

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE RESOURCES STANDING COMMITTEE

April 10, 2006

3:34 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Thomas Wagoner, Chair
Senator Ralph Seekins, Vice Chair
Senator Fred Dyson
Senator Bert Stedman
Senator Kim Elton

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Ben Stevens
Senator Albert Kookesh

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Confirmation Hearings

Big Game Commercial Services Board

Roy Ashenfelter
Robert Mumford
Leif Wilson
Ralph Anderson
Colin Brown
Paul Johnson
Richard Rohrer
BJ Schmitz
CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

Board of Fisheries

Bonnie Williams
CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Board of Game

Cliff Judkins
Richard Burley
Paul Johnson
CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

No previous action to record.

WITNESS REGISTER

BONNIE WILLIAMS
Fairbanks, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the Board of Fisheries.

DICK BISHOP
Fairbanks, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Supported the appointments of Bonnie Williams, Richard Burley, Cliff Judkins, and B.J. Schmitz.

BYRON HALEY, President,
Chitina Dipnetters Association
Fairbanks, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Supported the appointment of Bonnie Williams, Richard Burley, Cliff Judkins, and BJ Schmitz.

CLIFF JUDKINS
Fairbanks, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the Board of Game.

RICHARD BURLEY
Fairbanks,

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the Board of Game.

PAUL JOHNSON,
Unalakleet, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the Board of Game.

RALPH ANDERSON,
Dillingham, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

COLIN BROWN
Galena, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

ROBERT D. MUMFORD
Anchorage, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

BETTY JO SCHMITZ
North Pole, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

LEIF WILSON
Tok, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

PAUL JOHNSON
Gull Cove, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

RICHARD ROHRER
Kodiak, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Appointee to the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

ACTION NARRATIVE

CHAIR THOMAS WAGONER called the Senate Resources Standing Committee meeting to order at [3:34:36 PM](#). Present were Senators Stedman, Seekins, Dyson, Elton and Chair Wagoner.

^CONFIRMATION HEARINGS

[3:35:26 PM](#)

CHAIR WAGONER announced that the committee would hear from the governor's appointees to the following boards who were up for confirmation.

^BOARD OF FISHERIES

BONNIE WILLIAMS, appointee to the Board of Fisheries from Fairbanks, said she applied to serve on the board because she understood there was need for a public member from the Interior to represent sport, personal use and subsistence fishing. She recapped her resume and said that if confirmed her goal would be to insure a healthy, strong fishery through all Alaska for all user groups.

SENATOR SEEKINS said Ms. Williams has been a good friend. She is a person of thorough inquiry and he feels confident about entrusting the allocation of the state's resources to her.

SENATOR ELTON asked if she had been involved with any of the Copper River personal use issues.

MS. WILLIAMS replied no; she has followed them, but had not been personally involved.

[3:40:39 PM](#)

DICK BISHOP, Fairbanks, speaking for himself, urged the committee to confirm Ms. Williams. He said he is impressed with her integrity, commitment to and interest in public service.

[3:43:28 PM](#)

BYRON HALEY, President, Chitina Dipnetters Association, Fairbanks, stated support for Ms. Williams' appointment to the Board of Fisheries.

CHAIR WAGONER found no further questions and thanked Ms. Williams for volunteering for the job.

SENATOR SEEKINS moved to forward Ms. Williams name to the full body for consideration. This does not reflect the intent of any of the members to vote for or against the appointee.

CHAIR WAGONER found no objection and it was so ordered.

^BOARD OF GAME

CLIFF JUDKINS, appointee to the Board of Game, Fairbanks, said he has served for three years and is willing to continue to work to solve problems such as balancing predator control.

[3:47:46 PM](#)

CHAIR WAGONER found no questions and thanked Mr. Judkins for his work on the Board of Game.

RICHARD BURLEY, appointee to the Board of Game, Fairbanks, said he has served for six years and has applied for an additional term. He has had a long interest in wildlife management.

SENATOR SEEKINS said Mr. Burley has been a close personal friend and flight instructor. He gave him the highest recommendation.

DICK BISHOP, supported the confirmation of Mr. Burley to the Board of Game and cited his depth of experience in wildlife management.

CHAIR WAGONER thanked Mr. Burley for taking the time to serve and said his name would be forwarded.

[3:52:12 PM](#)

PAUL JOHNSON, appointee to the Board of Game, Unalakleet, said he has been a life-long resident of rural Alaska. He has gathered and hunted all his life and has a great interest in game issues. He recapped his resume and said he would use common sense to evaluate facts and data when making decisions on the Board of Game.

SENATOR DYSON asked if he went to Covenant High School and thanked him for serving.

MR. JOHNSON replied yes.

CHAIR WAGONER thanked Mr. Johnson for volunteering to serve and said his name would be forwarded.

[3:56:14 PM](#)

SENATOR SEEKINS moved to forward the names Cliff Judkins, Richard Burley and Paul Johnson to the full body for consideration . This does not reflect the intent of any of the members to vote for or against the appointees.

CHAIR WAGONER found no objection and it was so ordered.

[3:57:47 PM](#)

^BIG GAME COMMERCIAL SERVICES BOARD

RALPH ANDERSON, appointee to the Big Game Commercial Services Board, Dillingham, said he is a lifelong resident of Alaska and has been a subsistence hunter and commercial fisherman most of his life. He related his qualifications and said he wanted to serve on the board.

CHAIR WAGONER thanked Mr. Anderson for his willingness to serve and said his name would be forwarded.

[3:59:59 PM](#)

COLIN BROWN, appointee to the Big Game Commercial Services Board, Galena, related his personal and professional history. He has done wildlife survey work and has watched the decline of wildlife resources for the last 10 years. A lot of it is due to the unethical behavior of those involved in the big game commercial services industry. He would like to do something about that, which is why he would like to serve on the board. He would like to put a good reputation back into the industry.

CHAIR WAGONER thanked Mr. Brown for taking time to testify and said his name would be forwarded.

ROBERT D. MUMFORD, appointee to the Big Game Commercial Services Board, Anchorage, said he was honored to be considered for the board. He spent about 20 years in public safety in the state most of which was in fish and wildlife protection. He said he wanted to bring a law enforcement perspective and a dose of common sense to the board.

CHAIR WAGONER thanked Mr. Mumford for volunteering to serve. His name would be forwarded for confirmation consideration.

[4:03:59 PM](#)

BETTY JO SCHMITZ, appointee to the Big Game Commercial Services Board, North Pole, related she has a degree in biology and a masters in intercultural studies. Previously she worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is now involved in introducing women to various aspects of the outdoors. She hunts personally and is interested in subsistence issues and game management. She views the hunting industry as a vital part of the state's economy.

CHAIR WAGONER thanked Ms. Schmitz for volunteering her time.

[4:05:10 PM](#)

DICK BISHOP said he has known Ms. Schmitz and her family for a number of years. She has a great background in the Alaska outdoors and her wealth of experience and perspective will be of great service to the board.

CHAIR WAGONER apologized for not calling on him to testify on Mr. Judkins' appointment.

MR. BISHOP said that's okay; he approved of the committee's decision.

CHAIR WAGONER told Ms. Schmitz her name would be forward for consideration.

[4:07:29 PM](#)

LEIF WILSON, appointee to the Big Game Commercial Services Board, Tok, related his personal and professional background and said he has been involved in the guide or transport industry most of his life.

CHAIR WAGONER thanked Mr. Wilson for volunteering to serve.

CHAIR WAGONER announced that Roy Ashenfelter from Nome resigned from the Big Game Commercial Services Board effective 3/1/06. He had served as a member since 7/24/05 and took action as a board member so it is necessary to have his name confirmed.

[4:11:42 PM](#)

PAUL JOHNSON, appointee to the Big Game Commercial Services Board, Gull Cove, said he was born and raised in Southeast Alaska and has been a guide for 30 years. He has enjoyed working with the board members.

CHAIR WAGONER said he appreciates his past service.

SENATOR ELTON said he and Mr. Johnson attended UAF together and he couldn't think of a better person to serve on the board.

CHAIR WAGONER echoed Senator Elton's remarks and said his name would be forwarded.

[4:14:21 PM](#)

RICHARD ROHRER, appointee to the Big Game Commercial Services Board, Kodiak, said he has lived in Kodiak for 37 years and makes his primary livelihood from guiding. He said he is happy to serve if confirmed.

CHAIR WAGONER thanked him for testifying today and for doing this job.

CHAIR WAGONER announced that Ted Spraker was unavailable to testify today, but he would represent the Board of Game on the Big Game Commercial Services Board. He said he had no trouble forwarding his name; he is to a good Kenai guy.

[4:17:03 PM](#)

SENATOR SEEKINS moved to forward the names of Ralph Anderson, Colin Brown, Robert Mumford, Betty Jo Schmitz, Leif Wilson, Roy Ashenfelter, Paul Johnson, Richard Rohrer, and Ted Spraker to the full body for confirmation to the Big Game Commercial Services Board. This does not reflect the intent of any of the members to vote for or against the appointees.

CHAIR WAGONER found no objection and it was so ordered.

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Wagoner adjourned the meeting at [4:18:47 PM](#).