

YAKUTAT REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOC
ANNUAL BOARD MEETING – School Auditorium

April 27, 2019

In Attendance: BOARD MEMBERS (after election) Casey Mapes, Adam Kohne (left early), Sheri Nelson, Enoch Schertel (came part way thru), Herb Holcomb, Sam Demmert (left early) Pat Robbins, Harold Robbins, Nick Holcomb (came shortly after the start of the meeting), Curt Holcomb (alternate), Devon Fernandez, Tim Grzeskowiak;

PUBLIC Rick Hoffman (ADF&G) and Kathy Hansen, consultant

The meeting was called to order and a quorum was present before business was conducted.

Motion was passed to approve the agenda.

MINUTES

After the elections to fill the non-fishermen seats and alternate was made and passed, a **motion to approve the minutes from 4/3/17 and 12/3/17** was made and passed by unanimous consent.

ELECTIONS

Herb/Sheri made the **motion to nominate Devon Fernandez and Tim Grzeskowiak for the two public at large seats, Harold Robbins for the Processor seat and Cynthia Peterson to finish out the term for the subsistence seat.** Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Herb/Harold **Motion to reappoint Curt Holcomb as the Board alternate.** Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Kathy explained that the company Alaska Litho that had printed the ballots made an error on the mailing ballots and after the ballots were opened and they were notified of the issue they immediately reimbursed the full cost of the hand and power troll ballots – the same error was not found in the setnet ballots of the wrong envelope for the ballot. Kathy asked the board to consider because of the confusion to certify the election of the fishermen’s seat. (there were only two write-in’s on all the ballots and only one person running for each seat therefore the mix up would not have caused a change in the results.) The nominees on the ballots were Casey Mapes – Setnet; Sam Demmert- Power troll and Enoch Schertel – Hand Troll. **Herb/Pat made a motion to certify the election results for the fishermen’s board seats understanding there was an issue with the ballot envelopes.** Motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers: **Casey/Pat made a motion to nominate Herb Holcomb for the Sec/Treasurer.** Motion passed unanimously. **Herb/Curt made a motion to nominate Casey Mapes for Vice President and Larry Bemis for President.** Motion passed unanimously.

Regional Planning Team Members (RPT): Casey and Kathy gave some basic background about what the RPT does. Basically, the three members of the RPT elected from YRAA and 3 ADF&G members comprise the ADF&G and they give recommendations to the Commissioner of ADF&G about permits and permit alteration requests. **Casey/Devon made a motion to elect Larry Bemis, Herb Holcomb and Sheri Nelson to the RPT.** There was some discussion about whether only fishermen could hold RPT seats. It is the choice of the YRAA board who serves on the RPT but most RPT's assign by the different gear types because of allocation. Motion passed unanimously.

PROJECT PLANNING AND UPDATE

Sheri explained that she is now the chair of the Kwaan fisheries committee, and they paid her expenses for a joint trip with Larry to tour DIPAC and the Sitka hatchery. The Sitka hatchery is more what YRAA would be looking at. The Kwaan developing a fish committee and showing interest in working with YRAA is due in large part to Lowell's efforts and a change in Board and management makeup. The Kwaan fishery committee's meeting was postponed due to Sheri being sick but the plan is to have a meeting next week. It appears that the support is now present at the Kwaan but there are still a few that aren't. All communication from YRAA should go to the fisheries committee.

Kathy followed up with information that the Kwaan had invited Bart Watson from Armstrong Keta last summer to educate the board on hatcheries. She provided a handout she received from Bart through email and a list of the documents that he sent to the Kwaan as a follow up to his meeting. These documents show a lot of what YRAA has been doing to date.

Casey presented some background information about the work YRAA had previously done for the education of the new board members, but we had started with looking at Sawmill Cove which has a better water source for a hatchery but then we switched our efforts to looking at City land at Puget Cove. Herb clarified that the looking at Puget Cove occurred when the Kwaan basically told us no and to look at other options. It was brought up that the salmon return was a large wake up call to the town and some that were on the fence about a hatchery started to realize that it might be needed.

Kathy said that she believes that path forward would be to put a request forward to both the City for Puget Cove and Kwaan for Sawmill Cove and pursue a lease, water authorizations and a hatchery permit. She explained that you need the permission of the owner of the land or a lease to pursue water authorization rights and you needed the water authorization rights in order to actually receive a hatchery permit. You can apply for both at the same time but should get started on the water authorization first. Each water right application is approximately \$1,000 - \$1,200.

Herb/Pat made a **motion to pursue both options (City & Kwaan) including a lease, water rights and hatchery permit.** Motion passed unanimously.

Kathy next mentioned that she believes it would be smart since the original MFA is so old (2012) we should resubmit a new MFA that is closer to the actual production 10-15M we will be looking at to start with and release at Puget Cove or Sawmill Cove as that is where we would want to develop the broodstock location at. Herb/Nick made a **motion to resubmit the Management Feasibility Assessment (MFA) for Puget Cove or Sawmill Cove at a 15M release.** Motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed possible financing options. Kathy said the legislature is out at this time, but the Division of Investments is still viable. Discussion about other possible grants and Casey mentioned Nathan the Manager at YTT is very good at getting grants. Is was then also mentioned that the Kwaan had talked about possibly getting YTT involved as a three-way partnership moving forward.

Kathy then skipped ahead and mentioned the politics of fisheries and what has been happening with the Board of Fish. She gave some background and then discussed in more detail the Oct Board of Fish work session and the March Board of Fish Hatchery Committee meeting and provided a copy of the summary from the Board of Fish Hatchery Committee meeting. Included in the handout with the Board of Fish Summary was 2 pages from the 2014 Board of Directors meeting Project planning as a refresher to some of the issues regarding hatchery location and species and a 5 page handout Nate had put together briefly explaining hatcheries, Yakutat history that was put together several years ago for the Kwaan.

FINANCIALS

Kathy directed the Board to look at the packet they were mailed and included was a financial summary for year 2012 – 2018. The 2018 taxes have been filed. The latest bank statement was included showing a bank balance of \$199,402.32. Ed Neal's latest invoice from January 2019 for water sampling and then a draft budget. In a handout provided at the meeting was a reimbursement request #16 from Hansen Fishery Consulting that includes labor for 2018 & 2019 to April 24th and some reimbursables for a total of \$4,583.20. Herb/Nick made a **motion to reimburse Kathy Hansen for Reimbursement Request #16 for \$4,583.20.** Motion passed unanimously. Next in the handout was the receipts for Larry Bemis's trip to Juneau and Sitka to view the hatcheries trip. Kathy mentioned that Larry has been reimbursed and some board members were notified and approved the trip prior to Larry taking the trip but a motion to certify the expenditure of \$1742.10 for the records would be appropriate. Herb/Nick made a **motion that the Board of Directors have reviewed the receipts from Larry Bemis for a trip to review hatcheries and certify that the expenditure was approved.** Motion passed unanimously.

The board went back to the draft budget in the board packet sent. Kathy further discussed the starting budget she had provided. With the motions that were made regarding the hatchery

project that some of the funds might not be sufficient without calling a board meeting. Kathy also mentioned that with this budget she would like the authority to hire other consultants/experts as necessary to keep the process moving. The Board discussed various options from raising some of the amounts and also giving the YRAA Board of Directors Officers the authority to expend funds above the budget by a % amount if necessary. Herb/Nick made a **motion to adjust the draft budget to \$30,000 for Contract Labor and \$25,000 for Water testing, planning and permitting.** Motion passed unanimously. Herb/Nick made a **motion to pass the adjusted budget as amended as well as giving the officers of YRAA the authority to approve an additional 25% overage to the budget upon review.** Motion passed unanimously.

Herb/Pat made a **motion to authorize Kathy Hansen to hire technical consultants and experts as needed.** Motion passed unanimously.

Kathy next brought up the D&O Insurance policy. We had not received notice at the beginning of the year about the renewal of the policy. Earlier in the week she heard about the policy – there had been some type of glitch but the policy is in affect but the invoice needs to be paid. Kathy explained the D&O insurance is Directors and Officers liability insurance meant to protect the Directors of the board in case the assoc is sued for their action on behalf of the association. Herb/Nick made a **motion to continue the D&O insurance policy for the association and the authority to pay the bill with one signature on the EFT transfer form.** The question was asked and the amount of the invoice is less than the draft budget had for the insurance. Motion passed unanimously.

The next issue Kathy brought up was the need to update the signatures on the checking account. After discussion of who should be on the account among the board members. Kathy mentioned that when the account was first opened up she was listed on the account and that was very helpful in requesting information and making changes such as an address change – the last change made to the signatures she was not listed and made things a little more complicated. She stated emphatically that she would not sign checks but would like to be on the account for being able to get information about the account. **Herb/Nick made a motion to pass a banking resolution to include the Officers (Larry, Casey & Herb) Sheri Nelson and Kathy Hansen to be listed on the checking account.** Motion passed unanimously.

Casey brought the board members attention back to the letter that was sent in 2017 and the response we got back from ADF&G. Casey provided the background of why the original letter was sent to the Dept. He receives a lot of comments from fishermen about the 2% SET tax they are paying for and not getting anything while the returns are getting worse through beaver dams, silted in spawning beds etc. Why isn't the YRAA board doing anything? It was also brought out that when the 2% SET tax was put in place, the city tax that did not show up on your fish ticket was rescinded. The board discussed this and if the Dept will ever allow incubation boxes to help get more chinook and sockeye released back into the system so more would hopefully come back. Nick made a **motion that was seconded to send another letter to**

ADF&G asking about possible joint rehabilitation projects in the Yakutat area. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board members were thanking Kathy for her efforts on behalf of YRAA and the comment was made that there were probably a lot of unreimbursed expenses over the years.

Herb/Devon made a **motion to reimburse Kathy Hansen \$2,000.00 for past reimbursables not invoiced for (printer ink, stamps, envelopes etc).** Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm.

DRAFT