

**SUSITNA BASIN  
RECREATION RIVERS MANAGEMENT PLAN  
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
Wednesday, November 23, 2022  
10:00am-12:00pm**

**MINUTES**

The recording for this meeting is available [online](#).

**I. Call to Order**

- A. The regular meeting of the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Advisory Board was called to order at approximately 10:04 AM on November 23, 2022, via Microsoft Teams.
- B. Roll Call – Board Members Present: Israel Mahay (Chair), Mike DeMaria, Emma Pokon, Nancy Conklin, Tim Dabney, Mike Overcast, & Stephanie Nowers
- C. Board Members Absent: Donald Redick, Joseph Wright (Vice Chair), Stafford Glashan (excused), Bruce Knowles, and Aaron Benjamin.
- D. Mike Overcast MOVED to approve the meeting Agenda. Tim Dabney SECONDED. PASSED without objection.
- E. Mike Overcast MOVED to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from 10/26/2022. Tim Dabney SECONDED. PASSED without objection.

**II. Old Business**

- A. Board Member Vacancies & Term Expirations
  - a. Monica Alvarez (DNR) notified the Board that the terms of three Board members will be expiring July 1, 2023. The Board members with expiring terms are Israel Mahay (Chair), Joseph Wright (Vice-Chair) and Emma Pokon. If these members would like to remain on the Board, they will need to reapply through [Boards & Commissions](#) and receive approval from the Governor. Since new Board member appointments have been slow, it is recommended that these Board members begin the process to reapply as soon as possible.
  - b. The Governor has been presented with the Board Resolution recommending removal of two Board members (representing Mining and Sport Fishing) that have missed at least three Board meetings without being excused. As of this meeting date, the Governor has not acted to remove these two members, nor appointed a representative to fill the single current Board vacancy (representing Recreationally Oriented Commercial Users).
- B. Board Member Contact Information

- a. Now available online: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/susitna-advisory-Board/>

### III. New Business

- A. The Board Chair invited Sarah O’Neal (University of Washington) to give a presentation on her literature review conducted for Trout Unlimited on salmon and trout ecology and habitat of the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers.
  - a. Several Board members asked questions and provided comment after the presentation.
  - b. For additional questions, Sarah may be contacted at [soneal@uw.edu](mailto:soneal@uw.edu).
- B. Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan Review – Discussion on Chapter 2
  - a. Mike Overcast suggested that Board members submit their written comments to each other for easier review (see section V. below). He also noted that lack of implementation is an issue within the corridors. Israel Mahay agreed with both comments.
  - b. Tim Dabney asked what the Board’s role is in the revision process. He suggested that the Board’s role is more to provide guidance and recommendations on revisions provided by DNR rather than do a page-by-page revision themselves. Tim and Israel discussed the idea of having river specific committees to provide more targeted feedback. Monica Alvarez stated that she liked the idea of committees and suggested the Board schedule a workshop to focus on their recommendations and suggestions for changes to the plan.
  - c. Mike DeMaria asked when and how the Board should make their recommendations to DNR. Monica stated that the Board can submit questions and/or plan recommendations to DNR at any time. Mike would like to see changes to the plan that make the language of Chapter 2 more concise.
  - d. Emma Pokon asked what DNR’s intended timeline was for the plan and how the Board can best sync with that timeline. Monica stated that we are still gathering information after reviewing comments and working to determine which aspects of the plan need to be updated. DNR would like to have a draft to present to the Board in the next few months. If the Board can give DNR recommendations by February, that would be very helpful. Emma gave support for the idea of a Board workshop. Israel suggested the Board hold two workshops to go over the plan in detail.
  - e. Nancy Conklin likes the idea of workshops so that everyone’s expertise can be included.

- f. Stephanie Nowers suggested putting Chapter 2 in Google Docs so Board members could add comments. Monica said she could look into DNR setting up Google Docs or another platform where members can edit concurrently (see section V. below). Monica also said that DNR could arrange a facilitator for the workshop and send out a poll to Board members to get consensus on the best date and time.

**IV. Comments from Members of the Public (Maximum 3 minutes/person)**

- a. Neil DeWitt, Mike Wood, and Becky Long called in to provide public comment.

**V. Comments from Board Members**

- a. After Board member comments, Israel asked Board members to review public comments and discuss at the next meeting. Israel also suggested Board members email each other their comments on Chapter 2. It was later determined that such an email exchange could violate the Open Meetings Act, so instead DNR will compile the Board's comments on Chapter 2 and distribute to Board members before a Board meeting or workshop that will be public-noticed.

**VI. Adjournment – Next Regular Meeting 12/28/2022**

- a. Stephanie Nowers MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Mike Overcast SECONDED. PASSED without objection. The Board adjourned at 11:35 AM.