

were unsure on some meetings if we would have a quorum. Katie asked that board members respond to meeting notifications.

- b. Katie stated this was a tough year with the pandemic, the pipeline water disaster and poor chum return. We want to move past the pandemic but are faced with chum return uncertainty.
- c. A vast majority of the DIPAC staff have been vaccinated, and 100% of Snettisham are vaccinated. DIPAC has not had a positive case in the building, which we attribute to our strict protocols. Being closed has not been ideal, but it has been safe.
- d. Katie gave an update on staffing changes. Chris Kelley will be leaving DIPAC and this is his last report. Chris Holmes is our current Assistant Hatchery Manager that has been with DIPAC for a long time and will be filling the role of Hatchery Manager.
- e. With the closure of the Visitor Center, we had to lay-off two permanent employees however, they were able to stay on as Fish Technicians. We closed down all of the small aquariums, but should be up and running quickly when we re-open.
- f. Pipeline update: Katie has been sending updates to the board through the whole process. We did not lose any more fish than we did initially and maintained a portion of our BY19 coho, so we are able to maintain brood stock on those fish. We were also able to maintain brood year 20 chum, chinook and coho in incubators. We installed the 16" pipeline, we were forced to put in a backup water supply. Katie and Brock met with AEL&P and the upper stock pen repair is 5 years out so when we do the repair, we will have a backup water supply.
- g. Last meeting Katie discussed the potential for disaster relief funding. The loss of the pipeline was first declared a state disaster, followed by a federal disaster. We are getting denied on the state level and being redirected to FEMA to see how we can get reimbursed. We may be able to get disaster mitigation funds and will continue to seek those funds. The overall cost to DIPAC excluding labor was about \$140K and we may be eligible up to \$250K.
- h. We are experiencing very different outcomes from a few years ago with regards to returns and revenue and Katie is covering funding sources.
 1. The sportfish surcharge license fee gives us about \$300K, due to our pipeline break and losing BY19 chinook, we lost out on about \$23K of the \$46K for the DJ portion of that funding. The state wanted to make sure that we keep the chinook program going and will forward fund for the next year in good faith. Lars will speak to this during the Production Committee report. SB60 and HB80 will be heard twice and there should not be issue with things not being supported, we have been working on rallying support.
 2. STRP program: We are eligible for \$250K, a few hatcheries have received their funds and we think it is only a matter of time before we receive ours.
 3. Employee Retention Credit: We are eligible for \$200K and expect to see these funds sometime this year.
 4. Payroll Protection Program: This item will be discussed during the Executive Committee Report. Katie mentioned that we have not gone for this based on discussions from last year.
 5. CBJ funds: Pg. 65 of the board book lists the relief grants that we have received through CBJ and the state for the Visitor Center, roughly \$270K.
 6. Funding for Snettisham Chiller: We have applied for funding to replace one of the 40-year-old Snettisham chillers, however we received funding for both chillers. The first chiller is being funded through Chinook Mitigation Funds, and the second is being funded through the Northern Fund.
 7. Lena/Thane Chinook Program Funding: We applied and received \$110K and have funding for two years. There was discussion on 100% marking fish. Lars will talk about this in the production committee report.

8. State of Alaska Loan Fund: We have applied for \$2M from the State of Alaska Revolving Loan Fund and have received the first disbursement of \$800K. We will get quarterly disbursements for operating expenses.
- i. Katie does not expect a big return this year, the market is not as great as we would like it to be; however, we expect to see an increase in chum roe prices. Excursion Inlet is not opening this year. We have a two-year agreement with Ocean Beauty, they will be taking our fish to Petersburg and have assured us there will be tender capacity.

Jim Cartmill joined the meeting at 9:48am.

- j. We had an IHN outbreak in BY17 fish and expect a poor return on sockeye this year, and will be prepared in case there is a substantial shortfall in BY21 broodstock.
- k. Districts 11 and 15 will again be heavily restricted for Chinook conservation and Katie said to be prepared.
- l. With regards to sportfish, we shouldn't see too much impact with regards to the pipeline disaster however, 2022 could be a poor coho year.
- m. Katie shared an update from NOAA. With the changes in the Pacific Ocean for the better, we hope this is a trend with cold weather in the Pacific Northwest.
- n. Katie has been attending virtual Zoom meetings during COVID-19, and Eric has been staying involved with the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Katie is planning to take a seat on the enhancement subcommittee. Eric has expressed interest in staying involved and Katie will keep everyone updated on this.
- o. Update on TBR stocks – There have been issues in getting fish out due to Canada and COVID-19 that we have been working through.
- p. There have been issues in Tutka Bay and compatibility with that hatchery being in a State Park, it doesn't affect DIPAC in the long run as Boat Harbor is located in a State Marine Park.
- q. There have been discussions in revitalizing the wetlands in Fish Creek. This is a Southeast Alaska Watershed Council project and ADF&G is keeping us in the loop. Katie and Brock attended a meeting in January on this topic. They are aware of the Chinook out there and how important it is to the community.
- r. Board of Fish update – It has been pushed back until 2022 and Katie will have more information on this at the December board meeting.
- s. Katie gave an update on the outlook for 2021 tourism. At the December board meeting, the board voted to keep the Visitor Center closed. It is unlikely that we will have a cruise ship season coming to Southeast Alaska in 2021. This is the safest option for the DIPAC staff, there are a handful of employees that are not vaccinated and it would also be a big expense to operate tourism in the way that it has been presented as we will not be able to break even. We plan to have the decks open to guests, and we may be able to offer tours by appointment.
- t. Chum recirculation project – The project construction has been put on hold as we dealt with the pipeline response and our focus was on maintaining the fish. Brock and Katie have been working with Don Beard and Eric is working as a consultant on this project. We hope to get the drawings finalized by the end of the fiscal year then have it go out to bid. Questions were asked if the project has been put on hold? And if we have the design complete. Katie said that she has consulted with Eric and they are worried about moving forward with the project beyond the design aspect at this point as it is a scary project during times of financial uncertainty. We would like to put it on hold until we have better chum returns, however, we are still moving forward with getting the designs completed.
- u. Katie has had meetings with Tommy Sheridan about mariculture in Alaska and the hatchery programs with regards to kelp farms. DIPAC has been asked to support the cause. Katie asked the board for support in writing letters of support. Questions were asked about the cause;

Tommy Sheridan spoke to this. Several board members expressed support of kelp forests around DIPAC netpens and would like more information on this. **Tom Meiners moved to support the general idea of Katie writing letters of support in response to the Mariculture collaborative effort between kelp farming and hatcheries, Jim Cartmill 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

Break at 10:20am – Back at 10:30am

4. Managers Reports

4.1 Macaulay Salmon Hatchery Report – Chris Kelley

- a. Chris gave a big thank you to the staff and said that Jim Dorn hit all the points with regards to staff response to the pipeline water disaster. This winter was really hard and the crew did everything they could to keep fish alive.
- b. BY20 green to ponding survival was at 92% despite the pipeline break. Chris reminded everyone that we are finally back to normal with cooler water temperatures.
- c. Chris talked about the huge improvement in survival that we saw due to the dewatering device. We had a little above 90% survival through transports this year.
- d. BY20 chum inventory – Green egg total is 128,012,000, Eyed Egg total is 119,845,000, Pondered Fry total is 118,110,000 and Fry in the pens total 117,466,000.
- e. FY22 chum production fry release goals are as follows: Amalga Fry release goal total 48,000,000. Thane fry release goals total 24,000,000. MSH fry release goals total 12,000,000. Limestone fry release goals total 15,000,000. Boat Harbor fry release goals total 24,000,000. These release goals are dependent on 91% survivals.
- f. FY22 Chinook production totaled 1,250,000 in smolt release goals. MSH smolt release goal is 270,000. Fish Creek smolt release goal is 280,000. Auke Bay smolt release goal is 90,000. Thane smolt release goal is 200,000. Lena Cove smolt release goal is 200,000.
- g. FY22 coho production totaled 1,500,000 in smolt release goals. MSH smolt release goal is 300,000 and Thane smolt release goal is 700,000.
- h. Chris gave an update on staffing at MSH. Dakota Heacox and Alli Calkins have been long time seasonal fish technicians with DIPAC and are being promoted to permanent technicians. Shelly Marshall has stepped down. We now have 3 permanent staff that have come on as a result of having the bunkhouse. The MSH maintenance staff has remained unchanged.
- i. Chris gave an update on the outlook for chum rearing – everything is going well out there. We have had cold water temperatures all the way past sampling and our ponding season is moving back to normal.

Chris Knight joined the meeting at 10:42am

4.2 Snettisham Hatchery Report – Brock Meredith

- a. Brock is presenting the Snettisham Hatchery Report in place of Kevin Steck. The staff at Snettisham remains unchanged. The last person we hired was 6 years ago. All Snettisham staff have been vaccinated.
- b. Many of the Snettisham Hatchery core programs in FY21 saw some level of operational changes due to COVID-19 mitigation measures.
- c. FY22 production goals remain unchanged. 2021 saw an onsite eggtake of 11.4M eggs. 2021 saw 500,000 fry released into Sweetheart Lake. 2021 release goals total 9M sockeye smolt.
- d. Trans-Boundary River stock programs remain unchanged and continue to follow the Taku and Stikine Enhancement Plans as developed by the joint US/Canada enhancement subcommittee.

- e. 2021 Speel Lake sockeye enumeration program objectives remain unchanged. Unlike in 2020 where COVID-19 mitigation measures prevented hatchery staff from physically staffing the weir, the 2021 season will resume with normal operations. We will be providing ADF&G with daily escapement counts.
- f. BY 2019 Snettisham stock smolt is projected to release just under 9M pre-smolt fish in early June. We will be utilizing two release strategies with those being direct saltwater and the Port Snettisham Entrance release.
- g. BY 2020 fry inventory – all stocks totals are as follows: Tahltan 427,000, Tatsamenie Lake 1,406,000, Trapper Lake 346,000, Port Snettisham 9,800,000 and Sweetheart Lake 450,00 for a total inventory of 12,429,000. Hatchery water temperatures are cooler than we have seen in past years and as a result, outmigration is following a much more normal trend. 1 incubator of Snettisham stock fry was destroyed as a result of IHN.
- h. Snettisham saw a record snowfall with a total of 265". This made for a very busy winter.

4.3 Cost Benefit Analysis Report – Adam Zaleski

- a. The 2021 chum forecast is for 1.1M fish, which breaks down to 611,000 in common property and 262,000 in cost recovery. The 2021 sockeye forecast is for 106,100 fish. Sockeye BY17 suffered catastrophic losses due to IHN infection resulting in a very low forecast of our age 4 returns for 2021. The harvest share split for sockeye is about 50/50, so about 50,000 fish to both common property and cost recovery. Estimated chinook returns for 2021 are 2,300 large adults which is approximately 1.0% marine survival and for coho we are expecting about 44,000 fish which is 4.4% marine survival.
- b. Looking at our cost to value summary for FY21, the only program that had a value greater than 1 was the chinook program and that is due to the outside funding that we receive for that program. Overall, we came in below a value to cost ratio of 1, and this was primarily due to the very poor chum returns.
- c. Expectations for the FY22 programs cost to value is similar to the FY21 outcome with the expectations being that we will be far below cost recovery goals to break even.

5. Committee Reports

5.1 Executive Committee Report – Jim Dorn

- a. Jim stated that the committee met on March 25th. Katie gave an update to the committee on the pipeline break and repair and discussed the current standing with the unofficial "Alaska Salmon Hatchery Alliance".
- b. Jim Dorn talked about DIPAC's financial position and how we have applied for and received various grants and funding, both COVID-19 and non COVID-19 related. A long discussion regarding the PPP Loan took place. Board members expressed their desire and hesitancy regarding application for this loan. Some board members indicated the need for this money based on our dire financial position, while others conveyed the moral dilemma in applying for COVID-19 monies where the business was not affected by the pandemic. After lengthy discussion, a roll call vote was taken. **Norman Hughes moved to have DIPAC apply for the PPP loan, Tyler Emerson 2nd. Roll call vote was taken, 12 yea, 12 nay. Motion fails.**

5.2 Finance Committee Report– Sandy Williams

- a. Sandy stated that the committee met on March 24th and March 29th. They reviewed the FY21 outlook and the FY22 operating and capital budget. The second meeting was to clarify DIPAC's financial position and the potential to draw from reserves in FY21.
- b. **Amy Jo Meiners moved to approve the FY22 Operating Budget of \$5,226,673 as presented in the board packet, Mike Tagaban 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

- c. Amy Jo Meiners moved to approve the FY22 Capital Budget of \$127,000 as presented in the board packet, Mike Tagaban 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. Amy Jo moved to approve DIPAC's Executive Director to draw up to \$1,000,000 (if needed) from reserves in FY22 to properly cover operating expenses until the December board meeting, Jim Cartmill 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Katie clarified that if DIPAC does need to draw from the reserve fund, that she will first meet with the Executive Committee.

5.3 Governance Committee Report – Chris Knight

- a. Chris stated that the committee met twice and discussed the bylaws, nominations for leadership, process for getting more people in committee chairs and leadership, board training and general board makeup. The committee agreed on soliciting the board on chair positions and leadership via e-mail and general sign-up in the fall board meeting. The committee chair said that he will create Google spreadsheets to document interest to be carried over from year to year.
- b. Alex Wertheimer moved to accept the following slate of officers, Mike Tagaban 2nd: Jim Dorn, President. Amy Jo Meiners, Vice President. Sandy Williams & Chris McDowell, Treasurer. Mark Vinsel, Secretary. Mark motioned for friendly amendment to have Chris McDowell as Assistant to the Treasurer, rather than having two treasurers. Alex Wertheimer and Mike Tagaban agreed to friendly amendment. Motion passed unanimously.

5.4 Personnel Committee Report – Cindy Hansen

- a. Cindy stated the committee did not meet but will meet in the fall when they look at reviewing the performance evaluation of the Executive Director. Katie will start to go on an annual evaluations schedule with the board.

5.5 Production Committee Report – Lars Stangeland

- a. Lars stated that the committee met on March 22nd. The committee discussed ADF&G Sportfish Division's commitment to the DIPAC Chinook program, and the importance of the program to the commercial fishermen, and the Juneau sport fishing community. DIPAC is currently seeking funding for a portion of the production costs at Thane and Lena from PST Chinook Mitigation Funds. There will be more discussion on Chinook production next year if HB80 and SB60 do not pass in this year's legislative season. Sportfish have provided \$270K of this money after we lost the fish and \$110K of Chinook mitigation money was approved.
- b. The tagging trailer has arrived at DIPAC and the staff have invited members of the committee and the full board to come see it in action this fall if they are interested.
- c. Lars Stangeland moved to approve DIPAC staff to maintain all BY20 Chinook production for all 5 release sites, and take a full complement of Chinook eggs in BY21. Amy Jo Meiners 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

5.6 Scholarship Committee Report – Alex Wertheimer

- a. Application information and forms for the annual scholarship process for baccalaureate and vocation/technical scholarships were sent out on January 19th, 2021 and the application was posted on the DIPAC Website. The deadline for applications was March 22nd.
- b. We received 12 applications for baccalaureate scholarships and 1 application for vocation training scholarship. (5 JDHS, 5 TMHS, 2 HHS, and 1 Vocational application from HHS).
- c. The committee accepts technical training/vocational education applications year round and are reviewed on a case by case basis. The committee approved the vocational education applicant from Haines and awarded a \$3,000 scholarship for welding school.

- d. The selection committee review group consisted of Alex Wertheimer, Adam Zaleski, Frank Thrower and Scott McPherson. Due to COVID-19 safety protocols, the reviews were carried out via digitalizing all applications and meeting via Zoom. This process worked remarkably well. The committee awarded 5 baccalaureate scholarships, two to JDHS seniors, two to Thunder Mountain seniors, and one to a Haines High School senior. Each award is \$12,000 for four years. The committee awarded a total of \$63,000 in scholarships including the vocational education scholarship. DIPAC has now awarded a total of \$656,000 in scholarships since the inception of the program.
- e. There is one Ladd Macaulay Memorial Scholarship underway for an MS in Fisheries Science at the University of Alaska. Molly Payne was awarded the fellowship for the project “What Factors Make Certain Streams Attractive to Hatchery Strays”. Ms. Payne’s professor is Dr. Peter Westley. We have arranged for Molly to give her presentation on her thesis via Zoom at 5pm on Tuesday, April 13th. Katie has set up the Zoom arrangements, and will send out the link to all board members, staff, and other interested persons. The event is scheduled for an hour, allowing for 30 minutes for the presentation and 30 minutes for questions and discussion. Molly plans to complete her fellowship by spring/summer of 2022. Based on the current status of the fellowship endowment and projected distributions, we should be able to initiate a new fellowship in the fall of 2022.

Chris Knight left the meeting at 12:45pm

5.7 Tourism Committee Report – John George

- a. John stated that the committee did not meet and there has not been a need since tourism has been set aside for at least another year.

6. New Business

- a. December 4th, 2021 and December 11th, 2021 were the options to hold the Fall 2021 Board of Directors Meeting. **Amy Jo Meiners moved to have the Fall 2021 Board of Directors meeting on December 4th, 2021. Jim Cartmill 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

7. Meeting Adjourn

- a. **Mike Tagaban moved to meeting adjourn, Amy Jo 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

