

Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association
January 4, 2013
Yakutat High School Auditorium

YRAA Board Members: Larry Bemis, Nate Endicott, Martha Indreland, Herb Holcomb, Jonathan Pavlik, Nick Holcomb, Harold Robbins for Gary Johnson; Reggie Krkovich for Jack Endicott; Jessie Pavlik for Wayne Ivers

YRAA Board Members Absent:

Public: Kathy Hansen by teleconference

Larry Bemis, President handed the gavel over to Nate Endicott to chair the meeting. Meeting was called to order at 5:12 with a quorum of members present. Motion made to approve the agenda. A friendly amendment was made to remove approving the minutes as they did not get to the Board members in time to review. Motion to approve amended minutes passed unanimously.

New Business:

Herb/Nick made a Motion to send a letter to the Yakutat State Representative Alan Austerman and Senator Gary Stevens asking for a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) request in the amount of \$200,000. The Letter would justify the request in that the \$100K grant provided to new aquaculture associations developed in the 1978 legislation due to inflation does not provide the same amount of help. Based on inflation calculators it takes \$3.72 to equal \$1 in 1978. General outline to be provided for the use of the funds would include the following: providing the funding necessary to finish the Yakutat Salmon Comprehensive Plan rewrite (\$100K); Hire an employee, & set up an office. Any additional funds would go towards the purchase of necessary equipment to start a hatchery project or lease funds for a building or space to use for a hatchery/remote release site. Employee would be responsible for the permitting, on the grounds technician support work for permitting, helping the Board of Directors with annual reports, filings, budget and financial affairs etc.

Nate clarified that this motion provides the outline for the letter to be drafted to the legislators and would help fill the gap until we start to receive tax assessment. Hatcheries are able to ask the legislators for funding without the funding being funneled through a City Assembly. Larry asked if this is the same funding as tied up with the City that is going to ask to be re-appropriated. Question was called for and passed unanimously.

Nick/Jonathan made a Motion to delegate to Nate Endicott, YRAA Board member and Vice-President working with consultant Kathy Hansen and President Larry Bemis to prepare and present to the Yakutat City assembly a YRAA budget request for 2013. 1.) YRAA budget requests will include at a minimum a request for data loggers including funding to help with fuel costs for placement, retrieval and monitoring the loggers; 2013 election costs (\$4-5K); meetings costs (\$1K); 2.) This request will ask the assembly to review and re-consider the funding of the Situk Habitat Restoration Project. 3.) To have the City Assembly support as part of their Legislative CIP request an appropriation for the Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association for \$200,000 (see previous motion).

Nate spoke to the last assembly meeting when the assembly requested a budget request from YRAA for the year with full budget and financial background be provided. A handout on the Situk River Fisheries habitat was provided to the Board (attached). The Situk River Fisheries Habitat project was discussed now that documentation had been secured for what the project consisted of. The City Manager and Planner have set the money aside from the Yakutat Salmon landing and use tax since it is already lined out but as part of the motion, we will be asking the Assembly to review the project and usefulness of continuing with it. The budget request will include data loggers, meeting and election expenses for 2013. Question was called and motion passed unanimously.

Nate gave a brief rundown of the dates important to the tax assessment vote. The public hearing is Feb 4th. The first ballot will be mailed after January 21st and public notices will be published in the Capital City Weekly on January 23rd and 30th.

Herb/Jessie made a motion to hold the Annual Meeting on Saturday March 2nd at 5:00 pm at the ANB Hall. Question was asked of Kathy if she and Ed would be attending the meeting in person. She answered she didn't know at this time – it depends on what ends up on the agenda. She was also asked what might be on the agenda. At a minimum would be seating of the newly elected fishermen to the board – only nominations received were by those already serving on the board. Election of non-commercial seats (public at large & processor for 3year term and 1 2 year term for a public at large seat), review where you are on the tax assessment, appropriation request, assembly request, budget and financial review. Question was called and motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn was made and approved at 5:36 pm.

Salmon Genetics

Genetics studies will determine the makeup of the salmon population in the Yakutat area in order to determine the percentage of salmon from the Situk River and the impact of the event on the Yakutat area salmon population.

CBY cash match will come from the borough Raw Salmon Tax. In-Kind donation of office rent to District Staff = \$8.42/sq. ft. /year [derived from Seward Sealife Center standard rate] of 300sq/ft/yr of \$2,526 annually. The remainder of the match will be sought through batch analysis reductions.

NOAA fisheries, the ADF&G genetics lab or a private firm will perform the genetics studies depending on cost sharing and matching potential. Alaska District personnel and local fisheries staff (ADF&G, USFS, and CBY) will perform the sample collection task. The Salmon Genetics studies are expected to take 3 years to complete with anticipated start in FY2012.

Proposed budget: \$351,000

FY	Federal	State of Alaska	City and Borough of Yakutat	In-Kind (sample %)
2012	\$67,000	\$0	\$0	\$15,000
2013	\$67,000	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$20,000
2014	\$67,000	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$20,000
2015	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$20,000

Situk River Fisheries Habitat

Investigates and documents the existing habitat on the Situk River with respect to existing fisheries and use patterns. The below studies would be selected based on cost and priority coordinated with appropriate agencies. Biologists will conduct data searches for any reports and work accomplished in the Yakutat/Situk area regarding fisheries and habitat. Match will come directly from CBY Salmon Tax.

1. Identify smolt usage along the nearshore marine waters in Yakutat Bay
2. Carrying capacity should be determined for offsite lakes in areas such as Russell Fiord.
3. To better predict the effects of increased adult salmon spawning outside the flood zone, the effects of stock interaction should be studied.
4. Area streams from Puget Cove and throughout Russell and Nunataak fiords should be catalogued for presence and abundance of spawning salmon.
5. The contribution of rearing ponds to smolt production should be evaluated before any ponds are enhanced or new ones created.
6. Fish populations and habitat should be monitored at established baseline sites (Study 10) for several years before and after flooding to evaluate restoration effectiveness.

Proposed budget: \$124,000

FY	Federal	State of Alaska	City and Borough of Yakutat	In-Kind
2012	\$10,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$0
2013	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$0
2014	\$10,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$0
2015	\$4,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$0