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MINUTES

September 17, 2002

USA/Kodiak Steering Committee

United Salmon Association Office, Kodiak

Call to Order: 4:14

Steering Committee Members Present: Virginia Adams, Thom Wischer, Dan McFarland, Chris Myrick, Don Fox

Present via telephone: None

Others Present: Erin Harrington, Administrative Assistant, Lacey Berns, Hugh Wisner, Bob Bowhay, Eva Holm, Kyle Mead, Mary Jacobs

Approval of Minutes/Agenda:

Myrick moved to approve minutes of May 21, 2002 Steering Committee meeting. Adams seconded.

Adams noted that minutes of May 21 meeting reflected a hopeful tenet for a fruitful negotiations process that no longer exists.

Motion passed unanimously.

Adams moved to accept agenda, with addition of discussion of Salmon Task Force as #6 under New Business. Myrick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence In/Out:

Harrington reported that Ted Stevens had responded to our requests for information about the cold storage facility on the Coast Guard base. He enclosed a letter from the Coast Guard commander who said that shared use between the military and civilian/business interests is unusual, and that the facility is being used.

Harrington presented copied correspondence from Governor Knowles regarding a disaster declaration for the Bristol Bay area; and a letter from Governor Knowles to Secretary of Commerce Don Evans regarding the Chilean dumping investigations.

Harrington shared an article from Gourmet magazine's September 2002 edition comparing farmed and wild salmon.

Wischer noted that Adams, Wischer, and Harrington met with Ray Riutta, Executive Director of ASMI, on September 13. Wischer reported that the meeting was good and frank, and that Riutta plans to work to bring back credibility to ASMI.

Adams noted that three points were made in the conversation: that we recognized that ASMI's finances are limited; that ASMI should focus on differentiation between farmed and wild product; and that ASMI should look into the domestic market, where there is no product to respond to community desire.

Staff Reports:

Harrington reported that a grant was submitted to the US Department of Agriculture Value-Added Market Development Grant program, requesting \$18,896 to develop a regional marketing cooperative. An additional grant was submitted to the Alaska Conservation Foundation to produce an educational/marketing brochure about farmed and wild salmon. Harrington noted that both grants carried certain obligations and commitments, including staff time and energy.

Harrington reported that a marketing workshop was scheduled for September 20, with Dr. Quentin Fong of the Marine Advisory Program.

Harrington reported that a Community Salmon Forum was scheduled for September 26, to be facilitated by Dr. Connie Strode.

Wischer noted that ASMI board is scheduled to meet September 26 and 27.

Old Business:

Steering Committee Elections—Wischer noted that USA/Kodiak has not held elections recently. In order to reestablish staggered terms, he recommended that, in coming elections, reelected individuals hold 1-year terms, and that newly elected individuals hold 2-year terms. He also recommended that USA/Kodiak hold a general meeting of the membership to refocus the Association for the coming year.

Wischer moved to hold steering committee elections, McFarland seconded.

Lacey Berns noted that setnetters, in recent years, had missed out on opportunities to participate in fleetwide meetings.

Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

UFA Meeting: Adams recommended that UFA Marketing Committee work to encourage ASMI to have finely focused efforts.

Wischer was directed to communicate the needs and policies of USA to the UFA board as necessary.

Committee establishment: Wischer created the following committees to deal with appropriate issues:

Budget Committee: Myrick, Allen, Wischer, Harrington staff

Negotiating Committee: Adams, Kouremetis, Wischer, Keplinger to research issues related to contract maintenance, including ice prices and limited buying

Alternative Marketing Committee: Members as yet undesignated

Harrington was directed to contact members and encourage them to report any issues related to contract maintenance to the USA office.

Newsletter: Harrington reported that a newsletter is in the works.

Task Force:

Wischer reported that UFA is maintaining the web site for the Legislative Salmon Task Force. The website can be found at www.ufa-fish.org.

Next scheduled meeting:

Tuesday October 1, 2002, 4pm, USA office.