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Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission

MINUTES -- Corrected

Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

FWP Headquarters – 1420 East 6th Street - Helena, MT

December 8, 2016

Commission Members Present: Dan Vermillion, Chairman, Richard Stuker Vice-Chairman,
Gary Wolfe and Matt Tourtlotte

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Staff Present: M. Jeff Hagener, Director and FWP Staff.

Guests: December 8, 2016 - See Commission file folder for sign-in sheet.

Topics of Discussion:

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of Minutes of the October 13, 2016 Commission Meeting
3. Approval of November Commission Expenses
4. Commission Reports
5. Director's Report
6. 2017 Commission Calendar
7. 2016 Sport Fish Restoration Outstanding Project Award Presented by the American Fisheries Society
8. Biennial Fishing Access Site Rule – Final
9. Biennial Commercial Use Permit Fee Rule – Final
10. Pine Grove Pond Land Donation (R1) – Final
11. Avista Cooperative Management Area Biennial Rule (R1) – Final
12. Grassland Conservation Leases - Final
13. Wildlife Management Area Biennial Public Use Rules – Proposed
14. Mount Silcox Wildlife Management Area Forest Management Project (R1) – Proposed
15. 2017 Spring Turkey Quotas – Proposed
16. Archery Technology Commission Policy – Final
17. Mountain Lion Management Plan – Informational
18. Public Comment – For Issues Not On This Agenda

1. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Vermillion called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes of the December 8, 2016 Commission Meeting

Action: Vice-Chairman Stuker moved and Commissioner Tourtlotte seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2016 Commission Meeting. Motion passed.

3. Approval of November Commission Expenses

Action: Vice-Chairman Stuker moved and Commissioner Tourtlotte seconded the motion to approve the November 2016 Commission expenses. Motion passed.

4. Commission Reports

Commissioner Wolfe stated he attended the Region 1 Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) meeting; 13 legislator's attended; positive meeting; Region 2 CAC meeting is scheduled for next week. Attended the second Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame induction banquet; 14 individuals were inducted, including former Commission Chairman Dr. Bob Ream; outstanding event. Received several calls from individuals who have concerns and oppose the Quiet Waters Initiative. Three wounded deer died in his yard this year; lives one block out of the city limits; does not present a positive public image of archery hunting.

Commissioner Tourtlotte stated he has received numerous calls and comments on the Quiet Waters Initiative; confusion with the public of when action is going to be taken by the Commission; would like an update on the initiative. Received several calls on shoulder seasons; people are upset with an outfitter

who is charging people to hunt on his land; complete opposite of the paradigm that was established for shoulder seasons; not helpful to commercialize for any reason; would like the Commission to look at ways to stop this and for the Department to condemn this activity.

Vice-Chairman Stuker stated he agrees with Commissioner Tourtlotte comments on shoulders season commercialized hunts. Received calls from landowners regarding elk numbers on their land; opened their land to the general public during hunting season and conducted damage hunts; have reached a saturation point with elk; if numbers cannot be lowered, they will start renting their land to outfitters to try and recoup lost revenue. Received several calls in opposition to the Quiet Waters petition, including Great Falls Walleye Unlimited; would like an update from the Department. Received calls from the Woolgrowers Association regarding an article in the Missoulian which mentioned the Commission had sent a letters to the State Congressmen in Washington D.C. requesting grazing be removed from the Centennial Mountains at the sheep station; stated the Commission and Department want to work with them, but then send a letter of this caliber without talking or informing them. Hunter numbers north of Highway 2 are down substantially.

Chairman Vermillion stated he received several calls and emails regarding shoulder seasons; most ranches on the west-side of the Shields have significant concentrations of elk; access is not wide-opened; there is a monetary component to getting access and is within the landowners right to do so; this undercuts the objectives and demands; locals cannot afford the monetary amount. Issues with Hunting District (HD) 313 and harvest reporting. Several phone calls on the mussel outbreak; good response team has been established; trying to establish the extent of mussel presence in Tiber Reservoir and Cannon Ferry; reasonable to assume it has moved down river; cleaning, inspecting and drying will help prevent spreading. Received call from individuals who were upset and some who were supportive of the Backcountry Hunter and Anglers (BHA) Quiet Waters Initiative; this proposal came from the local BHA chapter, not at the national level; urges people to focus on the actual petition and public comment, not conspiracy theories. Important to remember the letter that was sent to Senator Daines where government owned sheep and the Commission was very clear it did not suggest any change to grazing on federal lands or allotments; the sheep station was preventing Montanans from hunting on public land on the Centennial side of the mountain range; the Commission is strongly supportive of grazing rights and privileges on public land; letter was not an attack on grazing.

Vice-Chairman Stuker stated Commission letters are not put out for the public to review; was not a Commission item and not signed by all Commissioners; moving forward, would like these types of letters be put on the agenda so the public are aware and can comment.

5. Director's Report

Director Hagener reported the Department is holding CAC/legislator meetings in the Regions (R7-1 legislator, R1-13 legislators, R5-5 legislators, R3-5 legislators); several discussions on Habitat Montana, Block Management access, Quiet Water Petition and archery guidelines. Deer season was good/average across the state; elk numbers/harvest was down; little game damage hunts, elk were dispersed; recently receiving game damage complaints in areas where there are shoulder seasons, where people have not allowed access, the Department has made it clear they are not eligible for game damage. All collared grizzly bears seem to be denned at this time. Keeping a close eye on the snow geese situation at the Berkeley Pit. The 888 Ranch which borders a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and two conservations easements has been sold to another party; the Department had funding through Habitat Montana, matched with Pitman-Robertson to pursue this property, but due to legislative actions the Department was unable to acquire.

Director Hagener asked Eileen Ryce to give an update on the aquatic invasive species (AIS) situation and what the Department is doing at this time.

Commissioners, Ryce, Randy Arnold, Region Supervisor and AIS Command Team, and Becky Dockter, Chief Legal Counsel, discussed in length, several matters with the AIS situation.

Dockter gave a lengthy update on the Quiet Water Petition Administrative Rule (ARM).

Chairman Vermillion and Dockter discussed specific statutory requirements for the rule and if the public comment period can be extended.

Director Hagener stated disease issues are all around Montana and the reality is we will be dealing with this in the very near future.

Commissioner Wolfe and Dockter discussed if the Commissioners will have the flexibility to pick and choose particular water bodies within the petition.

Vice-Chairman Stuker stated the majority of comments he has received are concerned it is an all or nothing rule; has replied it is not all or nothing rule and to submit their comments or specific regions and water bodies.

6. 2017 Commission Calendar

Commissioners and Director Hagener discussed conducting meetings every other month and places where to hold meetings across the state.

Vice-Chairman Stuker stated his concern with moving to every other month meetings at this time is for the four new potential Commissioners.

Chairman Vermillion recommended having training and orientation for the new Commissioners; would like a meeting held in Kalispell.

Conclusion to discussion was the Department would coordinate the meeting dates and places, and concur with Commissioners within the next week.

7. 2016 Sport Fish Restoration Outstanding Project Award Presented by the American Fisheries Society

Ken Kurzawski with the American Fisheries Society, awarded Dave Hagenruber the 2016 Aquatic Education Outstanding Sport Fish Restoration Project of the Year for FWP's Hooked on Fishing Program (HOF). The award highlights the importance and effectiveness of the Sport Fish Restoration Program (aka Dingell-Johnson or Wallop-Breaux Program) and recognizes excellence in fisheries management, research and education; the program is funded by an excise tax collected on fishing tackle, boats and motorboat fuels and returned to the states to enhance fisheries management and boating programs.

8. Biennial Fishing Access Site Rule – Final

Eileen Ryce, Fisheries Administrator, explained FWP is recommending the Commission approve the proposed Fishing Access Site (FAS) Biennial Rule which pertains to: fees; stipulations on camping at fishing access sites; group use permit requirements (groups of more than 30 people); and special recreation permit requirements (permit system in place on the Blackfoot and Madison rivers for commercial use, competitive events, organized group activities). Following Commission approval of the proposed rule in October, public comment was solicited from October 23 - November 22; nine comments were received; one expressed opposition to any fee increase; one supported the increases unconditionally; seven thought the proposed increases to camping fees were too much or not appropriate for the amenities provided, six specifically recommended a \$3 increase for both license (\$10) and non-license holders (\$15). The Commission could choose to: accept the changes proposed in October (license holders (\$12) and non-license holders (\$18)); reject the proposed changes and reauthorize the current rates (license holders (\$7) and non-license holders (\$12)); accept the changes suggested by the majority of commenters; or propose changes of their own. FWP recommends the Commission approve the fee increases as suggested by the majority of commenters; this will increase the fee for camping to \$10 for license holders and \$15 for non-license holders; seniors and disabled persons will still receive a 50% discount of these new fees, as provided for in statute. This recommendation addresses the concern from commenters about fees rising too quickly, but is still beneficial to the FAS program by helping to offset more of the cost of maintaining FAS campsites.

Chairman Vermillion stated he struggles with the idea of not staying consistent with state parks; not much public involvement in decision; inclined with staying with the proposed recommendation (\$12 and \$18).

Vice-Chairman Stuker concurs with Chairman Vermillion; in favor of original proposal.

Commissioner Tourtlotte agrees with Chairman Vermillion and Vice-Chairman Stuker; FAS use is rising; need to maintain sites in a manner the public is used to; in favor of original proposal.

Commissioner Wolfe ask what the FAS camping fee revenue is.

Don Skaar, Fisheries Special Projects Bureau Chief stated the current revenue is around \$100,000 per year.

Action: Commissioner Tourtlotte moved and Vice-Chairman Stuker seconded the motion that the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve the Fishing Access Site Biennial Rule as originally proposed by the Department.

Chairman Vermillion asked for public comment.

Action on Motion: Motion passed.

9. Biennial Commercial Use Permit Fee Rule – Final

Eileen Ryce, Fisheries Administrator, stated the final proposal is unchanged from the tentative proposal (see minutes from the October 13, 2016 Commission meeting). FWP solicited public comment from October 23 - November 22; one comment was received in favor of the changes.

Action: Vice-Chairman Stuker moved and Commissioner Tourtlotte seconded the motion that the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt the commercial use fee rule as recommended by the Department.

Chairman Vermillion asked for public comment.

Action on Motion: Motion passed.

10. Pine Grove Pond Land Donation (RI) – Final

Eileen Ryce, Fisheries Administrator, explained two years ago Mr. Street donated a small parcel of his land in order to allow FWP to expand the existing parking area. Mr. Street is now in the process of selling the 140 acres of land adjacent to the FAS and anticipates the property will be subdivided for home sites. To prevent potential encroachment on the FAS from the subdivision development, Mr. Street is proposing to donate approximately 5.17 additional acres of property to establish a buffer between any future subdivision development and the FAS. FWP prepared and released an environmental assessment (EA); public comment was solicited from October 20, 2016 - November 4, 2016; the EA was advertised through media releases and legal notices in the Daily Inter Lake, Whitefish Pilot, and Helena Independent Record; copies were available from Headquarters and the Kalispell FWP office, FWP website, at the Montana State Library and Flathead County Libraries; notification was distributed to neighboring landowners and interested parties; seven comments all in favor, were received.

Action: Commissioner Wolfe moved and Vice-Chairman Stuker seconded the motion that the Fish and Wildlife Commission authorize the Department to accept the donation of land from Mr. Street to expand the Pine Grove Pond Fishing Access Site.

Chairman Vermillion asked for public comment.

Action on Motion: Motion passed.

11. Avista Cooperative Management Area Biennial Rule (R1) – Final

Ken McDonald, Wildlife Administrator, stated the final proposal is unchanged from the tentative proposal (see minutes from the October 13, 2016 Commission meeting). Public comment was solicited; three comments were received; two comments in support and one had a general concern over the state being cut into too many zones and having poor maps. Without adoption of this proposal, FWP would not be able to operate under a special circumstance agreement and would only provide enforcement during the block management season. Enforcement efforts could be hampered if violators cannot be prosecuted outside of hunting season, potentially resulting in decreased access on Avista lands in Sanders County.

Action: Commissioner Wolfe moved and Commissioner Tourtlotte seconded the motion that the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt the proposed Avista Cooperative Management Area Biennial Rule.

Chairman Vermillion asked for public comment.

Action on Motion: Motion passed.

12. Grassland Conservation Leases – Final

Ken McDonald, Wildlife Administrator, stated the final proposal is unchanged from the tentative proposal (see minutes from the October 13, 2016 Commission meeting). Public comment was solicited; seven comments were received; four in support, one opposed, and two with no clear preference; the Upland Game Bird Council and Wetland Protection Advisory Council favorably reviewed the proposal. FWP recommends the Commission approves offering 30-year conservation leases to private landowners; the leases will support working ranches and protect an additional 75,000 acres of native wildlife habitat.

Chairman Vermillion asked if the Commission would approve the individual leases.

McDonald stated no, by approving this today, you are giving the Department the blanket approval to proceed.

Action: Vice-Chairman Stuker moved and Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion that the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve offering 30-year conservation leases as presented by FWP.

Chairman Vermillion asked for public comment.

Chairman Vermillion stated it is these sort of programs that are voluntary and do not affect grazing; should be supported; keeps Montanans in control of wildlife management decisions.

McDonald acknowledged Catherine Wightman, Wildlife Habitat Biologist, as the person who has executed the work on this proposal.

Action on Motion: Motion passed.

13. Wildlife Management Area Biennial Public Use Rules – Proposed

Ken McDonald, Wildlife Administrator, explained public use rules for Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), Wildlife Habitat Protection Areas (WHPA), and Fisheries Conservation Areas (FCAs) are adopted by the Commission on a biennial schedule. Upon approval, public comment would be solicited; Commission would take final action at the February 2017 meeting. FWP is recommending retaining existing rules with the following three edits and one addition:

- Eliminate Osprey View FCA as one of the exceptions for year round accessibility. This change would make the property open to year round access which is compatible with the property's habitat values.
- Direct public users of Foys Bend FCA to special hunting restrictions posted on site. This property has operated on a reservation system with designated days of the week that are rested from public access to help retain game on the property during hunting season and to maximize harvest.
- A requirement for daily removal of tree stands from the FCAs in the Flathead Valley in Region I. This is intended to provide equal opportunities for the public to hunt on these properties that are heavily used.
- The new rule pertains to the use of drones and other remotely controlled vehicles. The use of aerial, terrestrial, or aquatic remotely controlled vehicles would be prohibited on all WMAs unless for educational or other public benefit. Such exceptions require authorization by the Regional Wildlife or Fisheries Manager. The purpose for such a restriction is to avoid potential impacts such vehicles can have on habitat function and wildlife distribution and behavior.

The function of these rules is to “protect fish and wildlife habitat, wildlife presence on WMAs, and public use of the WMAs, including but not limited to fishing, trapping and hunting opportunities. All other uses are secondary and must be in accord with the primary goals and objectives of the wildlife management areas.”

Action: Commissioner Tourtlotte moved and Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion that the Fish and Wildlife Commission provide tentative approval of the public use rules as proposed.

Chairman Vermillion asked for public comment.

Action on Motion: Motion passed.

14. Mount Silcox Wildlife Management Area Forest Management Project (RI) – Proposed

Ken McDonald, Wildlife Administrator explained FWP proposes to enhance forest habitat on approximately 118 acres of the Mount Silcox WMA near Thompson Falls. The treatments would improve aspen habitats, enhance or create openings in the forest canopy to increase bunchgrass and woody browse production, and promote development of multi-story forest structure. Treatments would improve winter and spring habitat for elk, bighorn sheep and mule deer, as well as species dependent or associated with aspen forests, and promote the development of forest structure favored by sensitive species. The treatments would include commercial timber harvest, hand-thinning, and prescribed fire. The cost of the forest habitat treatments are expected to be covered by the sale of merchantable timber byproduct; any revenue in excess of project costs would be deposited into the legislatively-established FWP Forest Management Account to implement further forest management projects pursuant to the provisions of 87-1-201(9)(a)(iv). Contingent on analysis and approvals, this work could begin as early as winter 2017. Upon approval of this proposal, FWP would complete a draft EA and public review.

Action: Commissioner Wolfe moved and Vice-Chairman Stuker seconded the motion that the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve FWP to proceed with an environmental analysis and public review of the Mount Silcox Wildlife Management Area forest management project.

Chairman Vermillion commented there is a lot to be gained by this sort of management.

Chairman Vermillion asked for public comment.

Action on Motion: Motion passed.

15. 2017 Spring Turkey Quotas – Proposed

John Vore, Game Management Bureau Chief explained season structures and HD boundaries are adopted every other year in December and final adoptions in February biennially for most game species, except for sage grouse, upland game bird season dates for 2017 were finalized in February 2016; other season elements including bag and possession limits may be changed annually. There are no established quota ranges for spring turkey licenses and all changes require Commission approval. Public comment will run through 5 PM, Friday, January 13, 2017 with final adoption by the Commission at the February 2017 meeting. There are three proposed changes for 2017 Spring Turkey quotas and limits; spring turkey licenses are for male turkeys only; all other elements of the spring turkey quotas and limits are proposed to remain unchanged from 2016.

- 399-20: increase Region-wide general licenses from 200 to 300
- 399-21: increase Region-wide youth licenses from 25 to 50
- 445-20: increase Cascade County general licenses from 10 to 15

Action: Commissioner Tourtlotte moved and Vice-Chairman Stuker seconded the motion that the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt the proposed spring 2017 turkey quotas and limits as presented by FWP.

Chairman Vermillion asked for public comment.

Chairman Vermillion stated he received a lot of comments on 399-20 earlier this year; asked how many people are unsuccessful applicants and is there any biological reason not to increase the licenses.

Vore stated 200 in-state licenses are offered, 1,288 applications were received; 20 out-of-state licenses are allowed, only 14 applications were received.

Chairman Vermillion stated he would like to see a higher increase in 399-20 licenses.

Action on Motion: Motion passed.

16. Archery Technology Commission Policy – Final

Quentin Kujala, Wildlife Management Section Chief explained in recent years there has been increasing pressure for the Commission to allow electronic devices on archery equipment and to include crossbows in archery only seasons; these types of equipment proposals have a history of being contentious within the Montana bowhunting community with the debate spilling over into the legislative arena as well. During the May 2016 Commission work session, the Montana Bowhunters Association (MBA) presented a historical perspective on archery season intent, justification of current regulations, and current equipment discussions and challenges within the bowhunting community. The MBA designed a policy and evaluation matrix for the Commission to better focus equipment discussions to aid the Department, Commission, and public in their deliberations on archery equipment proposals, which included an archery equipment evaluation matrix designed to standardize and strengthen the review process for any new archery equipment proposal presented within the existing biennial season setting process. The policy was proposed by the MBA to the Commission during the open mic portion of the October Commission meeting; the Commission adopted the policy for public comment as proposed by the MBA and took on the task of managing the public comment opportunity and preparing a final proposal on behalf of the Commission. Public comment period ran through Friday, November 18; 251 comments were received; public comment was diverse; many comments addressed specific technologies instead of the broader proposed policy and its intended functionality; comments were for and against the policy with some proposing specific changes; many comments did recognize that some technology might be reasonable to allow and still be consistent with current archery only seasons; others spoke against any changes, felt that archery technology had already exceeded the essence of primitive weapons, and expressed concern about that trend continuing. Based on public comment FWP has modified the policy to include the additional question in the matrix “Is the equipment likely to improve any of the ethical challenges/problems with archery-only hunting?” and to remove the fixed number of “yes” or “no” answers that might require one or another Commission action. FWP does believe the concept of a standardized review will help future archery technology discussions. Other options include no policy or further adjustments to the proposed policy. FWP does support the intent of a policy, but does recognize other refinements may be helpful.

Action: Commissioner Wolfe moved for discussion purposes, and Vice-Chairman Stuker seconded the motion that the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt as final the Archery Technology Commission Policy as presented by FWP.

Commissioner Wolfe asked what does the policy do in limiting future Commission actions?

Becky Dockter, Chief Legal Counsel, stated this proposal is intended as a guideline that helps the Commission in the future, look at proposals which may come forth on archery technology; the policy can be amended or repealed at any time.

Vice-Chairman Stuker, Director Hagener and Kujala had a lengthy discussion on policy guidelines, matrix, stipulations and process.

Chairman Vermillion noted the Department has been notified if the Department does not take action on lighted nocks, the legislature will.

Joelle Selk, MBA, has concerns with the ethical challenges question the Department added (explained in detail); members and public comment support lighted nocks; explained the criteria matrix using lighted nocks.

Chairman Vermillion asked Selk if the MBA is petitioning the Commission to put out for public comment, lighted nocks as an accepted form of archery technology for fair chase archery hunting in Montana.

Selk stated yes, that is what MBA is asking.

Chairman Vermillion stated he struggles with the person who has a physical disability that prevents them pulling back; Selk told the Commission a while back, there was a lot of technology for this person to have the ability to use a compound bow with modifications.

Chairman Vermillion, Vice-Chairman Stuker and Selk discussed modified specified technology and costs for this technology.

Steve Schindler, Traditional Bowhunters of Montana (TBM), opposes ethic question as proposed by FWP, very vague; supports matrix as proposed by MBA.

Nick Gevok, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF), policy is well done; good conversation at the CAC meeting in Billings; valuable policy; question of ethics is always a question; supports policy.

Commissioner Wolfe stated he would like to make an amendment to his original motion.

Amended Motion: Commissioner Wolfe motioned and Vice-Chairman Stuker seconded to drop the ethics question from the list of matrix questions.

Commissioner Tourtlotte asked if the amended motion was/was not getting rid of the criteria requirement on the matrix.

Kujala stated the Department’s proposal removed the fixed number of “yes” or “no” answers and just kept the questions relying on the Commission discussion to assess weights; the scoring option is not included in the amended motion.

Chairman Vermillion stated that is a sound rational; need to recognize the Commission authority to exercise discretion as it relates to the questions and decisions.

Vice-Chairman Stuker stated if the scoring mechanism was in the proposal he was going to oppose; without he will support, still leaves the decision up to the Commission.

Chairman Vermillion stated one the most important about this process is it is coming from a user group; exactly how the process is supposed to work and one reason why the Commission structure is so important to decision making.

Chairman Vermillion asked for public comment.

Action on Motion and Amended Motion: Motion passed.

Action on Motion: Vice-Chairman Stuker motioned and Chairman Vermillion seconded the Commission direct the Department to solicit for public comment, the use of lighted nocks.

Chairman Vermillion, Commissioner Wolfe and Dockter discussed legality issues of taking action on this motion.

Vice-Chairman Stuker thanked the archery community for commenting on the proposal.

Chairman Vermillion directed the Department to put the use of lighted nocks on the February agenda.

Action on Motion: Motion passed.

Commissioner Wolfe stated his caveat "aye" is for putting it out for public comment, not necessarily supporting the proposal.

Director Hagener, Commissioner Wolfe and Marlon Clapham, MBA, discussed the possibility of having a requirement that requires identification on an arrow.

Vice-Chairman Stuker asked the Department to bring forth more information to the Commission at a later date relating to this discussion.

17. Mountain Lion Management Plan – Informational

Jay Kolbc, FWP Wildlife Biologist, discussed and gave a lengthy power-point presentation on the mountain lion strategy plan development. (see copy of power-point in the December 8, 2016 Commission file)

18. Public Comment – For Issues Not On This Agenda

The following individuals commented on the Quiet Water Initiative Petition:

Mike Howe, Kalispell, against petition; not based on science or conflicts.

Pete Jellors, Flathead Walleyes Unlimited (FWU), against QWIP; extend comment period 60-90 days; have laws in place already.

Don Collins, Montana Bass Federation, need to know more about petition and take the time to understand.

Mark Weed, Kalispell, rules for personal water craft are already in place; bad timing for summer-only homeowners; will have an economic impact.

Chancy Jeschke, Kalispell, does not support initiative; will effective all sportsmen/women.

Steve Konopotzke, Penco Power Products, against proposal; timing is not in the best interested of all homeowners, especially summer-only homeowners; need a public comment extension.

George Johnson, Kalispell, against proposal.

Russ Hadley, Fishing Outfitter, does not see an issue with proposal.

Eric Bjornson, Kalispell, will affect future for kids; strongly opposes.

Chairman Vermillion stated the Commission and Department are looking at extending the public comment period; public meetings will stay as is; recommends making specific comments, on certain watersheds, will help the Commission.

Action: Vice-Chairman Stuker moved and Commissioner Tourtlotte seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed.

The meeting adjourned 12:37 p.m.



Dan Vermillion, Chairman



Martha Williams, Director

