

**North Slope Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Public Teleconference Meeting**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office
Anchorage, Alaska

April 16, 2013
9:22 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Harry Brower, Chair
Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak
Theodore Frankson
Lee Kayotuk
James Nageak

Agency staff:

Eva Patton, Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management
Helen Armstrong, Anthropologist, Office of Subsistence Management
Jeff Brooks, Social Scientist, Office of Subsistence Management
Jack Lorrigan, Native Liaison, Office of Subsistence Management
Carl Johnson, Council Coordination Division Chief, Office of Subsistence Management

Brian Person, Wildlife Biologist, North Slope Borough

Roll Call and Establish Quorum: The Council has a current membership of 8 filled seats. Five Council members were present for the entire meeting and quorum was established.

Welcome and Introductions: The Council was introduced to new OSM Social Scientist, Jeff Brooks. Jeff previously worked with USFWS Refuges Division and will be assistance staff to the North Slope Regional Advisory Council and region.

Review and Adopt Agenda: The Council unanimously approved the agenda. (Follow up to agenda items remaining from the February 2013 meeting in Barrow) ***Asterisk identifies action item.**

Review and Comment on Draft Tribal Consultation Implementation Guidelines* Jack Lorrigan, Native Liaison, OSM provide a briefing and update on the Federal Subsistence draft tribal consultation implementation guidelines and the efforts of the Working Group to provide input from tribes in different regions of Alaska. NSRAC Vice Chair Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak has been very involved in this working group and she also provided insights into the process of developing guidelines for the Federal Subsistence Program. The Council was asked to review the draft document and provide comment to the Federal Subsistence Board. Council feedback includes the following:

- The Council stressed the importance of Federal Subsistence Board members to make the opportunity to “directly participate in or observe subsistence activities” as noted under Federal Subsistence Management training in the Tribal Consultation Draft Implementation Guidelines. The Council felt this would greatly help convey the meaning and way of subsistence and foster understanding.
- Council member Lee Kayotuk asked how he can help get involved with extending opportunities for the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) members to see summer subsistence activities around Kaktovik. Mr. Kayotuk graciously offered his assistance in networking and will work further with OSM to extend an invitation to the Board.
- Council Chair Harry Brower, Jr. asked about how the consultation would interact with the RAC’s role of interacting with the Board on subsistence regulatory proposals. The Council would like to have interaction roles and relationship between the Council, Tribes and Board further clarified how they will all work together.
- The Council wanted more information about how Native Corporations will be included in the consultation and heard by the Board. The Council would like to be kept informed as that policy gets worked out.
- The Council was concerned that Corporation consultation would make the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) process “subservient”. Helen Armstrong reconfirmed that ANILCA clearly defines the Board responsibility to support the Council recommendation unless there is a conservation or safety concern or the recommendations would impact subsistence users.
- Chair Harry Brower asks to how to structure the process so that Tribes, RACs, and Corporations discuss things and have an opportunity to have a unified voice before it goes to the Board.
- Chair Harry Brower feels that the region is often divided and stressed it is important to come together as a unified voice to be effective on issues of mutual concern.
- The Council is concerned with the current federal budget circumstances that there is barely enough funds to conduct the basic Council meetings and wonders how they will do more with less. However, the Council sees potential opportunity to tie together the meetings and discussions with Tribes, ANCSA corporations and the RAC’s and make all the work and communications more clear, direct and effective, rather than having lots of separate meetings and potential for miscommunications and overlap.
- Vice Chair, Rosemary Ahtuanguak comments that she has been participating in the Tribal Consultation work group and is very encouraged by the process and they have gained additional insight along the way and will continue to work with the policy implementation guidelines as they get input from the Tribes and Councils.
- The Council is concerned and frustrated by the fragmentation of subsistence management. They stressed that the segmentation of federal management into fish and wildlife, migratory birds, and marine mammals on top of dual/ different management with the State doesn’t reflect the whole way of life. Chair Harry Brower stressed that the Federal Subsistence Management program

should be mindful of all the resources that are important to communities and encompass all subsistence practices. In addition to the Tribes, RAC's, and Corporations coming together to address mutual concerns to the Federal Subsistence Board he recommends the North Slope Borough be engaged and all federal agencies involved in subsistence regulation such as NMFS, NPS, marine mammals, and migratory birds coordinate as well.

- The Council sees the efforts as going forward in a positive way and would like to stay informed on the developments and progress as it is being made on the implementation guidelines. The Council may have further input on how to best combine efforts through the Council meeting process.

Presentation of Proposed Rule on Rural Determination Process: Helen Armstrong, OSM, provided the Council with a briefing on the upcoming Rural Determination Review and opportunities to provide direction to the Federal Subsistence Board at the fall Council meetings. Public hearings are planned to be scheduled in conjunction with the Council meetings in regional hubs to solicit public recommendations on Rural Determination criteria. The Council provided recommendations to OSM for news venues and local radio stations to help distribute the information broadly. All Councils will receive a full briefing at the fall meeting and are asked to provide their guidance to the Board at that time.

Customary & Traditional Use Determination review Letter from Southeast RAC: Helen Armstrong, OSM, provided the Council with a briefing on the request by the Southeast Regional Advisory Council to review the use of Customary & Traditional Use Determinations. The SERAC would like all councils to receive a comprehensive and consistent presentation on the history of the development of C&T use and how it is applied by the Federal Subsistence Program. The Councils were provided with written materials to review will be provided a full briefing on this at the fall meeting cycle. The Councils are asked to consider how the use of C&T works for them and provide their recommendation to the Board at the fall meeting on whether to continue use of C&T determinations or if any modification are recommended.

OSM Updates: Helen Armstrong provided a brief update on budgets and staffing for OSM. Due to the sequester budgets have been cut and travel restrictions put in place for all DOI staff which hinders support to the Councils. Many changes at OSM including Subsistence Regional Director Pete Probasco who recently moved to USFWS Migratory Birds division. Helen announced that she will be retiring in May and stated how much she appreciated and will miss working with the North Slope Council. Council Chair Harry Brower also noted that he has been working with Helen and the North Slope Regional Advisory Council for 20 years and her knowledge and assistance on subsistence was greatly appreciated.

The State Federal MOU review was extended for the State Advisory Committee meetings and will be revisited again by the Federal Subsistence Board at their next upcoming work session.

Review Anaktuvuk Pass Controlled Use Area proposal to BOG*

The Council reviewed their draft proposal to the Board of Game on the Anaktuvuk Controlled Use Area which was approved by the Council at the February meeting with the plan for it to be further reviewed by the community before being submitted by the upcoming State wildlife regulatory deadline. The Council further discussed concerns by Council Chair Harry Brower that the Controlled Use Area language currently in place took many years and a lot of work by many people and groups to come to agreement and it was passed by the Board of Game at that time. Chair Brower stressed that to open the CUA language up to the Board at this time may actually jeopardize the subsistence protections currently in place. North Slope Borough wildlife biologist, Brian Person worked on the original CUA proposal and was able to provide the Council some insights to its history and process via teleconference.

*The Council made a motion and voted unanimously to support not submitting the Anaktuvuk Pass Controlled Use Area proposal to the Board of Game if the community of Anaktuvuk Pass was in agreement. (Subsequently Council member James Nageak did consult with his community of Anaktuvuk and stated over the phone they concurred to not submit the proposal at this time and wait until a later time if the circumstances seemed more favorable to the proposed additional CUA restrictions).

Council discussed closing comment and adjourned at approximately 12:20 p.m.

I certify to the best of my knowledge the forgoing minutes are accurate and complete.

Eva Patton, Designated Federal Officer
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

Harry K. Brower, Chair
North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its August 2013 public meeting. Any corrections or notations will be incorporated at that meeting.