), was designated by proclamation of the Governor and complaints were that it is larger than the maximum (acreage). Permit fees on the upper end of Wood River within the LASRS- trying to put together a joint permit with ADFG because of dual jurisdictions within LASRS, working toward that but having difficulties. The ADFG provides permits for those who apply, permit may be good for the life of the structure, unsure of fees for ADFG permits. State law requires any structure within any state park be permitted and the administration of permits is where the fees generally come from. Part of the complaint was multiple fees for the one structure because there are joint jurisdictions within the water way. Sue Flensburg asked about fees collected. No park fees have been collected for docks within the SRS but working towards that.

Sue Flensburg commented to update the plan and that needs to be addressed when you do your update.

Paul Liedberg, Kurt Hensel discussed putting the meeting minutes online per Paul's discussion with the Director last year. Kurt will work with Ali to utilize the online public notice system. Paul mentioned it could be an action item for the next meeting.

Mark Schwantes discussed the Nuyakuk Ranger Station and asked if there was a way to secure valuable items so the public could use the station. Understands why the Agulukpak station would be closed or off-limits to public use but it would be nice for the public to use upper cabin as it's so far out of the way.

Ali Eskelin identified the Nuyakuk Ranger Station had not been built when the 2002 plan was written. Further discussed the long-term plan to have Public Use Cabins (PUCs) on the Wood River (Lakes) System. The state was awarded grant funding for a PUC on Lower Lake Nerka but funding fell through. Plans for several strategically located PUCs on the Wood River System if there is funding. PUCs have been identified as a great revenue source for the state and the public has asked for PUCs on the system for a long time.

Kassandra Johnson, Paul Liedberg and Ali Eskelin discussed FRI records of water levels, if they are publicly available, where were gauging stations. Ali to request info from Dr. Schindler and identified locations likely FRI camps on Lakes Aleknagik and Nerka.

IX. Park Addition Discussion

Cody Larson discussed topic (lands west of WTSP identified for addition to the park) has been a long-time agenda item and is referenced in the (management) plan and area plans. The 2002 plan acknowledges the possibility these designations may take time to be legislatively designated and the plan offers alternative to those additions, Chapter 5 page 5-7. It stated explicitly in the event there is not action by the legislature the Division of Parks should enter into management agreement or Special use land designation with DNR, so the lands are managed the same as the park lands. Stated in the plan and pleased there was foresight in thinking about this. Wish to have the discussion as to how we can implement the cooperative agreements. The park has entered into multiple coop agreements with Aleknagik Natives Limited (ANL) and Togiak National Wildlife Refuge (TNWR) so there are areas in the plan where these are put into play, not yet implemented yet and would like to discuss pursuing that.

Paul Liedberg paraphrased Cody's statement and stated it is something to pursue, lots of background work to move ahead with proposals and timing has to be right as well. Discuss the next step of the cooperative agreement to add some level of protection especially those areas that drain into the park and affect park land.

Cody Larson mentioned it is simple language in the plan and the council is tasked with implementing the plan, and request we take a step to implement this. Some information as to a Special Land Use Designation from DNR would be helpful.

Paul Liedberg discussed the council would benefit from some understanding what would need to happen to make this get this implemented. Asked for further info at the next meeting on procedures and how the council could advocate for that and asked Kurt if he had input.

Kurt Hensel discussed the main issue as resources and the ability to even keep staff out in that area. One permanent position in the largest state park in the country. Please frame the question in an email and will discuss it with the planners for assistance. Division of Parks (DPOR) and Division of Mining Land and Water (DMLW) organization under DNR so a cooperative agreement between the Divisions. Also addressed in the Bristol Bay Area Plan (BBAP).

Paul Liedberg will put something together with Cody's assistance and copy all council members with questions we posed today, will be something we can get clarification on and answers so it can be addressed at the next meeting.

Cody Larson formally request DPOR and DNR provide us with information and steps toward and implications of, for coop agreement and Special land use designation. Potential draft document. Discussed if it can be informal.

X. Public Comments

Sue Flensburg requested future minutes have a reference footer with date and page number.

XI. Bylaw Update

Paul discussed the bylaw update. Council members should have a draft of bylaws that has been amended at least once and make sure it is done right. Ali Eskelin discussed bylaw update draft and removal of language that addressed developing a management plan as that task was complete. Cody Larson clarified the document title for review.

Paul Liedberg suggested to strike the words 'so the actual management is' as to read 'To monitor the management of the Park is in accordance with the developed Management Plan' (I. PURPOSES, section A.) Ali Eskelin suggested adding current language in front of Management Plan. (Appendix A, page 1)

Cody Larson suggested changing the numbering to be clearer. All concurred.

Ali Eskelin discussed the additions of language from the Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) bylaws adopted to Wood-Tikchik SP specifics, F and H, as per discussion at the December 2019 meeting.

Cody Larson suggested returning language for protecting subsistence activities and native allotment rights that was lost by cutting original purpose Section I. A. Further suggested reinserting language into subsection C. Paul and Ali agreed. (Appendix A, page 1)

Subsection G. 'Update the management plan' in I. PURPOSES moved lower on priorities from discussion in Dec. 2019 meeting. Addition of language 'other priorities are to ensure development in the Park is administered consistent with the protection of the Park's scenic and natural resource values and additional management policies identified in the management plan.'

Paul Liedberg suggested provision for alternates and clarify language in V. DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS. Discussion of potential language for identifying alternates between Paul, Cody and Ali for adopting Title 11 regulation, designation by Gov. and voting rights. (Appendix A, page 2.)

Ali Eskelin discussed addition of Council Member Duties. (Appendix A, page 2)

Paul Liedberg, Cody Larson and Ali Eskelin discussed having Spring and Fall rather than specific months for meetings. Paul questioned special meetings with 5 days or less notice and if it was necessary or law, no annual meeting identified, designate fall meeting as annual meeting, typo, and if Advisory Committee Policy language existed. Request by Paul to research advisory committee policy, any informal or official statements must be authorized by the council. (Appendix A, VII. MEETINGS, page 2)

Paul Liedberg recommended adding Robert's Rules of order for decorum of the council. Discussion between Cody Larson and Ali Eskelin of location of insert. Agreement of council, added B. Robert's Rules of Order to VII. MEETINGS (Appendix A, page 2.)

Paul Liedberg identified two typos under VIII. OFFICERS. Treasurer struck from VIII. OFFICERS per Robert Heyano's comments December 2019.

Additions: XI. SPECIAL PROVISIONS title and sections B &C and DEFINITIONS added to maintain consistency with Chugach and Kachemak Bay CAB bylaws. (Appendix A, page 3-4)

Kurt Hensel suggested a Department of Law review for bylaws, complications with COVID for meetings, must be public per Open Meetings Act and Microsoft Teams format for future meetings. Questioned ability for internet with limited Internet resources. Discussion of internet limitations between Paul, Delores, Kurt and Ali and Cody. Frequent internet issues in Koliganek; Aleknagik may be prohibitive as platform for Teams administrator. Call in still acceptable per Open Meetings Act. Teams has the ability to record the meeting.

Discussion between Cody Larson and Paul Liedberg on inserting meetings locations called per chair. Found to be unnecessary after discussion, not adopted into bylaws. Discussion between Kurt Hensel, Cody Larson, Paul Liedberg and Ali Eskelin regarding in person vs. telecommunication language and public notice. (Appendix A, page 2-3)

Cody Larson, Paul Liedberg and Lee Borden discussed potentially adding in commenting on ADFG regulatory changes and review of such and potentially adding to XI. SPECIAL PROVISIONS. Deemed unnecessary through discussion to add to bylaws but rather hold a special meeting prior to any BOG or BOF meeting in which council wanted to comment on any proposal. ADF&G rep will keep council informed.

XII. Board Comments

Ali Eskelin- Welcome to Bruce (Ilutsik) and asked him to speak about himself for an introduction for the council. Bruce is our new representative for Aleknagik.

Bruce Ilutsik thanked all for the warm welcome and will enjoy serving on the council. From Aleknagik, father Wassillie served on the council for a number of years. He has a big plaque on the wall for serving on the council. Happy to follow in his footsteps being a representative for Aleknagik.

Public comment: Mark Schwantes – post meeting notice on Facebook, Dillingham Trading Post (DTP)

Delores Larson mentioned to post notice to other groups as well as DTP.

XIII. Date/Agenda of Next Meeting

Expect a meeting in the Spring

XIV. Adjournment 12:52

DRAFT

**WOOD-TIKCHIK STATE PARK
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING
May 27, 2020 at 1:00 pm
Teleconference
Dillingham, Alaska**



-Agenda-

Roberts Rules of Order

I. Call to Order 13:02 Paul

II. Roll Call/Establish Quorum

Present: Paul Liedberg

Cody Larson

Ali Eskelin

Lee Borden

Delores Larson

Absent: Peter Christopher

III. Introductions

Public: Scott Schumacher - RCL

Bobby Armstrong - Nushagak Cooperative

Cory Warnock - McMillian Jacobs

Brian Jermalski - GCI

Robert Himshoot - Nushagak Cooperative

Andy Angstman- landowner WTSP

Sue Flensburg - resident, NETC board of directors, BBHLT

Dan Dunaway

Michael Link - BB Science and Research Institute

Brian Nass - BBSRI

Myron Angstman

Dave Roseman - GCI Lodge

IV. Review and Adopt Agenda

Motion by Lee Borden, Cody Larson second, approved by unanimous consent

V. Approval of December 20, 2019 meeting minutes

Motion by Cody Larson, Lee Borden second

Discussion Cody Larson amend PLP to PSP on page 4, clarification for the minutes regarding previous Grant and Elva projects FERC deemed projects non-jurisdictional, didn't require same review, comments pointing to study plans that don't exist.

Approved by unanimous consent

VI. Nushagak Electric Cooperative Proposed Study Plan

Cody Larson discussed the fact all council comments and study request didn't meet study criteria FERC required. Acknowledged the council doesn't have the capacity to develop comments that meet the criteria and have been dismissed in the PSP. Open for discussion as to what the council can do to follow up on public input received and how to meaningfully be involved in this process. Time and energy rendered less than fruitful results.

Ali Eskelin- Question for Bobby if the Cooperative is willing to study topics that didn't meet criteria.

Lee Borden- bylaws 1 b & c to provide a forum and expression of opinions relating to the park as well as protection of the resources of the park. Provide a forum to hear the way the public feels about things such as the hydro project is fulfilling the role of the council. What was put forth whether it was fruitful or not.

Paul Liedberg agreed Agree hit the study plan items first.

Delores Larson discussed public outreach, has been minimal, no in region meetings which is the most effective way to gather stakeholder input. Has tried to spread information about the project but many residents in region don't know about the project, very limited access, poor GCI phone connections. Meetings via teleconference is limiting vital input from locals.

Paul Liedberg discussed fisheries studies not robust enough for many in the region feel should be answered. Encouraged the Coop to look at that again. Asked for input from Nushagak.

Bob Himshoot discussed receiving letters related to fisheries concerns. Large change in licensing program. Discussed community outreach, 90 meetings before ILP, 30 in-region. Felt we went over the top on public outreach before we started the licensing. We knew licensing was a statutory timeline. Asked Cory to review status, progress and timeline of ILP.

Cory Warnock provided an update on status and timeline. We filed PSP, and an updated PSP. The intent of the updated PSP was to provide as much context before PSP meetings for the week of April 20. The schedule between the filing of PSP and June 25 provides all interested parties opportunity to comment on displeasure to way the studies are currently framed and what additional should be lumped into studies to satisfy their perceived needs or project evaluation. The frequent question of 'We don't feel these studies are robust enough,' this is the time to comment to FERC. FERC requires a lot of detail with study requests to be deemed valid. Both Bob and Bobby are receptive to incorporating additional studies to an extent even if they are outside the bounds of FERC study requests.

We can review all the comments and choose to incorporate those into RSP. PSP is a draft document we are providing to all stakeholders from them to comment on what they think would help round out these studies. My global message is to use this time to provide comments. It's hard for us to revise the document when we just hear 'we are dissatisfied with the fisheries component of the study plan.' Provide some detail on what we should include to make it comprehensive then that's something we can work with.

Paul Liedberg asked if that address the brown bear denning question.

Ali Eskelin identified bear denning was an example for additional study and if other study plans could be incorporated if they didn't meet the study criteria. All had the potential to provide valuable input on what could be affected such as aquatic and fisheries resources and recreational use.

Paul Liedberg mentioned the letter the council sent on January 15 and notes I have wish to clarify that they weren't all discounted but some were incorporated into study plans that had been proposed by others. Five letters written to the Coop and most of the content focuses on inadequate fisheries work. Question for Cory do you have any sense if you're getting input on how to address those concerns?

Cory Warnock discussed fisheries resources studies, and the fish passage studies. The big question is related to fish passage, to provide enough water for juvenile and adult salmon for fish passage year-round. We haven't heard suggestions on additional methods.

Paul Liedberg asked if Michael Link had input.

Michael Link discussed the review of PSP and there really wasn't anything in it. A second version released on April 16 with really no time to review it. In discussions with the Coop and have an audience with BBEDC board tomorrow. Statements that this is normal process to release a very large document that has statements in it like, 'We'll finalize this next winter', that has not been my experience. I encouraged a bit of a stand down based on the available time. June is the busiest time for the region and there's only a few weeks to put together comments on a plan. Rifle scope analogy, only given one chance to nail the bullseye after missing the paper all together. Not enough time to have a deliberative discussion and PSP missed the mark pretty significantly in our opinion. There is very little in there that quantifies the effects on fish behavior and migration. when we review what would have to be added and looked at the timeline for June, we thought it was prudent to ask for a bit of time to talk about it. ILP is very swift and scripted timeline. Had the PSP been less vague we could have done it but there is an awful long way to go to get a revised study plan in a few weeks. We can put comments together, it was suggested by some that we design all the studies, but that's not really our role. The Coop will work these things through but with the current timeline it's just not reasonable.

Cory Warnock discussed the timeline and COVID complications. The intent of updated PSP document was to provide additional info for the April meetings and was in no way for people to wholly review the document in 4 days. The intent of a PSP is to be somewhat vague because it should be supplemented per agency and other stakeholder comments. I wouldn't call the updated PSP vague. The updated PSP should provide more information and we are receptive to the schedule complications.

Paul Liedberg identified the goal is to get the study plan correct. Questioned the arbitrary delay of 1 year vs. 18 months vs 6 months and whether it is appropriate.

Cody Larson discussed the Coop may lack fiscal capacity or staff capacity to develop this plan on this timeline and to meaningfully assess environmental conditions. In 2019 the Coop explained the statute was changed in order to secure funding to aid in for design and feasibility of project. At December council meeting the minutes reflect the extenuating circumstances to extend timeline. Mentioned reading the public comment letters requesting an extension of ILP process, appreciate the input and suggest the council be cc'd in the future. Question for Cory- discussed an option to extend the timeline and further if that is done by FERC in isolation or by the proponent.

Cory Warnock discussed an extension of ILP process is a possibility with a justifiable cause. You need to compel FERC there have been extenuating circumstances to warrant an extension. Suspensions are uncommon, extensions are relatively common. There is precedent with FERC and COVID for a justifiable argument and timeframe. FERC believes their ILP is effective and efficient. Extensions are possible. FERC tends to get skeptical of a project proponent for multiple requests for extensions. Make sure the extension is of a justifiable cause and a justifiable timeframe. Already given one short extension for this ILP or study plan meetings. If everyone is on board, extensions are more likely to go through.

Ali Eskelin discussed the study plans don't address the 70% percent requirement for water flow.

Bob Himshoot discussed staff capacity with McMillan Jacobs and working with ADFG. Coop is looking for funding, but at this point funding has not been an issue. The Coop has been saving money to do this and is trying to develop and raise the most funds to do so.

Paul Liedberg reiterated the same question about the 70% requirement and questioned if it should be addressed in a study plan or is that an overarching requirement.

Cory Warnock discussed it is the law right now. It is its own separate item overarching over this entire process. Where you will see it more is in discussion of the study result. One thing that will be developed is a

really robust hydraulic and operations model that will document different operation and flow scenarios, how it impacts operations and fish movement. Then look at that in comparison with the current law which is the 70% law and determine whether that is an acceptable level or if fish passage is safe and effective at higher or lower than that will determine and define what Coop can maximumly generate. Yes, we can refer it to in the PSP but it's a stand-alone item.

Paul Liedberg suggested acknowledging the 70% flow in the PSP.

Telecon disconnected

Paul Liedberg open comments for council members and the public.

Cody Larson mentioned council received written comments stakeholders' organizations in the region made regarding the PSP to the coop as direct comment and they were passed to the council and can reflect public comment. Request the council be cc'd on such correspondence.

Paul Liedberg it would be helpful to have such comments earlier.

Ali Eskelin mentioned there are no studies on impact of tourism and commercial business in project area. A concern considering one of the primary missions of the division of parks is to provide outdoor recreation activities and second and third management objective are to provide for traditional subsistence and recreational uses as well as protect the area's recreational and scenic resources. The response from the coop didn't believe study was warranted related to our study comments. I believe it is particularly important given that it is in a park and it could have potential impacts to businesses and recreation in the area.

Paul Liedberg mentioned the project is in the largest state park in the country and brings with it a different level of scrutiny and interest and the studies should go along with that. We could address council concerns directly with Nushagak.

Dan Dunaway supportive of doing really good studies. If studies show the powerplant could happen I would be supportive of it. Link and his crew, if we don't have adequate fish studies The time delays concern me. Not clear on the timeline. Questioned if there will be studies this summer? Don't want unnecessary delays but we have to do it right.

Cory Warnock discussed studies proposed to take place in 2021 and 2022, both robust study seasons during which we could use the bulk of the study period and limited studies for 2020. Planning a rudimentary geotechnical assessment, collect a few core samples of the bluff where the penstock would travel through to inspect rock quality and install stream gauge at the site to determine difference of overall flow at project site relative to USGS site. Planning for logistics and RSP in 2020 for studies in 2021 and 2022.

Bobby Armstrong discussed permit in place for facilities at the site, a couple cabins and a dock for upper and lower falls for boats and dock for float planes to come in.

Paul Liedberg questioned if permits in place for that work and BBEDC board meeting tomorrow.

Michael Link discussed the Coop request to speak to the BBEDC at the board quarterly meeting, not a public meeting.

Bob Himschoot discussed the meeting may not be open to the public. Norm getting permission for more people to attend.

Delores Larson questioned if in-river flow studies be done during low-flow periods and studying on a multi-year basis because not every year is the same.

Cory Warnock discussed the plan to evaluate fisheries resources evaluating on a season basis in 2021 and 2022 with the intent to get two study seasons.

Delores Larson stated she doesn't believe a 2-year study will be long enough. I live on the river system and we experience channel changes and low flow all the time. Fall hunting last year all the creeks were dried up, and we couldn't access areas. That's a big concern that I have.

Sue Flensburg discussed history of instream flow reservations funded through BIA. Encourage villages to remind BBNA the solicitation for BIA water management studies the deadline in typically in September.

Ali Eskelin relayed Scott Schumacher emailed comments:

1. Lengthening the timeline for the fisheries study. They don't believe 2 years of study is adequate due to varying salmon run numbers, river levels, etc. That would only study one year of the pink run.
2. Extend the study commenting timeline to give us more time to get these studies right.
3. Have them stick to the no more than 30% of the flow will be used and see if that is still feasible to operate the facility.

Motion by Paul Liedberg to draft a letter to Nushagak to address concerns particularly that the fisheries studies meet criteria generally accepted by the fisheries research communities for study plans. Discussion in all the letters that there be a delay. Second by Cody Larson

Discussion Paul more concerned that studies are robust and not so much on the timeline as long as it's appropriate. Should get comments in written form to the cooperative, best ability to influence decision.

Cody Larson discussed this may be the best time to respond to agenda item in part because of the dismissive responses from our councils attempts to convey public concerns. Not encouraged to go through additional rounds of conveying concerns if they will be dismissed. I propose we request Coop suspend or extend the ILP process for 12 months or when an adequate plan can be developed. Adhering to timeline is not as important as design or natural impact from the design. As Cory insinuated, the less often you request an extension the less scrutiny it may draw I would suggest a longer extension so additional extensions aren't necessary. I don't know reasoning for any rush on this timeline. I suggest we urge the Coop to get on board with the stakeholders and request at least a 12-month extension and if that process isn't suspended or extended while there is a more robust study plan developed, I'd also recommend the council consider requesting the EIS avenue that would ensure the environmental review was completed along with state, federal and additional land managers input. Acknowledge the theme of suspend or extension, the concerns they brought to the council today.

Paul Liedberg discussed it would be important for us to meet when there is another comment period when the final study plan is submitted, there should be an opportunity to comment. I plan on calling us together during that time and looking at that again and that would give us a better understanding whether it is appropriate to request a delay of an appropriate time. My intent to call a meeting before fall to address that one topic. Motion to address letter propose amendment

Paul Liedberg addressed proposing an amendment resated by Cody.

Cody Larson reading through public comments we received and letters of concern from stakeholders and organizations there is a theme of suspending one year in order to develop a real good study proposal. I would like our council to be on board with other organizations and stakeholders and recognize the concerns they brought before the council.

Paul Liedberg- Cody's amendment is to request a one-year delay. I wouldn't support that at this time but I may support it after we see the study plan in late July or August. The theme of all the letters is we do a good study plan for the fisheries work. I don't think one year is anything more than artificial it may take more or less. I'm not ready to support that at this point. I wouldn't vote for that. I'm neutral on the project at this point.

Motion on the floor to request a one-year extension, Ali Eskelin second

Lee Borden discussed the wording rather than defining a specific time period the amendment could be worded to take the time element out such as until such a time that stakeholders concerns were addressed.

Cody Larson amendment with language or when an adequate plan can be developed would allow for a flexible timeline when stakeholders agree.

Paul Liedberg questioned who would determine whether it is an adequate plan?

Cody Larson discussed timeline after working with stakeholders and other organizations to develop study plans.

Paul Liedberg discussed the proponent working with stakeholders to make the assessment that it was an adequate study plan. Further discussed the timeline would be ambiguous prior to the PSP. Current amended motion for a letter to Nushagak requesting a 12-month extension.

Ali Eskelin in relation to what Cory discussed about filing multiple extension requests. The letter we've received from the stakeholders say there is not enough time and the study plans are not robust enough. Filing an extension request at this time considering COVID complications is potentially more likely to be accepted because that may be a justifiable reason. Considering the sentiment from all the stakeholders we received letters from, this may be the most opportune time to as for such a request for extension because it may be less adequate for the same reason when the revised study plan comes about on July 18th. Just a comment from a strategic standpoint whether an extension would be granted or not.

Cody Larson regarding the timeframe is arbitrary, the 12- month extension number is the unified messaging we received from the other stakeholders.

Paul the overarching message is to get the study plans correct. That's what I am focusing on rather than an arbitrary time period. The letters all address getting the study plans correct. That's why I want to see the final PSP, that is a better time for us to weigh in on requesting an extension. I would support an extension if we need it but I'm not convinced we need it yet until we know what is in the final PSP. Do we understand what the extension means per FERC process? Does Cory have any info as to what they would mean for the process?

Cory Warnock discussed the one short extension we already have moved the entire project out. There's no way the studies could be conducted in the time frame. I would expect the timeframe would be moved out.

Call for the Vote on amendment language, include in our letter to request a one-year extension to the timeline to conduct the work.

Lee -yes Paul- no Ali- yes Cody- yes Delores- yes Passes 4:1

Motion to submit a letter to Nushagak with our concerns about the studies that would include the amendment we voted on. Open for discussion, none.

Cody- yes Delores- yes Lee- yes Paul- no Ali- yes Passes 4:1

VII. Park Operations Update

Ali Eskelin- Aleknagik Lake ice went out last week. The boat ramp is open. The upper Wood River Lakes are open to Mikchalk Lake and boaters are coming up.

Yearly park passes are available only online starting as of April 2020. Online is an easier platform, safer, and more expedient for all involved.

Agulukpuk Cabin Foundation- volunteer crew to help with materials transport, foundation construction. Likely a two-year project. Staff on site throughout the summer.

May be able to hire an ACC- for 5-month position from COVID money.

Paul questioned if there was news about vacant council seat.

Ali Eskelin I spoke with the Traditional Council and the City and three people are interested but they haven't put any names forth to the Governor's office officially and no one has applied. Governor's office will make inquiries and see if we can get someone appointed for Alekangik

Paul Liedberg- We need to find out if Peter from New Stu. Is expired.

Ali Eskelin -Current roster shows he expires July 2020.

Cody Larson- The state is recruiting for an ACC. What does that stand for?

Ali Eskelin ACC Alaska Conservation Corp., seasonal non-permanent without retirement benefits.

VIII. Public Comments

Susan Flensburg –I am aware of the letters and I am a resident of Dillingham since December 1978. A user of the park and used to be the BBNA rep for the WTSPMC. I want to point out the BB's don't necessarily reflect all stakeholders here, I find it disturbing to hear that, also disturbed BBEDC meetings are not public meetings. I was directly involved and lead two of the plans represented in the letter. I hoping the park, the management council and staff encourage others such as BBSRI to actively participate and outline their concerns. I agree studies need to be sufficient encourage BBs to get down to specifics and actively participate. Comments as a member of the public and resident. Thank you.

IX. Board Comments

Cody Larson Visited the Agulowak this weekend. The Char are hungry. Comment about increased fees, I have a cabin on Lake Aleknagik not in the park. The parking \$60 at summer, \$150 launching fees. \$210 fees to access my property which is not in the park, for some folks living in the region those fees could be considered a hardship. Would like to recognize that in the meeting minutes.

Delores Larson see adequate time to expand the 12-months. Project as proposed appears to be lacking in public outreach especially with COVID crisis and 12-month will make a huge difference for public input on the PSP. More current fish data than relying on desk top analysis. We want to ensure the fish populations do not decline in the future. The studies should be done during the Botanical and wetland surveys on transmission corridors, we harvest berries during the summer, and I want to make sure those berry picking spots along Nushagak and Nuyakuk are protected. Also concerned of noise on moose and caribou migration and calving near transmission lines. As we all know it's important to capture all the stakeholders input.

Lee Borden Thanks for opportunity for the council.

Ali Eskelin discussed the PSP identifies the project is 1,400 acres of park land which is a significant disposal of public land at this point there is no remediation for that lost acreage. The land additions that are identified west of Upper Chaukuktuli and Nuyakuk drain into the park and can influence the water quality. The lands have outstanding public values and should be managed concurrently with the adjacent land to the park. It has been identified for the last 30 years we have been talking about this as a council. Adding those lands for remediation would be legitimate to ensure the uniform management of those lands for public recreation, subsistence and wildlife would be beneficial.

Paul Liedberg discussed the park additions have been identified and I also consider very important. We should address very soon. We would benefit from the assistance from our friends of ours on the Kuskokwim side. I propose land additions and bylaws on agenda for the fall meeting so we can discuss it with more input with a full council. We should look at what comes out in final PSP and discuss whether we have a meeting at that point, late July or early August. Thanks for input, comments and discussion.

X. Date/Agenda of Next Meeting TBD

XI. Adjournment 15:07

WOOD-TIKCHIK STATE PARK
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 20, 2019 at 1:00 pm at
Bristol Bay Native Association
Dillingham, Alaska



I. Call to Order Paul Liedberg – 1:05 pm

II. Roll Call/Establish Quorum

Present: Paul Liedberg - Dillingham
Cody Larson - BBNA
Delores Larson – Koliganek
Ali Eskelin - DNR
Absent: Peter Christopher - New Stuyahok
Aleknagik - vacant
ADFG - vacant

III. Introductions

Staff: Kurt Hensel- Parks Superintendent Chugach/SW
Public: Sue Flensburg
Cassandra Johnson – BBNA Environmental Program Manager
Gayla Hoseth – BBNA Director of Natural Resources
Heidi Kritz – BBNA Program Coordinator for Natural Resources
Lee Borden - ADFG
Peter Andrew
Bobby Armstrong – Nushagak Cooperative
Mike Megli
Ward Jones
Robert Heyano - Dillingham, commercial/subsistence fisherman
Micky Foster
Pat Walsh - TNWR
Lindsay Layland - UTBB
Rob Carpenter – Aleknagik resident
Bob Himschoot – Nushagak Cooperative
Cory Warnock – McMillian & Jacobs Associates
Dan Dunaway

IV. Review and Adopt Agenda

Motion by Cody Larson, Ali Eskelin second, approved by unanimous consent

V. Approval of December 3, 2019 meeting minutes

Motion by Cody Larson, Ali Eskelin second, approved by unanimous consent

VI. NETC Pre-Application Document (PAD) and potential study topics

Cody Larson- FERC is looking for study plans, comprehensive management and resource plans to help inform the process. Discussed seven criteria for study requests and identified it may be outside the council's capacity with membership, we can summarize comments but may not meet criteria. Council can identify plans in the area that FERC hasn't referenced. Seven criteria are identified in Appendix A of FERC mailer. Comments from Dec 11 FERC meeting on erosion, sedimentation, ice damming concerns,

water temperature, downstream fish passage and smolt behavior patterns, risk of fire from transmission lines, basis for minimum instream flow criteria of 1000 cfs.

Discussion between Paul Liedberg, Cody Larson, Lindsay Layland and Cory Warnock about criteria for study plans. FERC is stringent about seven criteria; it's expected to show good faith effort to address the criteria and study requests may not be looked at without. Cory Warnock will provide project numbers to utilize from FERC eLibrary for study request examples. Environmental Assessment rather than Environmental Impact Statement.

Cody Larson identified the current study plans and requested public comment on each topic to include:

GEOLOGIC AND SOILS

Dan Dunaway discussed studying geologic integrity of the site. Cory Warnock identified 2020 geotech work will research integrity of proposed project.

AQUATIC RESOURCES – Water quality

Delores Larson requested adding Nushagak Mulchatna Rivers Recreational Management Plan, BBNA instream flow reservation on Koktuli, such comprehensive plans should be incorporated. Discussion between Cody Larson and Cory Warnock about instream flow reservations. ADFG likely to lift and modify water reservations for the falls to allow water for project use if research shows it's allowable.

Dan Dunaway discussed hydro turbine gas entrainment related to aspects of ultimate design and operation. Some turbine have tendency to supersaturate the water and fish get nitrogen poisoning, too much gas and water go through their gills and they essentially get the bends.

AQUATIC RESOURCES – Fisheries

Cody Larson identified study requests for upstream and downstream migration behaviors, timing at different life stages of salmonid, dolly varden and resident species to look at intake design to limit impacts. Assessment on options available for 'no net loss' to fish populations, or something more specific than the Fish First policies of regional organizations. Discussion between Robert Heyano, Cody Larson and Dan Dunaway of definition No Net Loss related to specific location or entire body of water. Looking for parameter for Fish First term. Dunaway concerned by hatcheries related to term.

Dan Dunaway identified study requests for distribution of out-migrating juvenile salmon in water column and vulnerability to design and intake operation. All species and other life-stage are of great interest too. ADFG smolt project in 1980's could be utilized.

Lee Borden provided area managers will meet with FERC coordinator to put comments together. Discussed potential ADFG concerns including smolt migration, resident species and fish essential habitat use, migrating animals in transmission corridor and throughout the project area.

Ali Eskelin requested studies on life stage species specific habitat suitability of water depth, water velocity and substrate/cover affinities.

Kurt Hensel and Cory Warnock discussed concerns related to the time involved for studies and the limited summer season and if there is enough time to conduct the studies. Study seasons are very short, have the ability for 2 study seasons which is not atypical.

Paul Liedberg from RCL comments related to fisheries- The effect of the hydro turbines on not only on Sockeye, King and Coho salmon smolt but also on pink salmon alevin and fry. Thousands of pink salmon spawn above the falls and in the Tikchik river on even numbered years. As you may know, the pinks do not stay in the system until smolt stage. They drift/swim downstream shortly after hatching and may be more sensitive to turbines than the larger smolt sized fish. Suggesting turbines may have more effect on pinks than other species. Seems like a valid concern. Dan Dunaway emphasized pinks, was told Nuyakuk pinks are highest fat content pinks spawning far from the ocean. Since they don't return each year they should be studied at the appropriate time. Nushagak's commitment to the salmon should allow for more time if necessary to get a good study.

Study the effect of non-anadromous fish moving upstream and downstream through the falls. We know that rainbow trout, grayling and even lake trout move up and down through the falls throughout the year.

Study the oxygenation provided by the falls and its benefit to the fish in the system. With water temps rising, changing the oxygenation levels of the river could cause damage to the fishery and the ability of the anadromous fish to proceed upstream on their spawning runs.

TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES

Delores Larson, Cody Larson, Robert Heyano and Micky Foster discussed requiring studies of caribou migration routes related to increased noise, calving area by Koliganek and Kemuk, especially considering downward trend of Mulchatna herd. Micki Foster relayed historical account of animals dispersing area by Tikchik Lake due to increased helicopter noise.

Lindsay Layland requested studying subsistence impacts related to each study area and the cultural ramifications of each.

Dan Dunaway discussed how project does or does not affect hunting access related to transmission lines and more hunting pressure over a much larger area and if regulations will need to change. Discussion with Paul Liedberg to include general access, not just related to hunting.

Paul Liedberg from RCL- effect of lower water flows through the falls on the bird life that relies on the high turbidity to feed heavily on the smolt migration through the site. With the experience we have in the area, it's obvious to use that the smolt migrate through the falls not only in the springtime but throughout all the summer months.

Paul Liedberg and Cory Warnock discussed general ideas for comments and studies should be sent sooner rather than later, FERC is more likely to consider them based on poor teleconference connection.

RECREATION AND LAND USE RESOURCES

Cody Larson, Mickie Foster, Dan Dunaway and Bobby Armstrong discussed logistics and limitations of barge travel up Nuyakuk River. Barge is planned during high water times, potential to stage equipment and drive it up when it freezes.

Cody Larson requested studies for land uses changes on private lands with access to electricity and related pricing of native allotments.

Robert Heyano questioned studies related to WTSP management objectives. The management objects of the park and this project don't mix.

Ward Jones concerned of recreational and fisheries impacts related to increased fish harvest during construction and operation. Paul Liedberg- potential to write permit stipulations to address concerns.

Paul Liedberg from RCL- Park user impacts should be investigated. Most of our guests spend at least one day per week fishing the Nuyakuk river above and below the falls. This project, construction and operation, would adversely affect their experience (visually, fishing quality, remoteness, etc.). Therefore, we believe it would definitely have a negative impact on our business. Maybe a visitor questionnaire could be created that the local lodge guests could fill out after their stay. Economic, aesthetic and recreational impacts. Discussion between Dan Dunaway, Bobby Armstrong, Cory Warnock and council of the portage trail and potential impacts to subsistence and transportation activities. NETC may allow public access to the road to be built. Park management policies and objectives address new facilities which don't attract new visitation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Lindsay Layland discussed NHPA process as separate from study plans. Cory Warnock discussed 106 process as a separate concurrent process. The Coop will integrate with interveners, tribal entities, state historic preservation office and FERC to develop cultural study plans with area of potential effect is established initially. Cultural inventory to document cultural artifacts, evaluate whether eligible for identification process. Cultural report will culminate in cultural resources management plan incorporated into license and should be adhered to during construction and operation so identified cultural resources aren't impacted by the project.

Cody Larson and Cory Warnock discussed cultural subconsultant; McMillian & Jacobs has not hired yet.

AESTHETIC RESOURCES

Cody Larson discussed Nushagak Mulchatna Recreational Rivers Management Plan for reference.

SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES

Cody Larson and Bob Himschoot discussed studies for the effects of broadband on education and other factors. The project will make broadband available.

Ali Eskelin, Paul Liedberg and Bobby Armstrong discussed routing transmission lines from Ekwok to Dillingham rather than on the eastern boundary to allow easier travel between villages. The project is not set in stone but may be a more expensive route.

DEVELOPMENTAL RESOURCES

Council request for clarification of the study plan 'Effects of Proposed or Recommended Environmental Measures on Project Generation and Economics'. Discussion between Cody Larson, Bob Himschoot and Cory Warnock of the study as a review of the Coop's feasibility, capacity and ability to construct and maintain this infrastructure as it ages. Public will more opportunity to recommend additional environmental monitoring. FERC will solicit requested terms and conditions that needs to be incorporated into the license and FERC could incorporate those terms if it had merit. Final comments on licensing proposal is April 2023 first option, but public will have additional opportunities. More formal comment period related to requested terms and conditions that would be subsequent to PLP comment period.

Paul Liedberg identified cumulative effects may need to be studied. Comments from RCL- determine the minimum cfs to operate the turbine. SB 91 was worded to allow up to 30% flow to be diverted around the falls. With winter flows always going down to be diverted around the falls.

Bobby Armstrong stated there is no design yet, have not determined the lowest flow.

Cory Warnock and Bob Himschoot discussed gaining determination as to what flow value will allow fish to pass. 30% maximum draw may change if research shows there is no harm done by taking more water; there is support in the legislature for that. Robert Heyano questioned the definition of no harm done. The term 'No Harm' needs to be defined. Bob Himschoot provided its a personal definition and will be fleshed out during legislative process.

Ward Jones and Cory Warnock discussed the two-year study plan. Extenuating circumstances do arise for it to be extended. In preliminary permit process Coop can be granted one extension. There's a timeline to research and apply for a license but there is precedent for additional years of study if justifiable.

Paul Liedberg and Cody Larson reviewed study requests and comments. Subcommittee to take the comments from here and put it in a letter and send to FERC no later than the middle of January.

RECAP of comments for study requests-

Highlight comments on smolt. Pink salmon return every other year, and study appropriately. Evaluate life stages, habitat suitability based on water depth substrate and affinities there in for all fish species. Downstream migration behavior of salmon alevin, fry and smolt. Assess and document Dolly Varden and fresh water species migrations from hatch and emergence to spawning in the project area. No Net Loss comments discussed to be taken up with NETC board considering FERC process would move forward with impacts to the fishery regardless.

Motion by Paul Liedberg to create subcommittee of Ali Eskelin and Cody to draft letter, second by Cody. Amendment by Cody to incorporate management plans. Amended motion passed with unanimous consent.

VII. Management Council Bylaws - Review

Discussion of current bylaws, two sample CAB bylaws provided from other areas of the state. Council will make amendments to generalize some language, move sections and subsections as necessary, research authority for alternates. Ali Eskelin will draft bylaws with council comments and language from other CAB bylaws the council would like to incorporate.

VIII. Public Comments

Dan Dunaway stated the FERC website is unacceptably difficult to access and is supposed to be an serving the public. Contacted FERC employees to gain information about the project and even they had tremendous difficulty accessing and finding information. Encouraged everyone to write our senators. FERC is not serving the public. FERC should absolutely have a meeting in the area and he's not necessarily opposed to this (hydro) project.

Bobby Armstrong thanked the council and looks forward working together. Enjoys visiting the park.

Rob Carpenter questioned who recommends appointments. It is important for Aleknagik representation. Discussion with council as to online application, responsibilities of council, process, two names recommended but no applications sent. By regulation, village council of Aleknagik nominates.

Ward Jones identified the city council nominated him and Kay Andrews. Both interested but neither has done the online application. Asked tribal council for nomination and didn't hear back.

Robert Heyano asked if there was funding for the management council. The FERC permit that will change the park. Without a budget to meet in person council can't be very effective and may be charged with something you can't accomplish without a budget. There are things private citizens can do to get you some funding. Ali Eskelin offered the \$25.0K fiscal note attached to the SB91 legislation, and other expenses comes out of WTSP budget which is very limited.

Bob Himschoot- previous Grant and Elva hydro licensing was done under FERC licensing process. Details can be found under docket 14356.

IX. Board Comments

Ali Eskelin discussed land status of potential park additions for areas around Aniak, Kisarlik, Cascade Lakes.

Cody Larson- Council took action in 2007 through Rep. Edgmon to bring legislation to finalize land acquisitions. Also in BBAP recommended for 30 years. Regarding subcommittee directive, FERC is seeking plans and information in terms of studies that will be incorporated into this letter.

Conversations about hydro in the park have been happening since 1980's with public input on hydro in a very long regional conversation about power development. Previous studies and meeting minutes should be utilized to show past public concerns and research. Intend to represent previous council discussions to inform the FERC and inform the design of the project to make sure past community leader's voices are represented.

Paul Liedberg- Attended statewide CAB teleconference where we discussed the following: flat state park budget, no additions for planning or staff, some effort to get revenue from the SnowTRAC projects into the department, Roads to Recreation to improve access, expect to see more visitation, 40% increase; Director's Order fee increases- annual parking passes now \$60, Boat launch pass now \$150 on January 1, 2020; 650 CUPs in the state, ½ on the Kenai, commercial permittees all have to pay the same fee now. 50th anniversary of state parks 2020, will see graphics and posters on the statewide basis, we have the option to do something here to recognize the WTSP. OuterSpacial app purchased by MatSu CAB, app that helps download trails, can follow on your phone and ID maintenance problems for managers; CABs maybe work together, networking, legislative action etc.; early next year each advisory board will have their own webpage with minutes and resolutions included, and will address everything that has been done over the last 40 years.

Kurt- push by the Governor to increase our tourism dollars in southcentral.

Delores Larson – none

X. Date/Agenda of Next Meeting - March TBD.

XI. Adjournment -Paul Liedberg at 16:52

**WOOD-TIKCHIK STATE PARK
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 3, 2019 at 10:00 pm
City of Dillingham Council Chambers
Dillingham, Alaska**



-Agenda-

Roberts Rules of Order

I. Call to Order- Ali Eskelin called the meeting to order at 10:05

II. Roll Call/Establish Quorum

Present: Cody Larson- BBNA

Paul Liedberg – Dillingham

Ali Eskelin – DNR

Delores Larson - Koliganek, (telephonic)

Absent: Peter Christopher - New Stuyahok

Aleknagik – vacant

ADFG – vacant

III. Introductions

Staff: Matt Wedeking – Deputy Director State Parks

Kurt Hensel - Chugach/SW Superintendent

Monica Alvarez – DNR planner

Rob Earl – DNR Specialist

Public: Lee Borden – ADFG- Assistant area management biologist, acting area biologist

Kenton Moos - TNWR - Acting Manager

Robert Himschoot – Nushagak Coop GM

Dave Roseman – GCI Lodge Director

Scott Schumacher - RCL ops manager

Lindsay Layland – UTBB

Izzy Ross – KDLG

Sue Flensburg- resident

Gayla Hoseth – BBNA

Pat Vermillion – RCL

IV. Elect Chair and Vice Chair

Chairperson - Paul Liedberg. Nominated by C. Larson, Eskelin second.

Vice-chair – Cody Larson. Nominated by Liedberg, Eskelin second. Both elected by unanimous vote.

V. Review and Adopt Agenda

Ask for public comments at any point in agenda related to topic at hand.

Unrelated comments taken under public comment.

Amend to have Public Comment before Board Comments

Chair asked for unanimous consent to approve. Unanimous approval.

VI. Approval of May 23, 2019 meeting minutes

Chair asked for unanimous consent to approve. Unanimous approval.

VII. **Management Plan Updates**- Monica Alvarez

- a. **Statute Changes** AS 41.21.164 - Statutory change to enabling legislation of the park to allow for hydroelectric project at Nuyakuk River Falls with stipulations, also mandate change to management plan. Mandate council shall, with advice from DNR, amend the plan to conform with the legislative change.
- b. **Project Description**- Project is in the early stages and lots to be learned. FERC scoping meeting December 11 and encourage attendance to learn more. FERC seeking input on the Pre-Application Document and which studies should be conducted.
- c. **Management Plan Changes** - So little is known about the project, engineering is so early, haven't conducted any field studies, no specifics yet as to areas that may need changing.
- d. **Regulation Changes**- AS 41.21.165 the regulations that govern the state park are adopted by reference, changes to management plan also requires subsequent regulatory change to align regulations with plan changes.
- e. **The Management Council's roll in planning process**- The plan is to be developed by the council with assistance from the Department. Plan is required to be presented at public meeting for approval and implementation, subsequent regulation process described in statute. Regulatory process requires review and a public hearing.

The timeline is driven by how much needs to change in the plan. Amending to address only statutory change wouldn't be a big change and wouldn't require multiyear process, could be a very targeted amendment. FERC just starting scoping for the project so not clear on timeline for management plan scoping. DNR to assist with technical aspects, analysis and but the council has the ability to make those types of decisions. Typical plan change process: Hold scoping meeting to learn about the issues in the area as they relate to statutory change and project. Work over approximately 6 months to develop public review draft and issue for public comment, with a meeting associated with draft plan. Address comments and see if they change the plan, if appropriate. Plan is then adopted, and then regulatory change process starts. Estimate approximately 1-year process.

Both plan change process and regulatory change process require public review. Statutory references: Management Plan as per AS 41.21.164- management council shall develop plan with advice and assistance from Department. Regulation changes as per AS 41.21.165- Department shall consult with ADFG and management council for adoptions of regulations governing public use of the park. Council is involved and consulted in regulation changes.

Discussion between council members, Bob Himschoot, Matt Wedeking, Monica Alvarez and Lindsay Layland on special exception for permitting of hydroelectric research at Nuyakuk River. DNR interpretation is permitting and most research can be permitted prior to changes in the management plan based on legislative intent and will consult with Dept. of Law for clarification. Discussion continued on history of Grant, Elva and Chikuminuk permitting, research, and subsequent operating permit(s) for Grant and Elva; all in attendance unsure if FERC process was used. NETC looking to complete field studies for the project and will need operational permit with parameters before they decide on specific design and ultimate feasibility of project. Council could guide the scope of the studies and NETC could benefit from parameters for what council finds would be

compatible with the park plan based on the mandate of conservation. Council may need to amend bylaws to be able to spend time on Nuyakuk hydro topic.

Further questions on if the management plan needed to be amended to include Nuyakuk location where Grant and Elva are identified in order pursue the special exception permits. DNR interpretation is that the legislative intent is there with the statute change. More appropriate to make changes to the plan when there's more information about the project and can authorize the project.

NETC will apply for permits under the special exception with the narrative they need to apply for a special exception even if Nuyakuk is not identified specifically in the management plan. Per request, DNR to provide interpretation of special exception permitting in writing and that all studies be compatible with the management plan, in consultation with the Department of Law, strive to provide within 30 days.

NETC Pre-application document (PAD) hadn't incorporated the WTSP plan permitting matrix as suggested for state and federal agencies. Need recognition that FERC permitting and park permitting follow the permitting matrix as an additional consideration for guiding the studies. Management council would be most appropriate to pass on the plan permitting matrix requirements to FERC.

Department encouraged council members to stay involved in the FERC process and become familiar with management plan and pathways to change the plan. Further discussion on permitting: Any decision of the Department is subject to appeal and anyone affected by the decision can appeal to the commissioner of DNR. There is no public review required for issuance of permits; permits issued based on the management plan or, if needed, a special exception, and anyone can appeal it to the commissioner.

Discussion of dissemination and public availability of issued permits including stipulations. No requirement for public notice but DNR will provide information to council and public in some fashion.

Concerns identified based on short timeline for baseline research and potential impacts. Council members will research previous projects of Grant and Elva, including assessments of other sites to know if either project went through FERC process and what was done in the previous two assessments. Two separate studies of Grant and Elva researched previously. The last study had a detailed design and financial aspects, resulting in borderline feasible financially.

Discussion about FERC public scoping meeting in Anchorage December 11. Gayla Hoseth requested public scoping meeting in Dillingham. Gayla and Cody identified the distinction that BBNA doesn't have gov to gov consultation, but the tribes do. BBNA serves the tribes but does not represent the tribes.

VIII. Public Comments

Sue Flensburg – Discussed recent concern by folks from Aleknagik about the administrative designation of Lake Aleknagik SRS (LASRS), potentially include the topic on future agenda.

Dave Roseman- Questioned USGS flow data from last year and referenced low water levels and if it was an outlier. Himschoot – At 30% draw, during peak projection there was more than enough flow to meet the demand, lots of outliers in last 60 years.

IX. Board Comments

Ali Eskelin – Parks Director met with LASRS interested parties this summer. Suggest future agenda item to discuss plan recommendations of proposed land additions to the park.

Delores Larson – Agree that a baseline study should be at least 5 years. Identified previous studies done by BBNA and suggested NETC involve tribes and people of Koliganek, New Stuyahok, Ekwok as well as local people for hire for the studies. Agree about having a scoping meeting in region.

Paul Liedberg- Thanks and welcome to Delores. Agree park additions is a topic for discussion and have been identified for inclusion in the park for the last 20 years.

Cody Larson – Appreciate Delores' insights and comments about local involvement to gain social license, logistical insight from local populations and communities. The council has historically struggled to maintain seats, benefits from participation and need to have active members. Look forward to working on the plan amendment process. Council members represent the public and need to make efforts to provide information to the public. Recommend agenda item to look at the bylaws to correlate with recent meeting topics and discussions.

Pat Vermillion commented for the board to consider the scoping deadline for FERC process and if there are issues the board is concerned about, to address them in time for them to be considered for the scoping meeting.

Delores Larson- motion to request in-region scoping meeting by letter to FERC. Ali Eskelin– second. Cody Larson– One meeting may not capture all. Consider amending to include one or more meetings in region.

Paul Liedberg – provide letter to FERC requesting in region scoping meetings passed by unanimous vote.

Next Meeting December 20 at 1pm to develop comments on PAD and study recommendations.

X. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned by Chair at 12:26pm

WOOD-TIKCHIK STATE PARK MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 23, 2019
Dillingham, AK

1. Call to Order: Paul Liedberg called the meeting to order at 13:08 hours

2. Roll Call

Present: Ali Eskelin – Park Ranger Wood-Tikchik State Park

Cody Larson – Bristol Bay Native Association

Jason Dye – Bristol Bay Area Management Biologist ADFG Sport Fish

Paul Liedberg - City of Dillingham

Absent: Tina Tinker – Aleknagik

Peter Christopher – New Stuyahok

3. Introductions:

Staff: Kurt Hensel – Chugach/SW Superintendent

Ben Corwin – Ranger II

Public: Sue Flensburg – Dillingham resident, Nushagak Coop board member

Rob Carpenter - Aleknagik resident, recording for KDLG

Dave Roseman- Director of GCI Lodge

Bud Hodson- Tikchik Narrows Lodge, Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust

Kara Hilwig- Togiak National Wildlife Refuge (TNWR) biologist

Susanna Henry- TNWR refuge manager

Mike Megli- Aleknagik resident

Bobby Armstrong - Nushagak Coop., electric operations manager

Pat Walsh - TNWR lead biologist

Scott Schumacher – Royal Coachmen Lodge

Guy Fullhart - Mission Lodge

Pat Vermillion – Royal Coachmen Lodge

4. Changes to Agenda & Approval:

Cody Larson - motion to adopt agenda, Jason Dye second

Paul - unanimous consent for Agenda, no objections

5. Approval of March 30, 2018 meeting minutes:

Jason - motion to approve meeting minutes, Ali second

Paul- Unanimous consent for minute approval

6. Council Reports

Jason Dye- ADFG - Described sport fishing effort on Agulupak, Agulowak, and Nuyakuk Rivers over last 10 years for rainbow trout catch as relative stability with an increase in catch, info taken from statewide harvest survey and guided log book data. Pak and Wok are the two most heavily used rivers in the park and looked at the Nuyakuk with the possible development. Increase catch could be for a couple reasons, sometimes angler efficiency and better fishing.

7. Presentations- Nushagak Electric Nuyakuk Hydro SB 91 HB99- Bobby Armstrong

Bobby Armstrong discussed the proposed hydroelectric project at Nuyakuk River Falls. Described the topography as glacial moraine the falls break over. Used flow data from USGS from 1953 to find the amount of water needed to provide energy to this region. About ¼ of the flow average could supply

Levelock, Dillingham, Aleknagik, Koliganek, New Stu, and Ekwok. This area's demand for power is the highest when the water is the highest. There is no need for a dam. The project is a conceptual design with an intake at the upper end of the falls, a penstock/pipeline that runs underneath the hill between the top and the bottom of the falls with the turbines and tail race that runs back into the river at the bottom of the falls.

Bud Hodson- Questioned the first hydro project model that showed intake from the lake. Further asked what the drop was at the falls and if the new design produced less electricity.

Bobby Armstrong- Discussed the smaller footprint of the project and lower cost associated due to the fact there may be enough drop at the falls. Drop is 25 to 35 feet. NET has plans to finish the on site survey next week. The amount of drop will depict the design. Discussed the drop difference as 8-9 feet from previous model, new model will require more water to get the same output. Discussed the transmission lines and infrastructure that would tie in the villages.

Paul Liedberg- Questioned the transmission line coming from the hydro site to Aleknagik. Asked if power would go to King Salmon also.

Bobby Armstrong- Described possible route of transmission lines going to the villages just north of Kemuk Mountain, on a ridge between New Stu and Ekwok.

Bobby- Power to King salmon has been discussed with Diane King, CEO at Naknek Electric, and there is interest. Power should support local villages

Cody Larson- Questioned if there was support to power Manokotak.

Bobby Armstrong- Discussed power additions and Manokotak road proposal and inclusion of Manokotak as members of Nushagak.

Ali Eskelin- Asked about infrastructure for the power lines and the foot print.

Bobby Armstrong- Plan to use 45-50 foot steel poles, steel sleeve, install equipment vibrates sleeve into the ground, no digging holes or using concrete. Only takes two guys and one piece of equipment to set the poles. Bolt the pole to a plate on top of the sleeve, less intrusion on the environment and less drainage problems. The voltage is 34 – 5, sub transmission line, not a high distribution line. The load is not heavy, so can have small structures. Further discussed a new type of composite wire that is about half the weight, 3 times a strong and double the ampacity allowing for structures farther apart. Such infrastructure is more expensive but it would cut down on the number of structures needed.

Bud Hodson – Asked if a road needed to be built to get the equipment in.

Bobby Armstrong– No road. Helicopters would set most of the poles and string the wire, most efficient, cost-effective way to do it. No big tower structures, rather single pole structures, 50 feet maximum with three insulators, two on one side and one on the other. Fiber optic line will also run on top of the poles. Also discussed hardline fiber to be added which currently stops in Levelock.

Paul Liedberg - Advised it may be a good idea to include a picture of the poles in the presentation since there are a lot of questions on infrastructure.

Pat Vermillion with Royal Coachmen Lodge joined the meeting on the call-in line.

Bobby Armstrong- We've project cost at 130 million +/- . Discussed grants and 4-5 years before construction. Over the next 40 years, if things stay the same NETC will spend about \$150 million, \$147 million. Discussed prices are likely to increase estimated NETC will spend 200 million dollars with inflation. Hoping the project can lock infrastructure costs at approximately 130 million dollars which will stabilize rates. It will take 40 years to pay off then we'll be paying for maintenance.

Ali Eskelin – Asked to elaborate on what stabilize rates means.

Bobby Armstrong- Too many variables to elaborate fully, estimate \$0.17 fuel surcharge, currently paying \$0.24 a KwH hour residential, plus \$0.17 fuel surcharge. The fuel surcharge could go away and could keep revenues stabilized and stabilize the rate. Adding new villages would create extra revenues and help pay for the infrastructure. Within 5 years NETC could have one of the top three rates in the state, better than Anchorage. This project would allow NETC to be 100% renewable.

Sue Flensburg- Vice chair of BBHLT, recently elected board of directors Nushagak Board of Directors. Questioned land status where transmission poles would go, as per public information and costs cost consideration.

Bobby Armstrong- Preliminary route to run transmission lines east of State Park Boundary on DNR land, cross tribal lands to get to Levelock. It's all state land except for one little section by the river. Studies of project site and transmission line routes for least amount of impact.

Dave Roseman and Ali Eskelin- Questioned if there will be more legislation required to be passed in order to move forward with construction.

Bobby Armstrong- No further legislation is needed but may go back to amend legislation if the studies show could use more than 30% of the flow as restricted currently, as well as the FERC licensing. The last stipulation says as FERC license is required by 2024, if unsuccessful the law would revert to the old language. NETC can continue with project if licensed unless stipulations need to be changed.

Bud Hodson- Asked about grant funding.

Bobby Armstrong- Coop has not applied for grant funding because the bill needed to be passed first to get permission for the project. No one would commit to funding until there was permission for the project.

Paul Liedberg- Questioned how to keep the smolt from entering the intake.

Bobby Armstrong- Referenced the upcoming studies will help with the design to minimize smolt from entering the intake. NETC wants the project to have the smallest impact on the fishery as possible.

Cody Larson- Asked if there was interest to run smaller transmission grids to nearby allotments.

Bobby Armstrong- It's a possibility but no mention of that. Mr. Hodson asked something if it would be available for him too.

Bud Hodson- I doubt the state would allow that.

Cody Larson- Questioned if there was anything in the park management plan that dictates powerlines from going from the site into the park.

Ali Eskelin- That would fall under the land use designations. The project site is within the natural area land use designation where transmission lines are counter to the management plan. Also questioned the new style of infrastructure and if it had been tested.

Bobby Armstrong- The lines have been in production for over 15 years and the poles 10. The turbines are not new either. The reason we're using them is because it's a low head situation. A small amount of drop on a hydro facility then you need more CFS, you need more water, but when it gets to the turbine there's not a lot of pressure because you have a huge blade that moves really slow. There's not a lot of pressure difference between the front and the back. The studies show with this kind of turbine 98% of the fish that go through it survive it. Equated turbine to the pressure change mortality for deep sea fish. He further discussed the goal to make the project with as little environmental impact as possible.

Pat Vermillion – Asked if these turbines are in use on any salmon streams of this caliber.

Bobby - Not that I'm aware of.

Kurt Hensel- discussed the park management plan is set up not have this development, especially in the falls based on the park boundary. Fuel prices are unpredictable so there don't seem to be solid arguments to say it's going to be cheaper in the long run. Has Nushagak Electric looked into solar or wind powered option? Further discussed the special use permit and the park has yet to see the required reports on activities and progress in the last year. I was hoping we could have an opportunity to get some photographs and get Ali out there to have a site visit. Also questioned how hydro energy is captured during the winter months during freeze up when there's a lower velocity.

Bobby Armstrong- We have looked into LNG, wind and solar. We don't have good wind. Power needs exceed capabilities of wind and solar. LNG max storage time is 90 days and we would have to store it for 6-8 months due to the port restrictions. Hydro is cheaper and cleaner.

Sue Flensburg- Questioned turbines and the impact to fish, whether large surges of fish differ in impact to them trickling by.

Bobby Armstrong – Referenced the studies to be done and the biologist will find the answers on how to handle those types of issues.

Bud Hodson- Summarized if the drop is yet undetermined, there's no way to know the size of pipe or types of turbines needed to capture the output you'll need.

Bobby Armstrong - We don't know yet except we know we will need at least 25-foot diameter penstock.

Dave Roseman- That pipe will narrow down considerably once you get to the bottom?

Bobby Armstrong- Described the particulars of the intake and pipe, equating the intake to a large vacuum cleaner head. The pipe will be under ground, under the hill and will turn into a circle before it gets to the turbine with gate like window blinds that open and close based on demand. It will all be determined by how much CFS we're allowed to take.

Bud Hodson – 25 feet is a small drop if the pipe will be 25 feet in diameter.

Bobby Armstrong – It's going to take a lot of water.

Pat Walsh – Questioned if the water passing through the system would be warmed.

Bobby Armstrong - It'll be about the same temperature; further discussed nitrogen levels where the water returns to the system as being a problem for most hydro projects, but the falls already create elevated nitrogen levels.

Susanna Henry – Asked about additional infrastructure needs around the falls, commenting Nushagak noted the need for 2 people to live onsite, with a septic tank, leach field, accommodations for transportation, all of which would change the conditions the public would find on site and would change the wilderness setting if it will be an industrial site that is also someone's work and home.

Bobby Armstrong- There will need to be living quarters. It probably won't be as extensive as Royal Coachmen's facilities but something similar.

Paul Liedberg – Added the need to know or identify such things before the studies for things like cultural resources based on infrastructure needs such as a runway or helipad and buildings etc. to be able to do the studies correctly and for the public to be able to comment on those things early on. Also asked if infrastructure will include a runway or helipad.

Bobby Armstrong – Probably both, a helipad and a runway. We will be studying all that. FERC will make us do above and beyond what our plans are. Anything that will be involved in the project will have to be studied and put out for public comment, the whole gamut of things that have to happen.

Ali Eskelin- Asked to see the language of NETC fish first resolution.

Bobby Armstrong- It basically parrots the FERC process. The FERC process is not going to allow you to go in and harm the fishery any way

Paul Liedberg – Discussed the 30% maximum water draw as likely a negotiation to get the bill passed and questioned who would be responsible for that monitoring and would it be done in season. Also referenced the studies listed and if for 2019 and asked if it was to late as to the timing of the passing of the legislation. Have you selected a firm to do all those studies yet? Further discussed the word intent in the study plans and questioned if it would be further defined and looked at if it's appropriate and the public would want to look at it as well.

Bobby Armstrong – NETC plans to install a flow meter and the rest would be part of your FERC licensing. and would be monitored constantly. NETC plans to turn over the old permit and file for a new permit and it is too late for 2019. McMillian and Jacobs on contract. They do everything from marketing to the final bill.

Paul Liedberg- Discussed the fact the proposed project is within the boundary of a state park and there are a lot of questions about impacts and a lot of deliberation went into establishing it as a state park. It wasn't established just until the next development project came along. Further discussed the integrity of maintaining the character of the park because it isn't just general state land and development should be mitigated if it takes place. Personally want to know Nushagak is taking that into consideration.

Mitigating impacts where possible, locating facilities outside when possible.

Bobby Armstrong – Discussed the wilderness being a large draw for the area, can have decent standard of living and wilderness.

Pat Vermillion – Questioned fish first resolution, NETC acknowledge salmon runs are important but nothing that says 100% commitment to not impact the fisheries in any way or a level of impact percentage. Fish first is a little confusing from that point of view. Questioned if there is commitment from NETC to not affect the sockeye run that goes up the Nuyakuk or is there an accepted amount of impact that would be considered?

Bobby Armstrong – No discussion on any kind of any species of fish. FERC process is not going to let the company destroy the fishery.

Ali Eskelin – comment that NETC is only relying on FERC since there are no specifics in the resolution saying the impacts should be minimal.

Bobby Armstrong – By law NETC has to do whatever FERC says. The board made a commitment to make sure there is no detrimental impact on the fishery at the Nuyakuk River, but everything has an impact.

Sue Flensburg – I have the same questions and encourage folks to talk to the board members and attend the meetings. The more information you get out the better. It minimizes misinformation. Idea for ‘frequently asked questions’ to help people to understand what’s occurring, timelines, steps, etc.

Cody Larson – Suggests having some sort of regional steering committee with the tribal council representation from the communities.

Rob Carpenter – Do Grant and Elva stay on the books as possible projects down the road?

Bobby Armstrong – Doesn’t matter to NETC. They’re not feasible because they don’t have enough production.

Kara Hilwig – Recommended information sources from previous environmental assessments, impact statements and literature from Columbia River headwater hydro projects to help define criteria of survivability and effect limits.

Bobby Armstrong – Once we get these surveys done we’ll be able to define exactly what we need, what size penstock, head pressure, production, turbines in the system.

Paul Liedberg – What is the next step as to reporting to us the public? What is the next major thing we’ll want to know? How will info be disseminated?

Bobby Armstrong – Reports fall 2019 to describe what NETC has done, disseminated through presentations and will meet with anyone that wants to have a meeting. The boards’ intent is to help this region and not cause harm. The intent is to help everyone understand what we’re trying to do and what our goal is.

Kurt Hensel – State park’s budget is thin right now. NETC described potential benefits to the outlying communities, but I see this as a net loss for the park in terms of intrinsic costs of this kind of an impact. I’m curious if there’s any kind of thought as to what the park out there could gain from this and I haven’t heard that.

8. 2018/19 OPERATIONS REPORT – Ali Eskelin

- a. **STAFFING** – Heavy turnover, discussed chain of command and volunteer staff.
- b. **PUBLIC USE CABIN GRANT** - tentatively approved, awarded about \$100K in funding for this project, about \$90K in federal funding and about a \$10k state match. Fall bid schedule for option of winter or summer movement on the project to move equipment. Potential for completion fall of 2020. Long term plan is for 3 public use cabins on the Wood River system, two on Nerka, one on Beverley. Typical PUC design- one room with a couple of bunk beds and some sort of a heat source with a small deck out front.
- c. **NEW DIRECTOR'S ORDER ON FEES** - Directors' order 293, signed in January. Boat launch fees are \$15 up from \$10, yearly passes still \$100. New parking fee of \$5 per vehicle per day or \$50 per year at SRS. Director's order 296 is for Special Use Permit fees - Boat storage fees on park lands are \$100 per boat per year. Previously no charge. Upper Tikchik Lakes SUP up to \$200 from \$100. Long term parking permit is \$150 per vehicle per winter.

Cody Larson –Mouth of Lynx Creek is a native allotment and it's not far from that cabin site. Trespass issues concern me. Recommend other locations that would not infringe on private properties.

Paul Liedberg - Distance from the cabin?

Cody Larson – Approximately a few hundred feet from the cabin

Paul Liedberg – Similar example at the Agulukpak- questioned if there is an allotment nearby ranger station.

Ali Eskelin - There have been conflicts, removed two food caches in dispute for public relations.

Paul Liedberg – Questioned time resources for one ranger to do fee enforcement and managing cabins and if it was feasible. Further if there are resources, staff time and money for long term maintenance and strategy. Questioned fees for cabin reservations.

Ali Eskelin –Status quo for staffing and funding. Fees vary dependent upon the size of the cabin; it is a reservation system with costs likely between \$50 and \$65 a night.

Kurt Hensel – PUCS identified as great revenue source and in great public demand. 5 new cabins in Chugach rented very frequently. Keep maintenance low by building a solid structure. The money we generate in the park system does stay in the park system and then we have to ask for a little bit more from the legislature

Dave Roseman – Lots of bear activity at Lynx Creek. Offered GCI assistance in materials transport.

Rob Carpenter – Questioned if fees were part of an overall statewide increase in costs or to get WT park in alignment with everything else, or both?

Ali Eskelin–Both for state wide standardization and to generate more revenue across the state.

Paul Liedberg – Is there a new commercial use fee structure? Will commercial fees change with the new fee structure? Asked about commercial use fees trends.

Ali Eskelin - Wood-Tikchik is unique- \$100 permit application fee and \$350 for the commercial use permit fee plus \$12 per person per day regardless of the activity. Differ from other areas of the state Still waiting on commercial user reports from 2018.

Cody Larson – Discussed subsistence users and fee increases having a cumulative impact on users.

- d. **ELODEA - Kara Hilwig** – biologist with Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. Discussed Elodea as a high-risk invasive species for western Alaska and Bristol Bay. Sampled 40 lakes between the refuge and the park, 14 within the park and then 25 within the refuge and several other outlying areas. Locations were identified based on float plane traffic from known elodea infested locations, habitat suitability and the economic risk factors, mainly the sockeye fishery. 400 discrete samples and did not find elodea in the refuge or the state park. Identified 25 new locations and also identified 20 annual monitoring locations. Excellent cooperative venture and we had wonderful reception from the park users and refuge users. 25 new locations, most in the park- associated with lodges and in the refuge- associated with popular guided fishing destinations on both rivers and lakes. Early detection is very important.

Rob Carpenter – Asked about treatment.

Kara Hilwig – Raise the potassium levels to a certain concentration and the structure of elodea and other aquatic plants deteriorates and over time the whole stand will die. There are new infestations at Alexander Lake and Sucker Lake which is another 40 miles from Anchorage. It reproduces itself vegetatively so just a little piece of it can spread the species. Prevention is key.

Dave Roseman –, does potassium affect fish? That weed we see growing to the surface in Aleknagik, that's not Elodea then?

Kara Hilwig - I don't believe it affects fish but there are some studies that indicate invertebrate assemblages may be affected. Clarity of the water is affected. In a closed system like Lake Hood maybe it's not such a concern since its primary purpose is float plane operations rather than fish habitat. The species in Aleknagik is not Elodea; it's Podemegetiun (sp), white stemmed hockemey (sp).

Paul Liedberg – Question for Dave Roseman - What's the awareness level for people coming out with airplanes? Is it on the radar?

Dave Roseman – some are aware but think it's not a big deal. It depends on level of experience.

- e. **PROJECTS- Ali Eskelin**
- Nuyakuk Ranger Station Painted in 2017
 - Maintenance needs at Agulukpuk Ranger Station – leveling of cabin, bear activity
 - Removal of Ball cabin on Chauekuktuli due to unsafe conditions, black mold. Burned in October. Remaining cleanup project because of debris.
 - Upgrades to the Boat launch- ongoing maintenance issues of erosion, washouts. Useful life is ~20 years and we've reached that.
 - Website updates.
 - Plan on working on access bridges between lower and upper Nerka for winter access. Related to user resource damage and makeshift bridge construction efforts.

9. BOARD COMMENTS

Cody Larson – Recommend a steering committee, not necessarily from this committee but to have the Nushagak board and non-cooperative members so that communities that are not members of the cooperative have representation on that board. With the project they would become Nushagak Cooperative members and it would be an impact in those communities.

Jason Dye- Thanks for everyone for coming, particularly members of the public. Tell more people to come. It's important that this council hears what the public thinks, what the users think. There's never enough participation. Just encourage people to come. My door is always open at ADFG, sport fishing issues whatever, stop by.

Paul Liedberg – Welcome Cody. Fee summaries, if we could get that information, I'd appreciate it. From the most recent we have on and trends. When it comes out I'm interested in how it comes out. Don't be exhaustive about it.

Kurt Hensel- I appreciate everyone attending and I think these meetings are very important. I also wanted to show some appreciation to the job Ali's done out there by herself. She puts in a lot of extra time doing her job and she is a very safe, capable pilot good representative of the park.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dave Roseman –Safety issue with Hunting on Agulowak and Agulukpak River corridors near the vicinity of the lodge. Several bears shot within the past few years either within sight of the lodge or within a distance where a high caliber bullet could potentially reach the lodge. There have been bears that have been killed and skinned and left to rot right on the shoreline. That Agulowak River corridor, aside from us, all the other commercial lodges use it and there is a lot of local traffic. There is high potential for an accident or injury. I understand that any kind of regulation that would address this would require legislation because the park land would require it. I'd just like to get it on the radar of the council as a very real safety issue. In addition to the Agulowak River, the Agulukpak River has the same issue. Both river corridors have a lot of salmon and it's kind of like a natural baiting station. Bears congregate there as well as anglers and other users. It's also a place that's easy to shoot bears so there's definitely a conflict there that could be a very real safety issue.

Rob Carpenter – Questioned commercial use and local and non-local use of the park and if that info was on the website. You don't know how many people are flying in and staying. You have no way to track that? Are the commercial numbers going up?

Ali Eskelin – Not on website. Use data I have access to is commercial users utilizing the park. \$12 per day fee per person use. End of Season Reports submitted by lodges and associated payments as well as the vehicle counter capturing local use at the Rec Site in Aleknagik but no way to track people flying in personally. Suspect it's increasing due to the size of the park and inability to capture the data. Recent years increase of approximately 5-10% increase per year. The lodges have a certain capacity and they generally hit their capacity. There are some new commercial users that's the minor step up increase is the new commercial users.

Susanna Henry – Appreciate the maintenance of vault toilets in Aleknagik, they're always clean. Thanks for cooperative relationship with the refuge. Has use at boat launched increased?

Ali Eskelin –Pretty stable and mostly dependent on the weather.

Pat Vermillion – Criticism of the project- Nuyakuk Falls is probably the most beautify water feature in all of Wood-Tikchik State Park. I think the wilderness and guest experience in Wood-Tikchik would be affected by, certainly all of our clients but I think other people visiting the park there would be a loss of that wilderness value and the overall client experience is very important to consider that. I am extremely worried about the fisheries impacts of both the pink and sockeye runs that go through that waterfall both going up and the smolt migration. I think people really underestimate the smolt migration in that waterfall. I don't know what it is about that system, but it is a very delayed and spread out smolt migration and I don't see how they could be taking 30% of the water flow and not affect those smolt especially with a turbine that has not been used on other salmon fisheries. I would love to get some more information on that. I would assume the park archeological aspects of that area... There has to be some extremely significant archeological things going on with that portage there. It's a natural portage of the waterfall and salmon harvesting spot. There must be a lot of information there and history that could be affected. I'd love to see the state park do some sort of. A lot of the people have not seen this waterfall or the Nuyakuk Falls, even the locals that live on the Nushagak system. Maybe it would be beneficial to take advantage of this brief period to put together an education video of that Nuyakuk Waterfall. I'd be happy to head that up, just from an educational point of view. Not endorsing anything, how important it is for the salmon. If there's some interest there from the park, let me know. Also, from the state park point of view if there is anything I can do to help or educate people on this project please let me know.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Paul Liedberg - Suggestions to have meetings more often. Concerned about the general public knowing what is going on. Adjourn at approximately 3:28 in the afternoon. Thanks everyone.

Wood-Tikchik State Park
Management Council Meeting DRAFT Minutes
Dillingham City Council Chambers- Dillingham, Alaska
Friday March 30, 2018

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call & Introductions/ Establish Quorum

- Ethan Tyler- State Parks Director
- Paul Liedberg- City of Dillingham
- Peter Christopher Sr.- New Stuyahok
- Jason Dye- ADFG
- Tina Tinker- Aleknagik
- Sue Flensburg- BBNA
- Kurt Hensel- Park Ranger II (telephonic)
- Ali Eskelin- Park Ranger

Members Absent:

- Gust Tunguing not in attendance due to SAR (Search & Rescue?)

Public in attendance

- Rob Carpenter – Aleknagik resident
- Avery Lill- KDLG
- Mike Megli- Aleknagik resident
- Mark Lisac – Dillingham resident, retired biologist with Togiak NWR
- Dave Roseman-GCI
- Kalon Pluma – Mission Lodge
- Susanna Henry – Refuge Manager, Togiak NWR
- Neil Barten – ADFG Game Biologist
- Pete Andrew – President, Nushagak Cooperative
- Annie Fritze – Secretary, Nushagak Cooperative
- Bobby Armstrong – Electric Operations Manager, Nushagak Cooperative
- Bob Himshoot- CEO/General Manager, Nushagak Cooperative

III. Elect chairperson and vice chair (majority vote)

- Tina Tinker elected Chairperson; nominated by Sue Flensburg, seconded by Paul Liedberg. Motion passed unanimously.
- Peter Christopher elected Vice Chairperson; nominated by Sue Flensburg, seconded by Paul Liedberg. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Review and Adopt Agenda

- Sue Flensburg moved to approve agenda, seconded by Paul Liedberg.
- Ali Eskelin moved to amend agenda to add public comment after presentations. Amended motion passed unanimously.

V. Review and Approve Dec. 5, 2013 meeting minutes

- Sue Flensburg moved to approve minutes, seconded by Paul Liedberg. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Public Comments

Peter Christopher Sr.

- Commented that moose are declining in the Tikchiks. Used to see them around the mouth of the Allen River but they're not there anymore. Maybe the sport hunters moved up from the Nushagak and Aleknagik to the Tikchik Lakes because we're not seeing them anymore.
- His concern is that moose is one of our (subsistence) resources and population declining.

Dave Roseman

- Asked Peter if he thinks the decline due to over hunting?

Peter Christopher, Sr.

- I don't know; we're not seeing them like before, near Dietrich's cabin.

Jason Dye

- Stated that he's taken down the comments and will pass them on. Also noted the game biologist is here if he has anything to add.

VII. Old Business

None

VIII. New Business, Council Members Reports

a. Native Allotments Update - BBNA

Sue Flensburg

- Conferred with BBNA Land Management (formerly Realty and handles Native allotments) and there are no trespass issues the department is aware of and that things are going well.
- BBNA Land Management agreed to include parks on distribution list for sales of Native allotments to keep the park aware of future sales.

b. Nushagak Electric - Hydroelectric project on Nuyakuk River

Robert Himshoot – CEO/General Manager Nushagak Cooperative

- This project was presented to our cooperative board in November. We have also done a lot of public outreach noting today's presentation to the management council is presentation 51 or 52.
- Nushagak Cooperative has applied to FERC for preliminary permit to conduct studies.
- Very long process that will require a statutory change to the park.
- Intend to complete the studies we need to determine potential at the site.
- We want to bring the management council into the process on a formal basis as to what we are looking at, get your opinion and hopefully your support for studying this potential.

Bob Armstrong – Power Operations Manager/Nushagak Cooperative

- First identified this hydro site.
- In Dillingham a couple of years, worked for cooperatives for over 35 years all over the country.
- Cost of energy here is 8-10 times higher than anywhere he's been.
- Looking for lower energy costs.
- Avid outdoorsman, researching the area and started researching the falls.

- A ridge runs between the lake systems and the river, a glacial moraine.
- Lower 5 lakes run into Wood River, Upper 5 lakes run into the Nuyakuk River. The glacial moraine at the falls creates a natural dam with a natural spill way.
- We want to tap that water resource without interrupting it.
- Watershed is 1,544 square miles of drainage into the Nuyakuk River.
- Showed slide of park boundaries.
- Have data from the flow meter in the Nuyakuk River for the last 60+ years.
- Estimate using 25% of the flow at the lowest time of the flow.
- Could produce 4.5 megawatts and up to 10 megawatts in the summer, which is more than we need.
- We average around 2 megawatts in Dillingham.
- Upriver villages average about 300kw combined.
- Summer power use is about 4.6-4.7 megawatts, more than what we are using.
- We could feed everyone in the region and the flow matches up perfectly with the fish migration. The fish are migrating when the water flows are the highest, percentage wise that is when we would be pulling the smallest amount of water off the falls.
- The falls are at an oxbow in the river, great for engineering, environmental.
- Could tap upstream with penstock down to the bottom where the power plant is and the water spills back in at the bottom of the falls.
- It's about 1500 feet so the water is out of the normal flow for a small period of time.
- The amount of water we are able to use, which will be determined by the studies, will determine how much production we get out of it.
- Presented slide showing the grid.
- All river villages would be taken off diesel and put on this hydro power if the project pans out.
- Also considering Levelock as there's potential to feed them with electricity and connect into the hard-line fiber.
- Our microwave internet system could use some work here. This would give hard line fiber to all up-river villages and Dillingham as well.
- This project could replace 1.5 million gallons of diesel fuel per year.
- Average yearly production would be 73,000.
- Combined production now is 25,000 MW hours with room for growth.
- Fish processing is the main driver for our high loads in the summer.
- 10 MW would be the highest if we can develop. The studies will show us the amount of water we could use.
- If you keep it at 10, even though it's producing 73,000 MW hours, they are spread out over a 6-8 month period.
- We need to most of it during a 40-day period during our fish processing. So there's room for other industry to come here in those other months.
- Approximately 120 million dollars plus or minus according to what the studies show, how much production we get and what the engineering design will be. We don't know the full cost yet and we will not until studies complete.
- Production will directly reflect how much diesel fuel we can displace.
- In 40 years if diesel is at \$2.10/gal and caterpillar prices don't go up, we're going to have to replace every gen set in the power plant at least twice and they are 1.5 million each which is not even on this figure. Nushagak operations cost is approximately 147 million in the next 40 years.

- This project has 80-100 years before major maintenance. Maintenance expense will be lower.
- Infrastructure costs financed for the 35-40 years, no fuel surcharge, no cost fluctuation for the next 80 years.
- Lower costs with pathway for broadband internet.

Bob Himshoot -Update numbers- fuel displacement of 126 million. Average over the last 5 years is over 5 million dollars a year in fuel savings. Over 40 years would be approximately 25 million in savings.

- PCE- the first 500 KW hours our members subsidized rates are \$0.17/KWH. After 500 it's \$0.45. That is a little over 1 million per year the state is having to subsidize 500 KW for the residents for this community and the ones in the Nushagak drainage.
- Bring the rates down to a PCE level naturally through reduction in cost, that PCE is a benefit to the residential users for 500 KWH. It doesn't cover things like stores, restaurants, fish processing, residential over 500. The same calculation using the same filings at AEA shows \$4 million a year to the remainder of the communities if you can bring the cost down to \$0.17/KWH in just displaced energy costs. On top of the 5 million in displaced fuel costs

Bobby Armstrong

- Looking to have a small footprint on the environment. Nushagak drainage is dependent on the fishery. We don't want to do anything that harms fishery.

Bob Himshoot

- As a Coop, any efficiencies show up in rates. Our only mandate is to provide lower rates and find reliable power. This is not going to be done to line anyone pockets with cash.

Bobby Armstrong

- profit in a Coop go back to the membership in capital credits. That's how you lower your rates for the membership so you don't have big margins.

Tina Tinker – Is there going to be a dam? I know people pull their boats up that way.

Bobby Armstrong-

- No. The river is unimpeded. That will never change.
- We would take a certain percentage of water off at the top of the falls and dump it out at the bottom after we run it through a penstock and a turbine. It's not the most productive way.
- The most productive way would be to dam the river you could have a 100 MW of power but that would be too big of a footprint and we don't want that. It's the way we can help the communities within the drainage with their energy costs and still keep the fishery in good shape.

Tina Tinker –Related to climate change and the water level going down. It was substantially lower this year. Is that going to keep the water in the rivers and the lakes?

Bobby Armstrong –

- We have 60 years of data on the river.

- We came up with 25% by taking three lowest years over past 60 and averaged them and that was the lowest flow we've seen. If you do 25% of that, that's what you can produce out of this plant.
- It's probably going to be way better than that when the studies come out, it's going to show that I'm sure. Weather is going to change. Not only does the snow fall effect the reservoirs, but also the rain. I think we are pretty safe in saying this will be able to produce what we said.

Tina Tinker- So the lower falls, the Native allotments there won't be affected?

Bobby Armstrong- No native allotments involved at all, even in transmission routes.

Tina Tinker- I have one of those native allotments. I'm still going to be able to get up to a cabin if I want to?

Bobby Armstrong- You'll be able to get up there better. The FERC process wants to enhance the project for the public. Right now, you have to portage your boats around the falls. There's a way could build a facility or supply side a side by side with a boat trailer so it would be easier to get up to the top of the falls.

Bob Himshoot- The only flow that would be affected would be from the intake to the outflow. The amount of water before that point and after that point would be exactly the same.

Bobby Armstrong- Fish passage happens during the high-water flows. Take out 25% when it's low water, you're cutting the percentage significantly. When the fish are using it the most for migration, both up and down, is when you're pulling the least amount of resource out of the river.

Sue Flensburg- USGS flow meter is still there.

- I'm assuming you have looked at the trends with changing climate conditions. You hopefully have a better idea of what those trends are starting to potentially show.
- It was helpful info that the infrastructure would be about the same size as the BBNA board room.

Bobby Armstrong -

- The facility will not be as our diesel plant.
- If we put the outflow on the back side of the slough that is there and if you pulled up to the falls in a boat, you wouldn't be able to see it.
- You would see the tailings pond where the water directed from the plant would come back in. We're going to try to make it aesthetically pleasing to everyone.

Paul Liedberg- Are there other examples of projects like this around the state?

Bobby Armstrong-

- This is a pretty unique hybrid project. The technology is not unique.
- The penstock is the same but there's not another project we could compare it to. That would-be part of the process when we do the studies.

- We will try to have a company make a video to give everyone a better idea and show how it works.

Bob Himshoot-

- What makes this unique is that there are very few places like this that have the advantage it does. If you built this for max power production then it would look like a lot of other places that are built that way.
- One of our main concerns is having as little influence on what is there as we can. It is kind of a unique design. It's not designed for max power; it's designed for that balance what we can do without having a whole lot of impact and what nature has provided.

Peter Christopher- My concern is that the king salmon go up through all the lakes. When they spawn, the fry stay there all winter and the next fall or spring they come out. The red salmon that go up to Chikuminuk, every two years after they stay in the lake area they go out to the ocean. Is that going to protect the fry from the turbines?

Bobby Armstrong-

- Head is the pressure on the turbine that makes it spin, determined by the amount of water and how far it's dropping.
- The more head you have, the more power you get out of the same size turbine but it causes a lot of difference in pressure from the front to back. That's what's causing the fish to die. People think they get chopped up in the blades that's not what the mortality rate is caused by. It's caused by the difference in pressure.
- They changed the design of the blades now the pressures aren't so high. This is a low head pressure turbine. If there was a 100-foot dam there would be a high head and it would be a lot more detrimental to the fish.
- 2% mortality rate. Fish pass through with minimal damage.
- The studies will show we will be able to see where the most traffic is at and put the intake where it does not collect all the fish. If you take 1/8 of the river flow and the fry were spread out through the whole river, we're taking an 1/8 of the smolt and you're only losing 2% of them. We won't know until the studies are done.
- The kind of turbines we're using are called bulb turbines they're designed to not cause so much impact.

Peter Christopher- Nuyakuk River, the majority of the king salmon come in every 4 years. A lot of pink salmon come up that river, millions go up to that Nuyakuk Lake.

Bob Armstrong – A lot of fish come through there. We want to make sure we're able to help the people of these communities with their energy and protect the fisheries as best as we possibly can. There's been the thought that you can't have both, and I believe with this design we can.

Paul Liedberg - You talked about the need for the statutory change. Can you talk about what would be necessary? What would be required to make it legal per park regulations?

Ethan Tyler-

- In current statute the development and operation of a hydroelectric site at Lake Elva and Grant Lake is not considered an incompatible use.

- In the creation of WTSP at some point a hydro facility at those lakes was compatible for the purposes the park was set aside for.
- In 2012 and 2013 when Nushagak was looking at a hydro facility there all of this ran through the attorney general's office and the legislative legal office and it was determined that a hydro site outside of those two areas were not allowable under current statute.
- The statute would have to change in order for more comprehensive studies and to construct a hydro facility.

Sue Flensburg- Statutory changes would need to precede a whole bunch more studies?

Ethan Tyler -

- There are studies that are consistent with park purposes.
- In the previous iteration of a hydro project within the park those were allowable in 2012 and 2013.
- For anything more invasive, or anything that is not consistent with park purposes, like Geotech or more invasive studies, a statutory change would need to be made.

Tina Tinker- Is that through a public process or is that through the legislature?

Ethan Tyler- The legislature.

Sue Flensburg- The council to weigh in, certainly with respect to our recommendations.

Jason Dye- Question for Ethan. Fish studies could be conducted without any statutory change?

Ethan Tyler -

- Correct.
- We are working with Nushagak on what studies they can do this field season and they are working with our permitting staff to apply for permits to do those studies.
- Before those permits are granted we would put them out for public comment.

Jason Dye- In addition I would encourage you guys (Nushagak) to stay in touch with local staff as to what type of data that you're going to be looking at what you may want.

Bobby Armstrong - We have approached the local lead. We approach every group we can that we can possibly get information from to help with the studies because there's some studies that have already been done that would be relevant to this project. FRI has a lot of information as well.

Paul Liedberg- If I understand it right, that would take care of the initial studies but that wouldn't go very far as to what needs to be done to collect the kind of information we need for this so I would imagine you would want to get that statutory change done ASAP which would probably be the next legislative session?

Bob Himshoot - In my opinion it is critical to have the support of this council in pursuing that change as it concerns the studies.

Sue Flensburg- Can we define the change that would entail from the parks perspective?

Paul Liedberg – Let me add on to that. It's more than just a statutory change just for the studies. There would have to be a statutory change to allow the project. I'd imagine you'd do the whole thing at the same time.

Bob Himshoot-

- I believe a lot of that would depend on the sponsorship we had in the house and the senate and what could be done.
- We would like to get everything done in one legislative session.
- So what I see as the big risk here is the money spent to define the potential and get the environmental assessment. Once you have those numbers and when you know what can safely be used and what production can safely be made, the rest of it is pretty simple math. The cost of the build compared to the reduction in costs and whether it pencils out or not.
- You add in the risk of the legislative action and the statutory actions that need to happen that are outside the environmental assessments, feasibility and science studies.
- To mitigate the risk of the costs of those studies because Nushagak will be pursuing the majority of those costs. We're looking for help every place we can but there's not a lot of funding out there for studies. We're trying to mitigate that risk and that's why we've been out showing this to as many people as we can.
- I don't want to go spend 5-7 million dollars to create the package for evaluation, come out of that showing we can safely produce enough power to turn diesels off in all these communities to find out we can't get the legislative action to happen the second time.
- If we can get legislative action we need to do the studies, evaluate and then do the project and do it in one legislative lift, it would mitigate a lot of the risk for Nushagak.

Paul Liedberg-

- That makes sense. When you are looking for support from the council, a lot of our decision would be based on the studies as to whether we support the whole project.
- It's putting the cart before the horse to lend our support to the whole thing without having the studies done to know what the impacts are.

Bobby Armstrong-

- We are looking for support to do the studies now. We don't expect or know ourselves whether we are going to move forward on this project until we see the studies.
- We are not looking for support for the whole project right now, we're looking for support to see if there's potential is here, and we think it is, without having the big impact that we do not want to have.

Sue Flensburg –

- The fish studies are already allowed. You're talking about the broader type of studies.
- I would request the park to line out what they see as options in terms of potential changes and a little more definition as to what the park might view those changes affecting the character of that particular unit.
- I'm tickled trying to see this get off the ground and I realized there is a whole lot more time and research that needs to occur. But also see this as a renewable energy source with the issue of high prices.

- We have the responsibility to make sure our decisions are based on factual information.
- At some point, the park would line out their thoughts on the statutory changes.

Ethan Tyler-

- Right now, support for the studies that are consistent with park purposes would probably be a first step.
- At the time potential legislative action is required, not only for the additional studies but the build of the project, that would be the next step of potential support from this group.
- As far as what potential legislative action would take place to allow that to move forward, there are a couple of potential legal options that will require the community to weigh in before real direction is formulated.
- Community engagement would be the best way to ascertain that.

Peter Christopher -

- You said the same thing I was going to say about public involvement.
- I represent New Stuyahok on the Nushagak River. Their concern for example is for the resources we have up there.
- If there is a road put in from Aleknagik connecting Koliganek, Stu and Ekwok, I feel like my area, our area, Nushagak, Mulchatna, Nuyakuk and the Lakes, and the people that use those resources should have public input from the communities. If the roads are built and our resources are impacted you're (Nushagak) going to get a lot of vibrations from the communities.
- Our elders are those that use that area at the beginning, 3,000 years ago. We do not want our resources impacted.
- We need public engagement. I want to thank you for presenting this. I will bring all this to my people in Stu.

Bob Himshoot- I need to clarify, we're not looking to build any roads.

Sue Flensburg- You'll have an access road.

Bob Himshoot-Not between the communities.

Paul Liedberg- Two questions. I appreciate you presenting this. Ethan you talked about approval from the communities. Is that an action item we should take up today?

Ethan Tyler - That's up to you guys.

Paul Liedberg- Statutory alternatives and things that could be done. Is one alternative excising this from the park so the park wouldn't be player in this? Has that been considered?

Ethan Tyler -

- That's an option. I would stop short of saying it's considered.
- Another option would be to revise the statutory language to add this area with Grant and Elva. Those are the two simplest alternatives.

Tina Tinker – Thank you for your time. Are there any other comments from the audience?

Kalon Pluma – In all the numbers what is the projected volume of water that comprises your 25% statistic? Is there something comparable to say what that looks like for the sake of what that tailings pond would be?

Bobby Armstrong – 3,800 CFS. I don't know of water around here that would be comparable that anyone would be aware of that would show them what that size is. I do know that the river here is 560 feet wide at the top of the falls. It's a significant amount of water. It's around 15,000 CFS. If you pulled the maximum amount it wouldn't even be a third.

Sue Flensburg-

- Part of what we are being asked to consider is to weigh in on whether we support or don't support the current studies underway. Those are fairly limited to fish, flow etc.
- I think that should be on the table as a potential motion.
- It doesn't imply we are speaking on behalf of the communities with respect to full support or not. Just support studies that have to be done, the fish related studies that don't require any special authorization or deviation of the park management rules.

Sue Flensburg Motion: The council supports the studies that are currently being done that don't have any direct impact on the park boundaries at this point.

Paul Liedberg – Second

Tina Tinker – Motion by Sue Flensburg to support the current studies underway by Nushagak on the Nuyakuk. Hydroelectric studies. Any discussion.

Susannah Henry

- I'm Susanna Henry, the refuge manager with Togiak National Wildlife Refuge
- On Tuesday evening when I heard your presentation at the Nushagak Members Cooperative meeting, you did bring up some other infrastructure that would be involved, not just the power house.
- I would encourage the council to consider studies that would look at all of the cumulative impacts that would be involved in all of this.
- At least two employees would be there at all times, a residence, an office, an airstrip for the ingress and egress of those employees, there was more about the power lines, how they would be constructed and maintained, there might have to be an access route to access the power lines. We had some discussion as to whether that was actually a road. In some places it can turn into one for four wheelers.

Bobby Armstrong-

- That would be something we couldn't control. Today I'll be going up there on my snowmachine and there is access for people right now.
- If people go up there we can't stop them. When we put one in it will be right of way cut only. We can't afford to build roads. It's too much on the membership as it is to build the powerline itself. What happens from there we have no control over.
- I didn't bring it up here because the 130 miles of lines won't be in the park.

- Based on what happens with the permitting we may have to set out our facilities outside the park other than the powerplant itself.

Bob Himshoot- What you're talking about there is design and feasibility for operations. There's a whole spectrum of possibilities and it's not something we can speak knowledgably too. It's all part of the permit process as it goes through FERC with the stakeholders.

Bobby Armstrong- It will be center operations to Royal Coachmen or Tikchik Narrows. It won't be as extensive. They have a much larger operation as far as living quarters.

Paul Liedberg-

- In response to Susannah, I would recommend that the council be more limited to the fish studies that have been approved at this point.
- Those other considerations will be out there and will be looked at some point. I would prefer to keep it narrow at this point.
- I think our motion addresses my concern.

Jason Dye- one clarification on the motion. It addresses studies underway. I think we want to look at studies under the current approval.

Peter Christopher - The motion that was made to approve the studies, my understanding, I don't think I see it as approval for construction now, only the study part.

Tina Tinker – Clarify Motion: Support Studies on the current studies

Ethan Tyler- Madam Chair, assist with the wording - Support of studies under consideration consistent with park purposes.

Tina Tinker – any other discussion?

Mark Lisac- Question-

- The easiest way to promote or pursue this is to include the Nuyakuk site or request the Nuyakuk be included in the state statutory language.
- It doesn't mean it has to be built but it might promote some of the other studies that would reveal whether this is even possible.
- I don't know if you're intending, Bob, to do seismic exploration, archeology,
- There's a lot of components that have to be looked at. If all you're going to do is look at fish and water it's not going to really answer some of the critical questions to move this another step or two down the line.
- If you wait for two years to do the fish work and the water work and find that you can do it with minimal impacts and then have to go back and fight with the legislature to get the statutory language amended. Just like with Elva and Grant, just because they are in the language it doesn't mean it's going to be built but it did allow for further evaluation to occur to say well this is not a good idea.
- Maybe a motion to suggest to the legislature to amend the statute and how much further down the line with those necessary studies and what would they entail.

Paul Liedberg-

- My understanding in response to Mark, that those things are going to be concurrent.
- Fisheries studies that are already allowed could be taken place as the proponent, Nushagak, is requesting the legislature for the statutory change. Am I incorrect on those two things happening at the same time?

Bobby Armstrong-

- We're going to do the studies this summer and in the first part of next year with the legislative action that needs to happen, that's when we will be pursuing it. That is the plan.
- Whatever legislative action we'll try to do it in one course. It will work better for everyone involved.
- This year, the studies we're doing are multiple year studies that need to be done anyway.
- Some of the other Geotech stuff about the structures can be done in one year, even the last year of the project.
- The data and impact that we will have on the environment is multiple year studies that we need to get started on this year. It'll give us time to figure out what direction we want to go in.

Tina Tinker - If we supported without the legislative statute being amended are we going against our statutes?

Ethan Tyler -

- The current motion does not go against our statutes.
- Also, the council has not met in three years and I think there may be concern that trend could continue. But with an issue as important as this and with the continuous forward motion of this particular issue we can call a meeting when needed.
- If there is a need for additional council support of legislation or additional action.

Peter Andrew- Thank you for your time and thank you for serving on this board. Nushagak Electric Coop is not a nonprofit, so the decisions you make impact the regular folks that live here in the region. The direct impact for this potential project is about 3,500 people. That will be directly impacted for 100 years if everything worked out right. I appreciate your support.

Peter Christopher - Related to AFN, any decision that is made from the state park or BLM or federal government, they need to work with the tribal entities. We need government to government communication with the State Park, BLM and BIA.

Sue Flensburg-

- Applaud Nushagak for trying to do as many public open meetings to get the word out and get people to identify their concerns and the pros and cons.
- With respect to the government to government consultation that's more in context to the federal permits like FERC as opposed to tribes and state agencies. They don't have the same direct relationship that the federal government does. That's my understanding.

Bobby Armstrong-

- The one thing you would be able to allow is communication with Nushagak.

- We're not a government entity. Everyone that has a meter on this system owns this company. It's a company of the community. We plan on keeping everyone informed. We're trying to be open and honest.

Tina Tinker – Thank you for your presentation.

Request read back of the motion:

Ethan Tyler- The council is supportive of proposed studies that are consistent with park purposes.

Second- Paul Liedberg
Motion Carries

c. Lake Aleknagik SRS ILMA

Mike Megli - Lake Aleknagik State Recreation Site Interagency Land Management Agreement

- In 1996 there was a three-way transfer that was made for the present-day ranger station and parking lot.
- In 1998 there was a land transfer to the park was made for the recreational site, the waters of Aleknagik bordering the city and Mission Bay.
- History- Ranger Dan Hourihan and Mark Smith, the mayor of Aleknagik discussed the safety of the narrows. There was a lot of boat traffic back and forth in the pre-bridge days. Mark was concerned about the safety and wanted the park to do some patrolling to keep people from taking off there and avoid any collision. Shortly after that conversation, the Lake Aleknagik State Recreation Site came about. This action had no formal public outreach or input from the city of Aleknagik, the general public, or any members of allotments or tribal lands that the recreation site bordered.
- 2002 was first the public heard about project when the park management plan came out.
- This action violated the 1987 park plan that was in place at the time requiring public input for any major changes. We feel this was a major change adding a square mile of territory.
- It violated state law AS 38.04.065, AS 38.05.945, as well as a federal statute CFR 1.4.
- The city of Aleknagik and the Aleknagik Traditional Council passed a resolution 17-02 February 2017 asking the administrative action creating the recreational site be rescinded.
- No action, no reply.
- This is happening now based on a change in management practice.
- Director Ben Ellis sent documents showing close to 700 acres non-upland land transferred to the ASRS. Contrary to the exhibit A of the Interagency Land Management Assignment that said there 625.
- This violated state law AS 38.05.300 restricting interagency transfer of land to 640 acres.
- Currently there is dual agency managing these waters, Habitat and State Parks in this recreational area. We believe the waters are well protected under habitat management. There is no need for the state park to manage these waters.

- Public trust has been violated with these improper actions and lack of respect to not respond to the City of Aleknagik and the Aleknagik Traditional council.
- We agree with the city and the council that this should be rescinded.
- Invite the park to do its due diligence and redefine its territory, needs to protect the public come back and engage in a meaningful public process as state and federal law requires.
- Since writing speech, we met with Director Tyler and he's made a promise to look into this and meet with these people.

Council Questions:

Sue Flensburg – I just received the packet today and previously requested a copy of the resolution so I'm trying to listen and absorb what the potential options are. I have a responsibility as a council member to feel informed in formulating options so I can feel like I'm doing my job. It's a lot of information to absorb in a very short time. It would be good to find out a little bit more about the meeting.

Mike Megli - I'm not asking the council to weigh in on it I'm just trying to be informative as to the process and what we're doing. Ali is giving us an opportunity to bring this out into the public and this is the forum in which we are doing it in.

Sue Flensburg- So that we have an official and appropriate place to have this discussion and start understanding what's lead up to this, the differences between the total acreage.

Tina Tinker –

- Mayor Kay Andrew gave me a call this morning. She believes there's an error in the resolution due to the fact that Aleknagik Natives Limited was never at the table at the time of the joint resolution or the joint council meeting so there wasn't a quorum established with the Natives Limited. So she believes this resolution that is on the table now may not have the 'umph' that it should have. And the city doesn't even have the resolution to refer to the joint council.
- What I remember, the reason why we had this meeting about the 700 acres is due to the fact that the city of Aleknagik and its residents between those two narrow sections where Mission Lodge is, that area we had asked the lodges not to have planes take off so early in the morning. They were taking off at 5:30, 6:00 in the morning and if you work a full week you don't want to wake up at 6:00 in the morning having loud planes roar through every few minutes.
- That was the reason this (SRS) was put in place. When we had that meeting, this is what we all came up with.
- And then all of a sudden, it's about permits, people want their little small docks in that area and it may be a water hazard. I have no idea. That's my memory of it.

Mike Megli- We'll check on the resolution.

Paul Liedberg – Thanks Mike for showing up today and thanks for clarifying you not asking for us to do something today. I would feel I would need a lot more information related to whether

I supported it or not. I think we'll be having more meetings related to the hydro project. We can take this up later and I appreciate you giving us a start on the orientation.

Peter Christopher –

- Mark Smith's question about the wanting no planes to land near the exit to the Wood River for the safety of the people there, the residents.
- What I'm hearing is the residents and the sport lodges are still taking off.
- What Mark wanted in 1998 was restrictions but it's still going on, planes are still taking off there. The request was to stop that for the safety of the local people there.
- It's a concern and I'd be concerned if I were a resident of Aleknagik. It's not right for the safety to be jeopardized. You see that on Facebook about the brain injury. One of the pilots had run over a guy somewhere in the state, it happened in our area.

Mike Megli-

- That's a good comment Peter. To speak to that, the narrows, there's no landing or taking off in the narrows. I am a pilot there and I have a float plane there.
- The local pilots all recognize the hazard there and respect not landing in the narrows.
- She was speaking to the taking off out of Mission Bay where there is no conflict other than the noise in the morning at an early time which is a different issue.

Tinker- And the safety aspect of the crossing. Now we have a bridge so it kind of changes things.

Sue Flensburg- So you're saying the above action violated the plan?

Mike Megli- The 1987 plan states that if there is a major action that takes place that there should be public input, public comments before a major action takes place. That was the plan in place at the time. The 2002 plan came out a few years later.

Liedberg- What are the impacts to you? You said that you feel there are already adequate regulations with the DNR regs that are already in place. When it gets down to it, what are the impacts to you in having this additional management protection?

Mike Megli –

- We've seen a change in interpretation of the roles over the years.
- Some of the issues is the habitat doesn't require us to pull out in October and Parks does.
- We're not allowed to fuel up a plane from the dock. We have to take it off the dock and pull it up to shore and climb up onto the floats.
- There's more strict rules with the park than there was with habitat.
- There's a permit process you go through with Habitat. They state what kind of materials you can use to build your dock. You can't block waterways. Before you get a permit, they look at your plan they approve it and have consideration as to how much light has to go through the docks for fish.
- We feel habitat has a good handle on it.

Paul Liedberg- I don't know if these regulations are the way the park is managing that or if it's in the management practices. If those mirrored habitats then would this be an issue.

Mike Megli - Ali explained a little of this this morning it was due to how busy they were. They didn't do everything that was in their power to do in the recreational area. I think that was some changes that came later.

Rob Carpenter - You'd still have the redundant permit. Habitat you pay \$5.00 and it's good for 10 years. The park, it's \$100 and you have to renew it every year or every two years. The regulations are a lot stricter than the habitat's. We are in what they deem as a high impact area.

Mike Megli- thank you for the opportunity to speak.

Sue Flensburg- I'd like to see from the park staff to compare habitat permit and park permit differences so that I don't have to dig through that. I think that would be very useful.

Ethan Tyler- That is part of the process we've committed to go through and research the permits.

Sue Flensburg - Part of the issue is redundancy. It would be good to see where there is other things that weigh in. I still get the impression that the total acreage is an issue. If the total acreage that is allowable as an administrative action is 640. According to the first page it's larger than 640. I'm just trying to get a better grip on the facts.

Ethan Tyler- As are we. When state parks was handed this interagency land management agreement it said the acreage was under 640 so we signed it based on the information we had at the time. Now that information is being debated. We need to figure out what the actual acreage is. That's one of the steps we're looking at.

Tina Tinker- So for our next meeting, Ali, you'll have all that information together.

Ali Eskelin- Yes

IX. Staff Operations Report - Ali Eskelin – Park Ranger

a. Staffing - Chain of command-

Ethan Tyler, Director

Matt Wedeking, Deputy Director

Superintendent- retired last fall and we are in the process of hiring for that

Kurt Hensel, Ranger II on the phone;

Ali Eskelin – Park Ranger I in Dillingham

- Bill Berkhahn's position transitioned to the Anchorage office when Bill retired in 2015
- Only one staff member in Dillingham.
- Possibly hire an ACC to help with maintenance at the rec site that monopolizes a lot of my time.

- Volunteers - Bill has volunteered the last three years. He and his wife both retired in 2015 and they have been manning the Agulukpak Ranger Station and monitoring the use on the river. Marty and Annette did the second half of the season at the Agulukpak. Mike Weagley has property on Lake Aleknagik and has been very very helpful.

b. Visitation-

- The trend has gone down a little based on new bridge access to the north shore. We have a vehicle counter at the rec site and the numbers went down when the bridge opened. The WT visitation has stayed pretty consistent in the last decade.

c. Projects - Slide show on infrastructure and clean up

- Small cabin on Nuyakuk Lake, Pop's cabin built by Mr. Tubbs. People were using it though it wasn't in the best shape. The walls started to collapse and the beams started to break. There's was a lot of trash and debris. In 2015 my supervisor, Matt Wedeking, and I worked on it after it collapsed. The front wall had collapsed and we dismantled all we could and removed the trash and burned all the wood in 6 days.
- Nuyakuk Lake Ranger Station - We had some big snow events in 2011 and 2012 that crushed the railings on the front. The cabin is out in the open so it bears the brunt of all the weather. The stove pipe cap was bent and the roof was leaking so there's some continuing projects. Cara and Otto Nelson painted the cabin inside and out. There's an osprey that has taken up residence since it was painted and I'm trying to remedy the debris from it roosting on the cross member beams.
- Ball Cabin on Chauekuktuli. It was very dilapidated the last few years. The troopers loaned the state park an aircraft for 2013/2014 so I was up there trying to keep tabs on it and keep it clean. People were using it but overwinter otters and porcupines had taken up residence. I started to clean it up and should have had a respirator because I had some serious coughing fits from being inside the building. This is what the front looked like. The stairs are nonexistent, it was not a safe entry. The substructure was half way decent but was not really safe. As far as I know hunters were using it. This is what the inside looked like. Fecal matter on the floor, things were starting to live in the insulations. A bear had ripped out part of the wall and people were using the stove but the pipe didn't go through the ceiling. It was a matter of time before it burned down on its own. This is the roof structure where the porcupine had taken up residence. The cabin was riddled with black mold. We did 3 airplane trips with the windows open even though we cinched the bags up the black mold was still coming out into the airplane. It is collapsed at this point and there are plans to burn the rest of it.
- Two Airplanes in the park, one on Nishlik Lake on the west end. A 180 flipped over in a storm and washed up on the beach. We're trying to clean all this up. I spent a day cutting all the metal debris up to make it small enough for transport. The second was near white sands lake that was a hazard for snowmachiners on a low snow years.
- The old platform on Eagle Island was cut up and removed.

- There are a lot of abandoned boats in the park that I have been finding. The first photos are of Upnuk Lake, the second on Chikuminuk Lake.
- Some of the issues I've been finding include tree cutting, live vegetation cutting of spruce and alder, remnant fire rings with burned trash, storing fuel outside of vessels.
- The Lynx Creek cabin built by Clearance Wren on lower Nerka that is open for use. An interesting cabin that we have identified for a good public use site based on the location, subject to funding which is pretty limited at this point. Everyone seems to sign their names in the cabin but there is no profanity or anything negative written on the walls, just names and dates.
- Fish and Wildlife Service partnership on the floating dock on Lake Aleknagik. FWS bought several sections of dock and we expanded our dock system for FWS and Parks aircraft. It's been a great partnership. Thanks Susanna. They have brought lots of people to help install and remove the dock each spring and fall.

d. Park Aircraft update

- It's a great asset to get out in the park and see what is going on. It's a big place and a boat can only take you so far. The state troopers and the division of parks worked out a trade. We gave them our partially constructed parts and pieces and they gave us a confiscated aircraft that was configured a little differently than their standard so it wasn't adequate for their use. It was a sweet deal for us because it would have taken a lot of money to fix what we had and it was a straight trade. We just acquired some hydraulic wheel skis for it that I would like to have installed this spring.

Paul Liedberg – Two years ago we were dealing with a trail issue between ANL, GCI and the park. Has that been resolved? What's the latest?

Ali Eskelin- Yes, as far as I know all the structures have been removed. The trail went through the ANL Conservation Easement and then up into the park and we worked with ANL and asked if they want a trail or public access easement. They recommended to take everything out and not manage it as a trail because it is a conservation easement. As far as I know it is not being maintained and it is just an access point now without structures.

Paul Liedberg - The public can still use it?

Ali Eskelin- I think Dave can best speak to that.

Dave Roseman - The trail is open for use. If people want to use it they can freely traverse our property. There is a way to get to the foot path just north of our property and hike through the woods. But going across our property is not a problem. They can park on the dock if they choose to or just above the property. The trail is basically just a foot path at this point.

Paul Liedberg- Two other questions- Public use figures how do you collect them.

Ali Eskelin- The vehicle counter and the end of season reports from the commercial operators.

Paul Liedberg - What is funding like? What can we look forward to, to make sure we do have adequate staff and funds to manage the largest park in the country.

Ethan Tyler -

- The budget the Division of Parks submitted to the Governor and the legislature was flat funded so there were no staff cuts and operations costs were flat.
- There are two capital requests that went along with the budget.
- 5 new public use cabins in the state-wide system and 20 electronic fee stations. Instead of the iron rangers, the metal tubes you put payment envelopes in, the electronic stations provide for use of credit cards.
- My primary background, I'm an 18-year Alaskan and I live in Girdwood and have lived there all 18 years. My primary background has been in the visitor industry, business development and public relations, primarily. So that's why I've landed in this position because there's a need for a business development mentality and sustainability in parks.
- Every expenditure we are making from an infrastructure standpoint we are looking at how we can capture potential revenue and create more opportunity for people to use the park areas but also bring in potential revenue.
- I'm keyed into some potential opportunities for some grant funding and matching grant opportunities for infrastructure projects.
- There's potential for PUC infrastructure in the park.
- From a budget standpoint, I hope we have leveled out and also that if I can show the governor and the legislature we can bring in additional funding that we can staff up some areas that have seen some decreases over the years.
- The budget is currently in the legislature.

Peter Christopher - Public cabins Is the one pictured here livable or fixed?

Ali Eskelin - It is collapsed and we'll figure out how to remove the remaining debris.

Ethan Tyler - We have funding for 5 new PUC state wide, but there may be opportunity to leverage those funds to make that 10, in which case there would be an opportunity for a cabin to come to Wood-Tikchik.

Peter Christopher - A lot of Dillingham people go to third lake. Chauekuktuli is a Yupik name. Across the lake from Dietrich's cabin the mountain across the lake are in the shape of a big fish that tapers down to the tail at the spruce trees. Meaning the name of the original big fish.

Ali Eskelin - New Brochures in 2015, lots of test and information.

Tina Tinker - Concerned about the weeds growing in the lake changing the routes to the docks. Is there a plan to eradicate that?

Sue Flensburg-

- I'm the rep for BBNA on the SW Alaska salmon habitat partnership

- One of the project proposals in 2018 package was by the refuge and linked in the park to address Eloda.
- Hopefully we'll see something happening on that when we hear about the funding.

Peter Christopher-Do you carry a VHF?

Ali Eskelin – I do have the capabilities to carry one, but it conflicts with my compass.

Peter Christopher – The villages use channel 66. For search and rescue it's 71.

X. Public comments

None

XI. Board Comments

Paul Liedberg – Thank you Tina for taking and chairing the group. Thanks Ethan for coming out. Hopefully you can attend more meetings. Thanks Ali for putting everything together. I know there is a lot of work setting everything up. Thanks for the presenters and I hope we can meet again in the fall as the need arises so we can be responsive if they need support or something else for us.

Ali Eskelin – In regulation we are supposed to meet once per year but can meet more often as necessary.

Sue Flensburg- Good meeting thank Tina and Pete for vice chair.

Tina- thank everyone that voted me in for the chair. It's an honor to be here and I'm looking forward to working with Ali more closely and our director Ethan. Thanks to Nushagak and everyone that showed up to the meeting.

Jason Dye- I provided for information sport fishery with effort and rainbow trout catch in some of the bigger sport fish drainages within the park. It only goes through 2016 because we don't have 2017 data yet. Effort has been consistent over the last 10 years, though 2016 does show a moderate drop in effort but the catch rates were up which indicates catch rates were high.

Peter Christopher – Apologize if I offended you. It's good we had a meeting. It's been a long time since we had a meeting. My cousin Tim Wonhola was a board member for the state park before. Thank you for vice chair.

XII. Date/Agenda requests for next meeting

Tina Tinker and Ali Eskelin to establish timing for next meeting.

XIII. Adjournment

Paul Liedberg motion to adjourn, Sue Flensburg second. Motion carried and Chair Tina Tinker thanked everyone for attending.

**WOOD-TIKCHIK STATE PARK
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 3, 2019 at 10:00 pm
City of Dillingham Council Chambers
Dillingham, Alaska**



-Agenda-

Roberts Rules of Order

I. Call to Order- Ali Eskelin called the meeting to order at 10:05

II. Roll Call/Establish Quorum

Present: Cody Larson- BBNA

Paul Liedberg – Dillingham

Ali Eskelin – DNR

Delores Larson - Koliganek, (telephonic)

Absent: Peter Christopher - New Stuyahok

Aleknagik – vacant

ADFG – vacant

III. Introductions

Staff: Matt Wedeking – Deputy Director State Parks

Kurt Hensel - Chugach/SW Superintendent

Monica Alvarez – DNR planner

Rob Earl – DNR Specialist

Public: Lee Borden – ADFG- Assistant area management biologist, acting area biologist

Kenton Moos - TNWR - Acting Manager

Robert Himschoot – Nushagak Coop GM

Dave Roseman – GCI Lodge Director

Scott Schumacher - RCL ops manager

Lindsay Layland – UTBB

Izzy Ross – KDLG

Sue Flensburg- resident

Gayla Hoseth – BBNA

Pat Vermillion – RCL

IV. Elect Chair and Vice Chair

Chairperson - Paul Liedberg. Nominated by C. Larson, Eskelin second.

Vice-chair – Cody Larson. Nominated by Liedberg, Eskelin second. Both elected by unanimous vote.

V. Review and Adopt Agenda

Ask for public comments at any point in agenda related to topic at hand.

Unrelated comments taken under public comment.

Amend to have Public Comment before Board Comments

Chair asked for unanimous consent to approve. Unanimous approval.

VI. Approval of May 23, 2019 meeting minutes

Chair asked for unanimous consent to approve. Unanimous approval.

VII. **Management Plan Updates**- Monica Alvarez

- a. **Statute Changes** AS 41.21.164 - Statutory change to enabling legislation of the park to allow for hydroelectric project at Nuyakuk River Falls with stipulations, also mandate change to management plan. Mandate council shall, with advice from DNR, amend the plan to conform with the legislative change.
- b. **Project Description**- Project is in the early stages and lots to be learned. FERC scoping meeting December 11 and encourage attendance to learn more. FERC seeking input on the Pre-Application Document and which studies should be conducted.
- c. **Management Plan Changes** - So little is known about the project, engineering is so early, haven't conducted any field studies, no specifics yet as to areas that may need changing.
- d. **Regulation Changes**- AS 41.21.165 the regulations that govern the state park are adopted by reference, changes to management plan also requires subsequent regulatory change to align regulations with plan changes.
- e. **The Management Council's roll in planning process**- The plan is to be developed by the council with assistance from the Department. Plan is required to be presented at public meeting for approval and implementation, subsequent regulation process described in statute. Regulatory process requires review and a public hearing.

The timeline is driven by how much needs to change in the plan. Amending to address only statutory change wouldn't be a big change and wouldn't require multiyear process, could be a very targeted amendment. FERC just starting scoping for the project so not clear on timeline for management plan scoping. DNR to assist with technical aspects, analysis and but the council has the ability to make those types of decisions. Typical plan change process: Hold scoping meeting to learn about the issues in the area as they relate to statutory change and project. Work over approximately 6 months to develop public review draft and issue for public comment, with a meeting associated with draft plan. Address comments and see if they change the plan, if appropriate. Plan is then adopted, and then regulatory change process starts. Estimate approximately 1-year process.

Both plan change process and regulatory change process require public review. Statutory references: Management Plan as per AS 41.21.164- management council shall develop plan with advice and assistance from Department. Regulation changes as per AS 41.21.165- Department shall consult with ADFG and management council for adoptions of regulations governing public use of the park. Council is involved and consulted in regulation changes.

Discussion between council members, Bob Himschoot, Matt Wedeking, Monica Alvarez and Lindsay Layland on special exception for permitting of hydroelectric research at Nuyakuk River. DNR interpretation is permitting and most research can be permitted prior to changes in the management plan based on legislative intent and will consult with Dept. of Law for clarification. Discussion continued on history of Grant, Elva and Chikuminuk permitting, research, and subsequent operating permit(s) for Grant and Elva; all in attendance unsure if FERC process was used. NETC looking to complete field studies for the project and will need operational permit with parameters before they decide on specific design and ultimate feasibility of project. Council could guide the scope of the studies and NETC could benefit from parameters for what council finds would be

compatible with the park plan based on the mandate of conservation. Council may need to amend bylaws to be able to spend time on Nuyakuk hydro topic.

Further questions on if the management plan needed to be amended to include Nuyakuk location where Grant and Elva are identified in order pursue the special exception permits. DNR interpretation is that the legislative intent is there with the statute change. More appropriate to make changes to the plan when there's more information about the project and can authorize the project.

NETC will apply for permits under the special exception with the narrative they need to apply for a special exception even if Nuyakuk is not identified specifically in the management plan. Per request, DNR to provide interpretation of special exception permitting in writing and that all studies be compatible with the management plan, in consultation with the Department of Law, strive to provide within 30 days.

NETC Pre-application document (PAD) hadn't incorporated the WTSP plan permitting matrix as suggested for state and federal agencies. Need recognition that FERC permitting and park permitting follow the permitting matrix as an additional consideration for guiding the studies. Management council would be most appropriate to pass on the plan permitting matrix requirements to FERC.

Department encouraged council members to stay involved in the FERC process and become familiar with management plan and pathways to change the plan. Further discussion on permitting: Any decision of the Department is subject to appeal and anyone affected by the decision can appeal to the commissioner of DNR. There is no public review required for issuance of permits; permits issued based on the management plan or, if needed, a special exception, and anyone can appeal it to the commissioner.

Discussion of dissemination and public availability of issued permits including stipulations. No requirement for public notice but DNR will provide information to council and public in some fashion.

Concerns identified based on short timeline for baseline research and potential impacts. Council members will research previous projects of Grant and Elva, including assessments of other sites to know if either project went through FERC process and what was done in the previous two assessments. Two separate studies of Grant and Elva researched previously. The last study had a detailed design and financial aspects, resulting in borderline feasible financially.

Discussion about FERC public scoping meeting in Anchorage December 11. Gayla Hoseth requested public scoping meeting in Dillingham. Gayla and Cody identified the distinction that BBNA doesn't have gov to gov consultation, but the tribes do. BBNA serves the tribes but does not represent the tribes.

VIII. Public Comments

Sue Flensburg – Discussed recent concern by folks from Aleknagik about the administrative designation of Lake Aleknagik SRS (LASRS), potentially include the topic on future agenda.

Dave Roseman- Questioned USGS flow data from last year and referenced low water levels and if it was an outlier. Himschoot – At 30% draw, during peak projection there was more than enough flow to meet the demand, lots of outliers in last 60 years.

IX. Board Comments

Ali Eskelin – Parks Director met with LASRS interested parties this summer. Suggest future agenda item to discuss plan recommendations of proposed land additions to the park.

Delores Larson – Agree that a baseline study should be at least 5 years. Identified previous studies done by BBNA and suggested NETC involve tribes and people of Koliganek, New Stuyahok, Ekwok as well as local people for hire for the studies. Agree about having a scoping meeting in region.

Paul Liedberg- Thanks and welcome to Delores. Agree park additions is a topic for discussion and have been identified for inclusion in the park for the last 20 years.

Cody Larson – Appreciate Delores' insights and comments about local involvement to gain social license, logistical insight from local populations and communities. The council has historically struggled to maintain seats, benefits from participation and need to have active members. Look forward to working on the plan amendment process. Council members represent the public and need to make efforts to provide information to the public. Recommend agenda item to look at the bylaws to correlate with recent meeting topics and discussions.

Pat Vermillion commented for the board to consider the scoping deadline for FERC process and if there are issues the board is concerned about, to address them in time for them to be considered for the scoping meeting.

Delores Larson- motion to request in-region scoping meeting by letter to FERC. Ali Eskelin– second. Cody Larson– One meeting may not capture all. Consider amending to include one or more meetings in region.

Paul Liedberg – provide letter to FERC requesting in region scoping meetings passed by unanimous vote.

Next Meeting December 20 at 1pm to develop comments on PAD and study recommendations.

X. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned by Chair at 12:26pm