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MINUTES

February 21, 2002

USA/Kodiak Steering Committee

United Salmon Association Office, Kodiak

CALL TO ORDER: 4:20 PM

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Thom Wischer, Dan McFarland, Chris Myrick, Matt Keplinger

CALL-INS: Virginia Adams, Ross Kendall

OTHERS PRESENT: Erin Harrington, Oliver Holm, Harvey Goodell

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND JAN. 21 MINUTES:

Motion to approve minutes of Jan. Feb 7, 2002 meeting carried unanimously.

Motion to approve agenda with addition of discussion of payment of Cheryl Sutton, bill author, carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE IN/OUT:

Harrington reports that Dan Grant, skipper of the Cajun, sent correspondence about his concerns regarding price. A reply letter was also sent to Mr. Grant.

Wischer reported that a letter went out to members with delinquent assessments.

Wischer reported a letter was sent to Sen. Ben Stevens in support of ASMI reauthorization bill, SB 282, including support for directional control of 1% funds to be in the hands of the Salmon Marketing Committee, the ability to spend 1% funds in foreign marketing, and ability for ASMI to lobby in Washington, D.C.

UFA PAYMENT OF CHERYL SUTTON:

Wischer reported that USA and other United Fishermen of Alaska member organizations had received an email from UFA lobbyist Jerry McCune requesting that UFA members contribute funds to help pay Cheryl Sutton, professional bill author, for her help

producing fishery bills this year. Wischer said this was the first he had heard that Sutton was working for UFA and was unsure if UFA had decided to hire Sutton at the Petersburg meeting last fall; asked for guidance from board.

Holm said the board did not decide to hire Sutton at Petersburg, although some groups individually contributed funds.

Wischer reported organizations having contributed funds include DIPAC, PSWAC, CDFU, SEAS, PSVOA, NPFA and others

Adams suggested USA not move to provide funding because there was a lack of procedure when hiring Sutton.

Wischer suggested USA wait to hear from Bruce on what discussion was between USA and UFA

BUDGET REPORT:

1. Wischer presented findings of budget committee to Steering Committee: in 2002, USA is working on a \$37,658.80 deficit. Also, he reported that USA paid back taxes to the IRS.

Bob Allen is researching state tax issues.

2. McFarland reported that he has contacted 2/3 of the CIP fishermen who have not paid their 15% contribution from the fishing arrangement in 2001. He said the conversations were positive overall, but that he is only certain that about two people will pay in the next month.

Adams said names of those members who have not paid their dues, assessments, etc. should be posted at USA meetings in the future.

Wischer said the next newsletter should include a thank you to those people who paid their 15% assessment.

McFarland suggested that in the future we should arrange to have canneries take the funds directly out of paychecks.

Wischer suggested we may include that option in contractual negotiations in the upcoming year.

3. Wischer requested a discussion to change Harrington's employment status from contractual to employee.

Costs to the Association, at Harrington's current rate of \$12/hr, would be an additional \$1909 in federal taxes and \$748 in state unemployment taxes. (\$2657 total)

Myrick said the change would be a good way to make a commitment to Harrington and end the employment probation period.

Adams asked about any additional legal obligations, e.g. vacation time or sick leave, that exist under an employee/employer relationship.

Wischer said terms of employment are up to the employer to establish, with the exception of legal obligations regarding overtime (Time in excess of 8hrs/day / 40 hrs/wk is overtime). He said many of those obligations are sidestepped if a person is salaried.

Adams requested that Tom Gemmell at UFA be consulted to see how they do their employee relationships.

Harrington is directed to do further research regarding salary vs. hourly question.

4. Wischer reported money saving options, including reduction of phone bill, need attention.

Harrington reports Tom Gemmell has sent phone cards to USA from Costco.

Adams makes motion to have USA, including Schactler's business phone, operate on 100% phone card long distance system once the phone cards arrive.

Motion carries unanimously.

5. Wischer reported USA needs to investigate fundraising options or establish a fundraising committee.

McFarland reports that gaming permits for raffles can be borrowed from organizations that have them, including St. Mary's.

Myrick suggested a fundraiser similar to the KMXT Mardi Gras fundraiser would perhaps be appropriate.

Keplinger said options for Pull-Tab should be researched.

NEWSLETTER:

Adams proposed that newsletter address some of people's fears about upcoming years.

McFarland suggested we should stay upbeat and try to provide people with positive news.

Wischer said newsletter should include information about current legislation, including efforts to label salmon as organic, wild, etc.; the ASMI 1% reauthorization bill before the Alaska legislature.

Myrick said newsletter should take about what we, as an organization, are going to do in these changing times. This should include information about the marketing program outlined in the grant proposal.

Possibility of including a second, short mailing about negotiations is suggested.

Other possible newsletter items might include information about Board of Fish gillnet lead rule change, providing information about loss of harvest at Igvak.

BRISTOL BAY MEMBERSHIP:

Wischer reported he has had discussions with Buzz Ottem of Bristol Bay Marketing Association regarding the possibility of bringing BBMA under the USA umbrella. Wischer said he explained to Ottem that BBMA can exist independently but also be a part of USA. He said he will continue to work toward bringing BBMA into USA.

NORTHWEST SETNETTERS FOLLOWUP:

Wischer reported that NWSA had submitted the findings from their conversations with a fish broker and a processor. He said their findings included interesting information that could be used for negotiations, including information on retail sales and amrku pon the retail end. . He also said it seems that NWSA is done with their research and were not successful in their attempts to talk to processors on Cannery Row.

Wischer said it may be important to differentiate between companies that are their own brokers and companies that are not in future negotiations.

COMFISH:

Wischer reported that the first gubernatorial debate will take place at ComFish and may increase attendance at the event. UFA has solicited member organizations to supply questions for the debate.

Adams wants to find out who will be introducing the debate.

Wischer said UFA is likely trying to decide which candidate to endorse so it can do so at an early date.

Wischer appointed McFarland to organize ComFish booth.

NEXT MEETING:

Next meeting scheduled for Feb. 28, 4pm

ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 6:20.