

## **Guide Concession Program Workgroup**

Listening Session on Applications, Award Process, Evaluation Panel, and Ties - 6/29/23

Via Zoom

Jason Bunch, MGO, BGCSB chair and GCP Workgroup chair, opened with an overview of how the US Fish & Wildlife Service concession program process worked this year and his experience as a concessionaire. He said the imbalance on the scoring panel resulted in a wide discrepancy among raters, likely due to a poorly designed scoring matrix. He also said that the cost and administrative steps were extreme.

He presented a screen share of his personal recommendation after looking at various federal processes. The workgroup discussed various high-level strategies to streamline the application, create a clear and defensible application, and take steps to reduce appeals.

The public was invited to offer public comment on the topics of the day.

### **Joe Klutsch**

Has been involved in this conversation for years. Hopes to keep it simple and avoid bloated bureaucracy. It's difficult to find people with the relevant experience to validly evaluate applications. Likely will need mapping, Board of Game involvement, and coordination with enforcement. Camp location identification and other particulars will be necessary for applicants to provide—not just “checking the box.” Appeal process is fundamental to any public process.

### **Wayne Kubat**

Concerned with hypocritical actions by federal government. Mistakes happen but the government is not held accountable to same way as individuals/businesses. Need to consider number of complaints against a business. A successful business might lose their ability to operate if they lose a concession, which is bad for that company and family.

### **Tim Booch**

Does the application include a provision that if someone is already in place, do they have a plan to move if they lose the concession? That was a question on a federal application. His experience with DNR was that his appeal of a leasing issue took nine years. Where are camps going to be located? Who will manage the concession program? Needs to be someone with more experience with guiding than DNR. Big Game Commercial Services Board could oversee it and hire reviewers.

Workgroup members reinforced that the legislature will ultimately decide who runs the program and that any concession program will be a partnership among stakeholder agencies.