

1                   SOUTHEAST ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2                   REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4                   PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6                   VOLUME III

7  
8                    ake, Alaska  
9                    March 1, 2007  
10                  9:00 o'clock a.m.

11  
12  
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 14  
15 Bertrand Adams, Chairman  
16 Michael Bangs  
17 Nicholas Davis  
18 Michael Douville  
19 Merle Hawkins  
20 Donald Hernandez  
21 Joe Hotch  
22 Harvey Kitka  
23 Patricia Phillips  
24 Richard Stokes  
25 Lee Wallace  
26  
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28  
29 Regional Council Coordinator, Robert Schroeder

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44 Recorded and transcribed by:

45  
46 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC  
47 700 W. Second Avenue  
48 Anchorage, AK 99501  
49 907-243-0668  
50 jpk@gci.net/sahile@gci.net

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kake, Alaska - 03/01/2007)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, we're going to go back into session here now so if you'd please take your seats.

Cal, do we have anyone on line.

MR. CASIPIT: Yes, we have Tricia O'Connor.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, Tricia, how you doing this morning.

MS. O'CONNOR: I'm doing real good there, Bert.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Good.

MS. O'CONNOR: I'm sorry I'm not there but they wouldn't fly me there.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, it would have been nice to have you here. But, you know, this technology is pretty important so I'm glad you are able to participate.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Everyone is settled now and we are officially now in session. I'm going to have Dr. Schroeder, you know, kind of review what we've gone through so far and what I want to do next, and I don't want to spend too much time on it, is go through the action items, and if we could do that in a timely manner I think we'll accomplish a lot right off the bat this morning.

Dr. Schroeder.

DR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Council still has a fair amount of work to do today. I think we're in reasonable shape in terms of schedule. I'd just like to highlight some of the things that need to be covered and recognizing that we'll need to move right along with them.

1                   This morning we should start out with  
2 finishing up the work on Chatham Strait sockeye. I  
3 think we had very good discussions yesterday and  
4 perhaps we're pretty close on that.

5  
6                   Our next item will be Item 17, which  
7 concerns the Makhnati Island subcommittee and we're  
8 hoping to have George Oviatt, who's the BLM member of  
9 the Federal Subsistence Board on line, and Tricia  
10 O'Connor has been talking to George, he was going to be  
11 flying down today but was weathered out, he's in  
12 Juneau, we believe.

13  
14                   We'd like to do Item 19 next, and that  
15 would be Tricia O'Connor would be representing Forest  
16 Service on the Tongass Land and Resource Management  
17 Plan Amendment Review.

18  
19                   We should then come back on the items  
20 that we've passed. Annual report, the annual report,  
21 as Council members know, is a chance for the Council to  
22 bring up issues to the Federal Subsistence Board that  
23 are issues of concern and to get a response from the  
24 Board. These are typically issues that don't quite  
25 fit, the proposal part of our meeting, so we should do  
26 that.

27  
28                   The Chairman and I are going to hold on  
29 the global warming discussion unless we have enough  
30 time to do that.

31  
32                   We should then look at the  
33 Ketchikan/Saxman rural determination update.

34  
35                   We have a number of agency reports that  
36 also need to take place and are quite important,  
37 particularly ones that are concerning the various  
38 budget things that are coming our way.

39  
40                   And we need to figure out a date and  
41 venue for the winter 2008 meeting, so that would be  
42 next year's meeting, as well as a number of other items  
43 that have been added to the agenda concerning eagle  
44 feathers, and concerning the Gustavus RFR.

45  
46                   We should close up for sure by 3:30 so  
47 we can meet the ferry at 4:30. We'll be monitoring the  
48 ferry schedule to see that it is in fact in port.

49  
50                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Dr.

1 Schroeder. So, again, I'd just like to publicly  
2 recognize the hospitality that Kake has extended to us  
3 here. We've had several organizations bring us food.  
4 They are fundraising activities for those particular  
5 organizations and we want to continue to support them  
6 as much as we can while we're here. There will be  
7 lunch served here and then, you know, we can count on  
8 dinner maybe on the ferry as we leave here.

9

10 Let's get back to the items at hand  
11 now. And I notice that Mr. Kookesh and Bob were over  
12 there talking when we came in and it seemed like they  
13 were talking about the Chatham Strait issue. So is  
14 there anything to add to the discussion here, Floyd,  
15 before we get started on the action items.

16

17 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. I did  
18 present the report yesterday and was accepted by the  
19 Council so it is in the hands of the Council and we do  
20 have some dialogue here and I was actually looking for,  
21 as we all should do, direction from the Council. But  
22 one of my recommendations and this was based on my  
23 totally agreeing with Mr. Douville on the  
24 extraterritorial jurisdiction and moving it to the very  
25 end, I believe that's the right thing to do. But for  
26 the action items, I believe it's up to this Council to  
27 -- to -- to do what they want -- or will -- or want  
28 with it and I believe that we should compile them  
29 myself and -- and start finding out who's roles are  
30 what in order to -- to resolve the -- the issue of the  
31 -- of the amounts necessary for subsistence for the --  
32 for the residents of Chatham Straits. And I believe  
33 that that can be done.

34

35 We did talk about some of the items,  
36 when you came in we were talking about some of the  
37 items that were out there but I believe that -- I think  
38 that roles need to be defined and we need to -- we need  
39 to put those in -- those in order. People do have  
40 responsibilities. And -- and my biggest concern is, as  
41 I mentioned to Bob, is that we can't -- can't just sit  
42 back and become a bureaucracy and -- and continue to  
43 allow -- allow -- allow people in undersize boats with  
44 undersized motors entering -- going into waters that  
45 they shouldn't be. And I think that's what it's all  
46 about, is about trying to meet their needs. But I  
47 believe that -- of the seven action items, I believe  
48 that some of them can be fixed.

49

50 I think the most -- I think the biggest

1 one that we should focus on for -- for the -- from the  
2 start, I would say would be No. 3.

3  
4 And that's all I have for now, if -- if  
5 I'm missing things -- there are other things in there  
6 that we -- we should talk about, such as community  
7 permits and permit stipulations to -- to focus on some  
8 of these issues here. And conservation concerns,  
9 because I believe, for example, the role of the Forest  
10 Service and in relation to community permits and the  
11 role of Fish and Game subsistence and their permit  
12 process, I think they need to start mirroring each  
13 other.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Floyd. And  
16 then, you know, as we were getting closer to last  
17 evening's discussion on this, I asked Mr. Ben VanAlen,  
18 you know, if these action items would assist and help  
19 solving the problems that we've been discussing here  
20 and then I got John Hilsinger's opinion on it and he  
21 believes so and of course, Bob, had a couple concerns  
22 there. The main thing I'm wanting to see here and I'm  
23 sure the Council will agree with me is to get everybody  
24 together and, you know, we can agree to disagree, but  
25 by the time that you're done you should be able to come  
26 out with some pretty good information and ways to solve  
27 and handle this situation so I think that's what we  
28 need to be focusing on.

29  
30 And with that, you know, knowing that  
31 these action items are probably not going to solve all  
32 our problems but at least it's a starting point for us  
33 to begin to do that.

34  
35 And what I would like to do now is take  
36 those action items and make them a part of our  
37 organization here. So I'm going to have Bob handle  
38 that portion of it. And, hopefully, you know, we'll be  
39 able to do it in a timely manner -- I'm still trying to  
40 not crowd everything in before we leave, okay. So  
41 let's be mindful of that as we go through the items  
42 today and through the rest of the agenda.

43  
44 Dr. Schroeder.

45  
46 Mr. Mike.

47  
48 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you. I have a  
49 question for you on Action Item 1, which is presently  
50 tabled. I would suggest we take Action Item 1 and

1 defer its action to the next meeting.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: When we come to that  
4 part of it, you know, when we take it off the table at  
5 the end of doing all the items, I think we can do that  
6 then.

7

8 MR. DOUVILLE: And I would also wanting  
9 to ask if Comm Fish is willing to work with us on these  
10 action items and is he willing to direct his Staff to  
11 do so also.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: John, you want to take  
14 that up.

15

16 MR. HILSINGER: Mr. Chairman. I've  
17 been through these action items and as I said  
18 yesterday, I think there's some elements here that we  
19 can work on and work on together and I think that they  
20 will help get us together and improve everyone's  
21 understanding of the issue and what the possibilities  
22 are. So certainly I would say Commercial Fisheries  
23 Division is willing to work on these issues -- to  
24 continue working on these issues as they have been.

25

26 There are some that go beyond just  
27 Commercial Fisheries Division, we've got Sportfish  
28 Division and also the Board of Fisheries is a big  
29 player in how we manage our fisheries, and I can't  
30 commit for Sportfish Division or the Board of  
31 Fisheries, what they're going to do. So I think,  
32 given, maybe just a little bit different approach, not  
33 so much on the actual element that's listed as an  
34 action item, but some of the preliminary material and I  
35 would look at No. 5 as one and also -- well, let me  
36 just talk about No. 5 then.

37

38 I think that the idea of closely  
39 managing and monitoring the fishery this coming season  
40 is a good one, and I think working toward improving  
41 estimation of the actual take of these fish in the  
42 fishery is also good.

43

44 And I think the action item of  
45 providing an update at the fall meeting is good. I  
46 don't know what we can do in terms of specific actions  
47 that we would take this season in the commercial  
48 fishery to try to reduce that harvest because we don't  
49 know where the harvest occurs exactly, we don't know  
50 when the harvest occurs exactly. And so I think we can

1 try to get that information so that we have it in the  
2 future but I wouldn't commit to taking specific actions  
3 and certainly without having our regional staff that  
4 manages the fishery involved in that.

5  
6 So I think if the focus of that is to  
7 try to manage and monitoring that fishery and gather  
8 the information from the fishery that will potentially  
9 help do those things in the future then, yeah, I would  
10 say that we're willing to do that. And we're certainly  
11 willing to report back on how it happened.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Before I forget, John,  
14 that Item No. 5, I think you don't need -- I don't  
15 think that we're expecting any real management  
16 decisions to come forth as a result of it, to me it's  
17 getting people together and gathering the information  
18 and then working on, you know, the management part  
19 later. I think you already alluded to that, but I  
20 think, you know, that's kind of what we're looking for  
21 here.

22  
23 MR. HILSINGER: Thank you, Mr.  
24 Chairman. I appreciate that and I would agree with  
25 that.

26  
27 No. 3 on the report, and the agreement  
28 on the data analysis, I think clearly that has to  
29 happen, we have to get -- number 1 we have to get the  
30 report finalized and number 2, we have to, at least,  
31 come to whatever agreement we can on the interpretation  
32 of that. I'm not sure how much of that will happen now  
33 -- between now and the season, you know, we're only two  
34 weeks away from the herring fishery and the beginning  
35 of salmon, and so -- but I think obviously that's  
36 something that we have to do and that we will do.

37  
38 But I just wanted to let you know that  
39 that may not happen between now and the beginning of  
40 the salmon season.

41  
42 And hen I think No. 6, the working on  
43 the passage at the falls is an excellent idea.

44  
45 No. 7 really isn't something that the  
46 Department has any control over. I think that if the  
47 individuals could some how work it out that would be  
48 good, but it's not something that the Department can  
49 kind of get itself in the middle of. But, you know,  
50 that's certainly a request you could make and hopefully

1 the other parties involved could work that out to a  
2 mutual satisfaction, but, you know, I don't have much  
3 of a feel for how possible that is.

4  
5 So hopefully that answered the  
6 question.

7  
8 Thank you.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, John. I  
11 appreciate that. And, again, you know, just to  
12 reiterate the fact that the important thing is to get  
13 the important players together and to start working on  
14 these issues. And, you know, you're not going to agree  
15 on everything.

16  
17 Let me tell you a story, I asked --  
18 when I was at the tribe, I asked a group to get  
19 together and work on a project and I got the Forest  
20 Service, the city and borough, the tribe and everyone  
21 all together; and I knew there were differences in  
22 there, and I says, I don't care whether you claw one  
23 another's teeth out or pull one another's hair or  
24 whatever, but by the time that you get out of this  
25 meeting you should all have a document that we can all  
26 live with, and I think that's what this Council is  
27 looking for. You know, agree to disagree and talk  
28 those issues out during your meetings but bring forth a  
29 document that we can look at and implement, you know,  
30 in a positive way.

31  
32 Thank you.

33  
34 Mr. Mike.

35  
36 MR. DOUVILLE: So then I could assume  
37 that's a yes to both of my questions.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Hilsinger.

40  
41 MR. HILSINGER: Mr. Chairman. Could  
42 you repeat the questions just so I'm clear.

43  
44 MR. DOUVILLE: I was asking you if you  
45 were willing to work with Federal Staff and so on, on  
46 these issues -- with the Chatham Strait issues and to  
47 direct your staff to work and share information. That  
48 effort was made to do that in Proposal 169, it was  
49 rejected, and that's what I'm asking you, are you  
50 willing to work with us to resolve some of these

1 issues, where before the Department was not?

2

3 MR. HILSINGER: Thank you. And I  
4 can't, of course, address what happened before but I  
5 would say, that, yes, we are willing to work with you  
6 and we have been here recently. I don't know what  
7 happened at the Board of Fisheries meeting and why that  
8 proposal was rejected but certainly we're willing to  
9 work with you and the Federal Staff to try to resolve  
10 some of these issues.

11

12 I don't know what that resolution will  
13 be but we're certainly willing.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Did you answer  
16 both of his -- are you satisfied with the answers  
17 there, Mike.

18

19 MR. DOUVILLE: He said, we, and I  
20 assume that means he would direct his staff to do the  
21 same thing.

22

23 MR. HILSINGER: Mr. Chairman, that's a  
24 yes.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Bob, did you  
27 have something to say as well.

28

29 Again, I just want to remind everyone,  
30 you know, we're -- I don't want to crowd everything in  
31 at the last minute, so let's see if we can handle this  
32 issue and go on to the next agenda item.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MR. THORSTENSON: Thank you. Mr.  
37 Chairman. When the new Commercial Fisheries Director  
38 who just got his job now at 12:01 a.m., today, was  
39 responding to Michael, I think that it's safe to say  
40 that the Southeast region Comm Fish folks, there's  
41 going to have to be some time and meeting of the minds.  
42 Proposal 169, for example, really didn't have a lot to  
43 bear with Comm Fish, it was a Board of Fisheries  
44 rejection of that proposal. So there's a whole -- and  
45 it was a very complex proposal. I think the idea of  
46 the needs of the community of Angoon were identified by  
47 that proposal, but as Mr. Kookesh and myself have  
48 discussed back and forth as to how to bridge that gap  
49 and address those needs, it's a much more complicated  
50 process than either just running a boat across to catch

1 fish or delivering a bunch of fish at Hidden Falls to a  
2 tender and what not, so that really wasn't in the  
3 director's purview.

4

5                   There's one thing that Mr. Kookesh  
6 brought up that I'd like to address and I don't speak  
7 on behalf of the Department, I'm just a public member,  
8 a public participant here, but it's very apparent that  
9 if the State is issuing community permits and the  
10 Federal government doesn't -- you know, the people  
11 under your purview and the people that you're dealing  
12 with and the U.S. Forest Service doesn't have the  
13 knowledge, there needs to be communication, there needs  
14 to be one system, there needs to be one way to deal  
15 with this, if the right hand's doing one thing and the  
16 left hand's doing one thing, that type of dual  
17 management or co-management has failed miserably in the  
18 Lower 48.

19

20                   There's a -- I believe No. 3 -- No. 2  
21 is straight up, makes all the sense in the world, and I  
22 think that that's probably ball parks, the 2,500  
23 perhaps and as much as 5,000 for subsistence needs for  
24 the community. That's something that your Staff, I  
25 think would be well advised to work on.

26

27                   No. 3, I believe with the types of  
28 needs and the fisheries that are just coming up, right  
29 around the corner with herring, then moving right into  
30 salmon and the other fisheries that need to be managed,  
31 that the -- I believe my knowledge of the way Southeast  
32 region works, and the Comm Fish and with all the  
33 different fisheries that are going to be managing  
34 coming up, that it's just going to be too crowded to  
35 try to be getting together and actually having a report  
36 by the fall. I believe that much more likely it would  
37 be to have a group get together in the fall and  
38 probably have a report later.

39

40                   Mr. Kookesh and I discussed this, the  
41 complex personalities involved being that Mr. VanAlen  
42 used to work within Southeast region Comm Fish and now  
43 he's in a different arena and there seems like there's  
44 a bit of controversy between his personality and the  
45 dueling personalities at Comm Fish in Southeast region,  
46 I believe that the director probably in his infinite  
47 wisdom as well as U.S. Forest Service, we could  
48 probably get a little bit of inter-disciplinary  
49 management and bring some folks, maybe a person or two  
50 from outside the Southeast Region that are involved in

1 Comm Fish that have dealt with these types of issues,  
2 perhaps False Pass, AYK, Kodiak, who knows, but I  
3 believe the Comm Fish director will be able to do that  
4 and I believe Mr. Ben VanAlen would probably be well  
5 suited as well to have a partner come in from a  
6 different region of the state and that way there'd be a  
7 way to kind of ground those folks and help break the  
8 tension between them rather than putting the same group  
9 back in the same room that came out with the crossed  
10 eyes last time.

11  
12                   The No. 7 is going to take a long, long  
13 time and I believe Mr. Kookesh addressed it may take up  
14 to a decade to kind of figure out the route. The most  
15 logical route to go after No. 7 would be to, I believe,  
16 to give the gentleman who made the proposal, John Berry  
17 and if he comes up with some better ideas and he can  
18 work those with the Department and present something by  
19 summer, I think that's unlikely but it would be a wise  
20 use of time to try to come up with some solution to  
21 provide fish. We know that the subsistence is not  
22 about just about having food in the freezer, it's not  
23 just about having somebody drop it off at your  
24 doorstep, a big part of the subsistence lifestyle is  
25 the actual gathering, it's the actual catching, and  
26 it's actually the hunting, it's the whole experience  
27 and you can't duplicate that experience by just  
28 dropping off a tote of fish on someone's doorstep, and  
29 I think to some people that may be an insult. But if  
30 the community of Angoon is willing, in the meantime,  
31 while Kanalku is rebuilding and we're getting to the  
32 problems at the falls and getting to the issues of how  
33 we rebuild this stock, in the meantime, I think the one  
34 clear place to get sockeye would be the test fishery in  
35 the Hawk Inlet Shore. The Hawk Inlet Shoreline test  
36 fishery is predominately testing for pink salmon bound  
37 for Lynn Canal and Taku River and Steven's Passage  
38 region, also catches incidental sockeye that are  
39 primarily northbound that are bound for Taku, Chilkoot,  
40 Chilkat, those sockeye are caught in the test fishery  
41 they're already going to be killed in the test fishery,  
42 on an average year it's up to 2,000 sockeye. It will  
43 be -- it will cost a little bit of money, it would be a  
44 little bit of increment in the Department's budget to  
45 probably separate those fish and tender them to Angoon,  
46 and probably once you tender some to Angoon you're  
47 probably going to end up having some folks wanting to  
48 tender some to Hoonah too. But I think the likelihood  
49 of those fish that are already going to be killed,  
50 already going to be sold, they're already going to go

1 on the market and they're from healthy, thriving stocks  
2 in large rivers would probably be much more likely to  
3 move into our overall plan than to go take a couple  
4 thousand fish from Sitkho Bay or Kook Lake where we're  
5 really not sure we've got the right escapement needs on  
6 every year and it also would take -- you know, put a  
7 big purse seiner right in the middle of a subsistence  
8 traditional area which might cause some serious  
9 animosity with the locals. So I think that's probably  
10 -- if there's an angle on No. 7, it takes a bit to be  
11 worked out, but I think the Hawk Inlet test fishery  
12 would be the angle to work on.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Thank you.  
17 John and Bob. We're going to move on to the action  
18 items now. We appreciate your participation. And,  
19 John, you know, the fact that you are here, you know,  
20 tells me and I'm sure the Council might feel that way  
21 too, is that you are willing to work with us and we  
22 appreciate your presence here. So, you know, keep  
23 plugging along with us and things will work out.

24

25 MR. HILSINGER: Thank you, Mr.  
26 Chairman. I think it proves the adage that we can  
27 disagree without being disagreeable and that's  
28 certainly my approach, so I appreciate that.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Great, thank you. I'm  
31 going to turn the time over now to -- and another  
32 thought here, you know, we're dealing with two  
33 different ideas here, one -- the subsistence to me is  
34 the land based economy, we live off the land, we thrive  
35 off the land, you know, the land, you know, is what  
36 provides us with the resources that we need to survive  
37 and then the other side of it, you know, is the cash  
38 economy, the commercial and sport aspect of it. And  
39 then we're caught between a rock and a hard place and  
40 the fact that we clash because of dual management  
41 issues. And, you know, those issues really need to be  
42 addressed the best that we can and come out with  
43 something that will benefit all.

44

45 So, Dr. Schroeder, please.

46

47 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman. I  
48 believe we want Council action on the action items --  
49 action on the action items.

50

1                   The first action item on the table has  
2 been tabled at this moment. There are six other action  
3 items. The Council could take these up individually.  
4 We've had a good deal of discussion on each action  
5 item. I think they could be acted on as a group at  
6 this time if that was the wish of the Council. We  
7 could entertain a motion to the effect either to act on  
8 them individually or to adopt them as a group at this  
9 time. These would be Action Items 2 through 7.

10  
11                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What's the wish of the  
12 Council on this. Mr. Douville.

13  
14                   MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman. I wish to  
15 defer Action Item 1 to the next meeting and the rest of  
16 them we can act on as a group is fine with me.

17  
18                   MR. BANGS: Second.

19  
20                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's moved and  
21 seconded to defer Action 1 to the next meeting.

22  
23                   MR. KITKA: Second.

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It was seconded two  
26 times, but we'll accept Mr. Bangs at this time, Mr.  
27 Kitka, because he beat you. And do we need to discuss  
28 this anymore?

29  
30                   (No comments)

31  
32                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No further discussion,  
33 I'm going to ask for a vote on this. All in favor  
34 please say aye.

35  
36                   IN UNISON: Aye.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed, same sign.

39  
40                   (No opposing votes)

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Carried. Dr.  
43 Schroeder, the other -- how does the Council want to --  
44 who wants to talk?

45  
46                   MR. CASIPIT: I just heard Bill Thomas  
47 on line.

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, sure, please, I'm  
50 sorry I didn't hear that. Mr. Thomas.

1 MR. THOMAS: Good morning, Mr. Chair,  
2 ladies and gentlemen. I know this is your last day and  
3 I'm hoping that I'm sure that you've had a successful  
4 several days in Kake. I've been listening to some of  
5 your deliberations and I think -- my personal reaction  
6 to the deliberations is very positive and it sounds  
7 like a cooperative effort is being extended on whatever  
8 deliberations I've been able to hear.

9  
10 But I just wanted to take this  
11 opportunity to say good morning to those of you who  
12 know me and those that I know, and I want to wish you  
13 every success. I know this is your last day of the  
14 meeting, and I want to wish you safe travels home and  
15 congratulations on another successful meeting and a job  
16 well done.

17  
18 That's all I have, Mr. Chairman. I  
19 just wanted to greet you and give you my blessings and  
20 wish you continued success.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, thank you, Bill.  
23 We're happy that you're on line with us, are you going  
24 to hang on there for awhile?

25  
26 MR. THOMAS: For a little bit, yes.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So we're going  
29 to be leaving this afternoon on the ferry, we'll be in  
30 Ketchikan tomorrow, I understand that we might be able  
31 to meet with you and maybe break bread together.

32  
33 MR. THOMAS: I'll look forward to that.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right, thank you.  
36 Dr. Schroeder, let's move on.

37  
38 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman. The next  
39 item on the agenda is Item No. 17 Makhnati Island  
40 subcommittee or working group progress report.

41  
42 Cal, do we have.....

43  
44 MR. KOOKESH: What -- what happened  
45 to.....

46  
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We need to do the  
48 action items.

49  
50 DR. SCHROEDER: I thought we voted on

1 our action items.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No, we voted to defer  
4 Action Item No. 1.  
5  
6 DR. SCHROEDER: Excuse me.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, I'll go ahead  
9 and ask the Council how do you want to handle these  
10 action items, do you want to take it as a whole or one  
11 by one?  
12  
13 (No comments)  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do you want to just  
16 take care of it as a package.  
17  
18 MR. DOUVILLE: We already did.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Or.....  
21  
22 MS. PHILLIPS: We already did that.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: .....you want to.....  
25  
26 DR. SCHROEDER: I thought we did them  
27 as a package.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.  
30  
31 MS. PHILLIPS: Could you read the  
32 motion to us, the last motion to us, please?  
33  
34 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)  
35  
36 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman. What my  
37 notes had that Mr. Douville's motion was to defer 1 and  
38 to act on the -- accept the others as a group.  
39  
40 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)  
41  
42 DR. SCHROEDER: That's why I thought we  
43 were done with this piece of work.  
44  
45 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, so that's  
48 cleared up for me then. I thought we were going to  
49 take the other items, you know, as a package, and we  
50 did by deferring No. 1, I'm cleared up on that now. So

1 are we wall satisfied with that?

2

3 MR. KOOKESH: What are we doing?

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh.

6

7 MR. KOOKESH: I thought we were going  
8 to prioritize them now.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, we've accepted  
11 it, I think you can maybe talk about prioritizing now.  
12 Which ones do you wish to handle in a prioritized way?

13

14 MR. KOOKESH: Well, since you're a  
15 member I'll look for you to provide some of that input,  
16 too.

17

18 But one of the things that I think  
19 needs to be brought out that was brought out yesterday,  
20 and hopefully I'm not out of order based on that  
21 motion, but one of the things that was brought up was  
22 -- by Patty -- Ms. -- Ms. Phillips, was the Board of  
23 Fisheries was not willing to do this but said that the  
24 existing Southeast Senier's Task Force could do this  
25 which was to address, establish -- or to address the  
26 Chatham Strait sockeye issues. And I'd like to see  
27 that -- that move forward. I don't know if we have any  
28 weight with them. And also move to have include one of  
29 our subsistence members to be a representative on this  
30 task force, I mean I thought we were working to move to  
31 resolve the dilemma of the Chatham Strait sockeyes.

32

33 And some of the things -- the other  
34 thing that I brought up -- brought up was -- that are  
35 out there is the -- is the permit stipulations. I  
36 don't know if you notice how permit stipulations work  
37 where -- where one -- where -- like for example Kanalku  
38 offers 25 and Basket Bay offers like 15, and if you  
39 asked somebody -- if you had a choice between 25 and 15  
40 where would you go for your sockeyes and the first  
41 thing -- the first answer is going to be I'm going to  
42 go where the 25 number is, I'm not going to go to the  
43 -- why should I run 15 miles to Basket Bay when I can  
44 just run behind Kanalku and get the 25, even though  
45 it's under voluntary closure.

46

47 I think that needs to be -- someone in  
48 the Department needs to start fixing those numbers  
49 because those numbers do not reflect the current needs  
50 of people, of families.

1                   It says permit stipulations and -- and  
2 -- and the other day -- and this is a little out of  
3 there but the other day we were talking about some --  
4 some -- someone -- someone mentioned one of the things  
5 the State does so well is they manage for abundance but  
6 then they talked about the cycles of salmon and there's  
7 times when the cycles are up and there's times when the  
8 cycles are down, but when they're managing for  
9 abundance in my opinion, they're managing when the  
10 cycles are up and -- and they're -- they're managing  
11 for abundance when the cycles are up and they're --  
12 they're managing for abundance when the cycles are  
13 down. There's got to be an impact there and maybe the  
14 sockeye -- the sockeye is a -- is the victim of that,  
15 managing for abundance when times are -- when runs are  
16 up and when they're down.

17  
18                   Something's going to give there.

19  
20                   And I believe that from -- from -- from  
21 looking at the -- like I said I think No. 3 -- I  
22 believe No. 3 really has to occur and with No. 7, I  
23 don't know how 7 will work but 7 can almost be married  
24 with No. 2. And we have to do something about the  
25 voluntary closure, I just don't want us to -- to be --  
26 to be sitting here and having somebody die out there  
27 with a beach seine in their boat and Chatham Straits,  
28 we got to get past that.

29  
30                   I know you're in a rush and you want to  
31 get this done but we're talking about people's way of  
32 life and their -- their food and their life.

33  
34                   MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman.

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Douville.

37  
38                   MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you. Well, I'd  
39 assume -- I won't assume, but I would have hoped that  
40 these things were listed in order of priority, our  
41 action, we accept them for work, if Floyd and his group  
42 would like to prioritize them and offer that we could  
43 still do that, I don't think that's a problem. Is that  
44 what we're looking for, an order of priority or they  
45 can still do that and we can add that to what we've  
46 already done, can't we?

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We can. And that's  
49 just what I was going to allude to, Mr. Kookesh, is  
50 that the working group, you know, can do the

1 prioritizing. We don't want to do too much micro-  
2 managing here and so that should be left up to the  
3 group as they get together.

4

5 MR. KOOKESH: What working group?  
6 Well, I want to say a couple more things before I close  
7 on prioritizing. We do need to address the issue of  
8 community permits on -- on both the State and the  
9 Federal part and address conservation concerns because  
10 they exist.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, I'm sure that,  
13 you know, these action items will address that --  
14 address those issues and, again, you know, I think  
15 whoever's a part of this working group will bring out  
16 those issues and I'd like for you to be a part of that,  
17 you know.

18

19 MR. KOOKESH: Easily.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Easily, sure. And go  
22 ahead Patty.

23

24 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
25 Adams. And thank you for bringing those concerns to  
26 our attention, Mr. Kookesh. I believe that we should  
27 add Action Item -- even though it's stated in the  
28 working draft, Action Item on permit stipulations, to  
29 refine those harvest numbers on the streams, I'm not  
30 familiar with the streams, Kanalku and Basket Bay and  
31 also Action Item to request a member, a designated  
32 representative on the Southeast Seiner's Task Force.  
33 And I believe your other concern was already in Action  
34 Item No. 7.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You know we're getting  
37 closer and closer to losing our meeting here, losing  
38 control of the meeting here. And I think it would be  
39 beneficial if we got a little group together, Floyd to  
40 Chair it and you, Patty, to talk about these issues  
41 that we want to add to this thing right now and then  
42 maybe later on we can bring it back, if that's okay  
43 with the Council and John and Bob, I'd like for you to  
44 be a part of that as well.

45

46 MS. PHILLIPS: Chairman Adams, you're  
47 the Chair, but I disagree, I think we're really close.  
48 I'm willing to make a motion to add those two action  
49 items and move on. But if the other Council feels the  
50 same way then I'll back off.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, then do you  
2 think this will cover all the issues, you know, we have  
3 things popping up here and there and I just don't want  
4 to dwell too much on it, we've done a lot on it so far  
5 already. If you think your motion will take care of  
6 the issue, fine, if not, then I would advocate for a  
7 committee to get together during lunchtime.

8

9 Why don't you go ahead. Why don't you  
10 go ahead and make your motion and we'll work it from  
11 there.

12

13 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
14 Adams. I move to add Action Item No. 8, is it 8?

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Correct.

17

18 MS. PHILLIPS: Action Item No. 8,  
19 permit stipulation, fix the harvest numbers on the  
20 permits for streams in Basket Bay and Kanalku and  
21 Action Item No. 9, request a designated representative  
22 to serve on the Southeast Seiner's Task Force.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Is there a  
25 second.

26

27 MR. DAVIS: Second.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's been seconded.  
30 Discussion.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Hearing none, all in  
35 favor.....

36

37 MR. THORSTENSON: I think I could  
38 probably qualify briefly.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, sorry, Bob, sure.

41

42 MR. THORSTENSON: This would work out  
43 well, the only problem is there are no designated seats  
44 on the task force. And there is a troll task force and  
45 a gillnet task force. And so my belief would be that  
46 the subsistence members and the Council are welcome to  
47 attend all the task force meetings but my belief would  
48 be you would probably find it incumbent upon, in times  
49 of coho shortage, especially, that you're going to want  
50 to have subsistence representatives to attend the

1 gillnet task force and the troll task force as well,  
2 but the purse seine task force does not have designated  
3 seats. So if you actually want to have a designated  
4 seat on a task force that does not have designated  
5 seats, you're just going to end up -- I mean you can  
6 designate someone to go but you're not going to really  
7 actually have a designated seat.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Bob.

10

11 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.

14

15 MS. PHILLIPS: Perhaps it should be  
16 rewording to have a RAC member participate in the task  
17 force process.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That will work.

20

21 MR. DOUVILLE: Was that an amendment?

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And it was.....

24

25 MS. PHILLIPS: That was a friendly  
26 amendment.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: A friendly amendment.

29 Okay. So.....

30

31 MS. PHILLIPS: Who was the second?

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh?

34

35 MS. PHILLIPS: Who was the second?

36

37 REPORTER: Mr. Davis.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You seconded it, it's

40 okay.

41

42 MR. DAVIS: (Nods affirmatively)

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. Mr.

45 Hernandez.

46

47 MR. HERNANDEZ: So question on the  
48 permit stipulations, so that would be a permit that  
49 somebody would have to work with the State, I guess  
50 that's Commercial Fisheries that manages that

1 subsistence fishery, right, so we'd need some  
2 cooperation there?

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I assume that would be  
5 correct, John, go ahead.

6

7 MR. HILSINGER: Mr. Chairman, yes.  
8 Commercial Fisheries Division issues those permits and  
9 the stipulations are put on the permit and they're  
10 adjusted year by year according to what the manager  
11 thinks is the best situation. So people could work  
12 with him if there's a difference on what the permit  
13 stipulation should be. And that could be done each  
14 year, it could be changed each year, it's not cast in  
15 stone.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you, John.

20

21 MS. HAWKINS: Bert.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Merle, go ahead.

24

25 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah, Action Item No. 8,  
26 about the community permits, I think we should be  
27 inclusive, she just mentioned two of the areas and I  
28 think we should include the other three that are  
29 mentioned in the document so we make sure we cover all  
30 the areas that are a part of this.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Merle, please clarify  
33 yourself.

34

35 MS. HAWKINS: There's five  
36 locations.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Okay.

39

40 MS. HAWKINS: ..... and she only  
41 mentioned two so.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

44

45 MS. HAWKINS: .....so all the areas,  
46 just to include all the areas where the permits are --  
47 community permits are issued.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thanks for bringing  
50 that to our attention and we'll go ahead and include

1 those. Okay. I'm going to call for the vote now, all  
2 in favor please say aye.

3

4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Carried. And then I  
11 would encourage, you know, John and Bob and Floyd and  
12 Patty and whoever would like to, get together during  
13 lunch and hash this out some more.

14

15 MR. KOOKESH: No.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You don't want to.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. KOOKESH: We're going to be on a  
22 ferry for five hours, you know.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You can do it on the  
25 ferry. Do it on the ferry, all right. That's -- you  
26 don't want your lunch spoiled, okay, all right, then  
27 that's a directive then to do it on the ferry.

28

29 Dr. Schroeder, please.

30

31 DR. SCHROEDER: There is a potential  
32 for continuing this meeting all night long in the  
33 ferry, if people don't have enough -- Staff will be  
34 there and our recorder will be there as well.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 DR. SCHROEDER: Cal, do we have Mr.  
39 Oviatt on the phone at this time.

40

41 MR. CASIPIT: Yes.

42

43 MR. OVIATT: I'm sorry we weren't able  
44 to fly into Kake, Mr. Chairman, and Board members,  
45 again, I apologize for not being able to be there but I  
46 will try to be there long distance.

47

48 MR. KOOKESH: Who is he?

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: George is on the

1 Federal Subsistence Board, he's representing the Bureau  
2 of Land Management, okay, and he's here to help us with  
3 the Makhnati Island issue.

4  
5 George, welcome, on line. We're trying  
6 to figure out a way to forgive you for not being here  
7 personally, but, you know, we'll work on that.

8  
9 (Laughter)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: But, you know, thank  
12 you for making yourself available.

13  
14 Dr. Schroeder, please.

15  
16 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman. On Page  
17 2 of your handout, those would be the supplemental  
18 materials, you'll see the Board's action on the  
19 Makhnati closure proposal. What the Board wanted to do  
20 and decided to do was to defer action on FP07-18 until  
21 a working group can address the issues raised by this  
22 proposal. But that this deferral should not exceed the  
23 next Board meeting on fisheries proposal. So what the  
24 Board did was it said, we'd really like a working group  
25 to examine these things and see if it can come to sort  
26 of -- make some progress on the issues raised and also  
27 be able to advise the Board on when a closure for the  
28 Makhnati Island area would be appropriate, what the  
29 criteria would be.

30  
31 This is BLM land and water, and BLM has  
32 gone ahead and come up with -- in consultation with  
33 Forest Service, with some suggestions on what a working  
34 group would look like and how that might be structured.  
35 The Board was really impressed with work that took  
36 place some years ago on the Unit 2 deer issue. Don  
37 Hernandez was the Chair of that group for the Council  
38 and it included a number of other Council members, Mike  
39 Douville and Dolly Garza and Mike Bangs as participants  
40 and it worked through a pretty thorny issue, not to the  
41 total 100 percent satisfaction of everyone but it  
42 basically moved the issue along for people on Prince of  
43 Wales.

44  
45 I think the Board's hope, if not  
46 anticipation, would be that the Council would make some  
47 progress here.

48  
49 Now, under the rules that we operate  
50 under a working group of citizens that advised the

1 Federal government needs to be in line with the  
2 provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the  
3 way that that can be done is if the group is a  
4 subcommittee of the Council. I think the Council's  
5 familiar with how that works. What that means is that  
6 the subcommittee reports back to the Council and the  
7 Council then takes whatever recommendations or actions  
8 or suggestions that come out of the subcommittee, it  
9 acts on those and at its pleasure transmits those to  
10 the Federal Subsistence Board. In this case what the  
11 Board wants to do is hear from this working group  
12 through the Council at its next fisheries meeting which  
13 would be next December.

14

15 On Page 125 of your handout are some  
16 Staff suggestions on how a working group might be  
17 constituted. Perhaps it would be good for George to go  
18 through these if -- do you have a copy of these George?

19

20 MR. OVIATT: I don't.

21

22 DR. SCHROEDER: Well, then I guess I  
23 better do it.

24

25 MR. OVIATT: Would you please.

26

27 DR. SCHROEDER: What took place is on  
28 the record at the Anchorage Board meeting, Fisheries  
29 meeting in January, Mr. Oviatt made a motion to do this  
30 deferral and set up a working group and included some  
31 of the language that's on Page 125. The basic idea was  
32 to get a group of the people who are concerned with  
33 herring issues in Sitka Sound together as a  
34 subcommittee to start discussing these things.

35

36 The draft -- let met take one second  
37 here -- the draft charges to the committee included --  
38 now these are suggested charges -- identified five  
39 items.

40

41 The first item consisted of  
42 identifying, collating and reviewing available  
43 biological and social data concerning the herring  
44 fishery around the Makhnati Island area.

45

46 The second item was to identify key  
47 issues and consensus items.

48

49 The third was to make a recommendation  
50 to the Council on the deferred Makhnati Island proposal

1 and to document different points of view if a consensus  
2 wasn't reached by this working group.

3

4 Four, to develop criteria that could be  
5 used by the Federal in-season manager to open or close  
6 the Federal public waters of the Makhnati Island area.

7

8 And the fifth was to develop a final  
9 report to the Council.

10

11 On the record at the Board meeting was  
12 the suggestion that any subcommittee that would be  
13 dealing with this issue should include representatives  
14 of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, representatives of the  
15 Department of Fish and Game, representatives of the  
16 commercial herring seiners, people from the city and  
17 borough of Sitka, from the local advisory committee,  
18 from SERAC, and someone from the Bureau of Land  
19 Management, and from USDA Forest Service who would be  
20 non-voting members on such a subcommittee.

21

22 The Staff also did a very rough  
23 timeline which was basically working back from the  
24 Board meeting where this report was supposed to take  
25 place so if you say, okay, we're going to do a report  
26 at the Fisheries Board meeting, that the Board will  
27 have, which I believe is scheduled for December this  
28 year, well, then you need to have certain things ready  
29 for this Council in September. If you back up from  
30 that, you recognize that you need to get going  
31 basically right away here.

32

33 So those are Staff suggestions.

34

35 The one other item in here is a letter  
36 from Sarah Gilbertson, who is the Liaison from the  
37 State on subsistence issues and that's found on Pages  
38 126 and 127 and Sarah states due to the limited Staff  
39 time and other considerations we are unable to actively  
40 participate in this working group and offers to provide  
41 information requests, through Ms. Gilbertson and that  
42 she would work with the Liaison Team and the Department  
43 to insure that there was a response to those.

44

45 Mr. Chairman, that's my introduction.  
46 What should come out of this would be a Council action  
47 on whether or not it wishes to request forming a  
48 subcommittee to look at this and if the answer is yes,  
49 I believe it would be good to have some suggestion  
50 about when this activity should commence and then

1 identify a Council member and/or Staff members or  
2 member of the seiner group, since we have Bob here, to  
3 put together what the charge would be and would write  
4 up and say, well, this is -- this is why the  
5 subcommittee is meeting and this is what it's going to  
6 do.

7

8 So with that I'd like to turn it over  
9 to George and get his comments on this as the land  
10 manager in charge.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, George, this is  
13 Bert here. As Bob said he would like to have your  
14 comments. What I would like to pose to you is what is  
15 a good size for this committee. I've always been under  
16 the impression, you know, from past experience, that  
17 the less people you have on it the better, the more  
18 people you have, you know, causes a lot of confusion  
19 and you don't have things -- it's hard to get things  
20 done. But I'd like for you to answer that, too, as  
21 well as the comments that you are going to make at this  
22 time.

23

24 Thanks.

25

26 MR. OVIATT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
27 Members of the Board. Well, I think there was a number  
28 of things that we struggled with and asking a group to  
29 come together to help, maybe provide some additional  
30 information, one of the things we struggled with was  
31 just what was the impact of commercial fishing on the  
32 Makhnati Island subsistence. And I think there's some  
33 reports and various things that have been done by, I  
34 believe, the Sitka Tribe, and maybe even the Forest  
35 Service that could be provided to this group to review  
36 and provide us with your take on that or this working  
37 group's take on this.

38

39 The other thing that I believe that we  
40 struggled with, both BLM and the Forest Service, and we  
41 would ask the Forest Service to be our in-season  
42 managers because they do have presence right at Sitka,  
43 is to help us understand maybe some of the criteria the  
44 in-season manager might use in making decisions as to  
45 the herring fishery as to ongoing.

46

47 I'm very disappointed that the State is  
48 not going to be able to participate. I felt that they  
49 were a very important piece of this, however, I do  
50 believe if a working group is put together, if they

1 come up with issues that they could ask the State to  
2 respond and maybe get them engaged that way. I know it  
3 won't be quite as effective.

4

5 I agree with you, Mr. Chairman, that  
6 the smaller the group, the better the outcome. I kind  
7 of like to have an odd number so if there isn't  
8 consensus at least we'll have maybe a tie-breaker, but  
9 that isn't too important either. I think keeping the  
10 group down to certainly less than 10, five to seven if  
11 we could would be advisable.

12

13 I'm open for any other questions that  
14 the Board, or Mr. Chairman, you may have and I know the  
15 Forest Service is there to also help answer any  
16 questions.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Very good, thank you,  
19 George. Mr. Douville has a question for you.

20

21 MR. DOUVILLE: One of the question's is  
22 the State stance still the same, they do not want to  
23 participate and the other is that there's a portion of  
24 this second page that says as with all proposals, the  
25 Department, again, will submit written comments on this  
26 issue, the next time is before the Federal Subsistence  
27 Board for consideration. To me that is circumventing  
28 the process. Chairman Littlefield was very adamant all  
29 this information must go through the Advisory  
30 Committee. For the State to be able to withhold  
31 comment on any of this stuff and go directly with  
32 comments to the Board is sidestepping the process and  
33 it should not be allowed and it hasn't been in the  
34 past, and it's of great concern to me.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you, Mike.  
37 John, will you address the State issue, please, maybe  
38 you've changed their minds.

39

40 MR. HILSINGER: Thank you, Mr.  
41 Chairman. I'm not aware that the State position has  
42 changed any. And this is similar to the State position  
43 on the subcommittee that the Southcentral Regional  
44 Advisory Council formed to deal with Kenai River  
45 subsistence fisheries. The Department is more than  
46 happy to provide any of its biological information that  
47 would help move this process forward. The only thing  
48 that we've asked is that those requests go through the  
49 subsistence liaison so that they can be coordinated and  
50 everybody on the State side is aware of what the

1 information is that's been passed. And while that  
2 might seem a little bureaucratic is the reason for it  
3 is that we've had some experiences already with the  
4 Kenai Peninsula work group, where there has been some  
5 miscommunication that's created some hard feelings  
6 where people talk to some of the staff and get an  
7 impression of what the State's going to do and then  
8 when that turns out not to be true, people are  
9 disappointed and angry because it seems like our  
10 position has changed but in reality it's just that the  
11 communication didn't occur between the right people,  
12 and we'd like to avoid that.

13

14 I talked to Bill Davidson, and he said  
15 that he's more than happy to meet with the seiners, the  
16 Sitka Tribe of Alaska and the other subsistence users  
17 in Sitka next month when everybody's there for the  
18 fishery. And so I think that, you know, we can  
19 certainly provide positive input into this through  
20 information and through the meeting that Bill's going  
21 to have. You know, I think everyone that read our  
22 comments, that were presented to the RAC at the fall  
23 meeting and were presented to the Federal Subsistence  
24 Board realizes that the State has great concerns about  
25 a closure. We think it may actually turn out to be  
26 detrimental to subsistence uses, not favorable, and we  
27 also think that before a group begins to develop  
28 criteria for specific area closures there needs to be  
29 an overall policy adopted by the Federal Subsistence  
30 Board that provides policy, procedures and criteria and  
31 guidelines for Federal closures overall and so that's  
32 the basis of our position, and as I said as far as I  
33 know that has not changed.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MS. DANGLE LORRIGAN: Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you, John.

40

41 MS. DANGLE LORRIGAN: Excuse me, Mr.  
42 Chairman. This is Helen Dangle Lorrigan from Sitka  
43 Tribe of Alaska and I just wanted to let you know that  
44 myself and Mike Miller are here from Sitka Tribe.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you. I  
47 didn't get your name.

48

49 MS. DANGLE LORRIGAN: Helen Dangle  
50 Lorrigan.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, all right, Helen,  
2 okay, I know you.

3  
4 MS. DANGLE LORRIGAN: And Mike Miller  
5 is also here.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thanks. Is that you  
8 Bill.

9  
10 MR. MILLER: No, this is Mike in Sitka,  
11 I just wanted to say that we are on line and listening  
12 to this conversation. If you need any updates from our  
13 interactions with the State so far this year we could  
14 give, you know, a brief update or if you have any  
15 questions as to where we are on this end of things,  
16 we'd be happy to answer them.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Why don't you  
19 take a couple of minutes and do that, Mike.

20  
21 MR. MILLER: Okay, thanks, Mr.  
22 Chairman. Again, my name's Mike Miller, I'm the  
23 chairman of the Sitka Tribe's Herring at this time.  
24 And I guess we've -- you know it's getting closer to  
25 herring season this year and, of course, after we left  
26 Anchorage we were, I think, having a pretty positive  
27 outlook on the potential for this working group to come  
28 together and come to some agreement on how things  
29 should go from here but we have had a pre-season  
30 meeting with the State and actually there were some  
31 radio interviews that were done with the State  
32 management here and they're consistent, I guess, with  
33 the stand, as reported by the State representative  
34 there, the feeling was -- well, they didn't say  
35 anything about budget or time, they just basically  
36 didn't want to be involved in a process that was  
37 missing some of the things they were looking for.

38  
39 We did have, as I said, the pre-season  
40 meeting, where the tribe and the processors, the  
41 Department and the fishermen were there planning for  
42 this year's meeting. The Makhnati proposal actually  
43 did come up at that meeting, we were not quite sure why  
44 it was on the agenda for this year's fishery because  
45 obviously nothing's happened this year but that  
46 actually was supposed to be just information but the  
47 State did, at that meeting, I guess, say they didn't  
48 want to discuss it and then they went into discussion  
49 of why they opposed it and why they thought it was  
50 harmful and why they were better interpreters of ANILCA

1 than we were and things like that. So it actually got  
2 to be quite controversial and I think really steered  
3 some of the fishermen against us that had been, you  
4 know, working with us and that was, I guess, a bit  
5 frustrating but we'll continue on.

6  
7 And that's kind of where it's at right  
8 now, we -- I know there was interest from the  
9 processors in being a part of this group because they  
10 actually represent large groups of fishermen and at the  
11 end of the day you have to move the fish and so they've  
12 been a group that's also been active with the tribe in  
13 the past and it's a lot smaller group to pick from,  
14 obviously there's only five or six processors  
15 representing all 50 fishermen, so that's one group you  
16 might keep in mind as you look at the subcommittee  
17 composition.

18  
19 But I think like Mr. Oviatt, I'm pretty  
20 disappointed that the State is unwilling to come to the  
21 table at this time. At the pre-season meeting they  
22 went from issuing their concerns -- expressing their  
23 concerns on why they weren't in the process and so I  
24 specifically asked if they would be a part of the  
25 process, and invited them and they turned around and  
26 said, no, so that's -- I guess is about all we can do  
27 and hopefully we'll continue on and maybe they'll be  
28 able to come into it a bit later.

29  
30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike. Bob,  
33 would you like to let us know where your position on  
34 this is, is your group willing to participate in this  
35 process?

36  
37 MR. THORSTENSON: Yeah, thank you. I'm  
38 not an official representative of the Sitka Herring  
39 Fishermen's Association but I do some consulting work  
40 with them on other issues. I spoke last night with the  
41 president of the association, Scott McAllister, and he  
42 said he was eagerly awaiting the meetings, together  
43 with Sitka Tribe and Mike Miller and he said that he  
44 had Ron Porter and the rest of the 51 purse seiners are  
45 going to be very active participants in whatever  
46 designation -- I believe, Ron Porter, Mike, is Ron  
47 Porter generally the contact person for the herring  
48 fishermen?

49  
50 MR. MILLER: Yeah, this is Mike, Mr.

1 Chairman. In the last few years I think Ron has been  
2 supportive. It's actually very interesting to hear  
3 that the president, Mr. McAllister, has changed his --  
4 he, at the call in meeting with the Department, after  
5 the discussion finished he said he absolutely would not  
6 be involved in any more meetings on this issue. And so  
7 I guess something has changed apparently.

8  
9 MR. THORSTENSON: Yeah, you know, I  
10 don't have a deep history of this, my history is  
11 involved predominately working on equal split, which  
12 the local Sitka processors are involved in, but the  
13 non-Alaska or non-Sitka processors aren't in favor of  
14 so -- and it was a Board of Fish issue. But I spoke  
15 with Mr. McAllister last night and from our  
16 conversation I have no rea -- he was eager to meet with  
17 you folks at the -- when the herring seiners arrive in  
18 Sitka and I don't think that --maybe -- maybe that was  
19 a change, I didn't realize there had been some water  
20 under the bridge between now and -- between then and  
21 now but that's the position of the Sitka herring  
22 seiners right now.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Okay.  
27 Hearing all this then I think maybe we are at a point  
28 where we can start identifying people to serve on this  
29 subcommittee. Helen, does Sitka Tribes have someone in  
30 mind?

31  
32 MR. DANGLE LORRIGAN: Mr. Chair. At  
33 this point it would probably be Mike Miller, our acting  
34 chair for our herring committee or Woody Widmark, our  
35 tribal chair.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. As mentioned  
38 earlier, you know, we would like to keep this group as  
39 -- I think maybe I can get the Council's take on it,  
40 too, but as I and George had indicated, the smaller the  
41 group the better, and, you know, I think we're going to  
42 have to identify one person, it looks like, you know,  
43 from each of these agencies and we need to have it  
44 balanced so that it isn't even in case somebody needs  
45 to break a tie in a voting situation.

46  
47 But anyhow, you know, I think the  
48 Council needs to talk about this as well. Mike, go  
49 ahead.  
50

1 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
2 We have had some success, everybody wasn't happy in the  
3 deer planning committee but I suggest that we use that  
4 as sort of a -- it worked and we should follow a  
5 similar sort of pattern in addressing this, and if the  
6 State and whoever does not want to participate, that's  
7 their choice, I don't think it should derail anything  
8 that we do, we should move forward and certainly extend  
9 the opportunity for them to reconsider. But I do not  
10 believe that non-participation by any group should slow  
11 this process down.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Maybe I  
14 can get Don Hernandez, you know, feel on this. Do you  
15 think a large or small group is workable, I know that  
16 you guys did a real good job with your group. How many  
17 was there, a dozen or so people on that?

18  
19 MR. HERNANDEZ: I think we had at least  
20 10 and it was important to have a balanced mix and we  
21 achieved that. And I also have to say that having the  
22 Department of Fish and Game's participation, I felt,  
23 was very important to the success of our meeting, you  
24 know, I thought we made some real good process there in  
25 resolving differences between State and Federal  
26 management and there was a lot of cooperation which has  
27 really benefited all the users.

28  
29 So I'm sorry to hear the State won't be  
30 participating.

31  
32 But in this situation, I'm thinking  
33 that we don't have as many affected users so 10 would  
34 be probably more than necessary. I'm looking at what's  
35 here with seven, possibly eight participants with the  
36 processors, two non-voting entities, that would leave  
37 it at either five or six voting members. That's  
38 probably a workable number, but with six voting members  
39 it might be hard to, you know, not come to a deadlock  
40 so take a close look at what the remaining six would  
41 be.

42  
43 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Mike.

46  
47 MR. DOUVILLE: I'm not sure if this is  
48 going to be a subcommittee of the RAC, it hasn't been  
49 said, but if it is I might add that it must follow the  
50 guidelines and rules set down by Title VIII in dealing

1 with subsistence issues, that you cannot deviate from  
2 that. And that was quite clear in the deer planning  
3 process and I don't think this should be considered any  
4 different.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And you're correct in  
7 that assumption. I think one of the first things that  
8 we need to do here is determine whether we want to have  
9 this as a subcommittee of the RAC. You know right  
10 after the meeting in Anchorage, you know, I had  
11 meetings with Steve and some of his Staff people and  
12 they thought it would be a good idea to come from this  
13 RAC, the committee, so maybe we could make that as the  
14 first action item for this committee is to talk about  
15 that and see if we wanted to have it come from here.

16  
17 Mr. Bangs, did you have something?

18  
19 MR. BANGS: Yes, thank you, Mr.  
20 Chairman. I just was wondering if we could hear Mr.  
21 Kitka's perspective on this because it's his place of  
22 residence.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kitka.

25  
26 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am  
27 a member of this and also a member of the Sitka  
28 community. And before we get started, I probably would  
29 like to make motion that we form a subcommittee to work  
30 on this, and then work on it from there.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Harvey.

33  
34 MR. KOOKESH: Second.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And it's been  
37 seconded. Discussion.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 MR. STOKES: Question.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Question's been  
44 called, all in favor please say aye.

45  
46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed.

49  
50 (No opposing votes)

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The motion is carried.  
2 We now have authorization to form that committee. I  
3 guess the next thing we can do is consider the make up.

4  
5 Mr. Bangs.

6  
7 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
8 would make a motion to add a processor position to the  
9 make up that we have written down there so far and also  
10 to leave the door open and encourage the State to  
11 participate.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike. And,  
14 you know, I was going to suggest that we do leave the  
15 open for the State. I don't know how much influence  
16 John has right now but we're going to really count on  
17 you to help us out in this matter, John.

18  
19 So we're going to add the processor,  
20 that's good. And that brings the number up to -- okay,  
21 you want to keep it under 10.

22  
23 MS. PHILLIPS: (Nodding head)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty was nodding her.  
26 Is everybody in agreement with that?

27  
28 (Council nods affirmatively)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

31  
32 MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is that George.

35  
36 MR. MILLER: No, sir, this is Mike  
37 again in Sitka. I wonder if I could just make a quick  
38 comment on the draft here.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

41  
42 MR. MILLER: I guess in looking, you  
43 know, there's been some interest in bringing in the  
44 city and borough and having that as a seat on there but  
45 I guess I'm not quite sure if that really is something  
46 that would work out that well or not. I think they  
47 represent such a broad group of people that it might be  
48 problematic for them in identifying somebody. But one  
49 thing to keep in mind, too, is that the tribe does have  
50 a government to government relationship and agreement

1 between them and the city and so, you know, there might  
2 even be some conflicts just because of that. So I  
3 don't think that we necessarily need somebody  
4 representing the city at this meeting, or as part of  
5 the group.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. What does the  
8 Council feel about that.

9  
10 Floyd, and then Don.

11  
12 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. It would  
13 seem that it would be in the best interest of this  
14 group to be all encompassing.

15  
16 MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman.

17  
18 MR. KOOKESH: That you can certainly  
19 have an odd number but you should -- you should -- you  
20 should value everybody's opinions.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Floyd.  
23 And, Don, if you don't mind.....

24  
25 MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: .....we've got Big  
28 Bill on the line there -- okay, thanks. Go ahead,  
29 Bill.

30  
31 MR. THOMAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
32 I think including the municipality is very noble, but I  
33 don't think it'd be very productive. Like it was  
34 mentioned earlier, they're quite a diverse group and  
35 while this activity is within the borough of Sitka, I  
36 think to have a person from the assembly seated on this  
37 Council that you're discussing has a very high  
38 likelihood of being problematic in more ways than you  
39 would like.

40  
41 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Thomas,  
44 we appreciate that comment.

45  
46 Mr. Hernandez.

47  
48 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.  
49 Chairman. Also Mr. Thomas. Yeah, I was going to ask  
50 about the idea of having the city and borough on there

1 and then Mr. Miller brought up that point and I think --  
2 I could see where that also would be problematic with  
3 the amount of diversity within the city. I was also  
4 going to suggest that if you had another -- it's  
5 essentially a government agency, that should also be a  
6 non-voting member as the other government agencies are.  
7 If the city and borough wanted to have somebody, you  
8 know, on there just to keep track of what's going on,  
9 with maybe even some input, but it should definitely be  
10 non-voting and that would make it -- I think that would  
11 bring it to five voting entities which might be  
12 beneficial.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's something to  
15 consider. Are you in agreement with that Patty, I saw  
16 you nodding your head.

17

18 MS. PHILLIPS: It's a good idea.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What about the other  
21 Council members.

22

23 MR. DOUVILLE: I agree.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We can keep  
26 them on there but they would be non-voting. All right.  
27 Anything else.

28

29 Mike, is that appropriate, you think,  
30 from your perspective?

31

32 MR. MILLER: Yeah, I guess that is a  
33 good middle ground and I appreciate the comments. I  
34 know it's really important to include everybody here  
35 but obviously the city government is a lot more open to  
36 lobbying from various groups and trying to represent  
37 everybody it might make it so burdensome that it would  
38 slow the whole process down. But having them as an  
39 advisor and non-voting I think it a really good idea  
40 there.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, so be it then.  
43 We've got from the Sitka Tribes, Mike Miller or Woody,  
44 which would it be. We need to maybe knock it down to  
45 one. Helen, do you have -- is that the order that you  
46 suggested.

47

48 MS. DANGLE LORRIGAN: It would probably  
49 be one or the other but most likely.....

50

1 REPORTER: Cal. Cal.  
2  
3 MS. DANGLE LORRIGAN: .....be Mike  
4 Miller. I think -- I'm pretty sure it would be Mike  
5 Miller.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. When will you  
8 be sure.  
9  
10 MS. DANGLE LORRIGAN: It might be  
11 something we might have to discuss with our Council for  
12 an official rep but it's a working group, probably not,  
13 just say Mike Miller.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.  
16  
17 (Laughter)  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Dr. Schroeder, do you  
20 have something.  
21  
22 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman. I would  
23 remind the Council that our next step is to communicate  
24 with the Federal Subsistence Board and say we met, we  
25 considered this, we'd like to proceed in this way. And  
26 ask the Board -- the Board has the authority to form a  
27 subcommittee -- to allow us to form a subcommittee, and  
28 it would be good when we get further along in this  
29 process to identify some Council members to work with  
30 Staff to write up the charge and direction a little bit  
31 clearer than we have here just in these notes.  
32  
33 I'm assuming that George's Staff would  
34 basically be a lead on that working with Forest Service  
35 Staff as well.  
36  
37 MR. OVIATT: Mr. Chairman.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, George.  
40  
41 MR. OVIATT: Yes, we would take the  
42 lead but we would work with Forest Service on that.  
43 And what Bob has laid out as a strategy is exactly what  
44 would need to happen, is, you would propose something  
45 to us, and then we would give -- I assume, Bob, we  
46 would then write our task from that.  
47  
48 DR. SCHROEDER: Yes, George, I think  
49 that's the way it would work. Somewhere in this  
50 discussion we should -- I'm hoping the Council will

1 address it would like to get moving on this. There is  
2 a window of opportunity because everyone who's  
3 concerned about herring in Sitka Sound is going to be  
4 in Sitka Sound in Sitka during the season. It's also,  
5 I noted, on your March 5 Board meeting you do have an  
6 item as an update on this, perhaps we can just move  
7 right along and have something in place for the Board  
8 to consider at that time.

9

10 MR. OVIATT: Mr. Chairman, this is  
11 George again. That would really -- that would really  
12 be good if we had something for us to consider. I  
13 think our next meeting is in April; is that right, Bob?

14

15 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Kessler gave me a  
16 sign saying this was Monday.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 DR. SCHROEDER: Maybe it's Tuesday.

21

22 MR. OVIATT: Well, I was talking about  
23 if -- well, okay. We could take it up as other action  
24 when we do the public hearings on what we have both the  
25 fisheries in the Kenai and wildlife coming up in April  
26 and May, I believe.

27

28 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chairman.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, is that you  
31 Mike.

32

33 MR. ARDIZZONE: This is Chuck

34 Ardizzone.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, Chuck, okay.

37

38 MR. ARDIZZONE: With BLM. I was just  
39 going to say, Mr. Oviatt, there's a work group meeting  
40 for the Board on the 5th of March, I think that's the  
41 one that Bob's referring to.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. Yeah, that's --  
44 what is it, next Monday or Tuesday.

45

46 MR. KESSLER: Monday. This Monday.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: This Monday. Where  
49 are we now?

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, we're in Kake,  
4 aren't we.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. It looks like  
9 we've pretty much done our part. You know, I do want  
10 to make the Council aware I have talked to Harvey, you  
11 know, already and he's agreed to serve, you know,  
12 representing the Council and I think it's most  
13 appropriate because we are in his turf, and if that's  
14 fine with the Council that's the way it will.

15

16 MR. DOUVILLE: Say that again.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Pardon.

19

20 MR. DOUVILLE: Say that again.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I said I've asked  
23 Harvey to represent the Council on this committee and I  
24 think it's appropriate because it's from his turf, and  
25 if it's okay, you know, with the Council, you know,  
26 that's the way it will be.

27

28 Patty.

29

30 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
31 Adams. I think there's some confusion. We made a  
32 motion to approve forming of the task force on the  
33 Makhnati Island herring. You selected Harvey Kitka to  
34 serve as the RAC member on the subcommittee and so now  
35 the motion we made is going to go to the Federal  
36 Subsistence Board as a recommendation and they're going  
37 to take it up and form the task force. Is that what I  
38 understand now?

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's what I  
41 understand, but Bob or George could clarify that.  
42 George, chime in there please.

43

44 MR. OVIATT: Well, that's what I  
45 understand. How did it work with the deer working  
46 group, Bob, could you inform me.

47

48 DR. SCHROEDER: George, the deer  
49 working group was something initiated by the Council,  
50 so the Council sent a request to the Federal

1 Subsistence Board and said, well, we want to do this  
2 and then it had some draft language saying how it  
3 wanted things to be constituted and what it would do.  
4 The Board pretty much took that and approved, it did  
5 made some recommendations for that particular working  
6 group on composition. This one is a little bit  
7 different issue because it was the Board asking the  
8 Council to do a working group. So we're a little bit  
9 further along there because this is something the Board  
10 wants to happen. But the Board just under the Federal  
11 Advisory Committee Act, the Board authorizes  
12 subcommittees and so the Board needs to say, yes, you  
13 are a subcommittee and we approve of you forming for  
14 the purposes laid out therein.

15

16 MR. OVIATT: And I assume if we had  
17 advice or whatever we would provide it at that time.

18

19 DR. SCHROEDER: That's right and what I  
20 was going to suggest is that Council members work with  
21 Chuck and me or other Forest Service Staff in writing  
22 up, not something that's really long, but probably a  
23 couple pages that outlines things a little bit more  
24 clearly following on the Staff notes that are before  
25 the Council.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.

28

29 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
30 Thank you, Dr. Schroeder for that clarification. And I  
31 know you recognize that time is of the essence because  
32 the herring are going to be milling around soon.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. And it is even  
35 more of an essence because we've only got a year to do  
36 this.

37

38 Merle.

39

40 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah, on Page 125 it  
41 shows the timeline, so February, our meeting, the  
42 Council develops final subcommittee charges and it  
43 sounds like we're forming the committee also. And then  
44 in March the Federal Subsistence Board authorizes that  
45 formation. And then they show the whole timeline. By  
46 December of this year or by January of '08 all the  
47 information will be presented to the Federal  
48 Subsistence Board to make a decision, so -- but I think  
49 we need to work on -- I'm not sure about how to go  
50 about this, if we should select the chairman now or if

1 the Board will do that, or the committee will do that.  
2 I'm not so familiar with how they do things here.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Merle. It  
5 says develops final committee charges, that's what  
6 we're doing, we're supposed to be doing now. Does that  
7 mean that we have to go through the process of  
8 appointing a committee member or is that going to be  
9 taken care of through another process, George, please  
10 let us know what that process is.

11  
12 MR. OVIATT: I'm going to need a bit of  
13 help, too, so Dr. Schroeder or Chuck, could you help  
14 out with this.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, I asked you  
17 George because I thought you had the answers to  
18 everything, but, you know, you can delegate.

19  
20 (Laughter)

21  
22 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Chuck.

25  
26 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yeah, I think what we  
27 would like to have is your okay with what's listed for  
28 subcommittee draft charges, if that's okay with the  
29 Council, and at least select who you would like to be  
30 on the subcommittee, maybe not the exact person but who  
31 we need to pull people from to be on the committee.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Chuck.  
34 We've done that. As far as the RAC is concerned, you  
35 know, we'd like to have Harvey Kitka represent the  
36 Council on that committee.

37  
38 And then -- okay, I'm being interrupted  
39 here, Harvey, go ahead.

40  
41 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
42 really believe it'd be a little more advantageous for  
43 us if we had another member from the RAC on this  
44 Council.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

47  
48 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chairman. Sorry, maybe  
49 I said something a little bit wrong. But besides  
50 myself, I think we should have two members from the RAC

1 on this Council.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. What's the  
4 Council feel about that. Mr. Hernandez.

5

6 MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman. On our  
7 deer subcommittee we had another alternate member that  
8 was from the Council, that's an option here. And I  
9 think I'd also recommend that maybe the Council make  
10 the recommendation that Mr. Kitka chair the committee,  
11 I think that'd be appropriate.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Recommendation taken.  
14 What's the feeling of the Council, should we have  
15 another person from the Council on the committee or an  
16 alternate as the other committee had before.

17

18 Mr. Kookesh.

19

20 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. I've sort  
21 of watched the last -- the last meeting that we -- and  
22 the issue we just had before this where the attendees  
23 came from Kake and Hoonah and there was so much  
24 problems with their rooms and per diems and I don't  
25 know if it's -- if the system's ever going to be fixed  
26 but it does make it difficult when you have to pay out  
27 of your own pocket, and we shouldn't be doing that and  
28 you're asking for people to come from other communities  
29 and there's no support when you get to the community.  
30 You're left hanging. And then you -- you need to fix  
31 that if you're going to ask people to participate.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. That will be  
34 taken under consideration. Mike, please.

35

36 MR. BANGS: I would just ask if the  
37 Council had anyone else that generally participates in  
38 the fishery or who is generally there for the fishery.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Who eats eggs?

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, go ahead.

47

48 MR. MILLER: This is Mike in Sitka.  
49 That is an interesting question, you know, because we  
50 are, of course having Sitka represented through the

1 Sitka Tribe, but we are recognizing and I think most of  
2 the Board members are end users of this and it's a lot  
3 bigger issue than just Sitka, so there might be some  
4 consideration of either through another Council member  
5 as Mr. Kitka recommended or some other person that  
6 could represent a larger group -- population throughout  
7 the state here, because the eggs go everywhere.

8

9 MR. DAVIS: I'll go.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you. I  
12 got a volunteer already. Nick Davis has offered to  
13 share his services. So we'll go ahead and accept that.

14

15 MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Merle.

18

19 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah, I'd be willing to  
20 be an alternate. I'll probably be attending the clan  
21 conference in Sitka, I think that'd be a good time to  
22 meet. And also the fact that, you know, we can do a  
23 lot of meetings by teleconference. And I'm sure with  
24 Sitka coordinating this and the Forest Service helping,  
25 we can be productive.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, an alternate has  
28 volunteered as well. An alternate, as I understand it,  
29 is that if one or the other can't make it then they  
30 need to have that person's vote or participation in it,  
31 so that's how I understand an alternate is. So is that  
32 kind of what you're looking at Merle?

33

34 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, good. So if  
37 Harvey or Nick, you know, for some reason can't attend  
38 any of the meetings then she will fill in for them.

39

40 Why don't we -- Tom.

41

42 DR. SCHROEDER: He's volunteering for  
43 the committee.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead Tom.

48

49 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. I just  
50 wanted to follow up.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Please identify  
2 yourself, Tom.

3  
4 MR. KRON: Tom Kron, statewide support  
5 division chief for OSM. The Office of Subsistence  
6 Management provides support for Council members to  
7 travel to Council meetings, and historically we've  
8 provided support when such a committee is formed by the  
9 Board under the Council for a member to be supported  
10 for their travel to participate.

11  
12 And I just wanted to -- consistent with  
13 what we did in the past with the Unit 2 Deer Committee,  
14 for example, OSM would provide travel support for a  
15 Council member to participate in this process. We want  
16 the Council's to be engaged in the process.

17  
18 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Tom, you said a  
21 Council member, we've designated two people to be on  
22 the committee as well as an alternate. Can you  
23 address, that please.

24  
25 MR. KRON: Again, consistent with what  
26 we've done in other parts of the state, you know,  
27 basically what I'm saying is we would be willing to pay  
28 for travel, per diem, airplanes, ferries, those sort of  
29 things for a Council member to participate in the  
30 process.

31  
32 Thank you.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So it's my  
35 understanding then -- what I'm hearing you say is that  
36 you would be taking care of only one Council member and  
37 the other Council member would have to, maybe pick it  
38 up from some other source.

39  
40 MR. KRON: (Nods affirmatively)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs.

43  
44 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
45 With the Unit 2 Deer Subcommittee we had three and  
46 sometimes four Council members that were paid, their  
47 travel and accommodations were paid for. And we went,  
48 you know, to several different meetings.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh. Go ahead, Tom.

1 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, again,  
2 Mr. Kitka is from Sitka, and, again, what I was  
3 offering is we could provide support for a Council  
4 member to travel to the meeting to cover the travel  
5 cost and the per diem.

6

7 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. That clarifies  
10 everything. So Nick's, you know, expenses would be  
11 taken care of since Mr. Kitka is from Sitka.

12

13 Floyd.

14

15 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. What you  
16 say and what you do can be two different things, so --  
17 so you fix the problems and -- and I've never met you  
18 before but apparently the system has been improved  
19 where travel, room, per diem is all going to be there,  
20 is that what you're telling us, because that's what I  
21 expressed a concern about a few minutes ago.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Tom.

24

25 MR. KRON: We work real closely with  
26 Bob and Melinda on all of these issues, and the effort  
27 is to make it as seamless and, you know, basically  
28 provide the support for the Council members in their  
29 travel. But, you know, the reality is all kinds of  
30 things happen, people get stuck because of weather, you  
31 know, they're not able to make connection, and we  
32 endeavor to try and make this work well so it's not a  
33 problem. You know the last thing we want at any of our  
34 Council meetings is to have everybody around the table  
35 upset because their travel was all screwed up. So we  
36 endeavor to make sure that doesn't happen but, again, a  
37 large part of it depends on Bob and Melinda for the  
38 Southeast Council, you know, working to get the  
39 reservations and everything set up and then essentially  
40 we're covering the costs and getting the per diem  
41 advances and those sort of things and then handling the  
42 per diem closeout after the meetings.

43

44 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Let's take  
47 a break and maybe we can sideline and talk about this  
48 some more.

49

50 (Off record)

1 (On record)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Let's get back to our  
4 places.

5

6 (Pause)

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We're back in session  
9 now. I think on this particular issue, you know, we're  
10 pretty much ready to move on. So unless there's  
11 anything anyone else would like to bring up and discuss  
12 we will move on to the next agenda.

13

14 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Douville, go  
17 ahead.

18

19 MR. DOUVILLE: I think we are done  
20 pretty much with that. There was some comment made  
21 about travel and so on. And I think as RAC members we  
22 need to be responsible in providing updated addresses,  
23 phone numbers, emails and stuff so we have good  
24 communication with the people that support us. It  
25 makes it easier for them to arrange travel and so on.  
26 And I think that Melinda and Staff has done an  
27 excellent job. I've had no problems on this trip, or  
28 getting any of my materials and I'd like to thank you  
29 for your effort.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike. And  
32 I'm sure that they really enjoy hearing that kind of  
33 comment as well. So Dr. Schroeder you have something.

34

35 DR. SCHROEDER: Just as we finish up on  
36 Makhnati, I think the intention of the Council is  
37 pretty clear. One thing I heard was that the Council  
38 really wants to take advantage of this herring season  
39 which will have, basically all the principal players in  
40 Sitka. And so I'm hearing that the Council would like  
41 the Federal program to move along so that there can be  
42 at least an initial meeting during this herring season.  
43 Probably piggybacking on some of the other meetings  
44 that are being held.

45

46 The other thing that I wanted to draw  
47 the Council's attention to would be what the draft  
48 charges are. The draft charges that are listed here  
49 come -- they're really close to what the Board asked  
50 the Council to do and wanted this working group to do.

1 They're pretty narrow and just in some of my  
2 conversations, both with Both Thorstenson and Harvey, I  
3 really think there should be an item that is a little  
4 bit more general, as well, to look at the -- have this  
5 working group examining the larger issues concerning  
6 commercial and subsistence herring harvest in Sitka  
7 Sound.

8

9 So that's, at this point, a coordinator  
10 recommendation, but basically whenever you get someone  
11 talking about herring in Sitka Sound they're looking at  
12 a bigger picture rather than the narrow picture of  
13 what's exclusively happening in Makhnati Island.

14

15 So perhaps the Council could say  
16 whether they'd like that to be part of the charge here  
17 and Staff would make it happen.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

20

21 MR. KOOKESH: Question.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Question.

24

25 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, I've got a  
26 question.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Floyd, go ahead.

29

30 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. I just was  
31 talking to Mr. Kitka here and on number 4 on the draft  
32 charges to subcommittee, when you're developing the  
33 criteria, was that all supposed to be done while in  
34 consultation with local Fish and Game manager, was that  
35 Bill Davidson, because I recollect something like that,  
36 but maybe I'm wrong.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Bob, do you have a  
39 response to that.

40

41 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman. Floyd,  
42 what happened at the Board meeting was the proposal  
43 before the Board was to close up Makhnati Island and  
44 then the Council recommendation was to close it and  
45 then to allow the in-season manger to open the area if  
46 that was appropriate. So there was a good deal of  
47 Board discussion over well how would an in-season  
48 manager be able to do this. What criteria would they  
49 use and so that's where that one comes from, it comes  
50 directly out of the Board discussion, and so it really

1 doesn't relate very directly to talk with the State  
2 manager on that although, of course, Federal Staff  
3 would be in communication with that person.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Before we move  
6 on, though, I do have a couple questions here and it's  
7 in regards to the timeline and maybe, George, you could  
8 chime in on that.

9

10 It says here in March the Board  
11 authorizes formation of a SERAC committee, and approves  
12 subcommittee composition and then the final charge. It  
13 says March, is that the end of March, you know, is --  
14 can we anticipate a date that we can insert here so  
15 we'll know when that arrives?

16

17 MR. CASIPIT: George.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: George, is he on.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any of the other  
26 teleconference people on, Tricia, are you on?

27

28 MS. O'CONNOR: Yeah, I'm here.

29

30 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chairman.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Helen and Bill, from  
33 Sitka?

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It looks like you're  
38 the only one there, Tricia.

39

40 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.

43

44 MR. CASIPIT: Chuck's on.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, yeah, Chuck, yeah,  
47 you can answer that question for me, great, thanks.

48

49 MR. ARDIZZONE: I think on Monday the  
50 Board's going to discuss this issue and if you guys --

1 if the Council wants to form a subcommittee I think  
2 they can address it at that time and hopefully we can  
3 get moving from there, which would be, Monday, March 5.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thanks. And  
6 then the other question I had is that in March we hire  
7 a contract facilitator, who is that person and who does  
8 the hiring?

9  
10 MR. ARDIZZONE: I think BLM would have  
11 to do the hiring on that and I'm not sure who that  
12 would be, we'd have to put that out for bid, I believe,  
13 but I haven't gone through that process before. Dr.  
14 Schroeder might be able to help me out here.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Steve, do you  
17 have a comment that you can help us out with.

18  
19 MR. KESSLER: Well, thank you, Mr.  
20 Chairman. I guess what I was sort of on -- the topic  
21 just before this March meeting, which will be on  
22 Monday, where the Board authorizes formation of the  
23 subcommittee, which you have now asked for, and  
24 approves the subcommittee composition, which you have  
25 identified that, and then the third item here is the  
26 final charge. So the draft charges that we worked up  
27 to provide to you, as the Council, are up above here,  
28 items one through five. Dr. Schroeder mentioned that  
29 maybe perhaps you should agree that there's something  
30 of a little broader concept that should be an  
31 additional item. I guess I would submit to you that  
32 maybe we shouldn't have, you know, an absolute final  
33 charge, maybe more what the Council ought to do is call  
34 this an initial charge and then give authority to the  
35 subcommittee to make some, maybe, what we would call  
36 minor modifications to this.

37  
38 But I really do feel that it's  
39 important that the Council says this is what we want  
40 the subcommittee to do because the subcommittee is a  
41 subcommittee of the Council and you need to say what  
42 you want that subcommittee to come back to you with.  
43 And you don't want that subcommittee just, you know,  
44 going all over the place on tangents, and there's  
45 certain things that you want.

46  
47 There was also some certain things that  
48 the Board wants, and, in particular, on the record and  
49 Mr. Oviatt talked about it on the record at the Board  
50 meeting was this Item No. 4, as was discussed earlier,

1 so I would say that that's a must given what the Board  
2 would like to see.

3

4 But I think that what is definitely  
5 needed here is you need to say, these are the charges  
6 that we, as a Council, want this subcommittee to do and  
7 then the Board on Monday, I believe, it would just take  
8 a slight modification then of this write up, we could  
9 prepare it and have it ready for the Board to give  
10 their blessing to.

11

12 And then otherwise as far as, I think  
13 there was just a discussion of a facilitator, that's  
14 something that we know how to do very well. We will  
15 support the BLM in helping them through that process  
16 just as we did for the Unit 2 Deer Subcommittee.

17

18 If there are any questions I can help  
19 you with.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No, I think you've  
22 outlined that pretty well for us, Steve, thank you.

23

24 So I think what he's asking us to do is  
25 to give them an idea what we'd like to see the  
26 subcommittee do, a goal to achieve.

27

28 MR. OVIATT: I've come back on.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, sir, go ahead.

31

32 MR. OVIATT: This is George Oviatt.  
33 I'm sorry, I was cut off and had to call back in.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

36

37 MR. OVIATT: So, I'm back on. Thank  
38 you, Mr. Chairman.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thanks for coming back  
41 on, George. I was asking some questions and I think we  
42 got them answered already so we're fine there.

43

44 I hear -- Mr. Kookesh, did you have  
45 something.

46

47 MR. KOOKESH: We were just gossiping.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I thought you  
50 were going to chime in here with an idea or something.

1 MR. KOOKESH: Well, I could say  
2 something.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, then please do.  
5  
6 MR. KOOKESH: What I was mentioning to  
7 Mr. Kitka here is that number 4 is pretty well defined  
8 already. The criteria, I don't think there's going to  
9 be much more to add to it, so that is what I mentioned.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Yeah, it's  
12 already there as I can see where you're coming from.  
13  
14 Okay, I think.....  
15  
16 MS. HAWKINS: Bert.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, Merle, go ahead.  
19  
20 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah, according to the  
21 Federal Subsistence Board action report, January 9  
22 through 11, under justification they have the working  
23 group will examine the criteria for opening and closing  
24 the Makhnati Island area, so I think that's -- I think  
25 we need to at least accept the draft charges to the  
26 subcommittee so we, you know, we have a draft  
27 subcommittee and we have a charge of what they're going  
28 to do so maybe we should take some action and then they  
29 can do their work.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure.  
32  
33 MS. HAWKINS: So moved.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.  
36  
37 MR. DOUVILLE: Say again.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Would you repeat  
40 yourself, Merle, please.  
41  
42 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah, I think we should  
43 accept the draft charges to the subcommittee and the --  
44 well, you have the authority so we don't need to accept  
45 the subcommittee but, you know, it is a draft so as the  
46 committee works they can certainly add to what they  
47 need to do but that's what the Federal Subsistence  
48 Board proposal is, the working group will examine the  
49 criteria for opening and closing the Makhnati Island  
50 area and then there's five points under the draft

1 charges to the subcommittee.  
2  
3 I think we should accept those and let  
4 them do their work, and so that's my motion.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.  
7  
8 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. Thank you,  
11 Mike. Discussion.  
12  
13 Mike, go ahead.  
14  
15 MR. DOUVILLE: And as with the deer  
16 planning subcommittee, Mr. Littlefield made it clear  
17 that we could accept or not accept the subcommittee's  
18 findings, we could modify and it would have to go  
19 through this RAC before moving on.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Exactly.  
22  
23 MR. DOUVILLE: And it must conform with  
24 all rules and regulations in Title VIII.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Exactly. I embrace  
27 that concept too, Mike, so thanks for bringing that to  
28 point.  
29  
30 MS. HAWKINS: Question.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Question's been  
33 called. All in favor, please say aye.  
34  
35 IN UNISON: Aye.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed.  
38  
39 (No opposing votes)  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion carried. Okay.  
42  
43  
44 MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, sir, go ahead.  
47  
48 MR. MILLER: Mike, in Sitka. I guess  
49 just a couple quick things in closing there before we  
50 get off the phone. I understand that there's a Federal

1 Board meeting on the 5th, would it be recommended that  
2 we call in to provide any information to them, that's  
3 the first question.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Anyone like to  
6 respond to that, Dr. Schroeder or Steve.

7  
8 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman. I think  
9 that is an open meeting, generally meetings of the  
10 Federal Subsistence Board are open, if you wish to call  
11 in that would be fine, Mike. I think this will  
12 probably sail through as their procedural item because  
13 this is something the Board wants and my anticipation  
14 is that the Board would okay this.

15  
16 Perhaps Mr. Oviatt would want to  
17 comment on that.

18  
19 MR. OVIATT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, this  
20 is George Oviatt. I agree with Dr. Schroeder. This is  
21 something we have asked you to consider and I don't see  
22 this as being a controversial issue. You could call  
23 Pete Probasco to make sure there'll be a line open for  
24 you to call in. And if it is open, then I would  
25 encourage someone to call in in case the Board does  
26 have some questions but I'm not anticipating any at  
27 this time.

28  
29 Thank you.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. What does all  
32 this mean?

33  
34 (Laughter)

35  
36 DR. SCHROEDER: Steve Kessler and I  
37 have dueling computers but I'll let him give you the  
38 toll free number and pass code.

39  
40 MR. KESSLER: Thanks, Dr. Schroeder.

41  
42 (Laughter)

43  
44 MR. KESSLER: Toll free number for the  
45 meeting 1:30 on Monday, March 5th, 800-857-6483.  
46 That's 800-857-6483. The pass code is Yukon. The  
47 conference leader is Larry Buklis, B-U-K-L-I-S. And  
48 currently this is the third item on the agenda. And,  
49 Mike, I will forward you a copy of the agenda for this  
50 meeting.

1 MR. MILLER: Thanks. It'd be easier to  
2 send it to Helen, I guess, and she'll get it to me.  
3 And, Mr. Chairman, one more comment if that's all  
4 right.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure.

7  
8 MR. MILLER: I appreciate you  
9 continuing to work through this issue and I know it's  
10 probably going to be fairly contentious as it has been  
11 so far but appreciate the help and I think the timing  
12 is good.

13  
14 Just an FYI, we're intending to speak  
15 to a Native Issues forum in Juneau that Tlingit and  
16 Haida puts on and we've talked to several of the  
17 leadership around the state here and they've been  
18 watching with interest, this process, and I feel the  
19 timing-wise really can help -- give a glimpse in what  
20 the new Administration, how they're going to interact  
21 with issues like this and so there's a lot of people, a  
22 lot of interest in this and as we move through with the  
23 other venues, I guess we'll keep you guys informed so  
24 that you guys could at least attend or weigh in if you  
25 feel like it's something you'd like to do.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right, thank you  
28 Mike. We're going to move on now, Mike, you're welcome  
29 to stay on if you want. I understand that you were  
30 indicating that you were going to sign off here soon  
31 but we thank you for your participation and Helen as  
32 well, so have a good day.

33  
34 MR. MILLER: Thank you.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, the next thing  
37 we want to take up is Item No. 19, the Tongass Land  
38 Resource Management Plan Amendment. We have Tricia  
39 O'Connor on line, are you there Tricia?

40  
41 MS. O'CONNOR: I am here.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. And I think Dr.  
44 Schroeder wants to say something here first.

45  
46 DR. SCHROEDER: I just would alert the  
47 Council to two items on Page 128 of the supplementary  
48 materials are a letter that SERAC wrote concerning the  
49 original TLMP plan in 1997, and then I'm passing out a  
50 set of questions that a Council working group developed

1 and gave to Tricia to help focus her presentation.

2

3 So with that back to the Chair and  
4 probably right to Tricia.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right, thank you.  
7 I see Don Hernandez' name attached to that report as  
8 well so Tricia go ahead.

9

10 MS. O'CONNOR: Okay, first off, can you  
11 hear me loud and clearly?

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We can hear you pretty  
14 well, yep.

15

16 MS. O'CONNOR: Okay. And if at any  
17 time you can't, please interrupt me because I do want  
18 to make sure that everyone can hear me fine.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure, we hear you  
21 fine, Tricia, and if we find any technical problems  
22 we'll sure let you know.

23

24 Thanks.

25

26 MS. O'CONNOR: Great. Well, again, I'm  
27 sorry I'm not there although with the weather report  
28 here I'm glad I'm not flying today as well.

29

30 And I did want to give the Chair and  
31 the Council -- I want to thank you for this opportunity  
32 for a bit of time to talk about the Tongass plan and  
33 I'm going to try to keep somewhat brief in my  
34 presentation and give plenty of time for questions and  
35 discussion so you can let me know what kind of things  
36 you want to hear about. I will give a little bit of  
37 background

38

39 I did want to give the Council a bit of  
40 personal background on myself, I'm not sure everybody  
41 there knows -- I know I don't know everybody there and  
42 you may not know who I am so just a little bit about  
43 me.

44

45 I am currently the Tongass Staff  
46 officer for wildlife and subsistence so I am the lead  
47 program manager for those two programs on the Tongass.  
48 My office is in Juneau but I oversee the programs  
49 across the Tongass. I've been in this job since  
50 October. Prior to that I lived in Yakutat for about

1 five and a half years where I was the District Ranger  
2 out there. And before that my job was a wildlife  
3 biologist in Oregon and Montana for the Forest Service.  
4 So really my heart and soul is in wildlife.

5  
6 So with that let's kind of shift to the  
7 Tongass Land Management Plan amendment, which is what  
8 we're here to talk about. And I'm assuming that you  
9 all have a lot of familiarity or at least some  
10 familiarity with the Tongass Land Management Plan so  
11 I'm not going to get into the gory details about the  
12 planning process. The only thing I want to say about  
13 our process and just to make it clear that we're doing  
14 an amendment to the 1997 Land Management Plan and we  
15 were directed to relook at that, based on the judge's  
16 decision that said that the Tongass Plan had three  
17 areas primarily, and that was:

18  
19 The timber demand analysis;

20  
21 Our look at cumulative effects; and

22  
23 Then the range of alternatives that we  
24 had analyzed.

25  
26 And so this process really was focusing  
27 on those issues. We also, because we were doing this  
28 process, were able to fit in some minor changes in the  
29 Forest Plan under this amendment while we were doing  
30 that because those are fairly limited because, again,  
31 we're not revising the whole plan, we're just amending  
32 it. So those are the primary areas of focus. And so I  
33 think some of the questions that I were sent, it helps  
34 to keep in mind that because we are primarily amending  
35 the plan, a lot of the analysis that was done for the  
36 original Forest Plan is still very valid and we are  
37 basing this amendment on those original analysis.

38  
39 So for example quite a bit of the  
40 wildlife and subsistence analysis is based on what we  
41 did for the '97 process. I will say that we have  
42 updated those analysis when we had new information.  
43 And a good example of that is we were -- we did pull in  
44 updated subsistence use information, took a look at  
45 that and that is reflected in this new Environmental  
46 Impact Statement, the EIS, as well as -- not so much in  
47 the Forest Plan, because we didn't change in much in  
48 relation to subsistence but in the analysis part it is.

49  
50 I did send some handouts with Dave and

1 I do realize that it's daunting, it's daunting for me  
2 to try to go through this EIS in the Forest Plan. I  
3 will direct you to Chapter 2, and there are some very  
4 good tables in there that outline the alternatives that  
5 we are looking at. There are seven alternatives that  
6 we've analyzed. And there's a very good couple of  
7 tables, and Table 2-17 is one that I had Dave hand out  
8 that gives you a brief summary of what the alternatives  
9 -- some of the key differences between alternatives  
10 that will help you keep them straight because there are  
11 seven alternatives. There's also a table in Chapter 2  
12 that briefly goes through the different effects that  
13 you would see under those alternatives by different  
14 resource areas. So you can look a recreation, you can  
15 look at subsistence, you can look at fisheries and get  
16 a brief snapshot of what those effects are. And those  
17 two tables, I think, are a really good place to go if  
18 you want the quick condensed version and it really  
19 helps set the stage for the whole document.

20

21                   The document is available on CDs.  
22 There are some hard copies. And the CD, if you put it  
23 on your computer it really helps because you can focus  
24 on the area that you want to look at and you can get  
25 there pretty quickly.

26

27                   Let's see, the last thing I think I  
28 want to talk about, and then I do want to kind of open  
29 it up to what kind of subjects you -- you know, what  
30 information you want from me in questions and answers,  
31 but we are going through, currently, a series of public  
32 meetings and hearings and I did have Dave bring you  
33 that schedule. They did start a couple of weeks ago  
34 and they are ongoing as we speak. That is one way to  
35 get involved and to get more information. There will  
36 also be actually an internet public meeting and hearing  
37 and that's on that schedule. And there is also the  
38 public comment period, which is open until April 12th.  
39 And so the timeframe for this process is we are in the  
40 middle of looking at public comments, or getting public  
41 comments, doing hearings and public meetings. Once the  
42 comment period closes, we will be looking at all those  
43 comments, analyzing them with an expectation that come  
44 September, that we will be making a decision on which  
45 alternative the Forest will be going with. And that  
46 should be happening, like I mentioned, in September.

47

48                   I think -- and bear with me a second,  
49 I'm briefly looking through my notes to make sure I  
50 caught everything that I wanted to -- and I -- oh, one

1 thing I would mention is for the subsistence  
2 discussions and effects, there is a section in the EIS  
3 specific to subsistence. But because subsistence is so  
4 intertwined with resources, the best place to look at,  
5 if you're interested in specific subsistence effects is  
6 to actually go to the community section. In the last  
7 part of the EIS there's a discussion for each community  
8 in Southeast Alaska and there's a very thorough  
9 discussion about what the anticipated subsistence  
10 effects would be for those communities. So there is a  
11 chapter on subsistence but there's also a lot of  
12 information in that section that there's -- and they're  
13 both very good to go look at.

14  
15 And I think with that, I am going to  
16 kind of stop my talking and I would definitely think  
17 it's time to open it up for questions and answers and  
18 hopefully we can do that and we can tailor the  
19 conversation around what you're really interested in  
20 hearing about.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure, Tricia. And I  
23 think Nick Davis has a question for you right off the  
24 bat.

25  
26 MR. DAVIS: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
27 Chairman. My question is I see you have a schedule for  
28 every community in Southeast except for Kake, is there  
29 a reason?

30  
31 MS. O'CONNOR: There is a meeting  
32 scheduled for Kake, it would be on March 21st.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Tricia, it  
35 doesn't show on this schedule here so thanks for  
36 providing that for us.

37  
38 MS. O'CONNOR: On the schedule I have  
39 in front of me.....

40  
41 REPORTER: Cal. Cal.

42  
43 MS. O'CONNOR: .....it's on March 21st.  
44 It must be an oversight on your schedule, I believe.

45  
46 (Pause)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, what was that  
49 date again, Tricia.

50

1 MS. O'CONNOR: The date I have in front  
2 of me is March 21st and it would be at the community  
3 hall. The open house from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., with the  
4 public hearing from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you for  
7 that information.

8  
9 Mr. Larson, you got something.

10  
11 MR. R. LARSON: Yeah, I do have one  
12 thing concerning the meeting in Kake, is that, when I  
13 came -- at the start of this meeting, I worked with  
14 Gary Williams and we're in the process of distributing  
15 fliers that describe when and where, and, in fact,  
16 there is an open house plus a hearing regarding the  
17 Tongass Land Management Plan and it is on the 21st. So  
18 you'll see those fliers around town.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Bob. Dave  
21 Johnson, do you have -- you're holding your hand up,  
22 you have a question.

23  
24 MR. JOHNSON: Just a comment. Tricia,  
25 if you could read, starting between -- the bottom of  
26 the page of where it says internet meeting, apparently  
27 there's a page missing out of this handout that I  
28 provided, it goes from internet meeting down to Saxman,  
29 okay. Those dates -- places and dates and I will --  
30 during lunch I will make copes for the Council, as  
31 well, of this page that's missing.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Dave.  
34 Anyone else have a question for Tricia. Patty  
35 Phillips.

36  
37 MS. PHILLIPS: Is pelican on that list?

38  
39 MS. O'CONNOR: Pelican is not on the  
40 list.

41  
42 MS. PHILLIPS: And why not?

43  
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: She asked why not,  
45 Tricia, do you want to respond.

46  
47 MS. O'CONNOR: I can't answer that. I  
48 do know that when we were looking at providing these  
49 meetings we were looking at what the need was knowing  
50 that we probably couldn't provide them in every

1 community. But I do know that we have added  
2 communities if there is a strong public interest in  
3 having a meeting in a place. I don't think that the --  
4 my understanding -- and I will follow up with this, is  
5 that, there is still the opportunity to hold that in  
6 those communities if there really is an interest.

7  
8 And so if the Council believes that  
9 there would be a strong interest in Pelican, I can take  
10 that back to our team and make that recommendation.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right, thanks,  
13 Tricia. Patty is also the Mayor of Pelican so I'm sure  
14 she would like to have that community accommodated as  
15 well.

16  
17 Lee Wallace.

18  
19 MR. WALLACE: Yeah, Tricia, Lee  
20 Wallace. Just a correction and some comments, too.  
21 Initially Saxman wasn't on the list for a hearing and I  
22 went to District Ranger Lynn Koland (ph) and expressed  
23 my interest that Saxman would greatly desire to have a  
24 separate meeting, different than Ketchikan because,  
25 again, we are a different, distinct community than  
26 Ketchikan, so Lynn graciously accepted that request and  
27 prior to coming up to the RAC meeting I was meeting  
28 with Lynn and calling him, and I think the correct date  
29 for Saxman is 3/13.

30  
31 But for any community that isn't on  
32 there, I think it's correct that you could possibly go  
33 to your district ranger and request that you have a  
34 hearing in your community and I think most often it  
35 will be granted.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right, thank you  
38 Lee. And for your information, Tricia, Lee is the  
39 tribal president of the Saxman IRA.

40  
41 MS. HAWKINS: Bert.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Merle.

44  
45 MS. O'CONNOR: Thank you. And I want  
46 to add that I do know the list -- the list is ever  
47 revolving because we are continuing to add some  
48 communities. So the most up to date list should be on  
49 the internet and there is that opportunity. And I will  
50 pass on the issue with Pelican myself as well.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you.  
2 Merle.

3  
4 MS. HAWKINS: This is Merle Hawkins.  
5 I'm from Ketchikan, part of the Ketchikan Indian  
6 Community Tribe and I think our meeting was scheduled  
7 for March 2nd but it's not on the list, plus, I don't  
8 think I'll be home by then but hopefully other people  
9 will step up, so that's tomorrow. Do you know if  
10 that's correct or not, March 2nd?

11  
12 MS. O'CONNOR: For Ketchikan?

13  
14 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah.

15  
16 MS. O'CONNOR: No, it's actually  
17 tonight.

18  
19 MS. HAWKINS: Oh, okay, I'll make some  
20 phone calls. And, Bert, I had some questions about the  
21 Tongass Land Management Plan because I did review it.

22  
23 Page 3-347 It says it does not require  
24 an ANILCA, Section .810 evaluation or determination to  
25 the Forest Plan amendment, can you tell me why that is  
26 so?

27  
28 MS. O'CONNOR: I will attempt to answer  
29 that but this is something I probably will have to get  
30 better information back to the Council.

31  
32 My understanding is we are holding  
33 these hearings, which will serve -- the hearings aren't  
34 specific to just ANILCA hearings, but they are part of  
35 the total hearing process.

36  
37 I -- and I don't have my copy of the  
38 draft in front of me. My understanding was that we --  
39 that because our alternatives are similar to what we  
40 did in -- or they're lined up with what we did in the  
41 '97 plan that when we came out with a draft, it was a  
42 bit uncertain about whether there would be the need to  
43 do that or not, because we had already done that under  
44 the original TLMP. And I believe, and I will have to  
45 recheck on this, but that was the rationale for not  
46 holding set ANILCA hearings. But that the public  
47 meeting -- the process we were doing with the  
48 communities and the hearings will allow for people to  
49 testify for subsistence, for whatever they would like  
50 to testify on. That is the intent of those.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Any other  
2 questions from the Council.

3

4 Mr. Hernandez, please.

5

6 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.  
7 Chairman. Not so much a question for Tricia, but just  
8 I feel I need to jump in here and kind of explain how --  
9 what -- how we got involved, I mentioned myself and  
10 Patty and Mike in this whole process.

11

12 At our last meeting knowing that this  
13 TLMP draft was coming out and there was a comment  
14 period that was going to be ending in April, April  
15 10th, I believe, it's part of our Title VIII  
16 responsibilities that the Council have an opportunity  
17 to make comments on management plans which affect  
18 subsistence and this Council felt that that's a very  
19 important function of the Council and very important to  
20 some of the communities that we represent.

21

22 We volunteered, myself, Mike and Patty,  
23 to kind of go through the document and I'll just, in  
24 case anybody didn't receive it at home, you know, this  
25 is what it looks like, it's rather huge, there's a lot  
26 in there. And what we tried to do is zero in on some  
27 topics that we could identify that we thought the rest  
28 of the Council would want to focus on and then we kind  
29 of wrote up a list of those to turn into Tricia so that  
30 she might be a little better prepared to answer some of  
31 these questions.

32

33 So, Patty, Mike and I, we do have some  
34 bookmarks in here that we would like to go over. And  
35 to kind of initiate some, you know, discussion among  
36 the rest of the Council who rightfully don't need to go  
37 through the entire document to try and sort all this  
38 out, so that's what we attempted to do.

39

40 I think it's going to be pretty  
41 important for the discussion to be able to look at some  
42 maps and I'm hoping we'll be able to do that, the maps  
43 aren't included in the book and I haven't heard of any  
44 maps that were, you know, sent down to be posted on  
45 walls or anything but -- well, Mr. Bob Larson's  
46 indicating he might have the maps but they're also on  
47 the CD that we could also put on the screen, so we need  
48 to get that set up so people can start looking at it.  
49 And just for more background information, this handout  
50 that Tricia distributed here with all the graphs and

1 tables, if you'd allow me to summarize somewhat, there  
2 are seven alternatives.

3  
4                   These alternatives deal with what  
5 activities are going to be allowed on all lands, you  
6 know, across the Tongass and it breaks down into  
7 specifically what each activity is and how specific  
8 lands are going to be designated. And the alternatives  
9 range from, alternative one, which, you know, Tricia  
10 can comment on this after I'm done, but I'll try and do  
11 my best deal here to summarize.

12  
13                   Alternative 1 essentially takes what is  
14 happening on the Tongass right now and sort of  
15 maintains at that level. If part of the focus of this  
16 amendment was to deal with the timber supply issue,  
17 that alternative assumes that the timber supply will be  
18 essentially what the industry is utilizing at this  
19 present time, which over the last five years it's  
20 averaged approximately 50 million board feet and it's  
21 supplying two sawmills and some smaller sawmills,  
22 mostly in the southern part of the Tongass. All timber  
23 activity would be limited to areas that are presently  
24 roaded and have timber harvest going on at this time.

25  
26                   Alternative 2 takes that timber demand  
27 scenario and increases it slightly utilizing lands for  
28 timber management that are essentially what is now  
29 happening on the Tongass and expanding that slightly to  
30 what they termed were kind of adjacent areas that would  
31 be kind of logical that timber activity would expand to  
32 in a small area.

33  
34                   And then from Alternative 2 up to  
35 Alternative 7, the timber supply scenario gradually  
36 increases up to, I think a maximum of, I think it's 376  
37 million board feet, which is an alternative that was  
38 put forward by the Southeast Conference. And at that  
39 level, what they are envisioning would be what the  
40 refer to as a fully integrated timber industry which  
41 would essentially have two new timber processing  
42 facilities that could utilize all wood products from  
43 the Tongass, most likely a -- I think Tricia could  
44 correct me if I'm wrong here, but it would be the  
45 veneer mill to utilize higher quality timber and then a  
46 medium fiberboard plant, which would have to be built  
47 that could utilize lesser quality wood products. So  
48 that scenario kind of -- the number 7 alternative would  
49 essentially bring the timber industry back to a level  
50 of where it was when the pulp mills shut down about 10

1 years ago.

2

3

4 And then there's intermediate  
5 scenarios and they range from 185 million board feet  
6 for Alternative 3, 313 million for Alternative 4, 267  
7 million for Alternative 5, and actually I just noticed  
8 here the highest is 421 million board feet, that's for  
9 the fully integrated community.

9

10

11 So each of those scenarios has  
12 different land designations associated with it, having  
13 different effects on different areas and different  
14 communities, and given the limited time we have here as  
15 a Council, what I would hope that each of the members  
16 would have a chance in the course of this discussion,  
17 to take a very close look at what proposed land  
18 designations would affect their communities and areas  
19 that their communities are most dependent on and be  
20 able to, at the end of this discussion, we could all  
21 maybe get together and make some kind of consensus on  
22 what we think our preferred alternative would be as a  
23 recommendation to go forward to the Forest Service.

23

24

25 So if that helps anybody out, and,  
26 Tricia, if you would care to make any comments on what  
27 I said, with the permission of the Chair, I'll leave  
28 that up to you.

28

29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Tricia, if  
31 you have any gaps to fill, please feel free right now.

31

32

33 MS. O'CONNOR: That was a wonderful  
34 summary. I have a couple of things that I would just  
35 point out.

35

36

37 Is, I think, that in Alternative 1,  
38 which is the lower volume alternative, the 50 million  
39 board feet, it's not -- the amount of timber that would  
40 be harvested would be similar to what is occurring  
41 right now, but where it would happen would be very  
42 different. And it was pointed out that that would be  
43 mostly focused on where existing roads are and kind of  
44 concentrated. So I think part of the different  
45 alternative philosophies is not only the amount of  
46 fiber and board feet that would be harvested with the  
47 range of from fairly low in Alternative 1 to relatively  
48 high in Alternative 7, but then the land base, of  
49 course, to support that, is much larger under  
50 Alternative 3. So you'd have much many more acres in a  
51 suitable base plus more roadless areas affected in

1 Alternative 1, that is much, much less.

2

3 So I think those two are the really  
4 important factors that govern the different  
5 alternatives and then you have the range between them.

6

7 The other thing I would point out is  
8 Alternative 5, which is kind of in the middle, it's a  
9 high end volume-wise, is what we're currently under  
10 now, our current Forest Plan. And then Alternative 6  
11 would be the current Forest Plan in terms of timber  
12 volume but with some changes to standards and  
13 guidelines in the plan itself. So those two  
14 alternatives are similar to what is going on now.

15

16 One, two and three are those kind of  
17 ramped up, from one to two to three the increasing  
18 harvest levels. And then four is slightly more. And  
19 then seven is the fully integrated industry that would  
20 have basically utilizing all of the wood and have much  
21 more infrastructure out there than we currently have.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Don, go ahead.

24

25 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.  
26 Chairman. Yes, I have a question for Tricia. So this  
27 plan is the 1997 plan and now we're in 2007, so the  
28 Forest Service has been operating under a plan, in that  
29 interim. Is that essentially where we are with what  
30 alternative 5 represents, that you have been as of  
31 right now, and the way this lands are designated, that  
32 you have been managing for a cut of 267 million board  
33 feet, and just conditions on what sales have been sold  
34 and what not, that all that the Forest Service has been  
35 able to provide given I guess what you could call the  
36 market demand is at approximately 50 million board  
37 feet?

38

39 MS. O'CONNOR: That's true. The forest  
40 plan, the allowable sale quantity, the AFQ that we've  
41 been talking about, is really a ceiling. And what it  
42 does is it says under this forest plan, in the '97 plan  
43 we're under the AFQ was 267 million board feet. That's  
44 not a target. In other words the plan doesn't say you  
45 will harvest that much. What it says is, on average  
46 you can't go over that, because that's the ceiling.

47

48 And it's true, we have been operating  
49 and harvesting at a much, much less level than that.  
50 And there's a whole variety of reasons for that, which

1 include the combination of what's currently -- what  
2 industry is out there and how much board feet they need  
3 to keep going. It's a combination of the litigation  
4 that is -- which means we have many timber sales that  
5 are under litigation that we can't implement. And it's  
6 just the over-all, the economic picture, too.

7

8 And so the AFQ is looking at what we  
9 could provide in the future as a ceiling, but there's a  
10 whole lot of factors that have to come into play.

11

12 The other thing that comes into play is  
13 what we are funded to do, and currently we are funded  
14 to provide the planning for approximately 150 or  
15 thereabouts million board feet. So we haven't even  
16 been funded at that AFQ ceiling. We've been funded to  
17 produce less, and then what we've actually produced is  
18 even less than that, because of these other issues,  
19 primarily litigation. I hope that explains that  
20 relationship a little better.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. Don,  
23 you've got another one there? Thanks.

24

25 MR. HERNANDEZ: All right. So I think  
26 it's also important for the Council members to know  
27 then, when we put the maps up, if you look at  
28 alternative 5, that would be the land designations of  
29 what the Forest Service is presently operating under,  
30 and any of the alternatives lower than number 5 would  
31 be changes from that which would be -- tend to lessen  
32 the amount of lands available to timber harvest.  
33 Anything over alternative 5 would be alternatives that  
34 would increase the amount of lands available for timber  
35 harvest from where we are at this point. Correct?

36

37 MS. O'CONNOR: Well, I'll chime in  
38 here. Actually alternative 4 and 7 both have harvest  
39 levels that are greater than 5. And 5 and 6 are fairly  
40 similar. And then 1, 2, and 3 would be less.

41

42 MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Merle.

45

46 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah. Thank you for your  
47 work, Don. But I kind of disagree with how we're going  
48 about this, because for my local community we picked an  
49 alternative -- well, for our tribe, but sitting at this  
50 table I'm representing all of Southeast Alaska, and so

1 I think that's the way we should be looking at the  
2 Tongass land management from that aspect.

3  
4 From our decision for the tribe, we  
5 looked at just the Ketchikan area, which is  
6 Revillagigedo Island and Cleveland Peninsula, and we  
7 did pick Alternative No. 6, but asking that Gravina  
8 Island be excluded from any timber harvest at all.

9  
10 So that's just the way I look at it.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any other comments,  
13 questions. Mr. Bangs.

14  
15 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
16 Obviously I didn't read the whole EIS or the amendment,  
17 but I've looked through it quite a bit, and I was  
18 pretty disappointed after talking with the Forest  
19 Service at all the Unit 2 deer meetings, and we  
20 discussed second growth management. And throughout the  
21 plan and the amendment, there seems to be no  
22 comprehensive idea of what to do with second growth or  
23 any movement towards rehabilitation of habitat.

24  
25 I know -- I have some peer review that  
26 was taken before the '97 plan, and it was totally  
27 disregarded. And the peer review was assembled by I  
28 think it was the Pacific Northwest Research, and they  
29 were all doctors in forestation and wildlife  
30 biologists, and all the information that was brought  
31 forth about the Tongass left out. It was just -- it's  
32 not there.

33  
34 And I'm just wondering, when we have --  
35 we have problems that are occurring in Unit 2 where we  
36 have some of the older second growth stands and more of  
37 the timber that's been harvested in the past. And we  
38 worked and worked on trying to come up with some ideas  
39 on how to deal with second management. And this  
40 amendment comes out, and there's very little, like  
41 maybe one or two paragraphs that even mention second  
42 growth management. I'm just wondering, what this means  
43 to us as looking out to protect wildlife for  
44 subsistence uses. And I'm pretty concerned about the  
45 direction that the Forest Service is going.

46  
47 Thank you.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Tricia, do you want to  
50 respond to Mr. Bangs' concern.

1 MS. O'CONNOR: I sure can. And I  
2 definitely share the concern, and I really think the  
3 Forest Service does, too. And I'll kind of talk about  
4 how -- we did have a lot of conversations about this  
5 very issue and how to adapt that into the plan. And  
6 where we ended up currently is that the plan is a  
7 pretty permissive document. In other words, when it  
8 talks about timber harvest, it's giving us the goal of  
9 producing timber and jobs. And when we talk about  
10 wildlife habitat, it really talks about actively doing  
11 proactive wildlife treatments in second growth, and we  
12 believe -- at least I believe the forest plan really  
13 gives us the permission to go there.

14  
15 The next step in terms of actually  
16 implementing that is a whole different issue, but the  
17 plan itself I think is giving us some strong direction  
18 to go that way. And again without doing a large  
19 revision and doing an amendment, we did what we thought  
20 we could do under an amendment process with the idea is  
21 that we really feel a strong need to shift in that  
22 direction.

23  
24 I would also kind of add in that I was  
25 at the public meeting in Juneau the other night, and we  
26 got a significant number of comments related to the  
27 issue of second growth an accelerating harvest in  
28 second growth, and so there is a lot of public interest  
29 in that very subject. And, you know, my expectation is  
30 through the comments we will need to respond to those  
31 and we still have some room here to perhaps change and  
32 make that stronger. But i think it's in there. It's  
33 just the degree of it might not be where we all want it  
34 to be.

35  
36 MR. BANGS: Thank you.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Any other  
39 questions. Patty.

40  
41 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Tricia, and I  
42 do invite you to Pelican or the team to take public  
43 comments from Pelican residents.

44  
45 And also, in the plan revision, can you  
46 identify specific strategies, conservation strategies,  
47 to improve deer habitat.

48  
49 MS. O'CONNOR: The point in the plan  
50 where we talk specifically about that is in the -- I

1 think it's focused in the wildlife section in terms of  
2 how -- what kinds of silvicultural treatments do we  
3 want to really promote, and how do we tie silviculture  
4 and wildlife objectives together better. And that's  
5 the piece in the plan where it kind of tells us that we  
6 need to be more aggressive in doing that.

7  
8 In my mind though, however, the plan  
9 allows us to do that. It really comes down to when we  
10 get to implementing these projects, how we do that on  
11 the ground is really the important issue. And I can  
12 tell you there's a lot of interest right now,  
13 particularly on Prince of Wales, but across the Tongass  
14 in really moving ahead with these aggressively that's a  
15 little bit -- it's outside the forest planning process.  
16 Those efforts are going on concurrently, and we're  
17 trying to make sure the forest plan allows us to do  
18 that.

19  
20 And the other piece of this is getting  
21 the money lined up and getting the interests from  
22 industry lined up to not only do these kinds of  
23 treatments, but make them economically viable as well.

24  
25 So those things are really lining up I  
26 think pretty well, and there's a lot of efforts going  
27 on to kind of marry those things. The forest plan  
28 again is kind of that overall can you do these things  
29 within the lugs (ph) and we certainly have the ability  
30 even in non-timber lugs to do these kind of treatments,  
31 and I think there's a real impetus for us to do that at  
32 this moment.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.

35  
36 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
37 Adams.

38  
39 Thank you, Ms. O'Connor. I'm curious  
40 to know also about culvert management, road closures  
41 and improvements to fish passages.

42  
43 MS. O'CONNOR: Let's see. From the --  
44 I think I can speak to that. From the forest plan  
45 standpoint, again those are all significant issues that  
46 we have identified that have significant effects on  
47 fisheries. And so the plan does require us to make  
48 sure we consider those issues when we do anything new,  
49 but also it also requires us to take a look at what  
50 we've done in the past and work towards, for example,

1 fixing culverts where we have significant issues with  
2 them in terms of fish passage or sediment.

3

4                   However, the mechanism to move ahead  
5 with those is again really at the project level. The  
6 plans directs us to do these things, to move ahead with  
7 them. When we get to a specific area, for example,  
8 Prince of Wales, because that has the most, you know,  
9 roads on the Tongass, doing these areawide  
10 transportation analysis, which are ongoing, is really  
11 that pool that helps us identify where our highest  
12 priorities are and then get the money to do those.

13

14                   And those again are ongoing independent  
15 of this larger forest plan process. The plan is the  
16 umbrella that hopefully helps make those high  
17 priorities, which I think it does, high priorities, and  
18 to also make sure we plan well in new areas, but that  
19 we also can affix the high priority areas in the past.

20

21                   I don't know if that got it, answered  
22 your question or not.

23

24                   MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

25

26                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Did it Patty?

27

28                   MS. PHILLIPS: Generally. May I keep  
29 going?

30

31                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Something else? Go  
32 ahead.

33

34                   MS. PHILLIPS: Prince of Wales is  
35 identified as productive old growth will be reduced and  
36 a greater percentage of future timber harvests will  
37 occur in Unit 2 or lower end of Southeast region. And  
38 that seems very contrary to, you know, and it was  
39 alluded to by previous Council efforts, to the efforts  
40 that we've made to improve harvest of deer in Unit 2  
41 and in southern Southeast. You know, why are they  
42 putting such an emphasis down in that area?

43

44                   MS. O'CONNOR: Well, there's a couple  
45 of reasons for that, and I think that the couple of  
46 issues that are driving where the majority of timbers  
47 harvests would come from in the future, and I think  
48 this is regardless of alternatives. From a timber  
49 harvest standpoint, the focus is on the mixture of  
50 existing infrastructure to process that. Where do you

1 have mills, and where is the most economical places to  
2 harvest. And, you know, under the current scenarios  
3 that we have right now, that becomes the southern end  
4 of the Tongass.

5  
6 And then when you look at the type of  
7 infrastructure we have in place on the Forest Service  
8 lands to support timber harvest, in other words where  
9 do you have roads, you know, log transfer facilities,  
10 those sorts of things, again -- it doesn't mean that  
11 all the harvest is going to happen on Prince of Wales,  
12 but the places where we have that infrastructure in  
13 place is also a factor that drives economical timber  
14 sales. So places like Prince of Wales with hits road  
15 system and what's in place make it logical to have  
16 those areas be focused.

17  
18 And I think all of the alternatives  
19 have that -- well, go back. Alternative 1 that is  
20 focused -- which would have timber harvest focused on  
21 where we currently have roads, by default it ends up on  
22 Prince of Wales Island, because that's where most of  
23 the roads are.

24  
25 Now, that being said, I think the other  
26 side of the issue is, and it really gets into the  
27 second growth issue is the opportunity we have  
28 transition from harvesting old growth primarily to what  
29 I think everybody would like us to see is that  
30 eventually we reduce our harvest of old growth and move  
31 towards harvesting second growth because of the  
32 benefits you have for wildlife and watershed, but then  
33 also that you don't have the effects of harvesting  
34 second growth. The reality is the vast amount of acres  
35 with those opportunities are also on Prince of Wales  
36 Island, as well as, you know, there are definitely  
37 other areas, but, you know, there is that emphasis.

38  
39 And so, you know, I would say that  
40 actually the work that GMU 2, the deer work that has  
41 been done that suggests that this is -- you know, that  
42 the opportunities and the issues with deer management  
43 are really significant on Prince of Wales Island leads  
44 us to think about how we can manage second growth in  
45 alignment with timber harvest and economical timber  
46 sales, and that's the place that really is coming to  
47 the forefront to begin a lot of those treatments.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you,  
50 Tricia.

1                   Anyone else. Mike.

2

3                   MR. DOUVILLE: In her last statement,  
4 she said that the logging benefit the watershed. That  
5 totally threw me off. I've never seen any benefit to  
6 watershed from logging myself.

7

8                   MS. O'CONNOR: Well, my statement was  
9 directly in reference to harvesting younger second  
10 growth, and we do believe that there is some watershed  
11 benefit from doing treatments foresting and there is  
12 some evidence that we can actually benefit watersheds  
13 from doing that. I wasn't referring to logging old  
14 growth, but I was specifically thinking about the young  
15 growth.

16

17                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs.

18

19                   MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
20 In my own opinion of the whole process, I kind of think  
21 that the Forest Service has gone on record as being  
22 well aware of the problems of lack of a plan, what to  
23 do with second growth management. But at the same time  
24 they're moving ahead with more old growth harvest. And  
25 I understand, you know, there's a need for a timber  
26 industry, but it seems to me that if you're aware that  
27 there's a problem, you know, you don't go out and trim  
28 your hedge without a plan on how to clean up your  
29 leaves so your lawn doesn't die. I mean, this is just  
30 -- it's a plan. And we've got a plan here that's not  
31 complete, and I really have a problem with going into  
32 something without knowing how to take care of what  
33 you've done. And I don't know, I really think the  
34 Forest Service needs to work on coming up with a  
35 comprehensive plan of how to manage second growth.

36

37                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you. I  
38 think we need to move on here. Tricia, we sure thank  
39 you for your being patient with us and waiting for your  
40 part of the agenda to come forth. But what we need to  
41 do now is decide whether the Council wants to prepare  
42 comments on this amendment, and, you know, let's  
43 discuss that at this point right now.

44

45                   MR. D. LARSON: Mr. Chairman, this is  
46 Doug Larson.

47

48                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Hello, Doug. Go  
49 ahead.

50

1 MR. D. LARSON: Mr. Chairman, I'm on  
2 line. I just wanted to let you know that on Mr.  
3 Schroeder's invitation I did get the opportunity to be  
4 on line. I just wanted you to know that I have been  
5 listening to the discussion. And again with respect to  
6 Mr. Schroeder and his invitation to be here, I wanted  
7 you to know that I am on line. And I don't know if you  
8 have questions of the State, but I am here if that is  
9 the case.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Doug.  
12 Appreciate that you're there. Do you have any comments  
13 to make on this particular issue.

14  
15 MR. D. LARSON: Thank you, Mr.  
16 Chairman. You know, I know your agenda's tight and  
17 your time frame is tight. I guess the only thing I  
18 would offer at this point is that the State certainly  
19 is involved in the commenting process. And not only  
20 that, but we have been working closely, not only our  
21 Staff in-house, but our Staff has been working closely  
22 with Forest Service biologists, including Patricia, and  
23 biologists from the Fish and Wildlife Service on a  
24 number of issues related to the Tongass and wildlife  
25 conservation. And we intend to prepare comments as a  
26 department that will be submitted together with the  
27 Department of Natural Resources. And in fact I just  
28 had a meeting this morning with the Governor's Office,  
29 and they are obviously very interested in what the  
30 State comes forward with, because that will tie in with  
31 whatever decisions are made at a policy level through  
32 the Governor's office.

33  
34 But I think that the conversation that  
35 I've been listening to certainly reflects the breadth  
36 of the thoughts and the issues that we are aware of and  
37 are concerned about, and we share pretty much all of  
38 those. And as a conservation agency, our comments  
39 really will be directed at implications for wildlife  
40 across the Tongass and what kinds of things we believe  
41 would be of most benefit and least detrimental to  
42 wildlife populations, and I think we share that with  
43 Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service biologists  
44 as well.

45  
46 One quick thing I would mention is that  
47 while there's been a lot of talk about the seven  
48 alternatives, it's my understanding, and with Tricia on  
49 line she can perhaps clarify this to be sure I have it  
50 correct, but it's been my understanding that there is

1 actually some flexibility in that it may not have to be  
2 all or none. I mean, in other words, my understanding  
3 is if are there elements of specific alternatives that  
4 make sense for whatever reasons individuals or groups  
5 feel that they should be included be incorporated as  
6 part the plan, that those can actually be pulled out  
7 and identified specifically so that in the end you may  
8 not have necessarily an alternative 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or  
9 7, but rather you would have elements associated with  
10 the various alternatives that could be built into what  
11 would ultimately become a plan that had something with  
12 pieces of several, but not necessarily one in and of  
13 itself.

14

15                   So I guess I would just be interested  
16 to know whether in fact that is a clear reading from  
17 Tricia, because that might have implications for you as  
18 a Council and you as individuals in your thoughts and  
19 deliberations and even your comments on the plan.

20

21                   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22

23                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Doug.  
24 Tricia, do you have a response to those comments?

25

26                   MS. O'CONNOR: I do, Mr. Chairman.

27

28                   And, Doug, that is correct in that the  
29 decision-maker in the end. and this is true of any EIS  
30 that's done, does have the latitude to, as long as the  
31 options were analyzed in the NEPA process, to pick and  
32 choose. And normally what happens is or commonly what  
33 happens is you pick an alternative and then you might  
34 add something from another alternative specifically or  
35 drop it. And a good example is a timber sale where,  
36 you know, we might pick Alternative X and say except  
37 we're not going to harvest Units 5, 6 and 7. That's  
38 commonly done. So I think that is a really good point.

39

40                   And definitely comments along that line  
41 and rationale for why you would or would not support  
42 something are very important.

43

44                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you.  
45 Again I want to bring back to the Council to talk about  
46 comments. What is the deadline, Tricia, is it April?  
47 Do you have a date?

48

49                   MS. O'CONNOR: April 12th.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: April 12th. We have  
2 until April 12th, you know, to make our comments, and I  
3 think it would be appropriate, you know, to have a  
4 couple of our Council members, you know, work on that  
5 and come up with a recommendations, weigh those  
6 alternatives that has been presented to us, and then  
7 maybe -- it's possible we might have a teleconference,  
8 you know, of the entire Council to get your input or  
9 your recommendations. And the people that have been  
10 mostly involved in the conversation has been, of  
11 course, Donald and Patty, so I think you're the most  
12 logical individuals, you know, to serve on that working  
13 group. What do you think.

14  
15                   Dr. Schroeder, do you have a comment.

16  
17                   DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, that's  
18 pretty much what the Council's done in the past with  
19 the kind of issues where there are really a lot of  
20 detailed things to go through.

21  
22                   Patty, Don and Mike did come up with  
23 the seven question areas that went to Tricia. And I  
24 think they may have something in mind which are pretty  
25 much specific comments related to each of those. I  
26 also heard Patty bring up a number of other things on  
27 the record here. Lee Wallace submitted early in the  
28 meeting a concern he had about a specific area. I  
29 think we have quite a bit to go on here.

30  
31                   Just in terms of procedure, sometimes  
32 the Council authorizes a group of Council members to  
33 work up the final version of something and submit that  
34 under the Council's name through the Chair. I think  
35 that would be appropriate at this time. If we have  
36 issues that really require a separate meeting, that can  
37 be arranged. My preference would be that we proceeded  
38 with -- to support the Council members who are spending  
39 their time looking at that.

40  
41                   I haven't heard anything that was a  
42 divisive issue where the Council would need to likely  
43 have a number of opinions on where it would stand on  
44 this plan.

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thanks. I mentioned a  
47 couple of names that I thought would make a good  
48 working group, Donald and, of course, Patty was trying  
49 to pass the buck to someone down the line there.  
50

1 MS. PHILLIPS: I said include.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Include? Okay. Which  
4 Mike? That one?  
5  
6 (Laughter)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Which of the Mikes  
9 would be willing to step up there? Okay. Mr. Bangs.  
10  
11 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
12 would be willing to help, but, again, I really have a  
13 problem with the whole plan, and I'll be as objective  
14 as I can, but I really take issue with the Forest  
15 Service and their plan. Thank you.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Maybe that's a good  
18 reason for you to be on it, Mike.  
19  
20 Donald, go ahead.  
21  
22 MR. HERNANDEZ: Also, Mr. Chairman,  
23 we've got someone who's pretty familiar with the  
24 northern end of the region and Mike and I are, of  
25 course, right in the middle and Prince of Wales Island.  
26 I'm pretty familiar with Prince of Wales Island issues.  
27 Perhaps somebody from the Ketchikan area would kind of  
28 round out our working group for the southern end of the  
29 region.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Lee or Merle.  
32  
33 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah, I can do that.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is that okay, Lee?  
36  
37 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah. This is Merle.  
38 I'd be willing to do that.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.  
41  
42 MR. WALLACE: That's fine.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. And what I  
45 would like to do then is go ahead and authorize this  
46 group to -- Mr. Kookesh, you have a comment?  
47  
48 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Hernandez and I were  
49 just carrying this discussion a little, and one of my  
50 recommendations to Mr. Hernandez is that I don't know

1 if it's appropriate for us to just support one  
2 alternative, but maybe we should subsistence in all the  
3 alternatives and just least it at that. That is what  
4 my discussion with him was. And this is probably  
5 something we all have to discuss.

6

7 And I will say though that we are in a  
8 national monument and admiralty, so we have to support  
9 other areas that are affected.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Exactly, and I think,  
12 you know, keep keying in on the subsistence issue would  
13 be the focus of this working group. And, Don, would  
14 you be the chair of that group?

15

16 MR. HERNANDEZ: (Nods affirmatively)

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You did a wonderful  
19 job with the other one, and I think, you know, you  
20 automatically work yourself into that situation.

21

22 Lee.

23

24 MR. WALLACE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
25 You know, specifically as president of OVS and a member  
26 of this Council, you know, we've had consultation with  
27 the Forest District Ranger in our district, and, you  
28 know KIC is also involved in Metlakatla and we came up  
29 with some very specific language and resolutions that  
30 we had. We had supporting resolutions with our  
31 resolution from Central Council, ANS/ANB Grand Camp,  
32 the City of Saxman and I think there was another one.  
33 Oh, and hopefully we're going to get Metlakatla on  
34 board with our supporting resolution.

35

36 And again we were very specific, and I  
37 know you could pick and choose, and we actually picked  
38 a VCU unit, and that's specifically right around  
39 Gravina and Bostwick Inlet. And as president I'm  
40 charged to, you know, take orders from my council and  
41 being the president, you know, you see, we have these  
42 supporting resolution that I just mentioned. And I  
43 thought it was appropriate that this Council have a  
44 very supporting resolution, you know, with Saxman's  
45 resolution. And I would expect from each community  
46 that if they come forth with a resolution on, comments  
47 on the new Tongass plan, that you'd be able to take  
48 that community's comments whether it be a resolution or  
49 whether it be a letter, that coming from that  
50 community, you could actually have a voice and say,

1 okay, I'm going to bring it to the committee level and  
2 we're going to come up with some specific resolutions  
3 that this particular Council is going to support.

4  
5                   Because the way I look at it is, you  
6 know, if Saxman were standing alone on this one issue,  
7 it would be one small voice. But now we have the  
8 City's resolution, we have Central Council's, we have  
9 ANS/ANB Grand Camp's resolution, and at some points we  
10 recruit resolutions from a national committee, you  
11 know. But it's all termed around our subsistence way  
12 or life, and very important. And again if this happens  
13 before April 12th, I'd strongly agree and go with this,  
14 but, you know, I came here to this meeting with  
15 specific things in mind, and I was hoping that this  
16 particular Council could actually sit down and vote on  
17 it, but I know we're in a time crunch, but, you know,  
18 if I'm assured that, you know, this committee could  
19 come forth and come back with, whether it's a  
20 teleconference to get your written comments in, or  
21 resolutions in to the process before April 12th, I'd go  
22 with that, I'd be fine with that, but if we're not,  
23 then I'd want to push forward with this from my  
24 community.

25  
26                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I think your  
27 concerns can be taken care of between now and then.  
28 So, you know, be aware of that, Committee members,  
29 Lee's concern, and Dr. Schroeder will keep that on the  
30 radar screen as well.

31  
32                   Don, go ahead.

33  
34                   MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.  
35 Chairman. Yes, I think I would consent to Chair this  
36 working group, I guess we'll call it a working group,  
37 and I agree with Mr. Wallace that incorporating some  
38 concerns from affected communities would be very  
39 worthwhile in our efforts. And I also agree with Merle  
40 that at the same time our ultimate actions should kind  
41 of reflect what is best for the region as a whole, so  
42 if we can incorporate a lot of specific community input  
43 into that regionwide analysis, I think that would be a  
44 very good accomplishment for the Council.

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Donald.  
47 And we'll trust that you'll carry that through for us.

48  
49                   It's 12 noon, a little after. We'll  
50 turn the time over to Dr. Schroeder for a couple

1 minutes. We've got the window, winter 2008 meeting  
2 coming up.

3

4 DR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
5 I think just kind of looking at what we have to  
6 accomplish yet in this meeting and what we've gotten  
7 done so far, we're most of the way there, and we might  
8 get there without an evening session on the ferry  
9 tonight, hopefully.

10

11 If you look at page 200 and 201 in your  
12 book, those are the meeting windows. And usually what  
13 we do is at this time -- sometime in the meeting we  
14 confirm our next meeting. This is outlined right now  
15 for Haines between September 24 and 28. And I've been  
16 talking to our new Council member, Mr. Hotch, and he  
17 says that he'll entertain the Council very well, and  
18 if anything goes wrong with this Council, it won't be  
19 because of Tom Kron or Melinda or me, but it will be  
20 totally due to Mr. Hotch.

21

22 MR. HOTCH: (Nods affirmatively)

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 DR. SCHROEDER: And those dates should  
27 be slated for a three-day meeting. We've identified  
28 five days there, and I believe the Council wanted us to  
29 see if something worked with ferries, and so that's  
30 pretty much where that would stand, unless there's some  
31 comment on Haines.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 DR. SCHROEDER: Hearing none, the next  
36 page, Page 201, is the meeting window for your next  
37 fisheries meeting, and the meeting window's from  
38 February 18 to 21. The only two meetings that I know  
39 about are the Bristol Bay meeting, which is on the 19th  
40 and 20th, and the Seward Peninsula meeting which is on  
41 February 21st and 22nd. But we'd be open for  
42 suggestions for both the dates and venue for that  
43 winter meeting.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, sir.

46

47 MR. DOUVILLE: I would suggest Sitka.  
48 I don't have a date, but since fisheries -- some of the  
49 fisheries things we'll be discussing on Makhnati  
50 Island, that might be a good place to consider.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sitka has been  
2 suggested. Don.  
3  
4 MR. HERNANDEZ: I think I would also  
5 suggest if we hold it as early as possible, because as  
6 spring progresses, some of us like to get out involved  
7 in the fisheries.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. Any  
10 problems with Sitka.  
11  
12 (No comments)  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So it will be in Sitka  
15 for the spring meeting, early spring meeting. And as  
16 Mr. Hernandez, as early as possible. So we're  
17 down to dates now. Do you have a suggestion, Don.  
18  
19 MR. HERNANDEZ: I think probably the  
20 earliest available would be February 25th. That's a  
21 Monday.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Does that look okay  
24 with the rest of the Council.  
25  
26 (Council nods affirmatively)  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. The week of  
29 February 25th it shall be.  
30  
31 Mr. Bangs.  
32  
33 MR. BANGS: Yes. Thank you, Mr.  
34 Chairman. Once again Sitka is pretty difficult to get  
35 to from some of the other communities, maybe we could  
36 do the same thing and look at ferry schedule and  
37 whatnot. That time of the year planes are iffy at  
38 best.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Exactly. I think, you  
41 know, Staff will take care of that. Melinda. Okay.  
42  
43 MS. HERNANDEZ: (Indiscernible, away  
44 from microphone)  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So it's going  
47 to be in Sitka the week of February 25th, or the 24th  
48 we should say.  
49  
50 Yeah. It's lunchtime, folks, so let's

1 go ahead and break for lunch.

2

3 (Off record)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We're back in  
8 session. I realize some of the Council members are  
9 out, but that's all right. But we do need to get done.  
10 I'm kind of setting 3:00 o'clock as a deadline for when  
11 we can quit here. So with your indulgence, I'd  
12 appreciate your cooperation on that effort.

13

14 I want to turn the time over to Dr.  
15 Schroeder to take care of the annual report for 2006.  
16 And then after that we will hear from Lee, who's gone,  
17 and, Merle, you're going to have to handle it all  
18 yourself on the Ketchikan/Saxman rural determinations  
19 issue.

20

21 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, I don't  
22 think we have an example of the annual report in this  
23 meeting material, because we usually get that back for  
24 our fall meeting, our September/October meeting.

25

26 The annual report is something that the  
27 Council is authorized to do. It's hard-wired in  
28 ANILCA, so ANILCA says the Counsel's authorized to do  
29 an annual report. And the annual report can discuss --  
30 it's really pretty open for what items it brings up to  
31 the attention of the Federal Subsistence Board  
32 concerning subsistence, so basically annual report  
33 items are things that concern subsistence. Generally  
34 they're things that don't fit into the regulatory  
35 schedule as proposals. So an annual report doesn't  
36 have a proposal to change a harvest limit, for example.  
37 But it may have a suggestion or a question to the Board  
38 about some other process or some issue that's come up  
39 in Council discussions.

40

41 I have a number of things that I've  
42 gotten from you guys over the last days or weeks, and I  
43 think those are possible items. And I've talked over  
44 those with the Chair.

45

46 What I'd like to do is go through those  
47 and see if the Council agrees that they're annual  
48 report items. And then have things opened up if people  
49 have other things that they want to question the Board  
50 about.

1                   And this is basically the time to bring  
2 something up with the Federal program that you think  
3 needs to be addressed, and then the Federal program  
4 develops a response to that and gets back to you.

5  
6                   So if that procedure's okay, I'll just  
7 keep going.

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Keep going.

10  
11                   DR. SCHROEDER: Our first issue that we  
12 talked about, this came up while we were doing our  
13 training with two new Council members, and we were  
14 dutifully going through the Council handbook, and the  
15 request for reconsideration issue came up again.

16  
17                   To back up a little bit on that, after  
18 the rural determination meeting was held in December  
19 last year, Saxman was found to be a non-rural area.  
20 When Chairman Adams gave a report in the January  
21 fisheries meeting, he stated that the Council intended  
22 to pursue an RFR on this issue, to raise some questions  
23 the Council didn't believe were adequately dealt with.  
24 At that time he was informed that Councils could not  
25 submit requests for reconsideration.

26  
27                   We have a real question there, because  
28 the Council handbook, 2006, specifically says that,  
29 yes, Councils can submit requests for reconsideration.  
30 And then one of our either new members or the Chairman  
31 looked at the regulation concerning requests for  
32 reconsideration, and noted that a request for  
33 reconsideration is very specifically mentioned as being  
34 an administrative step, meaning that it is part of the  
35 administration of the Federal subsistence program.  
36 It's not an adjudicative step, meaning that it is not a  
37 place where the Federal program is challenged.

38  
39                   Your job as a Council under your  
40 charter is basically to help the Federal program  
41 administer ANILCA.

42  
43                   So that's basically the issue that  
44 would be raised under that point.

45  
46                   Just to out -- I'll just pause and see  
47 if there's any discussion. If there isn't on that one  
48 or not, then we just write it up and work with the  
49 Chairman on the language.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any questions or  
2 comments.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: As Dr. Schroeder said,  
7 you know, right after we gave our testimony in regards  
8 to the rural determination for Saxman and Ketchikan, I  
9 informed the Federal Subsistence Board that we were  
10 going to pursue an RFR, and immediately after the  
11 meeting, I had one of their Board members come and tell  
12 me that this couldn't be done. Their legal person,  
13 who's name is Keith.

14  
15 DR. SCHROEDER: Keith Goltz.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Keith Goltz come and  
18 come and inform me that it was not in our power to do  
19 so. So I responded by saying, well, we'll see. And,  
20 you know, then we find out just a few days ago that we  
21 can do an RFR.

22  
23 And in discussion, you know, with Lee  
24 the other day during Council training session, we're in  
25 a position to assist Saxman in any way that we could to  
26 help them with reconsideration. And so we've been  
27 talking, you know, we've been talking. We've had  
28 teleconferences, a couple, three times, and, you know,  
29 right after we're done here, we'll here Lee and Merle's  
30 report on what has been done so far with their request  
31 for reconsideration.

32  
33 But we received a strong message from  
34 Lee that it would be well if we also along with Saxman  
35 submitted an RFR. So, you know, we'll fathom those  
36 things out, and when we get to the final document and  
37 everything, I'm sure that it will work out for not only  
38 Saxman and Ketchikan, we're not going to ignore  
39 Ketchikan as well, folks. If we can get Saxman  
40 separated from Ketchikan -- what the Board did is they  
41 put the two together. And our challenge, you know, was  
42 to challenge their process, because I know that Lee  
43 came up to that Board meeting pretty well comfortable  
44 with the fact that Saxman was going to retain their  
45 rural status. And we had no clue whatsoever, you know,  
46 that the Board was going to put Saxman and Ketchikan  
47 together. And I think for that we have a good reason  
48 to challenge their process, because no notice was sent  
49 out saying that they were going to do that. They just  
50 arbitrarily lumped Ketchikan and Saxman together. So

1 with the RFR, you know, our goal is to take Saxman out  
2 of that environment, and then it will open up the door  
3 for Ketchikan also to pursue an RFR.

4  
5                   The whole issue, you know, is on  
6 population, and the letters that you see in your packet  
7 in regards to that addresses that issue. And we're  
8 advocating, you know, I think this Council is saying we  
9 shouldn't base rural determination on communities  
10 according to population. You look at the  
11 characterization of that community and, you know,  
12 fathom it by the amount of subsistence people who are  
13 in that community. And so, you know, those are issues  
14 and details that we will be working out as we go  
15 through the process.

16  
17                   I'm happy to learn that we can do an  
18 RFR, and whether Saxman does it on their own, you know,  
19 we have the ability to do that as well.

20  
21                   DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chair, you touched  
22 on the second item. The first item concerns expressing  
23 the Council's view on this RFR question, and by seeing  
24 whether the -- what the Board will respond. The  
25 Council exists to support the Board and to advise  
26 things to the Board so really at this time it would be  
27 awkward for the Council to submit an RFR since we've  
28 been specifically told that that's something that can't  
29 be done.

30  
31                   The second point relates to that,  
32 because Chairman Adams raised the question of process  
33 concerning the decision for the rural determination on  
34 Saxman. And right after that determination was made,  
35 Chairman Adams sat down with Lee Wallace and staff, and  
36 the process was a clear issue. We're unable to raise  
37 that in an RFR because we can't submit one at this  
38 time. So I'm suggesting that that be raised in the  
39 annual report.

40  
41                   The issue is exactly as Bert put it,  
42 that there was inadequate notice for this Board  
43 decision, that the public did not have the ability or  
44 the opportunity to comment on this, in fact the  
45 community leader, Lee Wallace, was basically unaware  
46 that this direction was taking place. And it was a  
47 deviation from the public notice in the Federal  
48 Register concerning rural determinations. I believe in  
49 our discussions, Mr. Chairman, you wished us to say  
50 that that the decision should be void and revisited

1 after adequate notice had been done. I'm not exactly  
2 clear on that, so that should be a point that we clear  
3 up on this RFR idea.

4  
5 So that would be that the issue is as  
6 stated. The remedy would be that the Board would need  
7 to void its previous decision and basically go back to  
8 go with adequate public notice and hearing.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, that's  
11 appropriate. I think that's the way we need to address  
12 that. And then, you know, we're going to be listening  
13 to the reports from Lee and Merle in a little bit on  
14 what has been done thus far, you know, the beginning  
15 process of this RFR is concerned. And then I'm sure we  
16 want to discuss this, bring this issue up a little more  
17 as well.

18  
19 All right. I need to find out also,  
20 you know, if the Council wishes to, and if we can, if  
21 one RFR is being done by one entity, can another one  
22 submit one as well, and I think that needs to be talked  
23 about, you know, as we discuss this issue.

24  
25 Go ahead, Dr. Schroeder.

26  
27 DR. SCHROEDER: Let's see. These  
28 aren't in any particular order. This is one that's  
29 come up a couple of time before the Council in  
30 deliberations. This has to do with where proposals  
31 come from, and there's been some concern. At the  
32 present time any one, any individual or entity can  
33 submit a proposal, regulatory proposal and it will be  
34 considered by the Council and by the Board in making a  
35 change in regulations. There has been concern about  
36 having something that would recognize the difference  
37 between a proposal that was coming from a sole  
38 individual possibly with no known community support,  
39 and a proposal that had been really vetted by a  
40 community organization or put before a community group.  
41 So that's just on here as a possible, and so I'd like  
42 Council direction on whether you'd like to raise that  
43 with the Board or not.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Let me just elaborate  
46 on that a little bit. I've always been under the  
47 impression and I agree with -- you know, we had a  
48 discussion about this during one of our teleconference  
49 meetings, and I brought the issue up, and I agree with  
50 the members of the Council that anyone can submit a

1 proposal and take it through the process, but one of  
2 the things that I really would like to see that if an  
3 individual does have a concern and, you know, does  
4 submit the application for a change of subsistence  
5 regulations, that that individual get good community  
6 input from it. Take it to the community and discuss it  
7 with them, and indicate -- show evidence that, you  
8 know, this process was done.

9

10 Let me give you an example. There's an  
11 individual from Gustavus who was successful all on his  
12 one to get a C&T recognition for that area. You know,  
13 he did it all by himself. And we saw it here. We saw  
14 that here in this body. And at the same time, the  
15 Council was preparing a proposal to include all of that  
16 area, Chatham Straits area. And, of course, Gustavus  
17 was included in that. Now, in the Federal Subsistence  
18 Board meeting, I think it was last fall sometime. that  
19 particular proposal got in their hands and they  
20 approved it. And I was very upset with that. I was  
21 upset in the fact that we were already working on one  
22 and that I wasn't convinced, you know, that the  
23 individual took it to the community and got support.  
24 And this is, to me, you know, very important, because  
25 it affected other people's lives, maybe positively, you  
26 know, but to be able to get proper support through  
27 whatever channels you might do. Community hearings,  
28 you know, community input is evidence that I would like  
29 to see if an individual wishes to submit a proposal.

30

31 You know, that's something that I think  
32 that this Council needs to look at it and help us, you  
33 know, with that process.

34

35 MS. HAWKINS: Bert.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Merle, go ahead.

38

39 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah. Regarding the  
40 request for reconsideration, because all this material  
41 is so new to me, I do remember reading and I think it  
42 had to do with the Federal Subsistence Board and the  
43 Regional Advisory Council and the deference issue. And  
44 that rural status was not an issue that this Board and  
45 that Board had deference to, and because this stuff is  
46 all so new to me, I don't remember where I saw that.  
47 So I think the tribes would have to make sure they have  
48 a plan B as far as the request for reconsideration.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure. Thank you,

1 Merle.

2

3

Dr. Schroeder, continue.

4

5

DR. SCHROEDER: Just are there any  
6 comments on this question of whether this issue should  
7 be raised on proposals submitted by individuals or  
8 should -- evaluation of community support for  
9 proposals. I'd just like to see if there's any Council  
10 input on that.

11

12

13

14

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19

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is there? Is there  
20 any Council input?  
21  
MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman.  
22  
CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Mr. Kookesh.  
23  
MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. There was  
24 one issue, I know you brought out two points. There  
25 was a third point that I thought should go into that  
26 document. And the third point is someone from Unit 2  
27 putting in a proposal on behalf of Unit 4. That  
28 practice. It would be correct only if it pertained to  
29 all of Southeast.

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CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Point well  
taken there.  
Lee, go ahead.  
MR. WALLACE: I just want to say I  
concur with the Chairman's comments on Gustavus. And I  
don't know the history of Gustavus per se, but on C&T  
issues I would think that when there's a C&T in place,  
that there's always that C&T in place of known  
communities and villages and clan areas, C&T's been  
there. And again, having lack of knowledge of the  
history of Gustavus, whether or not does the C&T really  
apply to them. But I certainly concur, that, yeah, one  
individual just pushing a proposal through and getting  
it up to the FSB level and the FSB looking at it and,  
you know, it certainly seems like a procedure and  
policy maybe just wasn't in place.

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1 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, Mr. Douville.  
4  
5 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr.  
6 Chairman. I have no problem with somebody submitting a  
7 proposal, no matter -- you know, as an individual.  
8 Title VIII gives everybody that right. And I think if  
9 the Federal Staff and those involved made effort to  
10 inform that community, written and otherwise that this  
11 was taking place, then I think they've had adequate  
12 notice and opportunity to respond, and they choose not  
13 to, then that's totally up to them. But I don't think  
14 they were left in the dark. I'd be -- no one else has  
15 been in the past. I don't see where there's an issue  
16 with this particular situation.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thanks, Mike.  
19  
20 Cal, do you have something.  
21  
22 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
23 don't know quite how I'm going to start this off, but  
24 first of all, it's important to understand that  
25 ANILCA's a rural priority, and it's afforded to all  
26 rural residents, whether they be native or non-native.  
27 That's one point.  
28  
29 The other point is I am familiar a  
30 little bit with Gustavus. I am familiar with the  
31 proponent in this case that we've been talking about.  
32 I know for a fact that the City of Gustavus is a  
33 second-class city. They have very limited resources,  
34 and they have made a policy that their city council  
35 doesn't discuss fish and wildlife issues. You know,  
36 they're just dealing with trying to have a harbor and  
37 dealing with the Park Service and blah-blah-blah. They  
38 don't have the time or resources to deal with fish and  
39 wildlife issues.  
40  
41 In the case of Mr. Burkhart, where does  
42 he go? How does he get his concerns addressed if his  
43 own city council doesn't what to deal with fish and  
44 wildlife issues? He came to this Council, he came to  
45 the Federal program to get something fixed. He  
46 shouldn't be penalized for that.  
47  
48 Thank you.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Cal.

1 Patty.

2

3 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
4 Adams.

5

6 Thank you, Cal, for sharing that,  
7 because us small communities, we have very little  
8 resources and we have a lot of diversity of subject  
9 matters to deal with.

10

11 You know, what I really appreciate  
12 about this SEARAC process is that I can come into this  
13 with my mind made up on something, but after analyzing  
14 all the information that we have to analyze to make  
15 decisions that in the end my decision that I thought  
16 was set in stone can be changed because what I learned  
17 through this process. And a lot of times that mind  
18 made up is changed because of the in-depth study that  
19 I've done on a topic.

20

21 And I am somebody who has submitted a  
22 proposal all on their own, and we're here to represent  
23 the entire region. And this process, you know, was  
24 State regulations that the Federal process adopted and  
25 we've been amending it as we go along. And sometimes  
26 we just don't see those little intricate things that  
27 affect communities or community members. And if  
28 somebody like Mr. Burkhart finds a little, hey, you  
29 guys are missing out here, and brings it to our  
30 attention, then I'm proud of him for doing it. And  
31 when we started this, I didn't necessarily agree with  
32 him, but in the end I came to agree with him.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Yeah. I agree  
37 with all of you. The process and everything, but maybe  
38 we just need to go on.

39

40 Donald, go ahead, I'll give you an  
41 opportunity.

42

43 MR. HERNANDEZ: I would agree with  
44 Patty also. I think individuals should be able to  
45 submit proposals.

46

47 I do have a question though. As far as  
48 Staff analysis, I mean, does somebody submitting a  
49 proposal, does that automatically commence, you know,  
50 full Staff analysis of that proposal, or do the Staff

1 kind of try and do some preliminary work to see if that  
2 proposal does have merit and support? So what's the  
3 process there.

4

5 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman. Don,  
6 basically if proposing something that's under the  
7 authority of the Federal subsistence program, whether  
8 it's one person or 1,000 people, we treat it as a  
9 serious proposal. So there's no screening by Staff.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh.

12

13 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.  
14 There's nothing wrong with one -- I agree in a way with  
15 what they're saying about there's nothing wrong with  
16 one person starting a process, but you need to bring  
17 other people in there. I don't know how one guy can  
18 just walk all over town with a proposal that nobody  
19 else knows about. It doesn't make sense. You would  
20 think he would develop -- he would have developed  
21 partnerships along the route and mae this thing happen.

22

23 The problem is that when you look at  
24 public comments, we don't see public comments, and  
25 there's a failing on our part, on that part. It says  
26 something about, sure, one guy did it, but there's not  
27 even any public comments to back it up or to support  
28 it, so how valid can it be? It may be a valid issue.

29

30 I'm glad Gustavus is being  
31 reconsidered. I think that eight criteria need to be  
32 really addressed instead of generally addressed.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Floyd.

35

36 Mr. Bangs.

37

38 MR. BANGS: Something, a point I'd like  
39 to make, there's a lot of people that don't live in  
40 communities. And there's a lot of people that are not  
41 accepted by their communities, and I don't think we  
42 want to exclude those people from being able to get  
43 into the process.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thanks. All of those  
48 points are well taken. Another step that could happen  
49 here, too, is, you know, like this individual who  
50 submitted this, is come to these meetings and

1 personally appear before us and argue his case. I  
2 think that would be a lot of weight on our -- as far as  
3 I'm concerned, you know, whether we go ahead and accept  
4 it or not. Warranted to say that maybe transportation  
5 problems, you know, is a question, but that proposal  
6 started. I've always preached, you know, individuals  
7 starting a proposal. It can start right from one  
8 person, but if that person comes here and says, I've  
9 talked to this group of people and that group of people  
10 and they agree, you know, that's completely appropriate  
11 for me to say, oh, yeah, well, you know, the people who  
12 are being affected by this have put their comment in.  
13 And maybe he did, but we don't know that. And I think  
14 that person's presence here is also important.

15  
16 So I think, you know, this is a good  
17 discussion, but I don't think that we're going to go  
18 anywhere with it. Let's go ahead and move on.

19  
20 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman. A number  
21 of Council members have spoken to me about discussions  
22 that they know are in the works concerning the Council  
23 program calendar. And some years ago there were  
24 discussions about the Federal subsistence program  
25 moving to an every other year for wildlife and every  
26 other year for fisheries. And there was a concern that  
27 we shouldn't change what has served us well, and that  
28 if this sort of change is contemplated, that it should  
29 have a full Council review. Are there any comments on  
30 that item.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mike.

33  
34 MR. DOUVILLE: I'm one of those people,  
35 and being on this Council for some time, it takes a  
36 while for us to learn the system, how it works, learn  
37 each other. And I think that changing what we have now  
38 would be would be detrimental to that process. We  
39 would be less effective. And I believe that things  
40 could pile up in the meantime and create longer  
41 meetings with less informed, or less -- a RAC that was  
42 not as knowledgeable as you have now. And this system  
43 really seems to work well in the past, and, you know,  
44 this is one of those situations, if it's not broken,  
45 then why fix it.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike. And  
48 I'm going to assume that other members of the Council  
49 agree with you.  
50

1 So, Dr. Schroeder, the next thing.

2

3 DR. SCHROEDER: There are just two  
4 other items on my list. One is the discussion that you  
5 had with me, Mr. Adams, concerning a meeting of the  
6 Chairs, and the other is something to do with eagle  
7 feathers. And we have a letter sitting there, but I  
8 don't know if that's an annual report item or not.

9

10 With respect to a meeting of the  
11 Chairs, those people who have been on the Council for  
12 some years remember that there was a meeting of Council  
13 chairs which took place one day before the regularly  
14 scheduled Federal Subsistence Board meetings. These  
15 meetings were discontinued some years ago, because of  
16 Federal Advisory Committee Act concerns and possibly  
17 other reasons.

18

19 Mr. Adams thought that this issue  
20 should be raised, but possibly these meetings would be  
21 concerned with program operations and not specifically  
22 be designed to provide recommendations to the Federal  
23 program. If meetings were held of that sort, since  
24 they would not be recommending things to the Federal  
25 program, but be furthering discussion, they might not  
26 be covered by the FACA requirements. Alternatively,  
27 the Board could charter a FACA committee which was made  
28 up of Council chairs.

29

30 The reason for having such a meeting  
31 would be to facilitate communication among the chairs  
32 who at the present time only see each other at Federal  
33 Subsistence Board meetings and possibly basketball  
34 games if they're like our chairman here. But that's  
35 the issue as I understand it, Bert.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Dr.  
38 Schroeder. You know, I'm on the -- you people put me  
39 on the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource  
40 Commission meeting, and the chairs have a meeting every  
41 year. And I've attended a couple of them, and I found  
42 them very helpful in getting a feel for what's  
43 happening in other regions, and what other chairs bring  
44 to the table on issues that are common, and issues that  
45 are not so common. And I find it very helpful.

46

47 And I was kind scratching my head when  
48 they stopped this as to why, you know, we're no longer  
49 allowed to have it. And I think it would be really  
50 beneficial for the RACs to begin that process again,

1 just for the sake of being able to, you know, find out  
2 what's going on in other places, and support to one  
3 another, things like that.

4

5 Mr. Douville, please.

6

7 MR. DOUVILLE: There's one other issue  
8 I have. I don't know where it goes, or how it is  
9 addressed, but I would like to put it on record is that  
10 bait was -- fishing for steelhead with bait was okayed  
11 by the Federal Subsistence Board; yet in our fishery --  
12 the winter fishery here before the season even started,  
13 we have a hundred fish we can catch in certain streams,  
14 the bigger streams in Unit 2. And bait was not  
15 allowed. It was taken out of there by the in-season  
16 manager. So you could not use bait. Bait will be  
17 allowed I believe in the spring season on some of those  
18 bigger streams. But the bait was taken out by the in-  
19 season. I don't -- my question was, I don't think he  
20 had the authority to do it, and I had issue with it.  
21 And there was no conservation issue. And this wasn't  
22 in-season management, it was pre-season management, and  
23 it needs to be dealt with somehow. What we wound up  
24 with was something that virtually gave no rural  
25 preference by doing that.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So noted, Mr.  
28 Douville.

29

30 Mr. Harvey Kitka.

31

32 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd  
33 like to hear the letter on the eagle feathers and see  
34 where we stand on that.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you. Do  
37 you have a copy of that letter? It should be in your  
38 packet.

39

40 MR. STOKES: I'd like to make comment  
41 on the bait for steelhead. We're already on a limit so  
42 why tell us how to catch it, or what we use. There are  
43 only so many fish going to be taken anyway.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh.

46

47 MR. KOOKESH: Is this going to be in  
48 the annual report?

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh-huh. That's

1 correct. It is. Do you want to take a couple minutes  
2 and go through that, and then whenever you're ready,  
3 you know, chime in. I'm not sure what we want to do.  
4 Or we're not sure what we want to do at this point, but  
5 I think it's an issue that I think that we need to, you  
6 know, discuss and talk about. So, Mr. Kookesh, please.

7  
8 MR. KOOKESH: I've had an opportunity  
9 to sit in on some meetings with Don Bremner on this  
10 eagle feather issue. And I do know that there is  
11 legislation that has been -- that is being given to  
12 Lisa Murkowski to introduce, and there's also -- that  
13 Don Bremner and them are also asking for letters of  
14 support to be addressed to Lisa Murkowski and I was  
15 wondering if we're a party to that or not.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Why don't we give  
18 everyone a chance to read it and then I think we could  
19 probably deal with that. You know, I think we should  
20 do a support letter.

21  
22 (Pause)

23  
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Has everyone had a  
25 chance to review the letter? I think what Mr. Bremner  
26 is asking, you know, is some kind of support from this  
27 body, you know, on this issue. The legislation is  
28 going to be submitted, and Senator Murkowski -- the  
29 letter is to Senator Murkowski requesting that.

30  
31 Do you have a question, Mr. Kookesh?  
32 Go ahead.

33  
34 MR. KOOKESH: This isn't about this  
35 though, this is about the bait for steelhead issue.  
36 And I feel I didn't hear the rest of it, because I felt  
37 that we dealt with this issue last time around, and I  
38 thought it was resolved. What happened?

39  
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mike.

41  
42 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
43 I thought it was, too. That's why I was astounded that  
44 we were -- the bait was disallowed. What I was trying  
45 to say is the district ranger has in-season management,  
46 yet he seemed to have had the power to take the bait  
47 and restrict bait out of the winter fishery. And to me  
48 this was putting a restriction on a subsistence user,  
49 and it wasn't in-season, it was pre-season. Nobody had  
50 caught a fish, and probably only four or five got

1 caught for the whole season anyway. But I don't know  
2 what the numbers are. They've always been small. And  
3 one of the reasons they're small is because you can't  
4 use bait, and you can't go fishing efficiently. We  
5 dealt with this many, many times. So things need to be  
6 very clear for in-season management. We already did  
7 all the work. The only advantage then if you took the  
8 bait away was that you would be able to catch a fish  
9 that was less than 36 inches while sport and other  
10 users would be required to have a 36-inch fish.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think what we could  
13 do with that situation, thanks for bringing it back up,  
14 Floyd, is, you know, why don't we draft a letter to the  
15 in-season manager, you know, expressing our concern  
16 over that. Mr. Kookesh.

17  
18 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. To get  
19 justification for the preseason action that occurred,  
20 because I thought we had resolved it before.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure. Go to Dr.  
23 Schroeder.

24  
25 DR. SCHROEDER: I do -- is there a  
26 Council intention concerning the eagle feathers? I'll  
27 point out that the Council can't write in to support a  
28 specific piece of Legislation. It may be possible to  
29 write to Senator Murkowski letting her know the  
30 cultural use of eagle feathers. That might keep us out  
31 of the lobbying arena.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Dr. Schroeder,  
34 that takes care of the eagle issue, but the letter, you  
35 know, to the in-season manager in regards to the use of  
36 bait, you know, for steelhead.

37  
38 DR. SCHROEDER: So doing I'd request  
39 some help from fisheries staff on that one.

40  
41 MR. CASIPIT: No problem.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thanks, Cal.

44  
45 MR. HOTCH: Mr. Chairman.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'll be darned. He  
48 wants to say something. And we're almost done.

49  
50 (Laughter)

1 MR. HOTCH: Mr. Chairman, I believe it  
2 would be beneficial if we used the word traditional,  
3 cultural, it loses -- I don't if I've seen it. I'm a  
4 slow reader. But it would be good to show that it  
5 would be used culturally and traditionally.

6  
7 Thank you. End of speech.

8  
9 (Laughter)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Joe.  
12 That's appropriate.

13  
14 DR. SCHROEDER: That's it for what I  
15 have for annual report items. If anyone has anything  
16 else, speak now or speak later.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Let's move on  
19 then. Yeah, we're going turn the time over to Lee and  
20 Merle for their report on the working group for the  
21 RFR.

22  
23 MR. WALLACE: Mr. Chairman. My brief  
24 report won't take much time. I did a Council member  
25 report at the beginning of the meeting, and I'm really  
26 not going to really add much more to that, just that  
27 it's under way, and again looking at the regulation  
28 review process in my Council training the other night,  
29 it was brought forth that Item No. 18 of the regulation  
30 review process clearly states that RACs have the  
31 ability to submit an RFR. And I'm, again, just  
32 bringing that forth. It's right there in black and  
33 white. Merle mentioned some other thing that she read,  
34 but it's not really pulling it up. But I've got it  
35 right here in black and white in our Council training  
36 booklet. And I'm looking forward to, you know going  
37 through the process of Saxman putting forth an RFR, and  
38 I'm just wanting the same effort with the Southeast  
39 RAC.

40  
41 Previously I mentioned supporting  
42 resolutions, and the more groups, agencies or  
43 individuals that you have supporting the RAC, I think  
44 the more you have, united you stand, divided you're  
45 going to fall. And I'm just looking for more and more  
46 support from anywhere I could.

47  
48 Of course, coming to a small community  
49 like Kake, I haven't had the internet access and again  
50 our professor Don Monteith's (ph) been working with us,

1 and he's putting together a draft again. And at our  
2 last teleconference that we had prior to coming up to  
3 Kake, he said he was going to kind of narrow down the  
4 draft and again we'll probably have another  
5 teleconference and review that final draft that we  
6 would be submitting.

7

8 And again I mentioned that not too long  
9 ago I called the FSB Board seeing if there was a  
10 publishing of that yet, and they said they were  
11 hopefully getting it published by February 23rd.  
12 Friday at the close of business at the office, I didn't  
13 get a chance to look on the internet site to see if it  
14 was indeed published yet, and I still don't know if  
15 it's published. But after that publishing date, we  
16 have that 60 days to submit that RFR. And I just look  
17 for this Council's support as far as putting forth the  
18 RFR.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MR. KOOKESH: Mike. (No microphone)

23

24 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 This RAC has been on record many times supporting  
26 Ketchikan and supporting Saxman to remain rural. I  
27 don't know how we resubmit our feelings which in my  
28 mind hasn't changed. We've been on record many times  
29 in the past.

30

31 MR. KOOKESH: Merle. (No microphone)

32

33 MS. HAWKINS: Thank you. This is Merle

34 Hawkins.

35

36 Yeah, I was looking at this Federal  
37 Register Monday, August 14th, proposed rule where it's  
38 talking about the criteria used and the application of  
39 the criteria for rural status determination. And I  
40 keep going back to this and looking at it. So  
41 Ketchikan, it says two areas were recommended for  
42 further analysis. Ketchikan area, whether to include  
43 Saxman and areas of growth and development outside of  
44 the current nonrural boundaries, and evaluate the  
45 rural/ nonrural status of the whole area.

46

47 One thing I find interesting in here,  
48 it says the Board's analysis and preliminary efforts to  
49 distinguish between rural places and nonrural places  
50 were heavily reliant on population size. But when the

1 Board used other characteristics, its approach was  
2 based on a totality of the circumstances. And so those  
3 distinguishing characteristics are the criteria.

4  
5                   And so what I did, or what I started  
6 on, was lining up Ketchikan area and Kodiak and  
7 comparing those things across the board. And that's  
8 what Dolly Garza told me to do. And, you know, Kodiak  
9 and Ketchikan are just about identical. About the only  
10 information that we're really lacking still is the use  
11 of fish and wildlife resources. And there was some  
12 information in the Tongass Forest Management Plan about  
13 -- from the Truck study that they've done, but there  
14 was also a table in there, direct and indirect effects,  
15 abundance and distribution. Oh, no, the per capita  
16 subsistence harvest by community and resource type.  
17 And as usual there was no numbers for Ketchikan. So I  
18 still think there's hope for Ketchikan and then also --  
19 and for Saxman. We're still supporting Saxman and do  
20 believe that they are separate.

21  
22                   But also in this rural determinations  
23 decennial review, June 23, 2006 analysis of communities  
24 and areas, I studied and studied this, and I found some  
25 inaccuracies in this. And so my job is to put this  
26 information together, and so we're still looking to  
27 this Board, and to the tribes and the community of  
28 Ketchikan and Saxman to work together on rural status  
29 for those two communities, because to me I think  
30 Southeast Alaska should be all be considered rural,  
31 because we're just a bunch of islands, isolated,  
32 surrounded by forests, but we have to go by this  
33 criteria. So my job is just to go item by item and  
34 look at the criteria and put it down, and so I think if  
35 we continue to work together and submit the information  
36 that they want to hear, that we can prove that.  
37 Because, you know, like I said, you put Kodiak and  
38 Ketchikan side by side, all that criteria's identical.  
39 There's no difference. There might be a small  
40 population difference, but I think that's what we'll  
41 just keep pounding away at.

42  
43                   And we're getting some help from Dan  
44 Monteith at the University of Juneau. He used to live  
45 in Ketchikan area, was adopted into one of the local  
46 tribes, and is very knowledgeable. And so he's working  
47 on that aspect of it.

48  
49                   Because not only was -- Ketchikan was  
50 also a traditional Tlingit fish camp and then a village

1 and then there was native allotments. Well, what  
2 happened was that a lot of the land was taken away,  
3 because they started charging taxes to the natives,  
4 which the City was not supposed to do, and so there was  
5 a lot of land that was taken away. So it's just like  
6 any other community, we're just like Saxman. We got  
7 engulfed by a large community, but, you know, when you  
8 look at the characteristics, we're still the same.

9  
10 And we did do the fish and wildlife  
11 survey that Dolly Garza helped us with, and the BIA  
12 biologist. And if we could get more funding, it was a  
13 random household survey for the whole community of  
14 Ketchikan, and if we could get more money for those  
15 types of things, we brought our per capita uses of fish  
16 and wildlife up from 30 pounds per person up to 90  
17 pounds per person, which I still think is low, and if  
18 we continue to work on that, you know, there's still  
19 hope.

20  
21 Thank you.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Lee and  
24 Merle.

25  
26 And let me just fill in a gap here or  
27 two if I can. Merle was referring, you know, to the  
28 characteristics, or how Ketchikan and Kodiak were the  
29 same. And Kodiak, they got their rural status  
30 recognition. And you have in Kodiak, you know, the  
31 community itself and then you have the Coast Guard  
32 base. And the public testimonies that were done there,  
33 you know, people from the Coast Guard base came and  
34 they said that they really didn't want to be included  
35 in the Kodiak population base, because they were  
36 transient people, they weren't interested, you know, in  
37 subsistence issues, and then the Board accepted that,  
38 you know. They kept the Coast Guard base and then just  
39 took Kodiak by itself.

40  
41 And then Merle was relating how similar  
42 Kodiak and Ketchikan were, because Ketchikan, you know,  
43 has Ketchikan, and then there's Saxman. And the  
44 problem that arose, you know, as a result of their  
45 decision to make Ketchikan nonrural was to include  
46 Saxman in their population base. And that was -- you  
47 know, I think had a lot to do with that.

48  
49 And then, you know, we challenge that  
50 by process and the fact that the people were not aware

1 that this was going to happen. So the thing we're  
2 going to do with the RFR is take Saxman, separate it  
3 from Ketchikan and try to get it that way. And then I  
4 make it a point to assure, you know, Merle that we  
5 weren't going to in any way ignore Ketchikan. And so  
6 when that happens, you know, in the same process we are  
7 going to be sure that Ketchikan is also -- you know,  
8 have their own RFR.

9  
10 And Dan is an individual who is putting  
11 together the information. What he needs to do is he  
12 needs to find new information that has not already been  
13 provided, you know, to the Board. And I listened to  
14 him, we've had him on teleconferences one or two times,  
15 and he's submitted a draft of what he is putting  
16 together. I'm sorry we don't have it with us now, but  
17 I was impressed with the work that he was doing. So I  
18 think, you know, we're going to -- whether we decide  
19 whether we want to do it ourselves, or, you know, if  
20 Saxman and Ketchikan does their own RFRs, it's still  
21 kind of up in the air as far as I'm concerned. I think  
22 we're going to be able to come up with a real good RFR  
23 that will be convincing.

24  
25 And so, you know, with that, I'd just  
26 leave it at that, and if you have any questions of Lee  
27 and of Merle, please feel free to call on them.

28  
29 Mr. Bangs.

30  
31 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
32 Just real quick, I didn't hear it mentioned, but there  
33 is a large Coast Guard base in Ketchikan as well.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, that wasn't even  
36 taken under consideration, but we could -- you know,  
37 Lee and Merle, particularly, you know, bring that up as  
38 an issue when you go through the process.

39  
40 Thank you, Lee and Merle. Unless  
41 there's any other questions we'll move on.

42  
43 (No comments)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We're on item number  
46 20, agency and organization reports. Is that you, Tom?  
47 Please come forward.

48  
49 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, members of the  
50 Council, I will address the first one, and it's located

1 on Page 198 in your Council book. It's a copy of a  
2 letter from Mr. Stansell of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
3 Service to Julie Kitka of AFN, dated January 22nd. And  
4 we've included this in all 10 Regional Council books  
5 this cycle across the State, you know, for  
6 informational purposes.

7  
8 And I guess just a little background on  
9 the issue here. Inflation, increasing costs, and  
10 budget reductions have eroded the OSM program since  
11 2000. In 2006 OSM dealt with a \$450,000 budget  
12 shortfall by keeping five vacancies unfilled. In 2007  
13 OSM, that's the current fiscal year, OSM must address a  
14 national Fish and Wildlife Service realignment  
15 initiative to redirect 10 percent of Staff and funding  
16 to the field, as well as an additional 300,000 budget  
17 shortfall due to inflation and increasing costs.

18  
19 The President's fiscal year 2008 budget  
20 proposes OSM for an additional half million dollar  
21 reduction.

22  
23 Regional Advisory Councils remain the  
24 highest priority in the face of declining budgets and  
25 declining spending power. Bold steps are required to  
26 address the budget situation. There have been and will  
27 continue to be reductions in OSM staff and services.  
28 We will continue to address declining budgets with  
29 reductions to the Fishery Resource Monitoring Program.  
30 There will be reductions in funding to the State of  
31 Alaska for liaison and Staff support.

32  
33 We need to explore all options,  
34 including the possibility of moving to a two-year  
35 regulatory cycle. We will be briefing the Regional  
36 Advisory Councils more fully on the budget situation  
37 and program impacts at the fall 2007 meetings. We  
38 continue to look for ways to respond to these budget  
39 realities while providing a subsistence program that is  
40 effective and responsive to the needs of rural  
41 Alaskans.

42  
43 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Tom. I've  
46 got a question for you. How will this affect, you  
47 know, the recruitment of a replacement for Dr.  
48 Schroeder? With the cuts and everything, you know,  
49 it's going to -- I'm sure it's going to have some  
50 effect. How much do you think?

1 MR. KRON: I would say, you know, what  
2 I'm addressing here is the Fish and Wildlife Service  
3 portion. Dr. Schroeder is funded under the U.S. Forest  
4 Service, so I would expect no impact. But I know that  
5 as Dr. Kessler pointed out, they're facing budget  
6 issues as well.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So then it's coming  
9 from a different budget.

10  
11 My next one is the two-year regulatory  
12 cycle. That means that one year we'll take care of  
13 wildlife, and another year fisheries. I don't know,  
14 I'd like to know what the Council thinks about that.  
15 I'm not too happy with it myself.

16  
17 MR. DOUVILLE: I already made my  
18 comment.

19  
20 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Mike, I  
21 heard your comment and I wrote it down. Thank you, Mr.  
22 Chairman.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else. What was  
25 his comment?

26  
27 MR. KRON: He didn't like it.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Him and I are in  
30 alignment there. Patty.

31  
32 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
33 Adams.

34  
35 Mr. Kron, when do you think that may be  
36 implemented, that calendar, every other year calendar?

37  
38 MR. KRON: It would have to be approved  
39 by the Federal Board. You know, the Board has not  
40 taken that step. Council input, you know, is real  
41 important in the whole process. So again I don't have  
42 an answer.

43  
44 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs.

47  
48 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
49 agree with Mr. Douville and I think that it might be in  
50 our best interest to send a letter to the Federal Board

1 stating that we feel strongly about the system the way  
2 it is now and that we don't want to cut it any further.  
3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Tom, go ahead.

6

7 MR. KRON: Yeah, maybe if I explained a  
8 little bit, you know, there's been some initial  
9 discussions about what could be done, and the  
10 difficulty is as the budget diminishes, you know,  
11 people get forced to figure out what the heck to do.  
12 There's only so far you can stretch things. And what  
13 they've talked about is essentially in the Fisheries  
14 Information Services program, the FIS program, that  
15 supports monitoring projects in cooperation with the  
16 Forest Service here in Southeast, and then the Fish and  
17 Wildlife provides for that funding in much of the rest  
18 of the State. The thinking was to essentially have  
19 those fisheries staff do the monitoring project one  
20 year and then the next year they would work on the  
21 fisheries regulatory proposals. There would be  
22 wildlife staff that would essentially address wildlife  
23 proposals on alternating years. The reality of this  
24 kind of issue is that there is going to be more special  
25 action requests, things are going to happen in between  
26 that, you know, just are going to require action. So  
27 there's going to be more special action requests.

28

29 Again, it's a difficult situation, but  
30 the problem, given the budgets is that, you know, the  
31 hands are being forced here. And again I think, you  
32 know, I guess what I've heard strongly is that the  
33 Councils would still need to meet, you know, twice a  
34 year, once in the fall and once in the winter. But  
35 again, just kind of spread out the regulatory part of  
36 it, so we weren't taking everything up every year.

37

38 I think as people are aware, on the  
39 State side, for example, they take up fisheries issues  
40 in an area once every three years. This would be more  
41 responsive than that is. On the wildlife side, they  
42 take up different regions of the State every two years,  
43 but then statewide issues are the longer time span. So  
44 this would be more responsive than the State is in  
45 their process, even if this were to be addressed. But  
46 again, Council input is very important.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You've got our input.

1 Anyone else.

2

3 MR. WALLACE: Mr. Chair. Yes, I just  
4 want to concur with the two previous statements about  
5 if it's working, why try to fix it. You're going to  
6 disrupt it.

7

8 And what's important here is from what  
9 I understand there's been a balance here. There's a  
10 balance of, okay, part of the year we're dealing with  
11 fish, part of the other year we're dealing with game.  
12 And if you're just going to leave one off until a whole  
13 year -- you know, we just discussed the herring fishery  
14 up in Sitka. I mean, if we happen to be in the game  
15 that particular year, you know, you're going to miss  
16 out on total issues. But he did mention that there  
17 will be some special issues coming up. But in the  
18 meantime though, I still stand strong on the balance.  
19 There's always a balance that needs to be obtained and  
20 I think with the way it's been handled in the past and  
21 present time is that, you know, there's a balance of  
22 the two happening throughout the year.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Don.

25

26 MR. HERNANDEZ: I just might ask, what  
27 is the greatest cost, you know, associated with the  
28 program. Is it -- it doesn't seem like it's  
29 necessarily putting these meetings together. I realize  
30 there's a cost here, but I don't see it's overwhelming.  
31 It's probably more in what the Staff does than in what  
32 we do. And if you can, you know, jockey your schedules  
33 dealing with how various proposals are dealt with and  
34 business and what not and lighten your Staff, I think  
35 we still need our two meetings a year though.

36

37 And, you know, these meetings, as Mr.  
38 Wallace pointed out, I mean, we talked a lot about  
39 fisheries at our wildlife meeting and we talk a lot  
40 about wildlife at fisheries meetings, too. So, you  
41 know, issues come before us that need to be dealt with,  
42 and I think we need two meetings a year.

43

44 You know, just for the simple fact  
45 that, you know, membership is always changing and the  
46 post is three years, and, you know, it takes at least  
47 two meetings just to figure out what's going on at the  
48 minimum, and, you know, you could have people getting  
49 on and off the Council without ever really figuring out  
50 how the Council works. And I think it's important to

1 maintain that, and I think, you know, cuts in funding  
2 should come from other ways.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Tom, please.

5

6 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I  
7 think, you know, that again it's just in the discussion  
8 phase right now and we just wanted to let you know that  
9 there's a problem. And again we want to brief you  
10 again this coming fall.

11

12 But I think, you know, the discussions  
13 have been around trying to look for those kind of  
14 efficiencities that Mr. Hernandez mentioned. And again  
15 the thought was that with the Fisheries Resource  
16 Monitoring Program, and I believe, I'll look to Steve,  
17 but I believe that they've already gone to a two-year  
18 cycle for that. They were funding projects every year,  
19 but I think that they're looking at going to basically  
20 just funding projects every other year. And then again  
21 those projects would come before the Council before  
22 they were ultimately brought before the Board to seek  
23 your input. And then essentially using those same  
24 fisheries Staff to address the analyses for the  
25 fisheries proposals in the alternate cycle.

26

27 In terms of where the money is,  
28 essentially, you know, half of the program budget for  
29 the Fish and Wildlife Service goes into the fisheries  
30 resource monitoring projects, you know, to fund various  
31 entities. You know, a chunk of it goes to Fish and  
32 Game, a chunk of it goes to tribes. It's based on  
33 proposals that are submitted for work on fisheries  
34 subsistence projects across the entire state.

35

36 The next biggest chunk is in Staff.  
37 But Staff at OSM, you know, just in the past three  
38 years have gone from like 52 and we're down to about 40  
39 right now covering the state. So that's where the  
40 money is.

41

42 Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. You know,  
45 we're reminded about, you know, when people face budget  
46 cuts and everything, you get cut it over there, but  
47 don't take mine away. I think that's what you hear  
48 here today.

49

50 And, you know, not only that, but I

1 think it really diminishes our ability as RACs, you  
2 know, to really service the communities. I was really  
3 pleased with the participation, the school, the high  
4 school students, you know, had here the last couple of  
5 days. We didn't see them today, but I don't know of  
6 anywhere else where we had that happen. And as I  
7 explained to them, you know, it's they who are going to  
8 be stepping into these leadership positions, and the  
9 sooner that they get exposed to it, the more prepared  
10 they will be, the more aware of the issues that they  
11 will be facing. It would be much earlier than having  
12 to really bump into it. So I think that, you know,  
13 that our involvement in the communities that we have  
14 been in the past is going to be greatly diminished, and  
15 those people will be deprived of having their input and  
16 participation.

17

18 MR. KRON: Well, Mr. Chairman, I guess  
19 maybe just a final comment if we're wrapping up here.  
20 OSM and the Federal Board are not mentioned in ANILCA.  
21 Regional Advisory Councils are and the need to support  
22 Regional Advisory Councils. And again, you know, I  
23 feel this way very strongly. Tom Boyd, who is the  
24 former assistant regional director for OSM, you know,  
25 made the same comment that Mr. Hernandez just made,  
26 which is that the twice a year meetings are critical to  
27 maintaining the communication and a functioning and  
28 vital Regional Advisory Council process.

29

30 So that's all I've got. Thank you, Mr.  
31 Chairman.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Tom.

34

35 MR. KRON: Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We'll move on. The  
38 next one is State.....

39

40 DR. SCHROEDER: I don't think that  
41 would be next.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You don't? Okay.

44

45 (Whispered conversation between  
46 Chairman Adams and Dr. Schroeder)

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Tom, is there anything  
49 on Kenai fisheries that you can share with us?

50

1 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I'm  
2 generally aware of what's been going on, but I think  
3 Mr. Kessler is more intimately aware and involved.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, all we need to  
6 be is generally aware, too, so.....

7  
8 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Kron.  
9 Thank you, Mr. Chair. How much time would you want to  
10 spend on this?

11  
12 (Laughter)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Two minutes.

15  
16 MR. KESSLER: All right. I'll try the  
17 two-minute version.

18  
19 (Laughter)

20  
21 MR. KESSLER: Kenai Peninsula fisheries  
22 I think as many of you know, there's not been a  
23 subsistence fishery in at least the roaded areas of the  
24 Kenai Peninsula for -- oh, gee, I think it's since  
25 statehood actually. And as the Federal program took  
26 over a portion of the fisheries management as a result  
27 of the Katie John case, there was a request for a  
28 fisheries priority under ANILCA on the Kenai. And a  
29 number of things happened, including a very detailed  
30 report that was produced under contract from the  
31 Federal program by ADF&G on the customary and  
32 traditional uses of fish on the Kenai. And while that  
33 was occurring, the Federal Board put off having any  
34 proposals that were harvest season, bag limits, methods  
35 and means.

36  
37 So that customary and traditional use  
38 determination report was completed. The customary and  
39 traditional use determination proposals came before the  
40 Board. The Board has now taken action on these  
41 requests. We've received request for reconsideration  
42 on those requests, and we've received reconsideration  
43 -- requests for reconsiderations on top of the requests  
44 for reconsiderations.

45  
46 Anyway, so all of that is working  
47 through the process. In the meantime we have the  
48 proposals for harvest methods and means, and bag limits  
49 and seasons and all of that. And the way that this has  
50 transpired is that the Board put these proposals off

1 for a period of time, and during this wildlife cycle  
2 that we're in right now, it became also a fisheries  
3 cycle for the Kenai only. So the Board will be  
4 considering in May Kenai fisheries proposals.

5  
6 Now, what transpired was that these are  
7 -- there were 12 proposals, and they're very complex,  
8 and they're overlapping, and they're very difficult to  
9 deal with. And the Southcentral Regional Advisory  
10 Council made a decision to ask for a subcommittee to  
11 take a look at those. That subcommittee is made up of  
12 many of the different interests on the Kenai Peninsula.  
13 The commercial, subsistence, sport fishing, et cetera.  
14 That Council has had two meetings. One was -- I think  
15 it was about a month ago, and the last one was just  
16 this last Saturday if I remember correctly.

17  
18 And they, Southcentral Regional  
19 Advisory Council, said we want recommendations from  
20 this subcommittee, but we only want consensus  
21 recommendations. If you don't give us consensus  
22 recommendations, we don't want any recommendations. We  
23 don't want them.

24  
25 And so they came up apparently -- I  
26 just have only read the news article which came out in  
27 the Peninsula Clarion earlier this week, and apparently  
28 they reached consensus on a couple of very, very narrow  
29 items. And everything else they were not able to come  
30 to consensus with. Besides the fact that they were  
31 able to a consensus that they weren't going to have any  
32 more meetings.

33  
34 And so in other words, this has put it  
35 back into the lap of the Southcentral Regional Advisory  
36 Council.

37  
38 Staff did a very, in my opinion, just  
39 an amazing job of trying -- of putting these different  
40 proposals together to give all the people who were  
41 reviewing them a way to grasp all the different pieces  
42 that came forward, because they're really varied. I  
43 mean it's much more complex than anything that you  
44 folks have seen in Southeast at least since I've been  
45 in the program.

46  
47 And so now the Council will -- it will  
48 be back to the Council. The Council will struggle with  
49 that at their meeting in a couple weeks, and hopefully  
50 have wonderful recommendations that the Board will be

1 able to deal with at that point.

2

3 So that was about the four-minute  
4 version. I apologize for that.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's okay. I gave  
7 you four minutes over your two minutes. That's fine.  
8 Thank you, Steve and Tom. Appreciate it.

9

10 U.S. Forest Service.

11

12 DR. SCHROEDER: If there is anything  
13 there. We might see if Dave has anything.

14

15 MS. O'CONNOR: Yeah, I am on line.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Tricia, thanks  
18 for waiting. Forest Service is next. Can you do that.

19

20 MS. O'CONNOR: I am not prepared to do  
21 that. And I might say Mr. Johnson would be doing that.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Johnson, she  
24 passed the buck.

25

26 MR. JOHNSON: I just wanted to give  
27 Tricia an opportunity since she hasn't been here to any  
28 of the Regional Council meetings to provide any further  
29 input. Of course, she just provided input on the  
30 Forest Plan Amendment process.

31

32 I have no additional comments except to  
33 say that again I'm glad to be here and glad to have  
34 Larry Dickerson on Staff at Prince of Wales Island  
35 serving both the Craig and Thorne Bay districts.

36

37 And that's all I have. Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you, Dave  
40 and Tricia. I hope we do see you in the future at our  
41 meetings. It would be nice to see you again.

42

43 The next issue is National Park  
44 Service.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Nothing on National  
49 Park Service. I know Jim Capra normally comes down for  
50 that, and he's not here.

1 Bureau of Land Management.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No. BIA. No?

6

7 MR. EASTLAND: No, sir.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All righty.

10 Department of Fish and Game. Welcome, John.

11

12 MR. HILSINGER: Thank you, Mr.

13 Chairman. John Hilsinger with Fish and Game.

14

15 I just don't have much more to say, but  
16 wanted to tell you that I appreciate having been here  
17 and enjoyed my time, and the discussions.

18

19 And then I wanted to let you know about  
20 some changes in our subsistence liaison program. The  
21 State has a subsistence liaison team made up of  
22 representatives from the various divisions as well as  
23 the Board of Fish, Board of Game. And there's a team  
24 leader who was Sarah Gilbertson, that many of you may  
25 know that she's taken another job outside of State  
26 government, and so I think today actually is her last  
27 day in that position. And so we will be figuring out  
28 what to do to replace her position, and that will  
29 probably take a little while. But in the meantime Tina  
30 Cunning will be distributing materials and acting in  
31 her stead as the liaison.

32

33 My position, previous position, as the  
34 Com Fish and Sport Fish Division liaison is under  
35 recruitment right now, and I think, I hope we're close  
36 to hiring a person, so there should be a full-time  
37 permanent person to replace me as the fisheries  
38 liaison.

39

40 And so, you know, there will be some  
41 transition period, but hopefully before too long we'll  
42 have all the positions filled and be back in business.

43

44 Thank you. That's all.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, John. And  
47 we do really appreciate your presence here. You know,  
48 physically being here and seeing what's going on here  
49 is I think really important to you, but it was good to  
50 see you, and we hope to see you again.

1 MR. HILSINGER: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And, yeah, go ahead,  
4 you're excused.

5

6 Other business. Okay. Final review of  
7 any Council resolutions. Dr. Schroeder.

8

9 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chair, I don't  
10 think we have any pending resolutions.

11

12 There are a few items in our handout  
13 that I should mention to the Council at this time.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go forward, sir.

16

17 DR. SCHROEDER: I don't believe these  
18 are necessarily action items, but I do want to make the  
19 Council aware of item number 9 which is on Page 100.  
20 And this is a somewhat lengthy request for  
21 reconsideration submitted by the State of Alaska  
22 concerning the Gustavus -- here's Gustavus again, and  
23 hopefully we will not get into a 20-minute discussion  
24 on Gustavus -- concerning the Gustavus C&T decision.

25

26 This RFR is not pointed at the recent  
27 Board decision. The Board acted in accord with the  
28 Council recommendations and did customary and  
29 traditional use determinations for Icy Strait and Cross  
30 Sound. Those are the regulations that are on the books  
31 and are in effect for subsistence users in that area.

32

33 This request for reconsideration  
34 questions the Board procedure in November when it ruled  
35 on only Gustavus. So I don't think there's an action  
36 item there for the Council right now. I included it in  
37 the packet so that you would be aware of some of the  
38 things that are taking place in the program and some of  
39 the Staff work that needs to take place to maintain  
40 Council and Board decisions.

41

42 The second item, I only have three  
43 items, is item number 14, and that's found on Page 132,  
44 and that's a letter from Chairman Emeritus Bill Thomas  
45 to Board Chairman Fleagle. And I've included that at  
46 Bill's request, and as you can see, Bill is still very  
47 actively engaged in the subsistence issue and has very  
48 strong thoughts about what direction the program may be  
49 going.

50

1                   And we may wish to have a little bit of  
2 Council discussion about that letter. I know a number  
3 of you have read it and are familiar with its contents.

4  
5                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We've all read Bill's  
6 letter, haven't we.

7  
8                   (Council nods affirmatively)

9  
10                  CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. It's well done.  
11 I'm going to use it as a guide. There's a lot of good  
12 stuff in there.

13  
14                  Mr. Mike, did you have something?

15  
16                  MR. DOUVILLE: I've read Bill's letter  
17 and I think it's an excellent letter. Did it go out to  
18 all the cc's listed also?

19  
20                  CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Dr. Schroeder, I know  
21 we were having a little problem with that. Do you know  
22 if that got done or not?

23  
24                  DR. SCHROEDER: Well, Bill's letter is  
25 to the Chair of the Board, and I'm not sure what  
26 distribution took place through the Office of  
27 Subsistence Management and the Board Chair. Bill did  
28 request that this be given to other Councils and other  
29 Council Chairs. And I did circulate it to other  
30 coordinators, and I don't believe that it was  
31 circulated to other chairs at this time. There was a  
32 problem with that.

33  
34                  CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Tom, do you know?

35  
36                  MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. I think I  
37 know bits and pieces about this, because I saw a copy  
38 of an email in the office. Again it did go to the  
39 Board Chair. I think the request -- Mr. Thomas was  
40 requesting that the Office of Subsistence Management do  
41 the distribution to the chairs of the other 10  
42 Councils, and essentially the ruling that I heard, and  
43 I wasn't even involved in it, but I read a copy of it  
44 was that, you know, because he's basically a member of  
45 the public at this point, you know, it's his freedom to  
46 go ahead and mail it to each of the Council chairs, but  
47 the person reviewing it there at OSM felt that it was  
48 inappropriate to make the distribution on behalf of a  
49 member of the public. So again that was the decision,  
50 and again I only know about it because I saw an email

1 about it.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Tom. I saw  
6 that same email. Okay. Any other comments, concerns.

7

8 DR. SCHROEDER: I've got one more.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You've got one more  
11 there.

12

13 DR. SCHROEDER: Just to make sure we  
14 discuss every item that we sent out to you, there is  
15 not necessarily an action item, but the -- let's see, I  
16 think -- did you want to get in? Okay. Let me get  
17 back on there.

18

19 I circulated this last item starting on  
20 page 135, which is a lengthy rewrite of the Memorandum  
21 of Agreement, a suggested rewrite of the Memorandum of  
22 Agreement between the Federal Program and I believe  
23 with -- and with the Federal agencies and the State of  
24 Alaska and Department of Fish and Game and Board of  
25 Fish and Board of Game. This is basically included as  
26 an information item. You'll recall that last year in I  
27 believe January the Board of Game withdrew from the  
28 Memorandum of Agreement, and so we do not have a  
29 Memorandum of Agreement in place with the Board of  
30 Game. And this was Mr. Somerville's suggested changes  
31 to what that agreement might look like. If there are  
32 any questions concerning that, they can be directed to  
33 Steve Kessler. To my boss, Steve Kessler.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What do you have,  
38 Steve? Nothing? Okay. While you're coming up there,  
39 let's have Mr. Kookesh do his comment.

40

41 MR. KOOKESH: My comment goes to Bill  
42 Thomas' letter. And fortunately only the gag order's  
43 on us and not on Big Bill. So we have to respect that,  
44 that his letter does get out.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Right. Thank you.  
47 Thank you, Floyd.

48

49 Steve, go ahead.

50

1                   MR. KESSLER: Well, thank you, Mr.  
2 Chairman. I guess I really don't have much to say  
3 about the proposal. The Board has not taken any action  
4 to start any new negotiations or anything else on it.  
5 I just know that talking to various Board members and  
6 Staff Committee that there are serious concerns with  
7 some of the proposed changes in there. Some of the  
8 proposed changes seem to diminish the role of the  
9 Regional Advisory Councils. And I guess sort of what  
10 I've heard from Board members is that's probably one of  
11 the biggest problems that they see with this proposed  
12 revision. So exactly what's going to happen is, you  
13 know, we're going to start some sort of discussions on  
14 this. It's not been decided how the Regional Advisory  
15 Councils will be involved in any modifications to the  
16 Memorandum of Agreement. That hasn't been decided.

17  
18                   So really I don't have any good news,  
19 you know, any specific news on the subject for you.

20  
21                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Steve.

22  
23                   Mr. Douville, please.

24  
25                   MR. DOUVILLE: A watered down version  
26 is putting it likely and from what I've read of it, and  
27 it certainly is unacceptable in its present form. And  
28 I would hope that like all other, or most other issues  
29 like this that the Board -- or the RAC have an  
30 opportunity to have it at least go through us before it  
31 goes farther if there's any revision or any work ever  
32 proceeds on this. This is unacceptable to me.

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And to us I'm sure,  
35 Mike, so thank you.

36  
37                   Steve, you have something to add.

38  
39                   MR. KESSLER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.  
40 Something I forgot to mention is that the Alaska  
41 Department of Fish and Game has made it very clear that  
42 this is not theirs, that it's from the Board of Game.  
43 And they have not said that they support it or don't  
44 support or anything else. But they have made it very  
45 clear that it's not theirs.

46  
47                   Also I am aware that Mr. Sommerville,  
48 the chairman of the Board of Game presented this to the  
49 Board of Fisheries at their recent meeting and the  
50 Board of Fisheries at this point has not taken any

1 action on this.

2

3 So at this point we have the interim  
4 Memorandum of Agreement, and all the signatories, or  
5 all the initialers to the interim Memorandum of  
6 Agreement are still signed on except for the Board of  
7 Game.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thanks for the  
10 update. We are at the end of our agenda, folks.

11

12 MS. HAWKINS: Bert.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MS. HAWKINS: Please.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Merle.

21

22 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah, I found that  
23 statement that I made earlier, and it's in the  
24 orientation Operations Manual for the RAC, Page 17, so  
25 people don't think that I just made this up or imagined  
26 it.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MS. HAWKINS: And the Regulations  
31 Review Process is the name of the chapter. So Page 17,  
32 item 12. It is important that the RAC to make  
33 recommendations on proposals, and then at the bottom it  
34 talks about, the last sentence, this deference applies  
35 to Council recommendations taking -- regarding taking  
36 of fish and wildlife, but does not apply to Council  
37 recommendations regarding monitoring programs, rural  
38 determinations, and administrative issues. So I think  
39 that's something that -- I'd like to see it in a law,  
40 if that's in ANILCA or if that's in the law somewhere,  
41 because this is just an operations manual, so it might  
42 be misleading us.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Merle.

47

48 Again as I was saying earlier, we are  
49 at the end of our agenda, and what I would like to do  
50 now is, you know, each Council member had an

1 opportunity to say something at the beginning, and I  
2 would like to give them all an opportunity to say a few  
3 words before we close.

4

5                   So I think we're going to start with  
6 our newcomer here, and then work on down the line here.

7

8                   MS. HAWKINS: It was a pleasure to be  
9 here this week and representing Southeast Alaska on  
10 fish and wildlife issues and ANILCA, and still got a  
11 lot to learn, but I'm a very detailed person and  
12 willing to do the work, so I'm sure I can learn from  
13 the people here that I'm working with, and I can't  
14 believe that I volunteered for two work groups.

15

16                   Thank you.

17

18                   (Laughter)

19

20                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's because you're  
21 a stickler for details, and, you know, we welcome you  
22 on the Board, Merle, and I'm sure that we're going to  
23 use every ounce of your imagination and abilities to  
24 help move this thing forward.

25

26                   Mr. Hotch.

27

28                   MR. HOTCH: Thank you. I just fell  
29 again. Mr. Chairman, I'd really like to thank the  
30 community for the hospitality that we all received.  
31 Even with the weather conditions, we had the warmth of  
32 the people, and that's a natural Tlingit way of meeting  
33 a guest, and I really thank the people of Kake.  
34 Gunalchesh. And I really appreciate being amongst you.  
35 At the beginning I almost took the lead of talking, but  
36 I thought I'd better listen rather than talking too  
37 much, because there's a lot of change since I was on  
38 there the last time.

39

40                   And the participation that each of you  
41 took here is appreciated, especially those talking  
42 about ANILCA. That's my way of life when you bring up  
43 ANILCA, Title VIII is very important to my life. And  
44 there's people at home that might think I'm too old,  
45 but they trained me to talk. They trained me to talk  
46 and use my brains, my computer. They can get a mouse  
47 in it.

48

49                   (Laughter)

50

1 MR. HOTCH: It's still here and it's  
2 still working, and you folks warmed it up. Thank you  
3 very much. Gunalchesh.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Joe.

6  
7 Dick.

8  
9 MR. STOKES: Well, he pretty much wraps  
10 it up on the hospitality we received, and I do  
11 appreciate Mrs. Larson taking us in and feeding us on  
12 our first night in Petersburg. I'm sure she went all  
13 out for that. That was great.

14  
15 And I do appreciate working with this  
16 group. They're all kind and considerate, especially I  
17 do have some handicaps, but they seem to take that in  
18 their stride and I appreciate it very much.

19  
20 And this is the finest group I've ever  
21 worked with. I've been on several boards and stuff in  
22 the last 60 years, but this is really the first one  
23 I've been able to show up in the morning with them, and  
24 they're all sober-eyed and not blurry-eyed.

25  
26 And I hate to see Dr. Schroeder  
27 leaving, but then he'll have to join the group that  
28 doesn't get any days off.

29  
30 (Laughter)

31  
32 MR. STOKES: Thank you.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Dick. Mr.  
35 Davis.

36  
37 MR. DAVIS: Thank you. It was nice to  
38 see everybody that was able to come here. I know that  
39 winter travel in Southeast is not the easiest. And I  
40 am proud and happy that I was able to see the school  
41 kids participate, and they need the experience, the  
42 education. It's not an easy thing to step right into  
43 with cold feet.

44  
45 I know there's a lot of difficult  
46 issues, and I've looked at it, and couldn't figure out  
47 how it's going to be approached, and it's never ceased  
48 to amaze me to hear somebody come up with different  
49 ideas and work together. Like one of the Council here  
50 said, not to come here with a knife in your teeth, but

1 to kind of work together, and that's what impresses me.  
2 And thank you all for being here.

3  
4 I do apologize for Steve when it was  
5 probably below freezing in our room, but everybody took  
6 it on the chin and we survived. Thank you.

7  
8 (Laughter)

9  
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Nick.

11  
12 Mr. Bangs.

13  
14 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
15 I, too, would like to thank the people of Kake. I've  
16 really enjoyed being here. And it's always a good  
17 thing to get together with this group and the Staff.  
18 They've all worked hard to make it a success. And I  
19 think we've accomplished a lot, and I hope we are able  
20 to continue on.

21  
22 And it's good to see that the majority  
23 of the Council was able to make it here in the  
24 wintertime. It's iffy to get anywhere in Southeast.

25  
26 So I'd just like to say thank you for  
27 being kind to one another. It's the usual protocol for  
28 us. It seems that everyone tries their best to get  
29 their point of view across without being contrary. I  
30 appreciate that. So thank you very much.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike.

33  
34 Mr. Douville.

35  
36 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
37 I'd like to thank the people of Kake, and Nick Davis  
38 for having us. You did a good job of feeding us. It's  
39 been really nice, even though it was a little cold a  
40 time or two.

41  
42 I'd like to let the Federal Staff know  
43 that their support has been excellent as always it has  
44 been in the past. Without what you do, we would be  
45 certainly much less effective.

46  
47 And I don't know if we should let Mr.  
48 Schroeder go that easy, I think it should be our call  
49 when he retires.

50

1 (Laughter)  
2  
3 MR. DOUVILLE: But I appreciate being  
4 here.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike  
7  
8 Lee.  
9  
10 MR. WALLACE: Yeah, again I'd like to  
11 extend my appreciation for the Kake people for hosting  
12 us, and to the Staff.  
13  
14 You know, I want to mention Bob  
15 Schroeder. You know, I'm new to the Council, but I've  
16 had the experience of working by him, with him in  
17 teleconferences for pretty much the last couple of  
18 years is when I first got introduced here. And I would  
19 agree, you know, I think we're not going to accept his  
20 resignation until we have a suitable person that  
21 replaces him.  
22  
23 But it was a learning curve for me,  
24 and, you know, I was able to listen to different  
25 viewpoints from all different Council members here, and  
26 there's issues where I was going up and down, back and  
27 forth from decision making and basically having an open  
28 mind and listening to different viewpoints. That's  
29 when I formalized my vote and I think it was a fair  
30 way, and I just look forward to working on this Council  
31 for the next three years, and I'm just hoping that  
32 Bob's cat is still alive in Petersburg when he goes.  
33 He hasn't been home for a few days.  
34  
35 (Laughter)  
36  
37 MR. WALLACE: Thank you.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Patty.  
40  
41 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
42 Adams. And thank you for doing a good job of  
43 facilitating the meeting. I'm really amazed we made it  
44 through the agenda.  
45  
46 And I'd like to thank the people of  
47 Kake for their hospitality and their kindness and the  
48 good food that warmed our bellies and our hearts and  
49 our minds, and helped us to be a productive Council  
50 here.

1 I'd like to thank the Federal Staff for  
2 helping us be as effective as we are. And thank you,  
3 Tina, for being the court reporter, and you've been  
4 here just as long as some of the rest of us.

5  
6 And I'd like to thank the new members  
7 for stepping up to their positions, and volunteering to  
8 serve on some of the working committees, and to the  
9 other RAC members who continue to oblige themselves  
10 with their time and volunteer time at that to, you  
11 know, work through these issues that are important to  
12 us. There are a lot of issues that, you know, like Mr.  
13 Davis said, that you wonder how we're going to get  
14 through it, but it's by persistence. We just take a  
15 little task at a time and we work through it and we get  
16 there. And it's really amazing to successfully  
17 maneuver that process.

18  
19 And thank you to the State of Alaska  
20 for being here. It really says a lot, and, you know,  
21 you've burned a lot of feathers in your cap being here.  
22 Thank you. And I hope to see more of you or your staff  
23 here. And I appreciate meeting Mr. Thorstenson, and  
24 thank you for being here. It was a pleasure.

25  
26 Did I hit everybody? And thank you,  
27 Mayor Kadake, for your hospitality also, and the use of  
28 this building.

29  
30 And that's all I have. Thanks.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty.

33  
34 Donald.

35  
36 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.  
37 Chairman. I, too, wanted to thank Mayor Kadake, and  
38 the people of Kake for hosting us. They were just -- I  
39 could tell they went all out, you know, to make sure  
40 that we were, you know, well taken care of. And the  
41 ladies of the ANS and the people of the ANB for  
42 providing all those good meals. I think that probably  
43 has to rank -- this meeting I think has to rank right  
44 up there for all the meetings I've been to for really  
45 good food. And really excellent traditional food which  
46 I think we all enjoyed.

47  
48 And I don't think anybody mentioned the  
49 Girl Scouts. Lots of goodies. I really enjoyed those.  
50

1                   We forget Dannielle, to thank Dannielle  
2 for attending all our meetings and paying attention.

3  
4                   And, Bob, this is your last meeting  
5 with this Council, and I just want to say, you know,  
6 you've just been invaluable to all of our efforts over  
7 the years and all the various subcommittees and whatnot  
8 I've volunteered to be on, you've just followed right  
9 through with all that, a lot of extra work, and I  
10 really have appreciated that. None of us could have  
11 done it without you, so thanks again.

12  
13                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh.

14  
15                   MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. You know,  
16 one of the things that I took a lot of pride in was the  
17 fact that I pursued us going to other communities. And  
18 Kake, I'm glad we're able to come. Mayor Kadake. I'm  
19 glad we're doing these things in these communities.

20  
21                   The one think that I'd like to say for  
22 the new members is we all understand what it's like to  
23 be a new member. We've seen how we can come in here  
24 quietly and watch this process. And there's nothing  
25 wrong with sitting here and listening, because we've  
26 all been there. I've watched Ms. Phillips here mature  
27 in the position of the public speaker and doing a very  
28 good job about it, and continually evolving. I really  
29 respect that.

30  
31                   I want everybody to know that we all  
32 know that our time is coming and we're waiting for you,  
33 because we probably won't all be here in the long term.

34  
35                   But the one thing that I really  
36 appreciate, too, is the fact that we took a real  
37 complicated issue, you know, when I took this Chatham  
38 Strait issue, I thought it was like a no brainer, but  
39 it got complicated. It did get complicated. But I  
40 want to see us resolve it. I want to see us do it the  
41 right way. We've always been going up against hurdles.  
42 We've sat here at any meetings when one side disagreed  
43 with the other, and we've got to figure out how to get  
44 past that. And hopefully, you know, under this current  
45 administration there's a sign of hope out there that  
46 something better will happen for all of us.

47  
48                   And I want you to know that since I've  
49 been here since 1999, when the Federal take-over  
50 occurred, that this has been a learning curve, and very

1 enjoyable. I've always believed in politics that if  
2 you're going to play the game, you first need to enjoy  
3 the game. And hopefully you're all enjoying the game.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalchesh. Mr.  
8 Kitka.

9

10 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
11 I, too, would like to thank the City of Kake for  
12 inviting us, and especially the warm meals from the  
13 ANS. They took care of us really well. And for the  
14 Salvation Army for letting us use their building. And  
15 it is a little warmer than the gym.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. KITKA: I also want to thank the  
20 Staff for all their work. I noticed this year I didn't  
21 get as much homework as I usually do, so I had a little  
22 more trouble falling asleep.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MR. KITKA: And I, too, will miss Bob  
27 when he leaves us. He kind of helps us new guys come  
28 through the system and kind of helps us and there were  
29 several times when I was not sure whether I wanted to  
30 go on or not, but I'm glad I'm here.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. I'm going  
35 to do something here in a little bit, but I'd like to  
36 give an opportunity for Staff, you know, Steve, John,  
37 Bob, anyone else, you know, to also make some closing  
38 remarks if you wish.

39

40 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
41 Steve Kessler.

42

43 I, too, think it was an excellent  
44 meeting, and i started out wonderfully at Mr. Larson's  
45 house. And I think one thing that we have to also  
46 remember is the wonderful boat trip, and Melinda's  
47 little experience.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 MR. KESSLER: We still need to come up  
2 with a final name for the name of this meeting so that  
3 it goes into the lore of the Southeast Regional  
4 Advisory Council.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: She already named it.

7  
8 MR. KESSLER: She has named it  
9 permanently?

10  
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Splash.

12  
13 MR. KESSLER: It is splash.

14  
15 (Laughter)

16  
17 MR. KESSLER: So that's good. Thanks  
18 to Mr. Bangs also for arranging this charter and making  
19 sure that we had a boat to get over here. I think we  
20 need to recognize that he had a role in that also.

21  
22 A personal perspective. I think the  
23 food was just really good. And I'm glad we're not here  
24 all the time, because I could not afford to put more  
25 weight on.

26  
27 (Laughter)

28  
29 MR. KESSLER: Anyway, this Regional  
30 Advisory Council as Mitch Demientieff would say, always  
31 does, you know, due diligence. The diligence is always  
32 there. Thank you for that. It makes all of our jobs a  
33 lot easier, and have a good record, and we know exactly  
34 where the Council is coming from. And hopefully we'll  
35 just carry forth and keep -- this Council is really a  
36 high powered council, really doing a good job, even  
37 with Dr. Schroeder not being exactly part of it, but  
38 we'll remember, you know, how he would help the Council  
39 out with running meetings and with assisting the Chair,  
40 and hopefully we'll be able to carry forth, and the  
41 Council will continue to do an outstanding job.

42  
43 Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Steve, I'm going to  
46 assume that you're speaking for all of the Federal  
47 people, so I'm going to ask John and Bob to please come  
48 forward.

49  
50 MR. HILSINGER: Thank you, Mr.

1 Chairman. On behalf of the State, we really appreciate  
2 the hospitality here in Kake. It's been a real  
3 pleasure to get to Kake. I haven't been to a lot of  
4 communities in Southeast, so -- and, you know, I got to  
5 see the scenery on the way in. I don't think I'll see  
6 much on the way out, but I did get to see what  
7 beautiful country this is, and it's a pleasure to meet  
8 all the Council members and begin to learn some of the  
9 issues here in Southeast.

10

11 And I'm glad that the teleconference  
12 worked with the State people worked out so they could  
13 have their input. I know it's unfortunate that more  
14 people from the State couldn't be here, and, you know,  
15 I think occasionally that's going to happen. But I  
16 hope it doesn't happen often. So that, I'd just like  
17 to just express my appreciation, the appreciation of  
18 the State and say that I look forward to learning about  
19 Southeast and seeing many of you, you know, through  
20 this spring and summer, and when you're engaged in all  
21 your activities.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, John. Bob.

26

27 MR. THORSTENSON: Thank you so much for  
28 having me here. My good friend Henrich Kadake was able  
29 to provide a place for both John and I to stay, and my  
30 favorite fishing hole, favorite fishing river is named  
31 after his family, Kadake Creek, Kadake River and Kadake  
32 Bay.

33

34 I appreciate the time that you took and  
35 the time you gave to me, and the interactions that  
36 we've had. I think that the Kanalku issues are still  
37 going to be complex and complicated. It's just not  
38 going to be something that's going to be solved  
39 overnight. We've just gone through a long ten-year  
40 deal down with Hughsmith (ph) Lake sockeye. We've just  
41 got out of, and had a pretty good result and a good  
42 rebuilding on that stock. And I think we'll be able to  
43 work together and come to a good fruitful success. But  
44 we're going to have to be patient, and it's going to  
45 take some time, and it's going to take some energy, and  
46 I just want to make sure that we don't have --  
47 sockeye's a four-year fish, and even if next year's  
48 comes back really good, the next year after that and  
49 the year after that and the year after that may not,  
50 and so it's just going to take a little time and

1 patience.

2

3 But thank you very much for your time  
4 and for allowing me to interact with you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Bob, and it  
7 was good to get to know you, so look forward to seeing  
8 you in the future.

9

10 We're going to call Henrich Kadake up  
11 here for some comments from him on behalf of the  
12 community of Kake. Mr. Mayor.

13

14 MAYOR KADAKE: Well, thank you, Mr.  
15 Chairman. I know you didn't see a whole lot of me in  
16 this meeting, but, you know, being mayor and being a  
17 couple of other things in this community I had to be on  
18 the run, but I really appreciate you guys coming to  
19 Kake this year for your meetings. And I hope that it  
20 becomes more and more successful as the years go by,  
21 because I know all of us that use subsistence have a  
22 lot to lose, but there's a lot of us that are  
23 commercial fishermen, too, and we're on both sides.  
24 And I hope that the State and the Federal Government  
25 will interact and will be able to work together in the  
26 future. And like I said when you guys first got here  
27 is that if we interact, we will accomplish a whole lot  
28 more. And you guys, you know, I had a wonderful time  
29 trying to get you guys moved around and kept warm and  
30 eat good, but, you know what, it's all life. And if it  
31 all turns out like it did, you know, for these meetings  
32 I think the State and the Feds and everybody else will  
33 have a wonderful future for our children and our  
34 grandchildren.

35

36 And thank you very much for choosing  
37 Kake this year, and hope to see you again soon.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mayor  
40 Kadake. And I'm sure that will happen down the line,  
41 too, because we have our meetings in different  
42 communities ever year, and we'll certainly come back to  
43 Kake. And if I'm not on the Council, I'm sure it will  
44 happen, you know, but gunalchesh. The food was great.  
45 And your hospitality was warm and loving. And we  
46 appreciate the way that you treated us. Like Mr.  
47 Kessler said, it's -- you know, to me the food was just  
48 like being home, because that's the kind of food I eat  
49 at home and it was really good and great, so  
50 gunalchesh. Gunalchesh.

1                   MAYOR KADAKE: All right. Thank you  
2 again for choosing Kake. And have a long safe ferry  
3 ride.

4  
5                   (Laughter)

6  
7                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And then I just want  
8 to say thank you to the Staff. You know, we're running  
9 short here, I've got a little program that I want to  
10 take care of. And I know Bob wants to say something,  
11 but I'm not going to allow him to do it until I'm ready  
12 to have it do it.

13  
14                   (Laughter)

15  
16                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: But, Dave, you know,  
17 and Cal, Melinda, you know, you're working in the  
18 background, but I know that what you do has a lot to do  
19 with what Bob does, and what Bob does has a lot to do  
20 with what I do. And that kind of support staff, you  
21 know, is really critical.

22  
23                   And the type of person that is going to  
24 replace Bob, you know, is going to be very critical,  
25 and I want him to know how much I appreciate the work  
26 the work he and I have done together. When Dolly  
27 mentioned how much work this was in Sitka last year, I  
28 didn't realize that it was going to be this much, you  
29 know.

30  
31                   I'll tell you I was the tribal  
32 president of our Yakutat Tlingit Tribe for about 12  
33 years, and then I got out of that a year ago. And I  
34 thought that was a lot of work. But as I got involved  
35 in serving as the Chair, you know, it's even more work,  
36 because I'm working on a regional basis rather than in  
37 a community. And I've really had to step up, and force  
38 myself to learn and to get myself prepared, you know,  
39 for representing you people in the Board meetings as  
40 well as in other forums. And as long as I'm here, I  
41 promise you that dedication.

42  
43                   Let me see. What I want to do now is  
44 -- and Bob will have an opportunity to say his piece  
45 after I make this presentation, but I've got to go back  
46 here and get it.

47  
48                   (Pause)

49  
50                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think it was maybe a

1 couple weeks or so ago I got a call from Dave Johnson.  
2 Was it a week or so even, Dave?

3

4 MR. JOHNSON: It was about five days  
5 ago.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Five days ago. Okay.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And he discussed with  
12 me a plaque that he wanted to get prepared for Bob, and  
13 he wanted my input as to what should be said on it.  
14 And I'm going to see if he did what I asked him to do,  
15 because I haven't seen it yet. I'm going to read it,  
16 and it's from the Council. All the Council members'  
17 names are on it.

18

19 It says, to Robert Schroeder, 2000 to  
20 2007. In appreciation for your years of valuable,  
21 timely and professional support provided to the  
22 Southeast Regional Advisory Council in all matters  
23 pertaining to the Federal subsistence program. Your  
24 personal anthropological experience with rural  
25 subsistence harvesters helped to insure that a  
26 meaningful preference was the primary focus for  
27 recommendations from SEARAC to the Federal Subsistence  
28 Board. Your support these past several years reflects  
29 your knowledge of diverse indigenous cultures both here  
30 and throughout the state. One key challenge of the  
31 ANILCA Title VIII is finding ways to blend western  
32 science with traditional ecological knowledge. You  
33 have always helped the SEARAC find those ways through  
34 the Council's deliberations without relying on just one  
35 at the expense of the other. Sincere thanks for your  
36 seven years of service to the Southeast Regional  
37 Advisory Council as a Region X Forest Service employee  
38 and public servant.

39

40 So, Dr. Schroeder, it's got all of our  
41 names on it, and then just something that you can put  
42 proudly somewhere in your house and cherish it for the  
43 rest of your life.

44

45 DR. SCHROEDER: Well, thank you, Bert.  
46 Thank you very much.

47

48 (Applause)

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Now you can say

1 whatever you want.

2

3 DR. SCHROEDER: Where's the button?

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Right there.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 DR. SCHROEDER: Well, I'm usually not  
10 much at a loss for words as you know. I think I kind  
11 of picked this up working in working with my friends in  
12 Southeast Alaska, getting that death grip on that mic  
13 there, and no one's going to get it away from you until  
14 you're done.

15

16 But I'll let a secret out, and that is  
17 that I had the best job in Southeast Alaska for a long  
18 time. And what's made it really special is having the  
19 opportunity to work with you guys on things that really  
20 matter, and also to see some effect from what we do  
21 jointly together. And I think what's happened with the  
22 Southeast Regional Advisory Council has been just  
23 really special. I haven't been to quite as many  
24 meetings as Patty, but I was at the first meeting in  
25 Sitka many years ago, and, gosh, you sort of looked at  
26 this thing and you thought, is this really going to  
27 work, these people coming in and, boy, but the law says  
28 that you're really central to protecting subsistence.  
29 Gosh, how's that going to take place, and then somehow  
30 things gel together with really good leadership, and  
31 most of all with just a lot of volunteer effort. Being  
32 in the coordinator role, you really get to see how much  
33 people are putting out there. And so I think all of us  
34 have to say gunalchesh to the volunteers past, present  
35 and to come.

36

37 So this has been about the best job  
38 possible. I do need to develop a non-government life  
39 for a while while there's still a chance. And I'm sure  
40 that you won't be done with me in Southeast Alaska, but  
41 I'll be seeing you in future years in your communities,  
42 possibly doing things related to subsistence, or  
43 helping out in some way that I possibly can.

44

45 And finally, I would thank Kake, which,  
46 you know, once again Kake and the small communities  
47 really come through for the Council.

48

49 See, now I do have that clutch on the  
50 mic there. But one thing, you know, I think all of us

1 who have worked at this for quite a while, I started  
2 working on this, and I thought, gosh, how long can it  
3 take to figure out how to implement a new law? Maybe a  
4 year or two? Maybe three. And then go off and do  
5 something else. That was maybe 25 years ago. In the  
6 midst of frustrations, I think that people should  
7 really remember that somehow something's working, that  
8 people are being able to rely on the fish and wildlife  
9 that they need, and to maintain that part of culture in  
10 rural Alaska. And so that's the amazing success.

11  
12 So keep at it, and thanks much. And  
13 you're not done with me until the end of June.

14  
15 (Applause)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'd just like to -- is  
18 this picking -- are we being picked up okay from here,  
19 Tina?

20  
21 I'd just to like to share with you, you  
22 know, my experience with getting to know the Chairman  
23 of the Federal Subsistence Board during the meetings  
24 last fall. He was new at his job as Chairman, and I  
25 was new at my job at this Chairman, as Chairman for  
26 this body, and so we had something in common. We would  
27 compare notes, you know, off on the sidelines, and  
28 there's a nice bonding there. You know, there's mutual  
29 respect between he and I right now. And that's really  
30 important to know, to keep intact as we deliberate  
31 here, and I take these issues to the board. And I just  
32 wanted you to know that. He and I are good friends.  
33 And I'm happy to see that happen right off the bat.

34  
35 What we need to do now is get all of  
36 the Council members up here together.

37  
38 MR. DOUVILLE: Oh, one more thing.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And we're going to get  
41 a picture taken.

42  
43 MR. DOUVILLE: One more thing.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

46  
47 MR. DOUVILLE: I've got a gift I'd like  
48 to give Mr. Schroeder.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. Go ahead.

1 MR. DOUVILLE: So, you know, he has the  
2 opportunity to look at it and think about us once in a  
3 while. I made this special with you in mind.

4  
5 DR. SCHROEDER: Oh, wow.

6  
7 MR. DOUVILLE: You almost have to get  
8 fired or retired to get one.

9  
10 DR. SCHROEDER: Oh, this is really  
11 beautiful. That is wonderful.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So if all of  
14 the Council members would get up here and gather  
15 around, we'll have our pictures taken with Dr.  
16 Schroeder.

17  
18 (Pause - pictures being taken)

19  
20 (Off record)

21  
22 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 359 through 487 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SOUTHEAST FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME III, taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters on the 1st day of March 2007, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at Kake, Alaska;

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THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska this 16th day of March 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph P. Kolasinski  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08