

Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association
Saturday, February 22, 2014
ANB Hall

YRAA Board Members: Larry Bemis, Nick Holcomb, Casey Mapes, Jesse Pavlik, Jonathan Pavlik, Harold Robbins, Elizabeth Piccard and Sam Demmert (came late).

Alternates Approved: Pat Robbins for Wayne Ivers; and Lisa Nelson for Sheri Nelson

YRAA Board Members Absent: Wayne Ivers, Nate Endicott, Herb Holcomb and Sheri Nelson (3 seats were vacant – sport fish, subsistence and public at large (partial term)

Public: Kathy Hansen, Brian Marston, Les Harley, and Ray Sensmeier

Meeting was recorded.

A new agenda was provided from what was sent in the mail in the Board packet.

Larry Bemis, President handed the gavel over to Casey Mapes to chair the meeting. Meeting was called to order at approximately 12:01 pm with a quorum of members present.

Nick/Jesse made a motion to approve the agenda and it passed unanimously.

Kathy made a comment that many of the items are interrelated and that we might be jumping around some.

Employment sub-committee recommendation:

The hiring sub-committee discussed the two applications received and have developed a recommendation. The applications were from Sheri Nelson and Nate Endicott. The committee recommends hiring a combination of Sheri Nelson and retaining Nate Endicott for a probationary period for a maximum of up to 20 hours a week unless additional time is approved by the President. Sheri has been talking to the fishermen. Need somebody who has been and will be

communicating to people. Nate has done a lot of technical work. We have all donated time. Nate has done a lot above and beyond donating time. Larry wants to see him paid for the work he does if he is willing to accept the part time position.

Casey, our thinking with the job description we wanted set the max at 20 hours or more with the president's approval if more time is needed in the office. There is nobody in town who is a qualified hatchery operator. Nate is the closest. He and Kathy can help Sheri get up to speed. We need to be responsible with our finances especially when we receive the tax assessment funds and this way we pay for the time and work being done rather than a flat fee.

Nick/Larry made the motion recommended by the hiring committee to hire for a probationary period Sheri Nelson for a maximum of 20 hours a week unless approved by the President and Nate Endicott for up to a maximum of 20 hours a week unless approved by the President in a supervisory position and for technical work. (Note: this will be paid as a salary/hourly position with payroll taxes.)

Jan wanted to know the recommended salary. Casey said the president would hash that out with the applicants but the job description had a range of \$25-\$28.00 an hour.

Nick called the question and motion was passed unanimously.

Discussion: Larry wants to see somebody in the office during set hours. So people have a place to come and see what we are up to. We need to get the community to understand what we have been doing and communication between the board and with the community moving forward is really important.

Minutes:

Nick/Larry made a motion to approve minutes of January 25, 2014 and motion passed unanimously.

Members of the board made the following corrections to the minutes. Jesse Pavlik wanted his name removed from the minutes as he wasn't at that meeting. Lisa clarified if any motion were missed in the portions of the tape that were difficult to understand, Kathy answered no, she thought all motions were captured between her notes, Joy's notes and the tape. Elizabeth pointed out several motions didn't have the vote recorded and could those be fixed.

Harold called for the question on the minutes as amended and the motion passed unanimously.

Financials:

Kathy talked about the financials. The bank balance will be \$177,398.68 after the 6 checks filled out are signed today. The checks are for the accountant to fill out the IRS & State Corporation returns for \$175.00; payment for the ANB hall including today's meeting, phone bills and for base rent for the office including a check for the March rent predated.

Another issue Kathy requested the board to consider is to set up automatic electronic deposits for the legislative grant. Right now the reimbursements are mailed to Yakutat and then need to be sent to the bank in order to be deposited. She has the paperwork for electronic deposits with her, we just need to sign it if the board approves.

Larry/Harold made a motion to process the paperwork for electronic deposit of funds from the State to our bank account. Motion passed unanimously.

Kathy also reported that we received the Legislative grant reimbursement of \$14,339.21 that Joy had applied for.

Kathy passed out her reimbursement request #8 for a total of \$6,875.30. This includes her labor prior to the last board meeting and between the last board meeting and today as well as reimbursements for airfare, the recorder, speaker phone and misc. She has spent a lot of time during the last month. Kathy stated

that the board can act on it now or at the end of the meeting after they had a chance to view all the work that had been done.

Nick/Jesse made a motion to approve Kathy's reimbursement request #8 for \$6,875.30. Larry called for the question and the motion passed unanimously.

Kathy said she didn't know how the board would feel about receiving gaming funds. She reported that pull tab operators have to give 30 percent to a non-profit organization. She wants to fill out the application so that if an opportunity to receive the money becomes available mid-year they are ready for the opportunity. A non-profit can receive up to \$35,000 dollars per year from an operator. The most we can lose is the \$100 dollar application if an operator doesn't pick up the association. Casey had some concerns about the gaming funds being a pain the butt in the past for organizations he has been involved in. Kathy clarified some things on the test that has to be taken to be a signer. Kathy said she was willing to be the primary or alternate signer. Casey wanted to know if it was nothing but paperwork or if we needed to be running a show or how involved our part would be. Kathy said her thought would be to be signed up with an operator so it is just paperwork that is necessary. Larry said Sheri has had past experience with pull tabs and familiarity with gaming with 5 years of experience.

Larry/Jesse made the motion to apply for a gaming permit and have Kathy and Sheri our new director be one of the signers (members in charge) for the paperwork. Harold called the question and motion passed unanimously.

Jonathan volunteered to be the secondary signer if Sheri wasn't willing to.

Project Updates:

Kathy reported on the two hatchery meetings where YRAA's letter for broodstock was considered. The DIPAC committee made a recommendation (see page sent out in board packet). Wayne and Nick flew to Juneau (\$937.49 total costs) and went to the meeting and Kathy stated it was money well spent. Eric spelled out the cost YRAA would have to pay for 10 million chum eggs at today's price, this might change at the point when we are ready to get eggs since it will be based on

the current price. He specified YRAA would have to thermally mark the eggs that we got from them. This is not a problem as they can be marked after they get to Yakutat but you need to keep this in mind. Jonathan asked what thermal marking was. Kathy explained otolith thermal marking. It makes a numerical pattern on the otolith that can be definitely identified as coming from a specific hatchery. (Like tree rings) The hesitation on their part was partly due to a past experience with Skagway. Their recommendation still has to go to the full board in March. Based on the committee meeting it would be a surprising if it didn't pass the full board. Kathy identified the things YRAA would need to do in order for DIPAC to work with us. It is a great recommendation. Eric spent some time talking to Ron Josephson. He is the section chief for the hatchery permit division. Kathy was told to call Ron the following morning after the DIPAC committee meeting and she did. Based on the call and DIPAC meeting she wrote a letter asking the department to determine if DIPAC broodstock could be used in Yakutat (copy of letter was in board packet). It will be awhile before we hear anything from this letter. The department will talk about it internally, particularly the genetic and pathology department before we hear anything.

The PWSAC committee meeting was different since we didn't have anybody show up but the door is definitely still open and they do have room and water to provide eggs. They were heading towards the same route as DIPAC until the ADFG area coordinator said the department would never permit YRAA to use eggs from PWSAC. Kathy feels the board should send a letter to the commercial fisheries director because it wasn't the coordinator's place to say what he said. He didn't have all the information nor is he in a position that would be reviewing the permits and approve the use of broodstock in Yakutat. Kathy recommends not pursuing PWSAC at this time unless it becomes necessary because the department says we can't use DIPAC broodstock.

Nick/Harold made a motion to send the letter as drafted by Kathy to Director Regnart regarding the PWSAC committee meeting.

Larry clarified that if we have a road block with DIPAC then we should immediately pursue PWSAC? Kathy said yes that would be when she would recommend re-approaching PWSAC.

Sam Demmert appeared at some point during the report of the DIPAC committee meeting.

Larry called for the question on the motion and it passed unanimously.

Staffing Issues:

Casey backed up to staffing issues. Larry said he will contact Sheri. He would like to see the office staffed from 10-2 each day. They discussed her hours and office time, finding the information, get Sheri set up with the computer. Casey pointed out that the intent of the recommendation is to not pay for time that is not being well utilized. We have to be mindful of the money we have. Kathy said in June she sent Joy a hard drive that had everything up to then on it. Since then Kathy has some files on her computer and Joy had some files. Larry said they would get all the data we have compiled at the office together. He would get a hold of Joy if need be.

Project Development:

Kathy passed out two handouts. One handout was from Nate regarding information that he had put together regarding his activities for the last month, including talking to Greg Indreland about the YKI site, Tetra Tech, Ed Neal and some other information. The second handout was an unfinished draft of the information that we have for the different sites, pros and cons. The information came from the MFA, Tetra Tech documents, Joy's information, Steve's trip report and the discussions that the YRAA board has had over the past couple of years. The first part of the project development was based on handout presented at a NSRAA board meeting.

Free flowing discussion of above materials: Jonathan said when he took them to Redfield Cove for water testing, they liked Redfield best as a site for our hatchery (most water flow). Kathy spoke about how you have to treat the water for a hatchery when sockeye are present in the wild. Brian Marston clarified for Kathy there are two locations, Redfield Cove and Redfield Lake. (Redfield Lake has natural sockeye). Casey commented there were other sketchy things with Redfield Cove, such as no roads, electricity and it should be third or fourth priority for a site. We should look at YKI first. Jonathan and Larry talked about piping and collection for YKI and the log dump sites. Larry and Harold talked about land ownership (forest service and Kwaan for log dump site). Larry said it seemed like more than ample water at log dump. Jonathan said they have done stream flow surveys on both sides of the log dump and both sides come from the same source they just split. Larry said in the past they had redirected the water to Ophir Creek. Raymond said the logging affected the water flow. Kathy said Nate has continued to do testing on a lot of our proposed sites. Casey said everything is give and take and asked if pumping wouldn't be a better option than other things. Casey felt YKI would be light years ahead of any of the other sites. Would it make sense to send the president and vice president to talk to Kwaan about leasing YKI. Kathy agreed that we need to start talking to Kwaan but should include Greg Indreland in the discussions. There would have to be modifications in his lease as he is not allowed to sub-lease in his current lease. Greg is supportive of letting us lease the YKI facility based on Nate's discussion with him and is willing to work with us. Larry agreed that YKI is probably the quickest site to work from. Larry said he wanted to do this some time ago but they were finding a new CEO and things were up in the air. Larry said Joy was working on setting up a meeting with the Kwaan and wanted to get in touch with her to see where she was with that. Kathy said that Joy had stated the meeting was to be between Joy, Cynthia Peterson, Tom Harris and Steve Reifentstahl. Someone mentioned Cynthia Peterson is the lands manager for Kwaan and would be the go to person to talk to about setting up a meeting for leasing the YKI facility. There was discussion from Sam Demmert, Larry Bemis and Casey Mapes about the water supplying the YKI facility. Sam commented that there is a natural spring and is piped out into the bay. Pat Robbins wanted to discuss the West Hydrant and the Little Dock Site. The small

dock was discussed for its potential. It has a large concrete pad but we don't know about the water. Pat wanted to see us have a longer term situation and wasn't too keen on leasing YKI just because we would then be limited in time to the length of our lease. Larry wanted to do an in depth cost analysis of each site to see what site was the best for us that we can afford. A lot of discussion followed on the water sources and water rights for YKI and city water.

Kathy reported on her discussion with Bill Thomas after the DIPAC meeting. He suggested putting in a capital improvement project (CAPSIS) and when she checked there was one day left before the deadline to put in a CIP request for YRAA, so she did. The state has a declining revenue picture and at the current rate of spending, the states savings would be used up in 5 years. This year they are taking small bites around the edges since it is an election year but next year they will get serious about reducing spending on the state level. Kathy said she had talked to Senator Stevens he had looked at the CIP which she thought was good. A CIP generally has 5 years to spend the money. We were able to show community support by attaching the city resolution supporting YRAA. Kathy passed out a letter to Senator Stevens and Representative Austerman telling about the request. She recommended that we approve and sign the letter as well as write our own personal letters. Board agreed by consensus to send the letter.

Elections:

Casey wanted an update on where we were at with filling our sport, subsistence and public at large seats. Larry stated that no letters had been received for those seats. Kathy stated they could stay vacant until someone shows interest in the seat and you could adjust the number for your quorum accordingly.

Election of Officers: The current officers are Larry Bemis, President; Nate Endicott, Vice President; and Jonathan is Secretary/treasurer.

Larry wanted to know if Nate would have to step down from the VP or the board since he was now an employee. Kathy said it was ok by our by-laws, but as board

members Nate or Sheri could not have voted or participated in the discussion of the hiring as that would be considered a conflict.

Nick/Jesse nominated the current officers for president, vice-president and secretary/ treasurer. Nick called for the question and motion passed unanimously.

Kathy said Herb had talked to her about selecting alternate RPT members because he will not be in town for a meeting this spring. Herb, Jonathan and Nate are the three RPT members. Casey would like to see us have an alternate for each RPT seat in case they aren't able to attend. Discussion occurred and Pat Robbins was willing to serve as an alternate RPT member.

Nick/Larry nominated Pat Robbins to be the sport fish board member and motion passed unanimously.

Casey/Nick nominated Jesse Pavlik and Pat Robbins as alternate RPT members. Elizabeth called for the question and motion passed unanimously.

Took a 15 minute break @ 1:45

Called back to order @ 2:00 pm

Larry/Jesse nominated Lisa Nelson for the public at large seat on the board. Harold called for the question and motion passed unanimously.

Subsistence is the only seat left to fill. Raymond Sensmeier said he represented the subsistence community on the salmon board and would like to represent YRAA in that capacity.

Larry nominated Ray Sensmeier to the subsistence board seat. Lisa Nelson called for the question and motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth wanted to know if her alternate had to be a tribe member or not? There was discussion about how our by-laws are set up for alternate board members. Kathy explained that the board member that was going to be absent arranged for an alternate but needed the President's approval for the alternate to serve. In Elizabeth's case it didn't have to be a tribe member but you would want

to look for someone that would bring the same perspective to the board as you do.

Comprehensive Plan Update:

Casey called for the next agenda item which was the comprehensive salmon plan update. Kathy said she had turned it into the department when planned and was still waiting to hear back from them. She had emailed them yesterday and hadn't heard back from them. She didn't know where they were with the review. When they do call the RPT meeting the RPT will review it and if they deem it ready, it will go out for public review. This allows people the chance to comment. Then another RPT meeting will be called where they look at the comments received. They might want to add it into the document or change the comprehensive plan. When the RPT is satisfied with the document they will make a recommendation to submit it to the Commissioner.

Other Business:

Casey called for any other business.

Larry wanted himself, Nate, Sheri and Kathy to get together and iron out details of how we are proceeding. Larry wasn't pleased with how our last meeting went with Joy. But he thinks we are doing better now. He would like to see a weekly report from our office personnel. Communication needs to be our priority in the future. Casey also wanted it discussed at this meeting to keep the board of directors posted with what is going on by email. Larry feels Sheri will put a good public face on the YRAA. Casey wanted Larry to make sure that the dollar figure be on the lower side so we could have something to up their salary later for good behavior. Lisa Nelson commented we should be using our web site and other public media avenues to our advantage to let people know what we are doing. Elizabeth urged the board to go to the spring stakeholder meetings at the Kwaan and tribe and inform people what we are doing. Also commented the radio station might be a good avenue for communicating to the public. Larry asked Kathy if we should as YRAA donate to the radio station. Kathy felt that it might be a bad idea to donate people's tax money toward a radio station before we have

any fish in the water. Jesse commented the state wouldn't like us to be donating money when we are asking them for funds, they might not be inclined to give us more money if we are just giving it away. He also wanted us to do more newsletters to keep people informed. Casey commented that we should expand outside of our community. Our tax comes from people fishing all the way to fair-weather so we need to report and communicate to those people as well to keep them informed on what we are doing.

In other business Casey also commented that it is Advisory committee meeting time. He felt they had some good proposals. One proposal would be to allow round-hauling or beach seining which would merely make it a tool to be used by fish and game not necessarily something that would have to be used. Casey wanted everybody to consider putting in any proposals that they thought would be good. Casey also commented on another proposal that ties the 500 yd closure around streams to the AWC. Kathy said there are 9 pages of streams that might be inserted into the anadromous waters catalog (AWC) during this nomination period. It was discussed about the catalog and working around it or working with it. Kathy is planning to meet with the Dept about this issue and will pass on the information that she gets to Casey.

Les Hartley wanted to know if the board would be soliciting the public to write letters to the legislature supporting the YRAA getting the funding requested in the CIP list presented by Kathy. Yes, board members & staff need to encourage letters getting written and submitted.

Pat Robbins wanted more specific job descriptions for our newest employees. Casey felt that we were more specific in our new job posting. It was discussed that the employees and Kathy and the president would have a meeting to spell that all out. Larry assured Pat that this was the main reason for calling a meeting between the above parties so it was fair to everyone. Larry wanted to make sure that the employees were communicating with the board on a regular (weekly) basis or sooner if important.

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting date was left open and we'll have a meeting sometime maybe in the next month or two. Our bylaws allow us to have a meeting with 7 days posted notice.

Nick Holcomb moved to adjourn/Jonathan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned @ 2:57 pm

Minutes were approved on 4/3/2017

**Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association
Annual Board of Directors Meeting**

Saturday February 22, 2014

ANB Hall

11:30 am to 5:30 pm

DRAFT AGENDA

Call the Meeting to Order

Determine Quorum

Approve Agenda (as guideline for meeting)

OLD BUSINESS:

Approve Minutes from 1/25/14

Employment recommendation from sub-committee

Financial:

Update

Outstanding Reimbursements/Payments

IRS & Corp Return

Project Update/planning

DIPAC and PWSAC committee meetings

Tetra-Tech/Ed Neal

Project planning

Elections:

Board Elections non-fisherman seats

Elect Officers

Elect Alternate RPT representative

Comprehensive Plan Update

NEW BUSINESS:

Letter to Sen. Stevens & Austerman

Letter to Director Regnart ADF&G

CAPIS Request

Other Business

Next Meeting Date