

February 20, 2015

Office of Boards and Commissions
550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1700
Anchorage AK 99501
Attn: Karen Gillis

Governor Bill Walker,

I am writing to apply for a seat on the Alaska Board of Fish. Please see my attached resume.

My wife and I moved to Alaska in 1996, after having the opportunity to spend a summer in Sitka a few years earlier while still in college. However, my first exposure to Alaska fish was early in grade school when my Uncle Bob sent a couple unlabeled gold cans of homepack for me to share with my young classmates. It was a few years later that I was able to visit him and first experience salmon fishing from his troller. Later as a young adult I was fortunate to have a summer in Sitka where, like most of us who first experience spawning salmon in small streams, I watched in awe of what these creatures do at the end of their life cycle. Something that I now share with my own two daughters.

When the opportunity arose for us to move to Soldotna in 1996, we came here without any hesitation. I found myself a job as the first employee for a newly forming organization that wanted to work with all user groups, businesses and "stakeholders" to work together for the health of our rivers and streams. I helped found and grow the Kenai Watershed Forum from an idea into a multi-million dollar organization, maintaining support from all branches of local government and achieving results in unexpected ways with all user groups coming together for the betterment of the waters on the Kenai Peninsula. This collaborative approach to conservation work is a skill that I've honed and one that I will bring to the Board of Fish. I hold no illusions that my participation will reduce the user group conflicts, but having worked with many stakeholders for years, I do believe I am in a unique position to make a positive contribution to Alaska. I know how to work in this environment and reach solutions.

While the past few years my job has become increasingly managerial in nature, I am trained as a scientist with a good core mathematical and statistical background. When questions arise around data collection and confidence in datasets, I expect I will know what questions to ask and will seek to get the best scientific information on the table to help inform my decisions. To the extent possible I will always draw on the best science to make those tough votes.

Board members have a tremendous responsibility to the public and make decisions that can have serious economic, social and cultural implications. I understand this responsibility and can assure everyone considering my application that I will take this job seriously and above all else I will be fair and transparent in deliberations and in my role as a decision maker.

My promise to the governor and legislature is that I will listen to the public and I will work my tail off to make sure that I am making decisions in the best interest of Alaskans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert Ruffner

Robert Ruffner

Current Employer - Kenai Watershed Forum

Professional Work Experience

- 1996 – Present: Kenai Watershed Forum, Executive Director
 - Managed up to \$3M budget and supervised 14 employees
- 1994 – 1996: University of Minnesota, Research and Teaching Assistant
- 1990 – 1994: University of Minnesota, Limnology Lab technician

Education

- B.S. University of MN Geology 1994
- Post graduate course work, 2 years University of MN Geology/ Civil Engineering
- Specific course work in Geomorphology, Engineering, Numerical Modeling including finite element, finite difference, cellular automata methods
- Developed methods for modeling complex sediment transport for Hibbing Taconite Inc. and the Colorado River through Grand Canyon National Park

Board/ Commission Experience

- Soldotna Chamber of Commerce 2010 – present
- Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission 2010 – present
- Kenai Peninsula Borough Road Commission 2012 – present
- North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission Advisory panel 2014 - present

Relevant Experience

- Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership Coordinator 2009 – Present
 - Nationally recognized partnership, sets habitat priorities and recommends funding to the USFWS
- Fish Habitat Restoration
 - Designed and directly supervised dozens of fish passage projects totaling several millions of dollars
 - Co-designed and directly supervised a major Anchor River restoration of a captured gravel pit
- Stream Buffer Evaluation – Tongass National Forest 1993
- Scientific Studies
 - Identified hydrocarbon pollution levels in the Kenai River; developed predictive models for a solution and provided education leading to those solutions being implemented for the Kenai River - 2000 through 2008
 - Supervised fish passage evaluations of anadromous stream crossings on the Kenai Peninsula
 - Identified and documented juvenile salmonids for inclusion in the Anadromous Waters Catalog

Alaska Fishing Experience

- Sport fishing every year present in the State, wide range of experience from kayak fishing in Southeast Alaska to North Slope streams, including fin fish and shell fish
- Personal Use dipnetting – Kenai River every year since 1998
- Personal Use Gillnet – Kasilof River 1 season
- 2-days as a crew member on Cook Inlet Drift boat

Awards

- 2004 Coastal America Partnership Award (Silver Salmon Creek Restoration)
- 2007 National Wetlands Conservation Award To the Private Sector (award to Kenai Watershed Forum)
- 2008 National River Hero Award – River Network
- 2008 Person of the Year – Soldotna Chamber of Commerce

General Information

Board/Commission and seat you are seeking:
Fisheries, Public Seat

Additional Boards/Commissions of interest:
None

State Boards/Commissions on which you have served:
North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission - Advisory Panel

First Name
Robert

Middle Name
Austin

Last Name
Ruffner

Mailing Address

City
Soldotna

State & Zip
AK 99669

Home/Message Phone

Business Phone

Cell Phone

Conflict of Interest

Certain boards and commissions require full disclosure of personal financial data under AS39.50.010. If required for the board or commission for which you are applying, are you willing to do so?
Yes

Could you or any member of your family be affected financially by decisions to be made by the board or commission for which you are applying?
Yes

Please explain the potential financial benefit
No |

Employment History

Employment work history including paid, unpaid, or voluntary.
Please see attached cover letter and resume

Education, Training, Experience & Qualifications

List both formal and informal education and training experiences:
Please see attached cover letter and resume

List any professional licenses, certifications, or registrations and dates obtained that may be used as qualifying criteria:
Please see attached cover letter and resume

List any community service, municipal government, and state positions held, and any awards received.
Please see attached cover letter and resume

Conviction Record

Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor within the past five years or a felony within the past ten years?
No

Conviction Circumstances

Certification of Accuracy & Completeness

By submitting this online application, I swear the information I have entered on this form is true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if I deliberately conceal or enter false information on the form my application may be rejected, I may be removed from the list of eligible candidates, or I may be removed from the position. I agree that the Office of the Governor may contact present or former employees or other persons who know me to obtain an additional information about my skills and abilities. I understand that the information on this application is public information and may be released through a legal request for such information.

Type "I certify"
"I certify"

Resume Addendum:

Press Release Wording

Robert Ruffner, 46 of Soldotna is the Executive Director of the Kenai Watershed Forum. Ruffner holds a degree in Geology from the University of Minnesota and has been working with all fishery user groups in Cook Inlet for since 1996.

Submitted: 2/20/2015 12:00:00 AM