



# BRISTOL BAY

Regional Seafood Development Association

## **BBRSDA Board Meeting Minutes**

February 2, 2023 – 9:00am AKT

Teleconferenced

### **1. Call to Order/Establishment of Quorum**

President Jackson called the meeting to order at 9:00am AKT. Present were board members Sabo, Niver, Morgan, Schonberg, Johnson and Andrew; members Harsila, Flora, Chythlook and Ferris; and staff members Bursch, Dunn, Machain, and Wink. **A QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED.**

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

Johnson moved and Niver seconded to approve the agenda. **MOTION CARRIED WITH UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

### **3. Approval of Previous Minutes**

#### **a. January 11, 2023**

Niver moved and Morgan seconded to approve the minutes from January 11, 2023. **MOTION CARRIED WITH UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

### **4. Member Comments**

Jackson opened the floor for member comments, but there were none. The members on the line were just listening in.

### **5. Executive Director Report**

Wink gave an update about the open position and expects to have it filled soon. Niver moved and Morgan seconded to approve the ED report as presented. **MOTION CARRIED WITH UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

### **6. Program Updates & Committee Business**

#### **a. Finance**

Machain provided a brief update on upcoming due dates for financial reports and walked through the financial snapshot report provided in the meeting packet.

## **b. Marketing**

Dunn gave a verbal update on various marketing activities. Some highlights included:

- Dunn and Wink attended GSMC in California and had good meetings and can share presentation materials with the board.
- The 2 December promotions with Amazon for a 25% discount had an overall lift of 23% with overall volume boost.
- January 28<sup>th</sup> was Alaska Night at the Climate Pledge Arena where our BBSS logo and assets were prominently displayed.
- Various retail promotions going on including Sprouts, BJ's, WinCo, Costco, and ASMI has an ibotta digital coupon campaign.
- Last week Edelman launched campaigns with 3 food influencers on social media, these have gained over 500K+ views already.
- Dunn is working with Alaska Air Cargo to catalog the "journey of sockeye" from the bay down to Seattle restaurants. Possible highlight of the millionth fish along with multiple chefs in coordination with Salmon Week restaurant partners.

Wink added that some of the presentations at GSMC implied that there are headwinds in terms of a lot of inventory and price inflation. In general, retail sales of seafood are down in terms of dollars and pounds.

## **c. Sustainability**

Wink gave a verbal update on the Sustainability program activities. Some highlights include:

- 404c Decision: Niver and Jackson did tv interviews this week in media coverage on the 404c decision. Staff plans to work on "thank you" letters as time allows for all the involved partners. Wink will meet with our attorneys to go over any future legal action that may come up in response as well as to review the final determination document.
- Enforcement issues: there doesn't seem to be consensus on what the fishery and fishermen would like to see or how to have the rules enforced regarding 32 foot limits. The RSDA is not in a place to weight in too much on the decision of Alaska troopers. Wink is on standby to hear from the troopers.

- Schonberg led meetings with researchers to discuss if and how research can be done about the Nushagak king situation. ADF&G do not feel they have enough data to implement a chinook corridor. The group is still in discussions about how much it would cost, where monies would come from, and next steps.
- Wink was able to use discretionary funds to hire a PhD researcher to do a literature review on whether abundant sockeye runs affect king salmon productivity.
- The sustainability committee discussed options for fluid disposal. Staff is directed to send a letter to local communities to see if they would set up a free way to dispose of antifreeze, used oil, bilge water, etc.
- The Strickland brothers' documentary film is in the editing process, and we are hopeful for an early June screening for our member meeting.

**i. Graduate student research proposal**

This graduate student research proposal is recommended by the Sustainability committee for funding up to \$35,000.

Graduate student Elena Eberhardt joined the call at 9:38am AKT. She updated the board on her research proposal that aims to find out if there are potential ties to juvenile sockeye and stickleback growth as the climate is changing. Looking at if they are competing with each other as well as if certain years or climates where the sockeye might be growing more. Her project would take satellite imagery and long-term data sets to figure out what time of the year the lake is various percentages of ice free, as compared to community ice observations.

The value to BBRSDA would be to identify and prepare for how climate change may impact this fishery in the future. If the juvenile fish aren't growing as much or as large, they won't survive the same way when they go to the ocean. The growth in juvenile years has a big impact down the line.

Andrew moved to approve an additional \$5K in funding to fund this project at a total of \$35,000. Seconded by Morgan.

**MOTION CARRIED WITH UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

**ii. UW Research proposal**

Dr. Schindler joined the meeting to discuss the status of his UW research proposal "Assessment of the effects of climate change on the rearing capacity for sockeye salmon in the Nushagak River lakes" and answer any questions. The board was curious about matching funding opportunities to get the project started. The preference was to move forward contingent on matching funds being attained.

Johnson moved and Schonberg seconded to approve UW research proposal at full funding \$83,256, contingent on matching funding to be secured from SW AK Salmon Habitat Partnership. Johnson moved and Schonberg seconded.

**MOTION CARRIED WITH UNANIMOUS CONSENT WITH ONE ABSTAINING.**

**d. Quality**

Bursch is meeting with Digital Observer (Mark Buckley) and Trident to discuss a potential project that could answer some of the quality questions. This would involve using some CQR devices but working more independently.

The RSW apprentice project will be launching later this spring.

**e. Outreach**

Sabo led the creation of the advisory panel and plans to hold their first meeting in the near future, ideally before the February strategic planning session.

Bursch gave a verbal update on Outreach program activities:

- There is an updated safety page on our website that can be used as a landing page for safety checklists and links to AMSEA.

- The 2022 Annual Report is in the works and should be finalized in the coming weeks. Staff is considering sending these to setnetters as informational before their election.
- The ex-vessel price report is getting clarification from legal on how to move forward.
- Regarding a market update for our members, the board was supportive in Wink publishing that information.

## **7. Miscellaneous Business**

### **a. Setnet Membership Vote & Related Matters**

The setnet committee members recommended to the board to postpone the election until after the season because they felt the vote has a better chance of passing with more face to face communication within the setnet fleet during the fishing season. Holding the election as soon after the season as is practical is the recommendation coming out of the 01.25.23 meeting. If the first mailing is sent early August, the results will be known mid-November.

Andrew moved and Morgan seconded to revise the setnet election schedule to a late summer/fall schedule as presented. **MOTION CARRIED WITH UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

### **b. Board Candidate Forum**

Sabo moved to approve hosting a candidate forum for this year's election cycle on March 4th or March 18th, contingent on a satisfactory number of candidates as determined by staff. Morgan seconded. **MOTION CARRIED WITH UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

## **8. Executive Session**

Sabo moved to enter Executive Session at 10:05am AKT to discuss proprietary and personnel issues. Seconded by Andrew. **MOTION CARRIED WITH UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

Sabo moved and Morgan seconded to exit Executive Session at 12:03pm AKT. **MOTION CARRIED WITH UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

## **9. Executive Director Short-Term Contract Extension**

Sabo moved and Johnson seconded to amend the Executive Employment Agreement with Andy Wink, dated September 24, 2020, by adopting the proposed Agreement Amendment implementing the following key changes: 1. extend the agreement to April 30, 2023, with an indefinite renewal clause subject to the same termination clauses, and 2. amend the monthly gross salary to reflect a cost of living adjustment to the CY2022 salary. **MOTION CARRIED WITH UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

## **10. Future Meetings & Agenda Items**

2023 Board Meeting Schedule:

February 14-15 (Strategic Planning)

March 14

April 21 – post-election

May 9

June 9 (Annual In-Region Meeting)

August 8

September 12

October 10

November TBD (PME Meeting)

December 12

Sabo moved and Andrew seconded to approve the proposed scheduled board meeting dates with the updated April and June dates as discussed.

**MOTION CARRIED WITH UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

## **11. Adjourn**

Schonberg moved and Morgan seconded to adjourn at 12:38pm AKT.

**MOTION CARRIED WITH UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

*Board members in attendance: Andrew, Jackson, Johnson, Morgan, Niver, Sabo, Schonberg*

*Total meeting time: 3 hours, 38 minutes*