

Sitka Bear Task Force Minutes

Thursday, May 5, 2022 12:00 p.m.
Harrigan Centennial Hall/Teleconference

Task Force Members: Robert Baty, Stephen Bethune, Lillian Feldpausch, Harry Greene or Michael Harmon, Trenton Hammock, Olivia Magni, Martha Moses, Bradley Shaffer, Andrew Thoms, Claire Turner

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Feldpausch called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Task Force members present: Robert Baty, Stephen Bethune, Lillian Feldpausch, Olivia Magni, Martha Moses, Bradley Shaffer, Claire Turner
Absent: Trenton Hammock, Andrew Thoms (excused), Harry Green
Staff: Deputy Clerk, Jess Earnshaw and Administrative Coordinator, Holley Dennison
Others: Assembly Liaisons Crystal Duncan and Dave Miller

III. CORRESPONDENCE /AGENDA CHANGES

Shaffer and Magni asked to pull Items C and D, and the Task Force agreed.

IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (*not to exceed 3 minutes on topics off the agenda*)

None.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 21, 2022

Moses moved to approve the April 21, 2022, minutes. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

VI. REPORTS

Chair: Chair Feldpausch met with CBS staff to discuss chair roles.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Bear Task Force Goals

Feldpausch asked for goals and outcomes, invited informal working groups up to 4, avoid serial emails, and look at previous task force work. Baty spoke to reduce negative bear interactions and avoid killing bears. Moses mentioned Bethune's presentation, desired to address the bear population, and stressed education for subsistence harvesters to dispose of waste. Shaffer spoke to bears baited for filming. Baty identified goals of education, funding sources for cans, and to make trash unavailable to bears. Magni recorded bear activity earlier in 2022.

Baty told of trash citations last year and was in support of bear-proof cans. Working groups were formed to focus on 1) bear-proof cans and 2) education and both groups will report at the next meeting. Duncan talked of prevention regarding education, community, collaboration, and funding. State law of dispatching bears was explained, and Moses wondered of data on disease risk from skinning bears. Evening meetings were asked about to encourage public participation.

B. Fortress of the Bears bear-proof can test results

Results of can test indicated potential with the Kodiak can, and a trash can program should be the goal and to locate funding. Bethune said an electrified can was tested in the Indian River subdivision and addressed questions about safety of the can.

C. Geospatial data collected from Magni's research

Item pulled from agenda, no action taken.

D. Discuss Shaffer's suggested MOA for using CBS to address bear issues

Item pulled from agenda, no action taken.

IX. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (*not to exceed 3 minutes on topics on or off the agenda*)

Dave Miller spoke to concern of bear activity already begun and suggested short-term solutions be identified in addition to recommendation to Assembly in 6 months.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Feldpausch asked for agenda items be sent to her for next meeting. Next meeting was scheduled for June 2, 2022, at 12:00 p.m., Harrigan Centennial Hall.

Moses moved to adjourn the meeting, Baty seconded. Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Attest:
Holley Denison, Staff Liaison