



Wild, Natural & Sustainable[®]

Board of Directors Teleconference
Monday, November 30, 2015
10:00 – 11:00 AM AKST

Draft Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barry Collier at 10:00 AM AKST

In attendance:

Barry Collier
Tomi Marsh
Mark Palmer
Kevin Adams
Allen Kimball
Ana Hoffman
Commissioner Hladick
Senator Stoltze

Others Present:

Larry Cotter
Susan Marks
Deb Tempel
Alexa Tonkovich
Nicole Stangeland
Bruce Schactler
Tyson Fick
Jeff Regnart
Dan Block
Tom Gemmell
Becky Monagle

Motion: Hladick moved to approve the draft agenda, seconded by Kimball, the motion passed unanimously.

An amendment to the minutes was made by Marsh to add on page 2: *Want to ensure a viable and efficient program focused on stock management only, **not going beyond the existing scope.***

Adams moved to approve the minutes as amended from the October 23, 2015 meeting; seconded by Marsh; the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Collier restated that:

We (the ASMI Board) is looking closely at the Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) program.

- *We are committed through the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) full audit, anticipated in spring 2016.*
- *Developing a transition plan for the next couple years.*
- *Want to ensure a viable and efficient program focused on stock management only, not going beyond the existing scope.*

Executive Director Tonkovich reported that the application period for the International Marketing Director position closed and that interviews would be conducted in Juneau at the end of next week. She also attended USAEDC in Baltimore two weeks ago, she is happy to report that our federal funding is 4.3 million for next year, a slight increase from last year.

There was no public comment. Chairman Collier confirmed that the public notice was properly done.

RFM program documents for board approval – Susan Marks – ASMI Sustainability -Director

Marks gave an introduction to the group regarding the importance of the documents and stressed that the Quality Management System (QMS) is to date the most important document for the Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) program. The QMS outlines the procedures we must follow internally and externally and creates consistency on how we deal with external stakeholders such as certification bodies (CBs). This has been reviewed by the RFM Committee and they are requesting the board approve the changes that are outlined.

Palmer shared his reservations regarding the removal of the sunset provision on the RFM committee and how this relates to the budget. He requested clarity regarding the future role of the RFM and Conformance Criteria (CCC) committees after the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) certification is achieved this spring.

Marks replied that once we receive GSSI recognition (not certification), we will be recognized as having met the GSSI global benchmark standards. She cautioned the group that once this is completed, the work is not finished. For instance the work toward a Fishery Standard Version 2 will continue with a goal of having this completed by October 2016.

There are program requirements mandated by both the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The FAO requires a comprehensive review of the standard every five years, and that the standard is formally looked at annually by the appropriate advisory committee; in this case, the CCC. Marks mentioned that the CCC will need to meet at least once a year, and she believes that can be via a teleconference. Marks confirmed that once we get through the GSSI audit the RFM committee's work should decrease but is unsure by how much.

Cotter mentioned that strategy is for RFM to be self-standing and successful, the committee is addressing the transition and will have a proposed plan to the ASMI board as soon as they can, it will be completed by October 2016 at the latest. The committee is working on a transition plan. At the recommendation of the Chair, Cotter will have a preliminary transition report ready by the

March 31 board meeting. Additionally, Marks will have a comprehensive report ready by the March meeting to provide the board a visual picture of what the requirements will be for the RFM program, including estimated staffing resources and estimated costs where feasible.

Palmer asked what ASMI needs by way of support for the RFM and CCC committees after the transition is made.

Cotter replied that is yet to be determined and is dependent on what the board wants. Many questions remain for the RFM committee to investigate and research. Questions such as: should the new owner be able to handle the program totally on its own, is that O.K? Or does the State of Alaska want a say in the process? Is this going to be an “Alaskan Centric” program? The RFM committee will be working on this to be able to provide a comprehensive report to the board as soon as they can.

Palmer asked for clarity on who is currently on the RFM team and their associated costs. Marks answered: herself, RS Standards (Peter Marshall, Mike Platt, Sam Peacock and Vito Romito) at a cost of \$289,00 with a contract thru June 30, 2016, Jeff Regnart FY16 estimated \$115,000, Edelman less than \$100,000, and Hannah Lindoff at 10 hours a week.

Palmer commented that he did not feel comfortable making a change to the sunset clause today when the full costs associated with it are not presented. He pointed out for FY 16 we have over \$500,000 in funds committed for this program. From a budget standpoint, Palmer wants the numbers and to know how much RFM and CCC committees will cost in the future, he does not see why it is necessary to remove the sunset clause today.

Marks replied that while the RFM committee was reviewing the QMS manual that it was felt by having a sunset date in place that it does not reflect a commitment from ASMI for the RFM committee. The RFM committee is an important part of the governance structure of the RFM Program, and if the clause remains, the language of the QMS will need to change and this will likely raise red flags with the GSSI auditors that a critical advisory committee will disband next year. Marshall stated that the auditors today and in the future will want to see a snapshot of the governing committees (RFM and CCC) and records of their meetings. By having a sunset clause, the board is essentially saying that they will not stand up a governing body in the future.

Collier clarified that even if we remove the sunset provision, that the board has not funded anything past June 30, 2015 for the RFM or CCC committees.

Palmer wants a better understanding of the budget and how ASMI can fund it.

Marsh commented that as the board member on the RFM committee that she feels that the work of the committee is very important to the Alaska Seafood industry on a whole. She felt that if removing the sunset date sooner than the fall of 2016 would benefit the global benchmarking process then it is a good idea to do it now.

Kimball asked if the removal of the sunset provision would change how the board governs the committee. Tonkovich confirmed that removing the sunset clause would not change any of the current committee policy and procedures that are currently in place for all ASMI committee's. Collier clarified that the board can make changes to the committee when and if they see the need.

Kimball agrees with Palmer on wanting the budget information, however, if removing the sunset provision makes ASMI and the RFM Program look stronger then he is for removing it.

Kimball moved that the board adopt the RFM Quality Management System and Procedures as modified; extending the duration of the RFM committee through removing the sunset provisions, applying ASMI by laws, and reviewing membership to ensure representation across all components of industry, (with the preface that funding for RFM is approved through June 30, 2016 and that anything beyond June 30, 2016 other than contracts already in place has to be reviewed and approved by the board); seconded by CO Hladick; Palmer abstained, all others were in favor. The motion passed.

Marks explained the changes to the RFM governance diagram, there were no questions.

Palmer moved that the board adopt the Alaska RFM governance diagram and supplementary test as modified; seconded by Marsh; the motion passed unanimously.

Marks explained the Overview of Alaska RFM Fisheries Standard (Conformance Criteria) Version 1.3 and Accompanying Scoring Guidance. The changes were limited to grammar, remove repetition, and improve specificity, and to better align with GSSI requirements. There were no questions.

Palmer moved that the board adopt Version 1.3 of the Fisheries Standard and accompanying Scoring Guidance Document as modified by the CCC; seconded by Kimball; the motion passed unanimously.

Marks informed the board that before the CCC can start their work on version 2.0 they will look to the ASMI board to approve the Scoping Document and that it will be ready for board approval in the near future.

Marks explained the Overview of Alaska RFM Chain of Custody Standard Version 2.4; this was reviewed by the Seafood Technical committee. The changes were limited to grammar, remove repetition, and improve specificity, and to better align with GSSI requirements. There were no questions.

CO Hladick moved to adopt the Version of 2.4 of the Chain of Custody Standard as modified by the Technical Committee; Kimball seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Collier noted that a few actions were taken electronically with making changes to the bylaws, committee policies and procedures and Mission Statement.

New Business

The Spring Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for March 31, 2016 in Juneau, Alaska.

ASMI committee structure and appointments will be tabled until the March 31st meeting.

Charge to Staff

Marsh requested a monthly RFM update, Marks commented it is being worked on.

CO Hladick made a motion to adjourn; Adams seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 AM.

Prepared by Deb Tempel