

1 NORTH SLOPE ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME I

7
8 Barrow, Alaska
9 March 7, 2011
10 1:00 p.m.

11
12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14
15 Rosemary Ahtaungaruak, Acting Chair
16 Ray Koonuk
17 Lloyd Leavitt
18 James Nageak

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23
24 Regional Council Coordinator, Barbara Atoruk

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Barrow, Alaska - 3/7/2011)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Good afternoon. It's now 1:03 in the afternoon. We'd like to call the meeting to order for the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at the Inupiat Heritage Center in Barrow. Next on the agenda, we have a moment of silence.

(Moment of Silence)

MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: There we go. Tried to take it slow so you could get back in here, James. We just did our moment of silence and you added to the finish of that. We're just getting started and doing our moment of silence and we.....

MR. J. NAGEAK: Oh.

MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: We were just finishing that.

(Laughter)

MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: So I was kind of stalling for the moment so you can come in and we'll do the roll call.

MR. J. NAGEAK: Sorry about that.

MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Barb will do the roll call. No problem. Perfect timing.

MS. ATORUK: Oh, it's rather simple.
Ray.

MR. KOONUK: Here.

MS. ATORUK: James.

MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah.

MS. ATORUK: Lloyd.

MR. LEAVITT: Here.

1 MS. ATORUK: Rosemary.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Here.
4
5 MS. ATORUK: Harry, Lee, and Roy had
6 other commitments before this meeting so they're
7 excused. Madame Chair, you have a quorum.
8
9 Taku, Ms. Chair, you have a quorum.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Great.
12 We'd like to welcome everyone to our meeting. We have
13 some people in the audience we'd like to offer you a
14 chance to give us some introductions.
15
16 *LAW ENFORCEMENT: I'm Dave with Fish
17 and Wildlife Law Enforcement out of Fairbanks.
18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Vince Mathews.
20 Subsistence coordinator for Arctic, Yukon Flats and
21 Kanuti.
22
23 MS. BROWN: Cole Brown. Wildlife
24 biologist for the Office of Subsistence Management.
25
26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong.
27 Anthropologist for Office of Subsistence Management.
28
29 MS. ATORUK: Barb Atoruk. Coordinator
30 for North Slope and Northwest Arctic.
31
32 MR. J. NAGEAK: All rise.
33
34 (Laughter)
35
36 MR. B. NAGEAK: Hey brother,
37
38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Hi Ben,
39
40 MR. B. NAGEAK: How you doing.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: If you
43 could just state your name, Ben, for the record. You
44 know him, right?
45
46 (Laughter)
47
48 REPORTER: Yes.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Dave,

1 introductions.
2
3 DR. YOKEL: Good morning -- or
4 afternoon. I'm Dave Yokel with the BLM in Fairbanks.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: And our
7 recorder.
8
9 REPORTER: My name's Tina, I'm the
10 court reporter for the Council. Thanks
11
12 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: All right.
13 Review and adopt agenda, No. 5.
14
15 MR. KOONUK: Madame Chair, so move we
16 adopt the agenda.
17
18 MR. LEAVITT: Second.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Do we have
21 any discussion.
22
23 MR. LEAVITT: Ms. Chair.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Lloyd.
26
27 MR. LEAVITT: Seven. Last August I had
28 asked for full quorum before electing officers. Can I
29 make that request again until we get a full quorum or
30 do we go through this -- I would rather have a full
31 quorum before we elect officers.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: So you're
34 making a motion to the Chair.
35
36 MR. J. NAGEAK: I would second that
37 motion.
38
39 MR. LEAVITT: No.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: I mean to
42 table this.
43
44 MR. LEAVITT: Yes.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: There we
47 go, sorry. And seconded by James.
48
49 Any other discussion.
50

1 MR. KOONUK: Question call.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Question's
4 been called for. First we must do the amending.
5 There's a motion to amend the agenda, tabling the
6 election of officers. Question's been called. All
7 those in favor.
8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: All right.
12 Call for question on the agenda.
13
14 MR. J. NAGEAK: Call for the question
15 to adopt the agenda.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Question
18 for agenda by James.
19
20 MR. LEAVITT: Second.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Seconded by
23 Lloyd. Question. All those in favor of adopting the
24 agenda with the amendments do so by saying aye.
25
26 IN UNISON: Aye.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Motion
29 pass. We're on to review and approval of the Minutes.
30
31 MR. KOONUK: Madame Chair. Before you
32 go on.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yes.
35
36 MR. KOONUK: I made a motion to adopt
37 the agenda and I think James adopted and seconded it
38 again to.....
39
40 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Right.
41 We're on the Minutes.
42
43 MR. KOONUK: Yeah -- no.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yeah. We
46 approved that.
47
48 MR. KOONUK: The agenda. Yes.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: We just did

1 two votes. One was on the amending.
2
3 MR. KOONUK: Okay.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: And then
6 one was on the rest of the agenda.
7
8 MR. LEAVITT: Without the election of
9 the officers.
10
11 MR. KOONUK: Yeah.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: And that's
14 been tabled. And we're on to review and approval of
15 the minutes. Is that.....
16
17 MR. KOONUK: So move.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay.
20
21 MR. J. NAGEAK: I'll second that
22 motion.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Do we have
25 any discussion.
26
27 (No comments)
28
29 MR. LEAVITT: Question called for.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Question's
32 been called for on the review and approval of the
33 minutes for the August 24th, 2010, meeting.
34
35 All those in favor say aye.
36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Motion
40 passes.
41
42 Next we're on to the Western Arctic
43 Caribou Herd report. In our packet, we have the
44 report.
45
46 MS. ATORUK: It's in your packet for --
47 Harry couldn't make it for this meeting, and so I just
48 did a.....
49
50 REPORTER: Barb. Barb.

1 MS. ATORUK:write-up from the
2 Minutes that they had put out and gave you the
3 information here and the reason why Harry was going to
4 attend at your request was to go and see how the
5 meeting was ran and what they discussed and stuff and I
6 think from this right here on the WACH working group,
7 their agenda, you can see what all they discussed. And
8 this is a real good place where you can get information
9 about all the tutu and where it's been and stuff and
10 then they even in the Seward Peninsula area, they have
11 them on -- what did they call that, Helen? They
12 monitor.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: The
15 mapping?

16
17 MS. ATORUK: Yeah. With the mapping.
18 And then they have those collars and they monitor the
19 caribou wherever. And then with their -- they just use
20 for their Reindeer Herders Association over there. So
21 the reindeers herders, we all know when the tutus are
22 coming and then set up to protect their reindeer from
23 caribous who come and takes them away. So that was set
24 up and then right now I think it was in discussion that
25 Northwest went to try to get in to using that, but then
26 so far it hadn't been approved for them to use that so
27 they can tell and know where all the tutus are in their
28 area too because there's been so much different -- the
29 migratory routes are now different than how they used
30 to be from in the past.

31
32 They're crossing all over in the upper
33 Kobuk area, sometimes in the lower -- by Noorvik,
34 sometimes through Kotzebue, and then they said this
35 would be a good place to know where they would have an
36 idea where this would be. And that's still in the
37 works, but I was hoping Taqulik would be here and tell
38 them, but then they're -- both her and Harry are gone
39 and out of town and then at this meeting, they gave a
40 lot of reports on the caribou. They discussed the
41 caribou, the health, how the caribou is doing and which
42 group, even Teshekpuk Herd, the Porcupine Herd. They
43 discuss all the caribou from all different areas. It's
44 just in the north -- just in our region.

45
46 And so this was what you guys wanted us
47 to do, but Harry couldn't make it at the time and so I
48 don't know what you guys are going to decide, if you
49 guys want to table this again till the next meeting and
50 discuss it again before asking for a representative to

1 be in on the Council, and then but Northwest Arctic
2 went. They did send a representative in and they had
3 him sit on the table as a nonvoting member, so -- I
4 don't know what you want to do with this. If you want
5 to hold it.

6

7 MR. KOONUK: Madame Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Ray.

10

11 MR. KOONUK: All right. So move to
12 table this report on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.
13 It would be better to have our representative here so
14 we can get into a discussion. I have questions that I
15 want to ask with the representative, so.

16

17 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Koonuk, there is no
18 representative from North Slope.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Right.

21

22 MR. KOONUK: Oh.

23

24 MS. ATORUK: This is why I did this for
25 you, so you would have the information that was there,
26 their agenda.

27

28 MR. KOONUK: This is not Harry's
29 report?

30

31 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: No.

32

33 MS. ATORUK: No, it isn't. I put this
34 together myself so you could have something to see or
35 be in front of you at this meeting and then -- but
36 Taqulik was there and she's not here right now either,
37 but then she would be able to give some report at the
38 next meeting if you so request that this agenda
39 continues till your next meeting in the fall.

40

41 MR. J. NAGEAK: I would second that
42 motion that Ray made, Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: The reality
45 is that's not where we're at. Our point right now is
46 we don't have representation on this -- the caribou
47 working group. If we want to have a seat at this
48 table, we need to consider do we want to put a request
49 in to participate with this.

50

1 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: I don't
4 think it's in our best interest to table that request.
5 I think we need to have participation with this process
6 because there's more information that's being
7 disseminated through this process that affect caribou
8 in our region. And our process is absent from the
9 table and that's why I don't think it would be
10 appropriate for us to consider tabling this. We should
11 consider as a Board do we want to have participation
12 for this and then we can ask that we have the
13 participant that's from our region communicate with us
14 about this working group.

15

16 If we want to have Taqulik continue and
17 report with us, that's a possibility that we can
18 consider, but right now where we were left at is do we
19 want to have participation.

20

21 MS. ATORUK: Madame Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yes, Barb.

24

25 MS. ATORUK: Taqulik is not on this
26 Council.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: She's also
29 not on this Council? She just attends the meetings.

30

31 MS. ATORUK: She's not on this Council,
32 she's from wildlife.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay.

35

36 MS. ATORUK: And that's why your Chair
37 Harry was going as the representative, but then he was
38 not able to make it. So you need to discuss if you
39 want to vote on a person right now. They won't meet
40 until like December of 2011. So you have time to
41 discuss this again at this -- at your fall meeting if
42 you want. But if you want to do a representative now
43 thinking of there's Roy, Lee Kayotuk, and Harry not
44 here and then by your -- even by fall meeting, there
45 will still be the seven of you because the new
46 representatives won't be able to be -- get in until
47 your winter meeting.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: How.....

50

1 MS. ATORUK: So that's your choice.
2 You can do it if you want to.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: How about
5 if we ask Staff to initiate the process to get a
6 representative of our Board into the meeting process
7 and then in our next meeting, we determine who's that
8 representative to be since we'll be meeting in August
9 and they could attend the meeting in December. Does
10 that sound appropriate.
11
12 MR. LEAVITT: I'm with you on that.
13
14 MS. ATORUK: Yes. Yeah. We can do
15 that.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: If we could
18 have a motion for that.
19
20 MS. ATORUK: You might tell your full
21 Board in the fall meeting, then you guys could select
22 someone to go.
23
24 MR. LEAVITT: Yes.
25
26 MR. KOONUK: So I need to decline.....
27
28 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yeah. We
29 want to decline tabling the process, make a
30 determination to have Staff work on making the
31 representation from our Board into the process and
32 then.
33
34 MR. J. NAGEAK: There's a motion
35 already.....
36
37 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Right.
38
39 MR. J. NAGEAK:and we could
40 defeat that.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: But if we
43 wait until August, it's going to delay our
44 participation.
45
46 MS. ATORUK: Yeah. Because it'll take
47 that long because if you guys say, yeah, we want to be,
48 then I would have to do a letter to the Chair of the
49 WACH because Fish and Game runs that -- this WACH.
50 Then I will write to the Chair to say North Slope is

1 asking for a seat in represent -- to represent the
2 North Slope area from their Council. So that way you
3 guys get the information then right there. That person
4 would be reporting to you to see what was said at the
5 meeting and this kind of more report -- a lot of
6 paperwork that's -- are distributed there. A lot of
7 paperwork.....

8

9 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Right.

10

11 MS. ATORUK:and tutu and stuff,
12 the health, everything is there, so -- then that would
13 get started. The letter will get started to the Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: What is
16 your wish, Mr. Koonuk.

17

18 MR. KOONUK: Okay. I revert my motion.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: So we're
21 back on to -- the second. Okay. James seconded it?
22 All right. So you do agree?

23

24 MR. J. NAGEAK: I agree.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay. The
27 seconder agrees, so we're back to discussion on Western
28 Arctic Caribou Herd report.

29

30 MR. KOONUK: Well, I thought Taqulik
31 would give the report.

32

33 MS. ATORUK: No. She's not from the
34 Council. She's on the Wildlife department.

35

36 MR. KOONUK: Okay.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: So if we
39 could get a motion to request representation from our
40 Board into the Caribou -- Arctic Caribou Herd working
41 group.

42

43 MS. ATORUK: So that way it would be in
44 place for their 2011 meeting in December.

45

46 REPORTER: Barb.

47

48 MR. LEAVITT: In August, yes.

49

50 REPORTER: Barb. Everybody, mics,

1 please.

2

3 MS. ATORUK: So that way it would be in
4 place for their 2011 meeting in December.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: If we could
7 get a motion to that effect.

8

9 MR. J. NAGEAK: I so move -- I would
10 make a motion that we ask the administration to get the
11 process going for a representation on the Western
12 Arctic Caribou Herd working group.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay.

15

16 MR. KOONUK: Second that motion.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Seconded by
19 Ray.

20

21 MR. J. NAGEAK: Discussion then. How
22 are these people chosen?

23

24 MS. ATORUK: Most of them are from the
25 IRA offices representing and then that's when I
26 first.....

27

28 MR. J. NAGEAK: We can reorganization
29 [sic] that?

30

31 MS. ATORUK: IRA offices, yeah, with
32 the State.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Tribal.

35

36 MR. J. NAGEAK: Oh.

37

38 MS. ATORUK: And I went to the meeting
39 and then I was sitting there and thinking, I said, gee,
40 how come North Slope and Northwest Arctic are not here
41 and they're from the tutu country. And then I talked
42 to the Chair and he said you would have to ask them to
43 see if they want to be in here and then have -- write a
44 letter to me and then we will open some seats for them.
45 And they're supposed to just be like.....

46

47 MR. LEAVITT: We discussed a little bit
48 of that last.....

49

50 REPORTER: Lloyd. Lloyd, you need to

1 -- please.

2

3 MR. LEAVITT:August too. We did
4 discuss a little bit of that last August too with the
5 Western Arctic Caribou Herd about placing somebody in
6 there.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Do we have
9 any further discussion.

10

11 MR. J. NAGEAK: Call for the question.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Question's
14 been called from the motion to request Staff to start
15 the process to get representation for the Western
16 Arctic Caribou working group.

17

18 All those in favor do so by saying aye.

19

20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Motion
23 passes. The next meeting.....

24

25 MS. ATORUK: Quyana.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: I'd give you an update on
28 the Porcupine if you want.

29

30 REPORTER: Vince. Vince, you know
31 better.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: We don't
36 have them on a specific portion of this. What is the
37 wish of the Board. We have an opportunity to hear more
38 on the Porcupine Caribou. It's a separate.....

39

40 MR. LEAVITT: I'd like to hear -- make
41 a motion to hear from Vince on the Porcupine Herd.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. I don't know if
44 you want it under Agency reports because you were
45 talking about.....

46

47 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: That's
48 where I was.....

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: It's up to you guys.

1 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: What would
2 be the -- we're here.
3
4 MS. ATORUK: That's okay. Please, if
5 he wants to report, let him report.
6
7 MR. LEAVITT: We're on caribou now.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: We're here.
10 All right.
11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. There's been a
13 fury of emails.....
14
15 MR. J. NAGEAK: It's a prickly subject,
16 we're going to hear about.
17
18 (Laughter)
19
20 MR. MATHEWS: What?
21
22 MR. J. NAGEAK: It's a prickly subject,
23 so.....
24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I know. I'm Vince
26 Mathews, Subsistence Coordinator for Arctic Refuge and
27 there's been a series of emails and that's what I'm
28 looking at here. This one is from March 2nd. There's
29 one been since then that the photo census of the
30 Porcupine Caribou Herd has shown that the herd has
31 grown to 169,000 animals and that has -- no doubt the
32 herd has grown since 2001. I'm trying to page down
33 here to the -- anyways, it peaked at 178,000 in 1989.
34 The censuses between '92 and 2001 showed the herd at
35 123,000. So basically it's increased. So that's that
36 part.
37
38 The other part is, is that the Yukon
39 Territory already has a management plan for the
40 Porcupine Caribou Herd. I didn't get a chance to meet
41 with the superintendent nor with -- not the
42 superintendent. Too many parts -- with the Refuge
43 manager nor with the area biologist, but my
44 understanding on the Alaska side there is no management
45 plan for the Porcupine Caribou Herd.
46
47 My understanding is that's on hold
48 until the International Porcupine Caribou Board meets.
49 Those appointments have been held up for years in the
50 White House and rumor had it about two months ago that

1 those are moving forward, but again I haven't met with
2 the Refuge manager. I don't know if they've actually
3 appointed somebody to that.

4
5 As you know, this herd migrates back
6 and forth across the border, generally at times
7 spending more time in Canada but is important to Alaska
8 for multiple reasons.

9
10 So I'll keep track of when those
11 appointments would happen. I don't know that process
12 with the International Porcupine Caribou Herd group,
13 but it will be important to address that since there
14 needs to be some kind of understanding of how the
15 harvest is going to be shared of that. We have similar
16 agreements with Canada with the Fortymile Mile Herd and
17 is it the Chisana at Eastern Interior -- so we do have
18 ground already broken recently for international
19 agreements on managing herds that cross the boundaries.

20
21 So that's it on it and if you want, I
22 can work through your coordinator to keep it up to date
23 as I hear anything on that.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Is there
26 any questions.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Hearing
31 none, thank you for your report. Next on the agenda is
32 the next meeting.

33
34 MS. ATORUK: Okay. For your next
35 meeting, we had -- spoil me being at the office
36 building. Okay. The next meeting date -- meeting
37 calendar's on Page 15. You had requested to meet
38 jointly with North Slope, Northwest Arctic, and Seward
39 Penn. and requested that through your annual report.
40 And the Federal Board had answered you in supporting
41 you in having the three Councils meet and then after
42 that, it's actually not approved by the ARD, in their
43 office, and as far as I know, I haven't really talked
44 to him in person, but I keep hearing things that he
45 wanted to know what the agenda item would be that
46 concerns all three of the regions.

47
48 And I know your main topic was of the
49 global warming and you want to get together with the
50 other two Councils to discuss global warming, how it's

1 affecting their lifestyle. And since some of their
2 resources are shared between the three of -- the
3 regions especially the tutu.

4
5 And we are at a standstill right now
6 and I don't know what you want to do, if you want to
7 cancel that talk and then just have meeting on your own
8 or you want to pursue or you want to change your
9 meeting date and -- but that's at your call.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: What is the
12 wish of the Board.

13
14 MR. LEAVITT: The gathering in my mind
15 would be very beneficial as where -- I myself, I'm a
16 subsistence user. With all the weather changes in the
17 weather patterns, it would be good to meet with the
18 other entities from different parts of Alaska as to
19 what changes and what they're seeing and what we're
20 seeing up here.

21
22 We're moving right along with all the
23 changes, accepting the changes as we move forward, but
24 there's a lot of information out there that's needed by
25 both parties in my mind and it would help us local
26 people when we're out in the boondocks as to what we've
27 seen and the changes of weather and the erosion
28 pattern.

29
30 That would be my opinion of trying to
31 get to discuss the global warming between the three
32 subsistence board.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Any other
35 discussion.

36
37 MR. J. NAGEAK: I would be in favor of
38 having the three Councils meet to discuss like Lloyd
39 said, you know, those things that are concerning all --
40 especially Western Herd for one thing. And then we used
41 it -- we use that herd in Anaktuvuk Pass and it's a
42 very useful herd that we have and we get the Teshekpuk
43 Herd. You know, how are the future affects our people
44 -- one of the concerns that we have is the ability of
45 people from -- on the road system, Prudhoe Bay -- to
46 Prudhoe Bay, having the State say, okay, you could hunt
47 on that road and that's been the concern from our SRC
48 committee -- Council, Gates of the Arctic, because it's
49 -- how is it -- how is that thing going to affect our
50 lifestyle -- our subsistence lifestyle up here.

1 You know, that's another concern that
2 we have. The usage of road systems to hunt sheep and
3 caribou and those things and so.....

4
5 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, well, there's just
6 the two of you now. Seward Penn has picked up their own
7 meeting place and their own meeting time to be
8 September 21 and 22 as you see on Page 15. So they're
9 -- as far as I'm concerned, they're totally out of the
10 loop except you just have Northwest now and if you
11 still want to meet and make a request to just meet with
12 Northwest Arctic, which is right next door to you,
13 that's still an open option for you to ask for it.

14
15 And if it should or does happen or it
16 doesn't happen, then I'm stuck with two Councils at the
17 same date, same place, and I can't go different ways
18 unless I asked someone to go to the meeting and then
19 it's still doable, but then if you guys want to stay
20 with having to just to meet with Northwest and -- I'm
21 sure some of the -- some other coordinator would be
22 able to go to one of the Councils that I'm not able to
23 go to. So -- but I'll try to do whatever you guys ask
24 me to do and then I still would try.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: I think
27 it's important to recognize that the process had
28 requested to have a joint meeting. So as we work
29 through this process, we should be encouraging and
30 putting the request to the Seward Penn Board that we do
31 have a process, that we want to have a joint meeting.

32
33 If they still choose to decline, that's
34 a choice that they can make, but allow us to still work
35 with having a joint meeting with the Northwest Arctic
36 and move forward on these discussions but also to share
37 the process back to the Seward Penn Board so that they
38 are still involved in the loop and can offer comments
39 if they choose to but I think that it's important to
40 have you involved in our meeting process. So working
41 on a joint meeting would be the way to go so we don't
42 have to go through a meeting process without your
43 participation and moving forward with getting this
44 scheduled.

45
46 MS. ATORUK: Okay. So you're asking me
47 to ask again to meet with even just Northwest Arctic.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Uh-huh.
50

1 MS. ATORUK: Just the two Councils to
2 meet.....
3
4 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yes.
5
6 MS. ATORUK:and discuss global
7 warming, what they are seeing, how it's affecting their
8 lives, the ocean patterns, and that's affecting both
9 sides because of the -- that the tutu -- some of their
10 resources that are shared between the North Slope and
11 the Northwest Arctic is what you're saying, right?
12
13 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yes. But
14 also to -- we would like to see the process go through
15 the three regions and still put that discussion in the
16 process that we're encouraging them, but recognizing if
17 they choose not to participate that we will continue to
18 have the meeting.
19
20 MS. ATORUK: Okay. So you want me to
21 ask the Seward Penn then.....
22
23 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yes.
24
25 MS. ATORUK:again so that
26 they're.....
27
28 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: You should
29 still include them in the process, recognizing.....
30
31 MS. ATORUK: Okay.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK:they
34 may not participate, but really recognize the
35 importance of having a joint meeting through all
36 three.....
37
38 MS. ATORUK: Uh-huh.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK:and
41 leaving it to their response. If they choose to
42 schedule separately, that's a choice. And any other
43 issue that still comes -- my concern is the ARD's lack
44 of support through this process and not having the
45 discussions that went on to leading to the decisions
46 that were not there offering for communication above
47 that.
48
49 MS. ATORUK: Okay.
50

1 MR. KOONUK: Madame Chair.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yes, Ray.
4
5 MR. KOONUK: Yeah. I'm in support of
6 this joint meeting because the whole year last year,
7 Point Hope, Kivalina, Noatak didn't catch no caribou
8 and, you know, begged to see why, you know, that they
9 didn't migrate like where they used to migrate and
10 could use some kind of report as far as why. Was there
11 too much snow because, man, we had major snowstorms
12 that took place this winter. And, you know, just need
13 to know and find out of what -- you know, why the
14 migration didn't take place like they usually do.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay.
17
18 MR. KOONUK: And one thing, it's real
19 hard not have caribou and a lot of people wanted -- lot
20 of elders wanted caribou and they calling around, you
21 know, just nothing.
22
23 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, so if this should
24 happen then and where would it be held? If it would be
25 held in Anchorage and it got approval and so August 23
26 would be the day that this stuff is discussed. There'd
27 be a separate agenda from your meeting place and then
28 the next day on the 24th, you'd be both separated and
29 having meetings -- have your meetings then.....
30
31 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay.
32
33 MS. ATORUK:to follow your
34 agenda. And that's how we did it the last time we had
35 the -- I had a Tri-Council meeting with all three.
36 They were all in the same place and the meeting and
37 stuff and then so we'll try and work that out and see
38 what happens and I'll keep you posted then and put your
39 request in and then you guys will get copies of the
40 request.
41
42 MR. J. NAGEAK: Lloyd, so Anchorage.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Did you
45 want to say something.
46
47 MR. LEAVITT: No.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Oh, I
50 thought you were All right. Then the next part is the

1 date and location for the winter 2012 meeting and
2 that's on Page 16.

3
4 MS. ATORUK: Page 16. I don't know
5 what dates some of the others have, but then you're
6 still ahead with the meetings because I have Northwest
7 and so we're good. We can pick the dates -- you can
8 pick the dates first and Northwest will be next.

9
10 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair, I
11 haven't -- there were two meetings held last week and I
12 have not been able to get into my computer to find out
13 if anybody sent me the updates, but Tina may know what
14 the dates are for those meetings so we don't -- we
15 can't have more than two meetings a week because it's
16 too complicated and -- with our court reporters and
17 whatnot.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Go ahead.

20
21 REPORTER: Do you want me to look?

22
23 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yes,
24 please.

25
26 REPORTER: So you're talking about
27 winter?

28
29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes, the winter
30 meeting, do you know when?

31
32 REPORTER: Western Interior's meeting
33 February 28th and 29th.

34
35 MS. ATORUK: February.

36
37 REPORTER: That's Western Interior's
38 meeting. And just a second let me look.....

39
40 MS. ATORUK: What about Seward Penn?

41
42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Geez, I don't know.
43 And the YK Council's meeting February 23rd and 24th.

44
45 REPORTER: I'm still looking for
46 Eastern.

47
48 MS. ATORUK: Eastern, Seward Penn.
49 Andrea wasn't there Friday.

50

1 REPORTER: Eastern Interior's meeting
2 the first week of March, or thereabouts.
3
4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: First week of March
5 for Eastern Interior.
6
7 MS. ATORUK: Eastern?
8
9 REPORTER: Yes. And do you need Seward
10 Penn?
11
12 MS. ATORUK: Seward Penn.
13
14 MS. ATORUK: Kodiak and Bristol Bay
15 haven't met yet.
16
17 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No, Southeast,
18 Bristol Bay, and Kodiak still have to meet.
19
20 MS. ATORUK: Southcentral.
21
22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And Southcentral,
23 uh-huh.
24
25 MS. ATORUK: Okay.
26
27 REPORTER: February 14th and 15th.
28
29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's Seward Penn.
30
31 MS. ATORUK: Okay, Seward Penn?
32
33 REPORTER: Yes.
34
35 MS. ATORUK: Okay. You pretty much
36 have open windows here. There's only one of each, so
37 whichever dates you want to pick on those first -- even
38 the first week of February 12, February 19.
39
40 It's open.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: What is the
43 wish of the Council? Eastern Interior is March 6th?
44
45 MS. ATORUK: March 6th and 7th. We can
46 have it the same date, just a different location.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: A same
49 date, just different location? Will it be okay with
50 the Staffing issue? You could still do those dates.

1 MR. LEAVITT: March 13, March 14?
2
3 MS. ATORUK: March 13, 14?
4
5 MR. LEAVITT: Yes.
6
7 MS. ATORUK: Okay.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Any
10 discussion.
11
12 Lloyd recommends March 13th, 14th.
13
14 MS. ATORUK: Madame Chair.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yes.
17
18 MS. ATORUK: The only other thing that
19 you might consider there that might be about the week
20 when they have the March madness and a lot of you guys
21 always go.
22
23 MR. LEAVITT: Yeah.
24
25 MR. J. NAGEAK: What is march madness?
26
27 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: That's
28 basketball teams.
29
30 MR. LEAVITT: Oh, yeah.
31
32 MS. ATORUK: It's basketball.
33 State.....
34
35 MR. J. NAGEAK: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: So better
38 to go back up a little bit further.
39
40 MR. J. NAGEAK: Go back up. Madame
41 Chair, I would go back up to February because March is
42 a good month to go running around ice fishing and -- in
43 our area at least. You know, it gets pretty nice and
44 we go to Chandler Lake to ice fish and.....
45
46 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: What would
47 you like to recommend? What dates.
48
49 MR. J. NAGEAK: Recommend probably --
50 when it's cold up there in February. The week of the

1 12th someplace.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: The week of
4 the 12th?
5
6 MR. J. NAGEAK: 14, 15?
7
8 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Seward Penn
9 has their meeting.
10
11 MR. LEAVITT: Seward Peninsula has that
12 14th and 15th. That's why I was looking at that date
13 all right, but they got.....
14
15 MS. ATORUK: That's okay. They have a
16 different coordinator.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: They have a
19 different coordinator.
20
21 MR. LEAVITT: Oh, okay. Then well, why
22 not 15th and 16th then, February.
23
24 MS. ATORUK: Okay.
25
26 MR. J. NAGEAK: 14 and 15?
27
28 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: 15 and 16.
29
30 MR. J. NAGEAK: 15 and 16. Cool.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Somebody
33 has a motion.
34
35 MR. LEAVITT: I'd like to make a motion
36 to have our winter meeting set for February 15, 16,
37 2012, here in Barrow.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Do we have
40 a second.
41
42 MR. J. NAGEAK: I'll second the motion.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Hearing no
45 discussion, call for the question.
46
47 All those in favor do so by saying aye.
48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Motion
2 passes.
3
4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yes.
7
8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: If I could just
9 make one -- Helen Armstrong -- one quick little comment
10 is that we always have two days selected but sometimes
11 depending on what the agenda is, it might only be a
12 one-day meeting.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yes.
15
16 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And that one, in
17 particular, might be one day because we won't have --
18 we'll be done with wildlife then. So, you know, it just
19 depends on the agenda. Like this time we have a fairly
20 full agenda, so we kept it at two days.
21
22 MS. ATORUK: They start asking us to do
23 this orientation stuff though, so that's why.....
24
25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.
26
27 MS. ATORUK:they let go this last
28 time. So unless we have another orientation requested
29 by the Chair, then it will be two days.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay.
32
33 MS. ATORUK: Okay. Thank you.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Next on the
36 agenda is the Council charter review.
37
38 MS. ATORUK: Okay. I had talked with
39 you earlier about, this is your charter.
40
41 REPORTER: Barb.
42
43 (Laughter)
44
45 MS. ATORUK: Okay, I talked with you
46 earlier about your charter and what you can change on
47 your charter, the name change, the number of people on
48 the Council, and there's ten requested for North Slope
49 and there's -- and saying that there's eight villages
50 in the whole North Slope area and stuff. And removal

1 of members, we also discussed that. And then we got
2 into the compensation and I think that will be
3 discussed later on at the meeting, on the compensation.

4
5 But if there's any changes that you
6 want to make for those -- the ones that I mentioned,
7 then you have your time at this time, and if you don't,
8 then we leave it as is.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Are there
11 any comments from the Board.

12
13 MR. J. NAGEAK: Madame Chair.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: James.

16
17 MR. J. NAGEAK: Madame Chair. On the
18 compensation, can we get the process started just look
19 into the honorarium possibilities?

20
21 MS. ATORUK: (In Inupiat) that it's
22 going to be discussed, but if you want to discuss it
23 now you could. And on that you.....

24
25 MR. J. NAGEAK: If there is a place
26 where -- is there a place -- if there is a place where
27 we are going to discuss it, let's just keep it.....

28
29 MS. ATORUK: No. This is where you can
30 discuss it.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: This is
33 where we discuss this part.

34
35 MS. ATORUK: This is when you can
36 discuss it, but if you need to do that change or make a
37 request to do that, you would have to write your own
38 letters. Not as a Council member and not as a group as
39 a Council member. You have to do it on your own and I
40 can't even do it for you.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay.

43
44 MS. ATORUK: You have to write to the
45 delegation.

46
47 MR. J. NAGEAK: Is there a reason why
48 we.....

49
50 MS. ATORUK: Yeah. Because it's a

1 letter to the delegation like Murkowski or Begich that
2 you would be writing those letters to.

3
4 MR. J. NAGEAK: Oh, so it's a
5 Congressional.....

6
7 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.

8
9 MR. J. NAGEAK: Okay.

10
11 MS. ATORUK: Okay.

12
13 MR. J. NAGEAK: So we can't do that
14 anyways so we could do it on our own then.

15
16 MS. ATORUK: No, I wouldn't be able to
17 do it for you.

18
19 MR. J. NAGEAK: But I could it do it.

20
21 MS. ATORUK: But you could do it as a
22 person but not as a Council member. You can't write in
23 there James Nageak, North Slope Regional Advisory
24 Council. You can't use that. You'll just have to
25 write it on your own with no letterhead, just James
26 Nageak, you know, Anaktuvuk Pass.

27
28 MR. J. NAGEAK: How about as Council
29 member?

30
31 MS. ATORUK: Nope.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Not from
34 this Council.

35
36 MS. ATORUK: Not from this Council or
37 any other Council that you belong -- that is on
38 Federal. They'll go after you.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MS. ATORUK: They'll go after you.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: As an
47 individual.....

48
49 MS. ATORUK: The solicitors.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK:you
2 can do this but not as a representative of the Board.
3
4 MS. ATORUK: Yeah. Not as a
5 representative of anything, but as a person, you could.
6 That's just -- that's it, you know. You know what I
7 mean.
8
9 MR. J. NAGEAK: Weird process.
10
11 MS. ATORUK: But they'll get your
12 letter and if you want to write a letter, then I can
13 get you the address and stuff -- no, I probably can't
14 even do that, but you have ways in your villages where
15 there's IRA office that would be able to get those
16 addresses for you.
17
18 MR. J. NAGEAK: So when my congressman
19 started the process, did he request for honorarium on
20 his own?
21
22 (Laughter)
23
24 MS. ATORUK: I don't know. I don't
25 know how that started.
26
27 MR. J. NAGEAK: Because we're on the
28 same Board, aren't we?
29
30 MS. ATORUK: Not from the Council. We
31 can't -- you can write a letter from here to the Chair,
32 the Federal Board Chair or make a request to the -- to
33 Pete Probasco or whoever, but outside from that, I
34 can't help you. You have to do it on your own as a
35 person. You know what I mean? Because even if I do
36 get involved in doing that, then I'm canned. They'll
37 fire me for doing that. That's how strict they are.
38 They really get down to the nose here in doing
39 business.
40
41 So if you want to go outside on that,
42 then you'd have to be on your own and do it.
43
44 MR. J. NAGEAK: Can I have AWC back me
45 up?
46
47 MS. ATORUK: You'd have to go and ask
48 them.
49
50 MR. LEAVITT: But they're a charter.

1 They don't have authority either.
2
3 (Laughter)
4
5 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.
6
7 MR. B. NAGEAK: Tribal.
8
9 MR. LEAVITT: Yeah. Tribal is the only
10 one.
11
12 MR. J. NAGEAK: Tribal?
13
14 MR. LEAVITT: Yeah.
15
16 MS. ATORUK: Yeah. Tribal could help
17 you, but not -- no one from Federal Agencies because we
18 work for the government.
19
20 MR. J. NAGEAK: That was another
21 discussion we had with our Federal Subsistence -- you
22 know, with Gates of the Arctic. How compensation --
23 because, you know, when you're a working man, that's a
24 lot of days off especially when you come out of Point
25 Hope and.....
26
27 MS. ATORUK: Yeah. When Mitch -- when
28 Mitch was Chair.....
29
30 MR. J. NAGEAK:travel -- just
31 traveling.....
32
33 MS. ATORUK:he knew what -- he
34 understood what you guys were going through and he even
35 wrote -- he wrote a letter and he got an answer back.
36 They said the answer was still no. It never changed
37 from what we requested to them and then it was heard by
38 the Federal Board and Mitch wrote a letter on behalf of
39 all of the Regional Councils and his answer was still
40 no, even as the Chair for Federal Board.
41
42 So if you want to go outside that area,
43 you'd have to do it on your own and that's your choice.
44
45 MR. J. NAGEAK: Okay.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay. Any
48 other questions or discussion.
49
50 (No comments)

1 MS. ATORUK: Okay.

2

3 MR. J. NAGEAK: Good.

4

5 MR. LEAVITT: Okay.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: No. 11,
8 call for proposals to change 2011-'12 Federal
9 Subsistence wildlife regulations. That says it's for
10 the Chair, but there should have been some further
11 discussion. Is there any discussion points, Helen, on
12 this; do you know, or Barb?

13

14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: This is the
15 opportunity for the Council to make any proposals that
16 they -- if there are issues and I don't know if you
17 want to pull out the wildlife reg. book and look at
18 Unit 26 and see if there's anything that you think
19 needs to be changed. This would be the time to do it.

20

21 We are going to have two reviews of two
22 closures and those closures we were talking about this
23 morning where when a hunt has been closed because
24 there's not enough of a resource and we have to review
25 those every three years and I -- it might be
26 appropriate to hear those first and then see -- you
27 know, I'm -- just see those to start off and then see
28 if there's anything you wanted to think about changing
29 in regards to that. That would be my suggestion is
30 maybe do closure reviews first and then do the call for
31 wildlife proposals.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: What is the
34 wish of the.....

35

36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Oh, and the deadline
37 is the 24th of March for taking wildlife proposals, so
38 even if you don't come up with any today, you can as an
39 individual -- not as a Council, but as an individual
40 you can submit one. Somebody in your community can
41 submit one. Anyone, you know, the tribes, anybody, any
42 entity, any organization, any -- we've even gotten
43 proposals from people in Hawaii before. That was
44 interesting.

45

46 But -- so anyone can make a proposal.
47 So this isn't the end. If you come up with something
48 later and you think oh, my gosh, we should have made
49 this proposal, you can do it as individual.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay. What
2 is the wish of the Board. Would you like to hear the
3 wildlife closure review first before we take on the
4 considerations for call for proposals?

5
6 MR. LEAVITT: I'd like to hear the
7 report.

8
9 MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: So let's
12 hear the closures.

13
14 MS. BROWN: Good afternoon, Madame
15 Chair, members of the Council. My name is Cole Brown.
16 I'm with OSM. The wildlife closure review briefing
17 starts on Page 20 of your books. I'll just give a
18 brief overview of that.

19
20 The Office of Subsistence Management is
21 reviewing existing wildlife closures to determine
22 whether the original justification for closure is still
23 consistent with the Federal Subsistence Board closure
24 policy. Section .815 subsection (3) of ANILCA allows
25 closures when necessary for the conservation of healthy
26 populations of fish and wildlife and to continue
27 subsistence uses of such populations.

28
29 Distribution and abundance of fish and
30 wildlife populations are known to fluctuate based on a
31 variety of factors. Subsistence use patterns are also
32 known to change in response to factors including
33 resource abundance and human population changes.

34
35 Councils are asked to consider the OSM
36 preliminary recommendation and share their views on the
37 issue. Input from the Councils is critical to the
38 development of regulatory proposals. The current
39 deadline to submit wildlife proposals as previously
40 stated is March 24th, 2011. Councils may choose to
41 work with OSM Staff to develop a proposal, however, the
42 proposals may be submitted by anyone.

43
44 So the first closure review is WCR10-
45 31. It begins on Page 25. This closure is for moose
46 in Units 26B Remainder and 26C. Federal public lands
47 are closed to the taking of moose except by a Kaktovik
48 resident holding a Federal registration permit from
49 July 1st to March 31st.

50

1 The justification for the original
2 closure was the combination of low moose numbers and
3 low recruitment were direct indicators of a continuing
4 conservation concern. The analysis for Proposal WP04-
5 86b which was the justification of the original closure
6 also considered ANILCA Section .804 issues which
7 restricting subsistence use by implementing a priority
8 of a limited resource such a moose limiting this hunt
9 with a small quota to only the residents of Kaktovik.

10
11 A complete moose population survey has
12 not been conducted in Units 26B and C. However, trend
13 surveys likely account for a large percentage of the
14 moose in areas as they are conducted where there are
15 major concentrations and the habitat is deemed to
16 support it.

17
18 Within the Canning River Drainage Area,
19 which is within both Units 26B and 26C, it's kind of
20 the border there, the number of moose observed in 2010
21 was 47. For the area east of the Canning River within
22 26C, the number of moose observed in 2009 was 61.

23
24 The Federal public lands closure for
25 the Unit 26B remainder area only includes this Canning
26 River Drainage which is a portion of Unit 26B east
27 survey area. The compositions of the bull/cow ratios
28 were not conducted within this area.

29
30 Kaktovik has been the only community
31 eligible to harvest moose in the affected area since
32 the customary and traditional use determination was
33 revised in 2004. The reported harvest has been one to
34 two moose per year and only three Federal permits are
35 issued.

36
37 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
38 maintain the status quo.

39
40 Low moose numbers on Federal lands
41 within Unit 26B remainder and 26C continue to be a
42 conservation concern and additional moose harvest
43 beyond the harvest of Kaktovik residents may not be
44 sustainable. Therefore Federal public land should
45 remain closed to non-Federally-qualified users for the
46 conservation of a healthy population and to continue
47 the allowance of subsistence uses of moose.

48
49 The harvest quota is limited to only
50 three moose and Kaktovik residents continue to utilize

1 moose for subsistence purposes.

2

3 Thank you. Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Do we have
6 any discussions or questions.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: This is a
11 good example of the process that has involved the
12 community of Kaktovik in the process. In Nuiqsut we've
13 heard some of these discussions and here in Barrow,
14 we've heard some of these discussions. There is still
15 a lot of concern in that area for the moose and
16 supporting and maintaining the status quo is a good
17 process in the discussions that I've heard.

18

19 Do we have any other comments.

20

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Do we need
25 to do any formal process, Helen? Do we need to do --
26 okay. Moving on.

27

28 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Madame Chair,
29 members of the Council. The last wildlife closure
30 review is on Page 29 of your Council books.

31

32 Wildlife Closure Review 10-21 covers
33 the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area which is
34 within Unit 25A. However, residents of Kaktovik have
35 customary and traditional use determination of the
36 sheet within this area so we are presenting this
37 wildlife closure for your purpose as well.

38

39 The Arctic Village Sheep Management
40 Area has been closed to sheep hunting since 1991 due to
41 concerns raised by Arctic Village residents who felt
42 that nonqualified -- non-Federally-qualified hunters
43 interfered with sheep hunting by local residents.
44 Population data and harvest information is lacking for
45 the area within the management area where Federal lands
46 are closed.

47

48 Some survey data was collected between
49 the years 2006 to 2008 from Cane Creek and Red Sheep
50 Creek, but these areas are not within the closure area.

1 Limited harvest data exists for the years 2005 to 2007
2 for the closure area. 11 permits were issued. Of those
3 only one sheep was known to be harvested, four did not
4 hunt, and six permits were not returned.

5
6 OSM does not have a recommendation on
7 the closure.

8
9 We want to note that there is continued
10 local support for the closure and that the Arctic
11 Refuge is in support of maintaining the closure. We
12 recognize the cultural importance of the management
13 area to local residents. Given the current limited
14 data, it is unclear if the Federal closure is necessary
15 for the conservation of a healthy population or to
16 continue subsistence uses. Concerns over competition
17 with non-Federally-qualified users have led to the
18 establishment of this closure and Eastern Interior has
19 supported the closure at their last meeting.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Is there any
24 comments or questions from the Board.

25
26 MR. J. NAGEAK: So on Page 33, it says
27 that all the recommendation is?

28
29 MS. BROWN: That's right. Just to --
30 to put that in there in order that there be a
31 discussion regarding from this Council and the Eastern
32 Interior Council.....

33
34 MR. J. NAGEAK: Uh-huh.

35
36 MS. BROWN:if you wanted to weigh
37 in on it, we wanted to provide that opportunity since
38 residents of Kaktovik do have customary and traditional
39 use, but that was the reason for that is there's
40 no.....

41
42 MR. J. NAGEAK: For discussion
43 purposes.

44
45 MS. BROWN: Yes.

46
47 MR. J. NAGEAK: So you want any action
48 that -- from our Council to keep the status quo or.....

49
50 (Pause)

1 MR. MATHEWS: You have all options on
2 that. That's not why I'm up here. I'm up here because
3 part of my duties is to attend the local Advisory
4 Committee and also work with the Village of -- Arctic
5 Village. And the Advisory Committee met in Arctic
6 Village and this was discussed at length, quite heated,
7 because they're still very concerned about the loss of
8 the closure area for -- on two drainages further north
9 and they wanted us to know that.

10
11 So they were going to meet -- the
12 tribal council -- it's two Councils, Venetie and Arctic
13 Village are joined tribes and they were going to meet
14 by teleconference on Saturday night and they were going
15 to hopefully email me their results. There's been no
16 email. That does that mean they've not taken action.

17
18 The Advisory Committee left it up to
19 the tribal council to deal with that. So that's that
20 part.

21
22 She already covered Eastern Interior,
23 but Eastern Interior took an additional step and
24 they're submitting a proposal to add in Red Sheep and
25 Cane Creek. Those are the two areas that were taken
26 out I think in 2007.

27
28 And it's most likely, again I'm
29 speculating here, I have not talked to the Chief for
30 Arctic Village, but I'm speculating that they'll also
31 submit a proposal. They were quite confused at their
32 meeting in Arctic Village, so part of my duty is to
33 help them on that. I think you guys know that when
34 groups meet in the village, they think those are the
35 decision-makers and when it goes wrong, those are the
36 people that made it go wrong. So they were venting
37 quite a bit about Eastern Interior. So I need to work
38 them through the system to know that, you, like Eastern
39 Interior are just advisory that it went to the Board.

40
41 The main points that came across both
42 at Eastern Interior and at Arctic Village is it is
43 their area. She already mentioned that it's culturally
44 important, but for many you could interpret as
45 spiritually important and there was testimony at
46 Eastern Interior from an elder, Josephine Peters, who
47 spoke in her Native tongue about that area and how she
48 is really concerned about trespassing and then there's
49 burial grounds there and that's covered in the
50 analysis.

1 But anyways, those are the -- gives you
2 a little bit of context of that situation.

3
4 So Eastern Interior is definitely
5 submitting a proposal, so you'll have that back before
6 you and then hopefully, if they so desire, Arctic
7 Village will submit one. So I think that's it.

8
9 And it's because you have Kaktovik as
10 your -- is the reason.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Do we have
13 any other questions or comments.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: For me, I
18 also have heard a lot of discussion about the sheep and
19 this restriction. Kaktovik's traditional usage is
20 important and they would like to continue their
21 traditional usage in the area.

22
23 I know there is a limitation of what
24 they do in that area and that the process that led to
25 these discussions were in reaction to actions that were
26 coming into the area causing concern for the
27 traditional and cultural uses and their subsistence
28 harvest.

29
30 There has been a lot of processes that
31 have affected these proposals over the years, but the
32 process was important to the tribal community and their
33 traditional and cultural usage and I think it's
34 important to support their stance on this process.

35
36 Is there any other questions or
37 comments.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Is there
42 any other action needed?

43
44 (No comments)

45
46
47 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: All right,
48 hearing none, we're back to the call for proposals
49 to.....

50

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I just wanted to
2 reiterate so you do know that when those -- if they do
3 make proposals from any of those, you know, the Eastern
4 Interior Council or Arctic Village that you will get --
5 those will be considered crossover proposals like we
6 talked about this morning and you will get the
7 opportunity to review them at the fall meeting when an
8 analysis has been done.

9

10 So, thank you, Madame Chair.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Thank you.
13 Now, we're back to the call for proposals to change
14 2011-'12 Federal subsistence wildlife regulations.

15

16 My question that comes into this
17 process was, I recall at the previous meeting a concern
18 for muskox in the Nuiqsut area. There was a comment
19 brought in from Eli Nukupaguk (ph) to consider that and
20 I don't see any of that discussion in our process here.

21

22 So I think we need some communications.
23 In our previous meeting, we had some discussion from
24 Eli Nukupaguk discussing the muskox in the Nuiqsut
25 area. Do we have any follow-through on that
26 discussion?

27

28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm not remembering.
29 We're looking at the minutes from the last meeting. I
30 do know that most of that area is State land, but do
31 you remember what the question was?

32

33 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: I'm not
34 sure which process it went through, so that's why I'm
35 trying to get some clarification.

36

37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: But there
40 had been some changes in which the Nuiqsut muskox hunt
41 had been closed due to the decrease in numbers and
42 there was still concerns from Nuiqsut about the harvest
43 of that and he had come and made a request at the
44 meeting.

45

46 DR. YOKEL: That was the State Tier II
47 hunt, Helen.

48

49 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. I think that
50 had to do with the State hunt.

1 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay.
2
3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I don't know if.....
4
5 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: So that's
6 why I was -- does it need to go into this process
7 separate?
8
9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right. I'm pretty
10 sure -- Geoff can correct me if I'm wrong, but I'm
11 pretty sure that the Nuiqsut -- that all that hunting
12 has occurred on State lands. Isn't that right, Geoff?
13
14 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, that's true and
15 that's -- most of muskox has occurred on State
16 land.....
17
18 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay.
19
20 MR. CARROLL:although there's
21 some on the NPR-A.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: So we're
24 good in this process. We don't need to discuss it
25 further?
26
27 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay.
30 Other than that, I didn't have any other things that
31 were in the back of my head.
32
33 Do we have any other comments for call
34 for proposals.
35
36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: You do have your
37 State Fish and Game wildlife biologist here if he has
38 any concerns. I don't know that he knows of something
39 that he thinks you should be concerned about or not --
40 to make a proposal.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: We have our
43 biologist here. Would you like to add to the
44 discussion.
45
46 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. I don't know.....
47
48 REPORTER: Geoff. Geoff.
49
50 MR. CARROLL:I think our -- I

1 think the regulations are.....

2

3 MR. CARROLL: What?

4

5 REPORTER: Unh-unh, come on up.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: You have to
8 come to the microphone. Sorry, Geoff.

9

10 MR. CARROLL: I'm Geoff Carroll, I'm
11 the area wildlife biologist from the Barrow office and
12 so I guess the question was do I have any suggested
13 proposals that you guys could act upon and I just feel
14 that, you know, over the years we've gotten our two
15 sets of regulations pretty well lined up and I -- at
16 this point, I don't see any need for any new proposals
17 or regulations.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: James.

20

21 MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah, I have a
22 question. The concern that we had with the Federal
23 subsistence research council is the changes of
24 regulations concerning the Pipeline road, how there
25 might be changes to allow people to go north of the
26 border to hunt caribou or sheep, opening it up for the
27 public. Is there any discussions along that line?

28

29 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. Well, there have
30 been some pretty substantial changes in 26B and kind of
31 problem, I'm the area biologist for 26A, so I can't
32 speak entirely for 26B, but I can give you a pretty
33 good idea.

34

35 Basically because the recent counts
36 indicated that the Central Arctic Caribou Herd has
37 increased significantly, there were -- at the last
38 Board of Game meeting, there were proposals to
39 liberalize the harvest there. It went from two caribou
40 per year to five and the part where Nuiqsut people, it
41 was changed from, I believe, ten a year to five a day
42 which is, you know, typical of the rest of the North
43 Slope.

44

45 So it kind liberalized all the seasons
46 across the board including the one that in the area
47 where most of the Nuiqsut hunters hunt.

48

49 You know, there as a lot of debate
50 about it. The North Slope Borough Fish and Game

1 Management Committee thought that they were kind of
2 going too fast with that. They thought it should be
3 more like three a year instead of five a year and
4 thought that there were going to be bunch of cheechako
5 hunters showing up that, you know, go out there and
6 have no idea, you know, process five caribou in a day
7 if they shot them, you know, all at once.

8
9 So -- but the Board of Game did go
10 ahead and liberalize those seasons and one of the
11 concerns was that it would greatly increase the number
12 of caribou harvested in there and, you know, as of the
13 Department harvest results, it's -- so far there hasn't
14 been any dramatic increase in the number of caribou
15 harvested along the whole road or through that whole
16 area. So I don't know. That's kind of where it kind
17 of rests now, you know.

18
19 But as far as the State process, the
20 Arctic Advisory Council which is -- that's one of the
21 functions of the North Slope Borough Fish and Game
22 Management Committee is probably they will be
23 submitting a proposal for the next Board go-round again
24 saying that they would like to see the bag limit at
25 three rather than five.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Do I have
28 any further discussion or comments.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: I
33 understand the discussion that went forward on this
34 concern specifically. There is also concern in the
35 communities about the reaction to what may happen and
36 the limited assessments that are occurring with it.

37
38 I think James's question floats over
39 into the designation of the Dalton and the scenic
40 byways process and that discussion and also that
41 assessment of how it will affect subsistence.

42
43 These are broad concerns without a real
44 definitive way to go in and say, you know, this is
45 what's going to happen within this process because it's
46 a blanket opening of the area. We're -- we have a
47 different understanding of our usage of this process,
48 concern to others coming in and hunting off the Dalton
49 Highway and we also have a vested interest and to
50 reactions to our continued subsistence harvest and ways

1 that these things can affect it.

2

3 So that's my main point, is that, we're
4 concerned that these blanket regulatory changes with
5 the limitations to the assessment process and the
6 reality of our vested interests and long-term
7 consistent traditional, cultural, subsistence usage of
8 the areas.

9

10 Do we have any other discussion or
11 comments.

12

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Do we need
17 any additional -- Geoff.

18

19 MR. CARROLL: I just -- you know, I
20 don't know if you're interested, but the -- you know,
21 another big change that took place this year in that
22 26B area is because the muskox population has just
23 continued to decline where we used to have about 600 in
24 that area, they're down to 200 and still looks like
25 they're declining slowly and a lot of that is due to
26 bear predation.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Uh-huh.

29

30 MR. CARROLL: And so in order to try to
31 begin a recovery of that population, the bear
32 regulations were liberalized considerably. Where
33 people used to be limited to only getting permits
34 through a drawing process, now there's registration
35 process and so just about anybody that wants to go up
36 there and hunt a bear can come in and get it and -- I
37 mean with the express purpose of trying to reduce the
38 number of bears in the area and try to help muskox
39 population out.

40

41 So I mean that is a -- a substantial
42 change in the State regulations and I -- fits into your
43 -- I'm just kind of adding -- giving you that for
44 information.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yeah.
47 Additional discussion points. Those similar types of
48 issues are really relevant to this discussion. I
49 appreciate that.

50

1 Any other discussions or comments.

2

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Do we have
7 any recommendations for proposal changes?

8

9 MR. J. NAGEAK: Do you need any
10 proposals?

11

12 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Now the
13 understanding is that the Staff is happy with the
14 regulations as they are standing and are giving us
15 foresight of possible things to be considered in the
16 future with these other issues related to the caribou
17 and the muskox and the bear regulations.

18

19 MR. CARROLL: I hate to be ignorant,
20 but I'm not quite sure what your bear regulation is. I
21 know in 26A, we've recently gone to a 12-month year
22 season. There's no closed season now on grizzly bears
23 and there probably will be a proposal this year from
24 the Arctic Advisory Committee to -- well, there's
25 definitely going -- you know, there's going to be one
26 from the Department to remove the -- there's been a \$25
27 tag fee for the general season hunt, but also there may
28 be one for changing the bag limit from one bear a year
29 to two bears a year. So -- at least for the
30 subsistence hunt.

31

32 MS. BROWN: So for the brown bear
33 regulations in Unit 26A, it's one bear by State
34 registration permit only for July 1st through May 31st.
35 For Unit 26B, it's one bear, September 1st through May
36 31st, and Unit 26C is one bear, August 10th through
37 June 30th.

38

39 MR. CARROLL: So basically that's what
40 ours was last year where the month of June was closed
41 and we -- a lot of hunters would end up out in their
42 camps at that time and someone would end up with bears
43 in their cabins or their fish racks or whatever and so
44 we changed it to an open 12 months a year. So that
45 might be something you'll want to consider.

46

47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong.
48 There is a -- not that we have to do it, but we have
49 often strived to have our regulations be parallel with
50 the State if we can, if it's something that Councils

1 want to do because it makes it easier on the
2 subsistence user to not have different regulations and
3 knowing.....

4
5 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Right.

6
7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:you know, in
8 places we have patchwork land status. So I think that
9 that's a good suggestion to try to make the regulations
10 be parallel to the State.

11
12 The one thing we can't do that the
13 State can do is we don't have proposals that are in
14 place -- or regulations in place for predator control.
15 That's something the Federal Subsistence Program
16 doesn't do, but in terms of making it parallel to the
17 State regulations and there's an abundance of bears, so
18 more bears could be taken. For those reasons, I think
19 the Council could consider making a proposal.

20
21 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. At least for the
22 26A regulation, that didn't have anything to do with
23 bear control.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Right.

26
27 MR. CARROLL: That's purely to be more
28 convenient for the subsistence hunters and kind the
29 proposal last year was just for the subsistence hunt,
30 but when the Board of Game passed it, they passed it
31 for both the subsistence and the normal seasonal hunt.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay.
34 We're back to do we have any requests from the Board
35 for proposals to change?

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: I know that
40 we've had a lot of discussions in the last few years
41 related to bears and the increased conflicts at
42 campsites and bears getting into cabins. I know we had
43 a bad year a few years ago in Nuiqsut related to that.
44 Here in Barrow area, we've had increase in that
45 problem.

46
47 MR. LEAVITT: A lot last summer.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: I think it
50 would be very relevant for us to consider the

1 regulatory change for the bears to allow us to come in
2 line with the State recommendation and remove that
3 months restriction in June. I think that we can direct
4 Staff to look at that proposal and draft us wording and
5 come up with the justification for that process.

6

7 I think that we should put in our minds
8 for the next meeting further discussion related to the
9 caribou and have some insight into the changes that may
10 be happening related to the blanket opening of the
11 harvest of the caribou and those number changes and
12 also to look at the issue with the muskox in our next
13 meeting.

14

15 Do we have any other discussions on
16 that.

17

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Helen, is
22 that appropriate?

23

24 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair. The
25 Council would need to make a motion and vote on a
26 proposal for the bear proposal and put it in the form
27 of a motion and it can be as simple as, you know,
28 moving to have the Federal regulations -- the brown
29 bear regulations be parallel to State regulations and
30 then directing the Staff to draw that up and we'll do
31 that before the end of the meeting because we'll have
32 you sign off on it that what we've come up with is what
33 the Council intended.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Do we have
38 support of the Board for that recommendation.

39

40 (Council nods affirmatively)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: A motion to
43 amend the bear proposal to come more in line with the
44 State that would remove in our -- in our regulation, we
45 still have a restriction in June. The State has
46 already gone through the process to eliminate that
47 restriction in June.

48

49 So if we have support from the Board,
50 I'd like to make that recommendation for the bear hunt.

1 Do we have support from the Board?
2
3 MR. J. NAGEAK: That would be from July
4 1 to May 31?
5
6 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: It would be
7 year-round.
8
9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Year-round.
10
11 MR. LEAVITT: It would be year-round.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yeah, year-
14 round.
15
16 MR. J. NAGEAK: Year-round.
17
18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And I mean
19 essentially we also don't -- we don't like it when the
20 State -- the State regulations are more liberal than
21 our regulations because we feel that that is -- you
22 know, is not a positive thing for subsistence users.
23 So you just need to make it in the form of a motion.
24
25 MR. J. NAGEAK: I like that. Do you
26 want me to make a motion?
27
28 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: I would
29 like to hear your response, yes, on the record.
30
31 (Laughter)
32
33 MR. J. NAGEAK: Okay. I would like to
34 make a motion that the Federal subsistence regulation
35 concerning bears -- that include black and brown?
36
37 MR. LEAVITT: Those are the critters.
38
39 MR. J. NAGEAK: Huh?
40
41 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. We're just talking
42 brown bears because that's about all we.....
43
44 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yeah.
45 That's the only one we have.....
46
47 MS. BROWN: Just talking brown.
48 Currently the season for black bear is the entire
49 season, is the entire year.
50

1 MR. J. NAGEAK: The entire season
2 anyways right now. Okay. To comply with the
3 regulations that the State has made that we hunt bears
4 year-round.

5
6 MR. LEAVITT: Second.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: There's a
9 motion and a second. Do we have any further
10 discussion.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MR. KOONUK: Question.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Question's
17 been called. All those in favor of amending the bear
18 -- the regulations on bear do so by saying aye.

19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Motion
23 passes.

24
25 Okay. Do we have any other discussion.

26
27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: All right.

31
32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair. I
33 just need clarification if that was for all of Unit 26
34 and Geoff was just telling me in a side conversation
35 that definitely 26A. He's not sure about 26B and C.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Right.

38
39 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: But you could have
40 it in the proposal and it could be analyzed and then
41 you could make the recommendation later. I mean it
42 just depends on how you want to do it. So if you could
43 just state, clarify whether -- what we would be looking
44 at. All of Unit 26 or 26A only or whatever you're
45 looking at.

46
47 MR. J. NAGEAK: How would it affect
48 that.....

49
50 REPORTER: James. James. Come on

1 there's only a few of us here.
2
3 (Laughter)
4
5 MR. J. NAGEAK:Refuge situation?
6 Okay.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 MR. J. NAGEAK: How would that affect
11 the Refuge situation?
12
13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We're checking right
14 now to see.....
15
16 MR. J. NAGEAK: ANWR.
17
18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:what those
19 regulations in the State are right now and how they
20 compare. So if we can just take a moment, we'll look
21 at that.
22
23 (Pause)
24
25 MR. CARROLL: 26C is August 10th to
26 June 30th.
27
28 MS. COLE: The same. Only difference is
29 that 26B has a longer season for the State than it does
30 for the Federal.
31
32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. I don't know
33 if you all heard that. So 26C right now the seasons
34 are the same for the State and the Federal. 26B, the
35 season is longer for the State than the Federal. So
36 you might want to consider this being for 26A and B
37 because 26C is already got the same length season.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Motion.
40
41 MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah, okay.
42
43 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: So move.
44
45 MR. J. NAGEAK: Amend the motion to,
46 right?
47
48 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Amend the
49 same one.
50

1 REPORTER: Yes, a friendly amendment.
2
3 MR. J. NAGEAK: The same motion?
4
5 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yeah. A
6 friendly amendment to include the analysis for A and B.
7 The seconder.....
8
9 MR. J. NAGEAK: Just putting 26A and B?
10
11 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Seconder
12 concurs?
13
14 MR. LEAVITT: Yes.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yes. All
17 right. Now call for question.
18
19 MR. KOONUK: Question.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Question's
22 been called for . All those in favor of amending the
23 bear proposal as discussed do so by saying aye.
24
25 IN UNISON: Aye.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: And do we
28 need to do on the main motion?
29
30 REPORTER: (Shakes head negatively)
31
32 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Oh, we're
33 good, because it was a friendly amendment?
34
35 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)
36
37 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay, we're
38 good. Now we're on agency reports.
39
40 MR. J. NAGEAK: Before we do can we
41 have a break?
42
43 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: There's a
44 request for a ten minute break. Ten minutes good?
45
46 (Council nods affirmatively)
47
48 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: All right.
49 Ten minute break.
50

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay.

6 We're going to call the meeting back to order. We're
7 on agency reports.

8

9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Madame
10 Chair. Helen Armstrong, OSM.

11

12 I believe the first one is the update
13 on the travel procedure and we discussed this during
14 the training that -- just to emphasize that any changes
15 to travel that need to be made need to be made through
16 our coordinator or somebody on our Staff at OSM and we
17 discussed that this morning and Barb will be sending
18 you all cards with all that information of who to call
19 so that she can -- you'll have those in your wallet.

20

21 Any questions on the travel at all?

22

23 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: I'd like to
24 make a comment to support Staff to obtain cell phones
25 for after-hours contact. We do travel and Staff has
26 had to use their private cell phone. With this type of
27 changes, if there's an opportunity or a need to contact
28 Staff, we should be working with work-related phones
29 and not having to rely on her personal phone. So I'd
30 like to add that to the discussion.

31

32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Madame
33 Chair. We'll take that forward. Any other questions
34 on travel?

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Then we're
39 going to move -- this is going to be a little bit of a
40 long session. Maybe not too long, but there's a lot to
41 go through. On Page 36, if you'll all turn to that
42 page, there's a letter there from the Secretary of the
43 Interior to Tim Towarak, the new Board Chair, and this
44 letter is in response to the subsistence Review that
45 was initiated by AFN in 2009.

46

47 And it took a while. They got a little
48 held up because of the oil spill. Interior was really
49 busy with other things.

50

1 So OSM and -- let me just back up here.
2 This letter goes through all of the different points of
3 what they're doing -- the Secretary of the Interior's
4 going to do with the requests that have been made. And
5 then through the next number of pages, there are
6 briefings and there's information that supports that --
7 this letter.

8
9 So the first one -- and we talked to
10 you a little bit about this this morning, is the
11 expansion of the Federal Subsistence Board to include
12 two new Board members. OSM and Pat Pourchot who is the
13 special assistant, I think is his title, to the
14 Secretary of Interior, he's located in Anchorage, we've
15 developed a proposed rule to expand the Federal
16 Subsistence Board to include two members and this says
17 that in the proposed rule that the two members are to
18 represent rural Alaskan users.

19
20 The proposed rule was published in the
21 Federal Register on February 11th, 2011, and there's a
22 60-day comment period for the public and the comment
23 period closes April 12th, 2011. So you can provide
24 comments in three ways. You can do some now or if you
25 think of something afterwards, you can do them on your
26 own and the -- if you turn to Page 41, there's a
27 briefing on changing the composition and on Page 41,
28 there's an address you can mail comments to, and then
29 there's -- you can make comments directly on the web.
30 So -- and then at this meeting, you can make comments.

31
32 So the proposed regulation doesn't give
33 any other information. You can actually see it on Page
34 41 under proposed Federal regulation in the bold. It
35 just says two public members representing rural Alaskan
36 subsistence users to be appointed by the Secretary of
37 Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of
38 Agriculture.

39
40 And it says towards the end of that
41 paragraph in bold, each Federal Agency member of the
42 Board may appoint a designee. That means -- that has
43 to do with each of the Board members that are currently
44 Federal -- like most of them are regional directors or
45 State directors, that they can designate somebody to be
46 their Board member if they so choose. So that's being
47 added too. That doesn't have anything to do with the
48 appointing the two rural members.

49
50 So this is your opportunity to ask

1 questions or make comments and I will summarize those
2 comments to be taken back to our office or you can
3 submit them later.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Do we have
6 any questions or comments from the Board?

7

8 MR. LEAVITT: Will these two Board
9 members be from either of the seven outlying villages
10 besides Barrow?

11

12 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: These two Board
13 members -- these will be on the Federal Subsistence
14 Board. They could be from -- it doesn't say in
15 here.....

16

17 MR. LEAVITT: Where they're from.

18

19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:where they're
20 from.

21

22 MR. LEAVITT: Yes.

23

24 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It just says that
25 they have to represent Alaska subsistence users and --
26 I mean I would assume they'd have to be Alaskans, but --
27 and then there is nothing in there that says anything
28 about the selection process. It only adds what I just
29 read to you and by that it increases the quorum for the
30 Board to meet.

31

32 MR. LEAVITT: I was just thinking about
33 the villages of Atkasuk, Wainwright, and Point Lay and
34 Nuiqsut just never any representatives on this Board.

35

36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We're talking about
37 two different things. We're talking about -- the North
38 Slope Regional Council I think is what you're talking
39 about.

40

41 MR. LEAVITT: Yes.

42

43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And we're talking
44 about the Federal Subsistence Board. And right now the
45 Federal Subsistence Board is made up of the Regional
46 Director of Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park
47 Service, the State Director of BLM, the Regional
48 Director of BIA, and the Regional Director -- or the
49 Regional Forester I think they call it, of the Forest
50 Service.

1 MR. LEAVITT: Yes.
2
3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And the Chair, who's
4 Tim Towarak.
5
6 So right now, there's no -- other than
7 the Chair, there's -- the only people on the Board are
8 from the Federal Agencies, and so the concern has been
9 that there's not enough rural subsistence user
10 representation on the Federal Board.
11
12 MR. LEAVITT: Yes.
13
14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay?
15
16 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Any other
17 discussion or comments.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: For my
22 discussion, I'm concerned about the representation on
23 this Board and I think that it's important to consider
24 designating the representation to be trial and/or local
25 representative and knowledge of and usage of
26 subsistence. If it's left broad, I'm concerned that we
27 won't get the representation from the subsistence users
28 and I just feel it would be very beneficial to add that
29 designation.
30
31 MR. KOONUK: Madame Chair.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Ray.
34
35 MR. KOONUK: I'm in support of this
36 letter. You know, rural areas are always in need of
37 help as far as getting representatives and I support
38 this here and hopefully we can make a selection here
39 right away.
40
41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair, that
42 brings a point up of process. This will go through the
43 public review process. Then a Final Rule will be
44 written and it doesn't -- the Final Rule won't come
45 back to the Councils. They'll just -- this is your
46 opportunity to make comments on it. And once that's
47 done, then we can begin the process.
48
49 When you start dealing with Washington,
50 D.C., and appointments from the Secretary of Interior,

1 you know it takes a year to get the Council members
2 nominated and then on the Council and we are
3 anticipating it could be at least a year to a year and
4 a half. It's very hard to say. We're not really
5 making any guesses. We just know from past history how
6 long things can take.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: And the
9 other point that's important to bring out in this
10 discussion is that it be a transparent process, that it
11 be clarified as to how the recommendations are going to
12 be made and the appointments and the process, who will
13 be eligible, if there are any restrictions for
14 participating in this process, things that may come up
15 with the review of the security process or the
16 background checks, that needs to be put out in this
17 process so it's clear and concise and easily followed.

18
19 Any other.....

20
21 MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah. James Nageak.
22 These appointees would come -- one of them could be
23 Southeast, somebody from down there, and the other one
24 from interior because of population distribution and
25 that would leave North Slope without any
26 representation. So at some point the two appointees
27 are from the different districts, there needs to be
28 some kind of a connection with those two designees to
29 have some kind of communication situation. Would --
30 our issue would be one form of communicating to those
31 on the Federal Board?

32
33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes, absolutely.
34 You bring up a good point. I think in the manual it
35 says for Regional Council representatives, they want
36 you to represent the whole region. They don't want you
37 to come and only represent your village's perspectives
38 and that -- and I think what I'm hearing you say,
39 James, is that you want -- because you can't get enough
40 rural users to represent all of the ten regions, they
41 need to be willing to represent all of the regions and
42 not just their own region's concerns.

43
44 That's what I'm hearing you say?

45
46 MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah, that's what I'm
47 saying. Because we could be left out in the blue
48 someplace and they need to have an ear to all of the
49 regions to -- some kind of a communication, a website
50 or I don't know - something like a Facebook I guess or

1 something.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. J. NAGEAK: I don't -- I guess I
6 have to get into that thing somehow.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. J. NAGEAK: As much as I hate to,
11 but if I want to have my voice heard, there needs to
12 be some way of communicating to the designee.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Good
15 points. We've had some good discussion here. Do we
16 have any additional comments or concerns. James -- or
17 Ben.

18

19 MR. B. NAGEAK: For the record, so the
20 decision is that it's going to change. Is that a
21 decision made already or is it just a proposal to
22 change it?

23

24 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The -- you're right.
25 It's a proposal. The letter from the Secretary of
26 Interior says develop a proposed regulation to increase
27 the membership to include two members and you're right.
28 I mean this is just a proposed regulation, but.....

29

30 MR. B. NAGEAK: Proposed regulation to
31 be voted on by all the Regional Councils.....

32

33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No.

34

35 MR. B. NAGEAK:or is it just
36 appointed by the Secretary or how is it -- if it's a
37 proposal and it's bringing forth to the Councils, I
38 mean, you know, probably as a courtesy to them that
39 this is forthcoming or is it just -- what I'm trying to
40 say is who makes the decision and who appoints the
41 people?

42

43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: A couple -- let me
44 clarify a couple of things. I heard you ask a couple
45 questions. So whenever we're going to change the
46 Federal subsistence regulations in subparts A and B, in
47 order to change them, we have to go -- we have to
48 create a proposed -- a rule-making change and then it
49 goes out to the public for comment, including the
50 Councils, and the it goes to a final rule.

1 The decision is -- on changing the
2 regulations goes to the -- it goes to the Federal
3 Subsistence Board and the Secretary of Interior, but
4 what I also heard you say is who makes the decision on
5 who the members.....

6
7 MR. B. NAGEAK: Right.

8
9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:will be of the
10 Federal Subsistence Board. That decision will be from
11 the Secretary of Interior's Office.

12
13 MR. B. NAGEAK: Another question I have
14 is based on what my brother just said about the
15 population and, you know, the Advisory Councils are
16 varied within the State, right, and there's members
17 from around the periphery of the population centers.

18
19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

20
21 MR. B. NAGEAK: And then -- and within
22 the road system and then there's other areas where
23 there's completely no other access other than by air.
24 And then so the decision -- not the decision, but the
25 proposal goes to each Council and they make -- they
26 have public hearings within their region or.....

27
28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No. This -- what
29 we're talking about here, this briefing, is going to
30 every one of the Regional Councils and that is
31 considered the place where we're taking it to the
32 public.

33
34 MR. B. NAGEAK: So the Regional
35 Councils would be -- the Advisory Councils would be the
36 deciding whether it's yes or no or.....

37
38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No -- you mean on
39 who gets to be on the Board?

40
41 MR. B. NAGEAK: No, no, no, no, no.

42
43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes or no on this.

44
45 MR. B. NAGEAK: On whether that this
46 should be a change in your rule because somebody has to
47 say because there's going to be people out there saying
48 we don't want change because, you know, you're going to
49 have two more Natives in the -- you know, in the
50 Council. So what I'm trying to understand is the

1 Advisory Councils would vote and each Advisory Council
2 would say yes, I think the proposed change is a great
3 idea. And then another group, maybe it's two or three
4 or four, who knows, said, no, I don't think it's a good
5 idea. So what happens then?

6

7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Then the Board will
8 have to weigh all of those -- all of the
9 recommendations because the Councils just make
10 recommendations to the Board. And the other thing is,
11 is that it doesn't actually say it'll be Native. It'll
12 say it'll be a rural -- because our -- because ANILCA
13 says rural users, it for -- and not Native then.....

14

15 MR. B. NAGEAK: So the written there is
16 just wrong, the Native.

17

18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No. It says rural.

19

20 MR. B. NAGEAK: I know I saw Native
21 somewhere.

22

23 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No. On Page 41, it
24 says two public members representing rural Alaskan
25 subsistence users.

26

27 MR. B. NAGEAK: Where did I see Native.
28 I saw -- I was reading somewhere, it says two Native
29 representatives. I was going through this kind of
30 briefly.

31

32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, and it.....

33

34 MR. B. NAGEAK: And then I saw -- and
35 it caught my eye that there would be a proposed change,
36 that two representatives would be Native.

37

38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I still don't --
39 well, I would.....

40

41 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, it says Natives.

42

43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Where?

44

45 MR. B. NAGEAK: Yeah.

46

47 MS. ATORUK: Someplace I've seen it too
48 and that's what they said it would be two Native
49 representatives.

50

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, it may say
2 that somewhere, but what's in the proposed Federal
3 regulation is what's proposed and that's on Page 41.
4 And I think that's what we have to go by. And it may
5 have been misquoted somewhere.
6
7 MR. B. NAGEAK: I was reading this and
8 -- where in the heck did I see that.
9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Rosemary, Madame Chair.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yes.
13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Based on other Councils,
15 what they've done is Western Interior said it has to be
16 a Federally-qualified rural user. That's their
17 recommendation because they took it to be that it
18 wouldn't -- it just has to be an Alaskan resident that
19 represents rural, but it doesn't have to be rural.
20
21 So they recommended Federally-
22 qualified.....
23
24 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Subsistence user.
25
26 MR. MATHEWS:and I don't remember
27 what Eastern did. So I -- based on attending these
28 other public meetings, it's not Native. I believe in
29 different media coverages and articles.....
30
31 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Right.
32
33 MR. MATHEWS:are indicating
34 Native. I don't have those in front of me.
35
36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think because it
37 came from AFN.....
38
39 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Right.
40 That they're asking for Natives.
41
42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:it probably has
43 -- people are viewing it that way and it may very well
44 be two Natives, but because we are a program for rural
45 Alaskans, I don't believe they felt they could say
46 specifically Native and then leave out the non-Natives
47 who are also rural Alaskan subsistence users.
48
49 MR. B. NAGEAK: But that's the crux of
50 the problem that we face today.

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.
2
3 MR. B. NAGEAK: I mean, you know, the
4 divide between rural and urban and that -- and the
5 divide between Native and non-Native even within the
6 regions itself.
7
8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.
9
10 MR. B. NAGEAK: So, you know, that's
11 one thing I just want to -- you know, to say something
12 about because I've been in the Board of Game and other
13 groups where they're the management of resources. So I
14 think it would be good to have Natives because -- I
15 mean, you know, that's where most of the people are
16 anyway. But there's also, I'm married to a white
17 woman, so it's okay to -- I mean, you know, what I'm
18 saying is, you know, it's we live in a different world,
19 but what I'm saying is I saw that and it piqued my
20 interest and so I thought maybe that was a great move
21 and then you say it's different.
22
23 I'll find it and.....
24
25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, I think we
26 need to -- I mean somebody may have misquoted it
27 somewhere in the book, but I think we need to focus on
28 what it says in the proposed rule and that's what
29 you're making comments on, even if someone misquoted it
30 somewhere else.
31
32 And so, Ben, my question to you because
33 you're a member of the public and we can take comments
34 from the public as well as from the Council do you want
35 the comment -- are you saying that you want them to
36 consider making this two Native members rather than two
37 rural members?
38
39 MR. B. NAGEAK: I mean if that's.....
40
41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I didn't know if
42 that's what you were trying to say or not.
43
44 MR. B. NAGEAK: Well, it just that I
45 just read that and, you know, it's just, you know, the
46 difference between the two is like night and day.
47
48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.
49
50 MR. B. NAGEAK: You know, how you make

1 decision is -- I'm not trying to be, you know, racist
2 or whatever, but it's -- you now, it's different. Two
3 people can look at one problem and come up with two
4 different solutions.

5
6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

7
8 MR. B. NAGEAK: And that's all I'm
9 trying to get at.

10
11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

12
13 MR. LEAVITT: Thank you. I agree with
14 you.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Any other
17 comments or concerns. Do you need specific actions?

18
19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No. It doesn't need
20 to be made in a -- I can just take your comments.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay.

23
24 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Did you want to add
25 Federally-qualified subsistence user or I think -- let
26 me just -- what I heard you say, Rosemary, was that you
27 felt that people should be knowledgeable of the use of
28 subsistence -- have knowledge of and use subsistence.
29 That might be getting at the same issue.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Right.

32
33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yeah, I
36 agree with that. Any other comments or concerns.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Hearing
41 none.

42
43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Go forward.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Moving on.

46
47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: All right. The next
48 one -- point that was in the letter from the Secretary
49 of Interior is expanding the deference to appropriate
50 Regional Advisory Council recommendations in addition

1 to the taking decisions of the Board provided under
2 Section .805 of ANILCA and this one -- there's no
3 action at this time. This is something that will be
4 dealt with in the future, but the deference is going to
5 be added to customary and traditional use
6 determinations.

7
8 Right now there's -- there is no
9 deference to the Council on that. We talked a little
10 bit about it this morning. I also just wanted to point
11 out to you -- this thing is quite long and complicated.

12
13 On Page 55, there's actually a table
14 that sort of lays it all out as well in a simplified
15 way as to what the review -- items are from the
16 Secretarial review and then what the next steps are and
17 then what the Council will be doing.

18
19 So in terms of the -- and on Page --
20 this is on Page 55. In terms of expanding the
21 deference, there will be some kind of action taken. It
22 could be policy, rulemaking, something that will
23 formalize the deference to the Councils on the C&T.
24 We're not sure what will happen with that. That hasn't
25 -- we've had a lot coming at us all at once, but
26 whatever we do will be coming forward to you for
27 comment in the fall of 2011.

28
29 Then in terms of deference for rural
30 determinations, right now there's nothing that's
31 happening with this. The courts have found that rural
32 is an absolute term and it's not subject to
33 interpretation and so there's no deference at the
34 moment. That's the status of how they're looking at
35 this.

36
37 We are beginning the process of -- and
38 criteria for rural and nonrural determinations and
39 there is a meeting on April 6th, 2011 in Anchorage with
40 the Federal Subsistence Board. It's a working -- a
41 work session that all of the Chairs will be invited to
42 understand the rural process that we'll be going
43 through for the 2010 -- understanding 2000 census
44 process, what we did for making rural determinations
45 and then where we're going to go from there. So Harry
46 will be invited to that.

47
48 And then the next one was No. 3 in here
49 was the MOU and the -- reviewing the MOU and that comes
50 on Page -- there's a briefing on it. The briefing is

1 on Page 42 and the MOU is on Page 44.

2

3 So this is an opportunity for you to
4 review the MOU. The Board decided at a November
5 meeting last year that they wanted to take this to the
6 Councils, feeling that this is a bottom-up process and
7 have the Councils give input before a new MOU is
8 created. And the State has -- I mean not the State,
9 the Secretary of Interior has specifically directed the
10 Board to review the MOU with the Councils to determine
11 if there are any changes needed.

12

13 This MOU was -- or it initially was
14 called a Memorandum of Agreement and that was created
15 in 1999 and then it was negotiated further between the
16 State and the Feds and also Regional Council
17 representatives, they brought people in from -- to
18 Anchorage for a pretty big meeting on that and everyone
19 agreed to that in April of 2000.

20

21 In 2008, an MOU was created. It was
22 based on the MOA and was also developed between State
23 and Federal officials and signed in '08. There weren't
24 -- there wasn't Council involvement at that point and
25 there were concerns that FACA didn't allow rural -- I
26 mean Regional Council members to be on that development
27 team. So this is relooking at this and allowing some
28 input from the Council members.

29

30 The purpose of the MOU is to address a
31 necessity of having communication between the State and
32 Federal governments and coordinating because they need
33 that level of coordination in order to effectively
34 manage fish and wildlife resources. It's a necessity
35 because of the situation we're in with dual management.
36 And since Title VIII expressly describes where this
37 needs to happen, the body of the MOU has references to
38 State law and so some people have been concerned that
39 in signing the MOU the Board is undermining its
40 obligation to uphold Title VIII of ANILCA, but this
41 isn't actually the case because the Board's authority
42 and their charge and their obligation to rural
43 residents only comes from Title VIII and any other
44 applicable Federal statutes. The MOU does not and
45 cannot and will not change that.

46

47 There are also a number of protocols
48 that are targeted at specific issues that are developed
49 under the guidance of the MOU. The subsistence
50 management information sharing protocol from April

1 2002, th Yukon River Drainage Subsistence Salmon
2 Fishery Management protocol, April 2002, and the
3 Memorandum of Understanding in the review and
4 development of scientifically-based salmon escapement
5 goals, June 2005, and these protocols facilitate
6 management and exchanging of and sharing of data
7 between the Federal and the State Agencies.

8
9 Another key principle for -- the
10 guiding principle of the MOU includes avoiding
11 duplication of research, monitoring and management,
12 involving subsistence and other users in fish and
13 wildlife management planning efforts, and promoting
14 clear and enforceable hunting, fishing, and trapping
15 regulations.

16
17 So that this -- the -- your opportunity
18 here is to provide comments today or you can also
19 submit comments via email, fax, or in writing and those
20 -- that contact information is on Page 43 along with
21 the briefing. So the Board will then -- the Federal
22 Subsistence Board will review all the comments in the
23 summer of 2011 and determine what next steps should be.
24 They'll have to also -- I mean they'll look at it and
25 then they'll have to have a discussion with other --
26 with the State and other entities. Alaska Board of
27 Fish and Game and Board of Fish would be involved as
28 well.

29
30 So the actual MOU is on Page 44 and
31 different Councils have dealt with this in different
32 ways. Some of them have taken a little break and read
33 the MOU and that's an option. I'm not sure what
34 Eastern and Western did.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: I was there, but I can't
37 remember, maybe Salena.....

38
39 REPORTER: Ah, ya, I don't think so.

40
41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay, so Vince
42 doesn't remember. Sorry. So I don't know how the
43 Council wants to approach this.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Discussion
46 from the Board.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I don't know if any

1 of you've had an opportunity to look at it and already
2 have comments too.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: I did look
5 at this. There's questions that arise from the process
6 of the letter to Tim, and there's questions that also
7 arise because of the broadness of the process that
8 we've been going through. Clarifying this process
9 would be beneficial. Specifically I know that it's
10 very important to make sure that people that are
11 involved in this process are knowledgeable in
12 subsistence uses and are users.

13

14 It's a very different participation
15 process when you're coming from different areas of the
16 State with the increased competition of using our
17 resources versus areas that have limited interactions
18 with competition. So that's one thing I know that I
19 would like to see clarified is that it needs to be
20 designated to have knowledgeable subsistence users
21 and/or designated as tribe -- tribal representation on
22 this process and/or local Agency representatives.

23

24 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Was there a specific
25 place you wanted that added? Did you.....

26

27 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: I know in
28 some of the other discussions that came in on No. 9 on
29 Page 46 and some of the stuff I've read through, I'm
30 not sure if the Board has any other discussions or
31 considerations in this, but that's one area that popped
32 up in my thoughts as I read through this.

33

34 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So anywhere in the
35 document where they're.....

36

37 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Right.

38

39 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:talking about
40 who's involved to make sure you include tribal
41 representatives and/or those knowledgeable as
42 subsistence users?

43

44 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yes.

45

46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Thanks.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Did you
49 guys want to take some time to look at this further?

50

1 MR. J. NAGEAK: I do.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Shall we
4 take a little break and allow us to read this up a
5 little further and then come back and discuss it. You
6 want to just sit here for a little while.
7
8 MR. J. NAGEAK: Can we put it on the
9 next.....
10
11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: You mean like
12 tomorrow or are you thinking another meeting? It has
13 to happen today.
14
15 MR. J. NAGEAK: Maybe -- huh?
16
17 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It has to happen --
18 not today -- at this meeting it has to happen. It
19 could be tomorrow morning.
20
21 MR. J. NAGEAK: So we could put this
22 off until tomorrow and -- as part of the -- after we've
23 gone over it tonight, had some discussions with it.
24 Would that be fine?
25
26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That would be fine.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: You guys
29 are able to come back and deal with this tomorrow?
30
31 MR. J. NAGEAK: Come back to it
32 tomorrow morning or whatever time we are getting
33 together again.
34
35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's fine.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: This is an
38 important document and it does have importance to
39 really look at the wording in this process. So I agree
40 with that, if we take time today, look at it further
41 and come back and address this tomorrow morning. If we
42 can get a motion to table this and come back and
43 address it tomorrow morning.
44
45 MR. J. NAGEAK: I so move.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Do we have
48 a second.
49
50 MR. KOONUK: Second.

1 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Call for
2 question to table this. All those in favor do say by
3 saying aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: All right.
8 We're in agreement to table this and come back and
9 address it tomorrow morning. Take some time to review
10 this further. If you need to look at anything else,
11 look at that and come back and we'll discuss it
12 tomorrow morning.

13
14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Thank you,
15 Madame Chair. The next item in the letter is customary
16 and traditional use determinations and this was just
17 meant to be an exploration of whether or not there
18 needed to be any changes made to how we do customary
19 and traditional use determination.

20
21 So I'm asking two very general
22 questions.

23
24 Is the current process for making
25 customary and traditional use determinations working
26 for you and if not, how would you like it changed.

27
28 And maybe I can just say it -- make a
29 couple of comments on what we do right now. We have
30 the eight factor that we look at and as I was
31 explaining this morning, we have a fairly -- we try to
32 have a flexible way of doing C&T to make it applicable
33 in different regions in different ways, like Lloyd was
34 talking about wanting C&T that was for the whole North
35 Slope, and we have done that.

36
37 So I guess the question is, is has this
38 process been something that you feel has been working
39 for you and if not, how do you want it changed.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Do we have
42 any comments from the Board.

43
44 MR. LEAVITT: We rarely use the
45 customary trade up here. Rarely.

46
47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We did most of the
48 customary and traditional use determinations for this
49 Council in the '90s. I've been here since the
50 beginning -- since time immemorial of the program and I

1 worked on a lot of those and there haven't been --
2 other than changing Prudhoe Bay, eliminating Prudhoe
3 Bay from being a rural community because Prudhoe Bay
4 actually used to have -- it wasn't excluded and it --
5 and therefore it was all rural residents of Unit 26 and
6 there are people who live in Prudhoe Bay, so they've
7 now been excluded because it's not -- that actually was
8 done through the rural determination process.

9

10 But they used to be included in some of
11 the C&TS and other than those, I don't think there's
12 been a lot of controversy about C&T at all up here.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: I've been
15 involved in a couple different situations where it's
16 been used, but it's been in association with others and
17 other regions. But I know in the two processes that we
18 worked with, it has -- we've been able to work with the
19 process in a good way and we've been able to come up
20 with amenable discussions that meet the needs and look
21 at the issues that we're discussion.

22

23 For us, there was also other areas of
24 the State that are having more of an issue with this
25 discussion and increased concentration of competition
26 for resources changes how we look at different things.
27 It is something that can have an effect in our region
28 if we don't follow these discussions because there are
29 precedent setting situations that decisions could be
30 made in other areas that carry over into our region.

31

32 One of the issues that came up was
33 related to fish on the Yukon River and as they get
34 further upstream, there's less resource and increased
35 competition for those resources and utilizing the fish
36 in ways when there isn't enough to harvest were points
37 of discussion.

38

39 But protecting our customary and
40 traditional use is very important and retaining those
41 decisions within our regions are very important. We
42 are working through these processes. We are involved
43 in these discussions and it should be made within our
44 region not a decision that's made in another region
45 reflecting -- causing decisions in our region.

46

47 These were discussions that were held
48 by our elders for many, many years, many, many
49 generations before we started our process in these
50 meetings and it is important to protect the continued

1 traditional and customary usage. When we're working
2 with our resources, we understand the value of our
3 resources. We understand the importance of why we're
4 harvesting these resources and making decisions to how
5 we use these resources. And it is important to keep
6 that control within our region.

7
8 Do we have any other comments or
9 discussion.

10
11 MR. LEAVITT: No.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Do you need
14 any other actions from us?

15
16 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Just comments.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: I think
19 that we need to be informed of decisions made by other
20 regions that may have a reaction into our region on
21 precedent setting issues related to customary and
22 traditional use. I know that if I hadn't gone to that
23 meeting last month, I may not have had this
24 information. But I trust in the elders that led me to
25 participating in these processes and protecting those
26 important uses and it is important to continue in these
27 processes.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you. Okay.
32 The -- let's see. The last one is on executive
33 sessions -- it's not the last one, but that the
34 executive sessions policy, this is just informational.
35 There's no action needed.

36
37 There was discussion with the Board
38 about their executive sessions and the Board is -- the
39 Federal Subsistence Board is committed to an open and
40 transparent public process and so one thing they're
41 doing differently now is that they're summarizing
42 anything that happens at an executive session. And so
43 there's a -- in that light, there's a summary of the
44 executive session they had in January on Page 53. It
45 says who attended and what they discussed.

46
47 The only thing that they won't -- and
48 what they discussed at that meeting was all of what
49 we're doing right now. They just -- and the only thing
50 they won't put into any kind of minutes of an executive

1 session is what they discussed if it's a personnel
2 matter because those are protected by Federal law.

3

4 So anything else, they would put in a
5 summary in their discussion. The Board does
6 occasionally have executive sessions and part of that's
7 so that they don't have -- they can speak freely
8 without the State of Alaska there, without other -- you
9 know, other public members there and, you know,
10 sometimes they just feel like it makes the meeting go
11 smoother, but they are now doing these minutes. It's a
12 new thing for them as well.

13

14 The tribal consultation was the next
15 one and -- to find -- there are so many things in here
16 -- where that one was in the book. It's on Page 51.
17 There's a letter from Tim Towarak on tribal
18 consultation and they are -- we were talking about this
19 a little bit this morning. I'll just go over it a
20 little bit now, but they're now including tribal
21 consultation in this Federal subsistence management
22 process.

23

24 And one of the things -- I mean this
25 isn't actually a new thing. It has come up before. Do
26 we have to do tribal consultation and prior to the new
27 administration, the Federal Subsistence Board had taken
28 the viewpoint that ANILCA requires the Regional
29 Councils to have input and they don't want to take away
30 from that authority or that designation for other rural
31 -- the Regional Advisory Councils and they haven't
32 quite worked out yet and they're still taking public
33 comment on how do you -- if you have the tribes
34 recommending one thing and a Regional Council
35 recommending another, the Regional Councils are what we
36 have to listen to.

37

38 So they're grappling with that issue.
39 And because of that, I mean they are taking comments
40 and they're -- in January when we had the fisheries
41 Federal Subsistence Board meeting, they sent out
42 invitations to all the Federally-recognized tribes in
43 Alaska as well as ANCSA corporations and they invited
44 them to provide comments on the fisheries proposals and
45 also invited them to a meeting on the 21st to discuss
46 development of a tribal consultation protocol for the
47 overall Federal subsistence management program.

48

49 And each Council member -- Regional
50 Advisory Council member was also sent the letter that's

1 in here explaining the Board's process and assuring
2 them that they will continue to be a vital roll in the
3 program. And then at the meeting on the 21st --
4 Rosemary, were you there at that meeting?

5
6 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Uh-huh.

7
8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Good. I thought you
9 were. But you were probably the only one from here,
10 right, that was there.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Uh-huh.

13
14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: They had a -- it was
15 generally just a very open listening session where the
16 Board members were there and people were allowed to
17 speak as much as they wanted about anything they wanted
18 to and the main themes that were expressed at that
19 meeting -- this is just really briefly summarized:

20
21 that tribal traditions and the use of
22 fish and wildlife predate western
23 management systems, knowledge is passed
24 down through the generations, and we
25 need to listen to that traditional
26 knowledge.

27
28 The Regional Advisory Councils, with
29 all due respect, are not tribes and
30 there is a necessity to consult
31 meaningfully and directly with the
32 tribes.

33
34 The tribes need to be informed of
35 program developments early on.

36
37 The tribes need to be a partner in the
38 process and tribal participation in the
39 Council process needs to be made
40 explicit.

41
42 The current -- this -- right now while
43 the Councils are meeting, it is just providing you an
44 opportunity to have an update on the consultation and
45 to let you know what's happening so far.

46
47 Just a couple of points to remind
48 everybody. Actually I already said that the Regional
49 Councils have to -- the Federal Board has to follow the
50 recommendations of the Regional Advisory Councils and

1 the only times they don't are when they're not
2 supported by substantial evidence, they violate
3 recognized principles of fish and wildlife
4 conservation, or they are detrimental to the
5 satisfaction of subsistence needs, and that's described
6 in .805(c) of ANILCA, and that ANILCA does not provide
7 rights to tribes who are subsistence taking of fishing,
8 hunting, and trapping.

9
10 So that the summary on tribal
11 consultation. You will be hearing more about this and
12 something will be developed as we go on. I think -- I
13 don't know that there's -- we actually have a timeline
14 developed yet as to when this is going to be finalized.
15 I know we're working on that, so -- any questions on
16 tribal consultation?

17
18 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Questions
19 or comments from the Board.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And I think that
24 concludes everything I had to present and then we'll
25 get back to the MOU tomorrow and I don't think there's
26 anybody here who's doing anything on migratory birds,
27 is there?

28
29 MS. ATORUK: It's a written briefing.

30
31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay. We
34 have that.

35
36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: There's a written
37 briefing on Page 58 for mig. birds. And we weren't
38 going to go through that, but you can just read that.
39 That brings you up to date on the Alaska Migratory Bird
40 Co-Management Council and what's happening with them.

41
42 So that brings us to National Park
43 Service. I don't know that we have anybody here.

44
45 MS. ATORUK: Nobody here.

46
47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I don't believe we
48 do. So then next is Bureau of Land Management.

49
50 Thank you, Madame Chair.

1 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Thank you.
2 Moving onto Bureau of Land Management, Dave Yokel.

3
4 DR. YOKEL: Thank you, Madame Chair.
5 Council members. Caught me by surprise here. I didn't
6 think I'd be up so fast. Excuse me.

7
8 My name's Dave Yokel. I work for the
9 Bureau of Land Management's Arctic Field Office in
10 Fairbanks. And I just wanted to run over some of the
11 things that the BLM has done up here in the National
12 Petroleum Reserve Alaska or NPR-A, though not since
13 your last meeting but last summer.

14
15 We had quite a few different field
16 projects. We continue to cooperate with the North
17 Slope Borough and the Fish and Game on the collaring of
18 Teshekpuk Caribou, but I'll say no more about that in
19 case Geoff Carroll with the Fish and Game wants to
20 address it.

21
22 We are analyzing some of the past data
23 from that project to determine habitat preferences of
24 the caribou and also to look at their movements
25 relative to changes in weather. We continued with the
26 Colville River raptor monitoring. I know that raptors
27 are birds of prey. They're not something that most
28 Inupiat use, but they are a very -- we have a very
29 large population of peregrine falcons, gyrfalcons, and
30 rough leg hawks on the Colville River. It's pretty
31 unique for the circumpolar Arctic.

32
33 We continued our -- to work with the
34 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others including
35 North Slope Borough and Steller's eider and spectacled
36 eider surveys. We're also working with the USGS and
37 MMS on some polar bear projects, collaring bears and
38 determining winter denning habitat in the NPR-A.

39
40 And we are working -- this coming
41 summer, we're going to another -- go back to some
42 vegetation plots that we set up in 1999 to look at the
43 recovery -- or the initial impacts and then the
44 recovery of vegetation from seismic surveys that
45 occurred in NPR-A. We're going to be working with the
46 North Slope Borough, Robert Sudam on the snow goose
47 colony out at the Ikpikpuk Delta, an inventory and
48 monitoring project.

49
50 We have been doing fisheries projects

1 in the northeastern part of the NPR-A. Our fisheries
2 biologist has been working with Fish and Game on those,
3 but this summer they're going to be working over to the
4 -- moving over to the Wainwright region, working in the
5 Kuk and Kugura Rivers. MMS is also involved in that
6 project.

7

8 And then of course our hydrologist is
9 going to be continuing with his work on understanding
10 the lakes and rivers in the NPR-A.

11

12 Our next -- BLM has a subsistence
13 advisory panel that is meant to advise the BLM on how
14 to minimize impacts between oil and gas activities in
15 the NPR-A and subsistence activities. Its next meeting
16 is scheduled for April 14th in Wainwright. And then
17 finally one of the bigger things that's going on in our
18 office now is that we are developing yet another land
19 use plan for the NPR-A. This time it's for the entire
20 NPR-A, doing the whole thing at once.

21

22 We have several cooperating agencies on
23 this plan and under the National Environmental Policy
24 Act, when we develop an environmental impact statement,
25 a cooperating agency is somebody that gets to have
26 regular input on the planning and doesn't have to wait
27 until we go out to the public to give us their input
28 and our cooperating agencies this time are the U.S.
29 Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Ocean Energy
30 Management, the former MMS, the State of Alaska, and
31 the North Slope Bureau.

32

33 And where we are in that planning
34 effort right now is we are developing the alternatives.

35

36 Every plan has to have several
37 alternatives. It has to have a reasonable range of
38 alternatives and we are in the process of developing
39 those alternatives now and once we finish developing
40 them, then we will analyze their potential impacts on
41 the environment and that will come out in a draft
42 document made available to the public hopefully in
43 January of 2012.

44

45 So that's all I had to present to you.
46 If you have any questions, I'll try to answer them.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Any
49 questions or comments from the Board.

50

1 MR. J. NAGEAK: What's the process on
2 that proposal owed from (Indiscernible) to Umiat?

3
4 DR. YOKEL: Well, that is a State
5 initiative. It's not a Federal initiative. The State
6 Legislature has to appropriate money to the Department
7 of Transportation for studies -- predevelopment
8 studies, and they have been doing it. There have been
9 studies going on I believe the last couple of years.

10
11 They have to come to us for a permit
12 because they have to cross BLM lands over by the Dalton
13 Highway on their way to the state lands that they then
14 cross to get over to Umiat. But it is a State effort
15 not BLM.

16
17 It probably won't -- this is my guess.
18 it probably won't be built unless they get Federal
19 money for actual construction. I don't know. I cannot
20 say and would not guess where the actual probabilities
21 that that road will be built, but it does seem that
22 Governor is serious about it.

23
24 MR. J. NAGEAK: That's why I asked you
25 there's some BLM land that was involved in this thing
26 and we're looking at that from the subsistence
27 perspective from Anaktuvuk Pass because if you built a
28 east-to-west road on the trail, where the passage of
29 the caribou, there's going to be some -- you know, it's
30 not so bad north to south.....

31
32 DR. YOKEL: Uh-huh.

33
34 MR. J. NAGEAK:but when you start
35 going across east to west and then, we don't have any
36 precedent as to how a road would affect migratory
37 trails for.....

38
39 DR. YOKEL: Well, I -- like I said, the
40 only precedent that I could think of is the Red Dog
41 Road that hauls ore out to the coast. Now, of course
42 that road doesn't have public traffic and if there's a
43 road off of the Dalton Highway to Umiat, I would assume
44 that it would be open to public traffic as well as
45 industrial traffic. So I can't say what the effect on
46 caribou would be. I can say that the Bureau of Land
47 Management has a multiple use mission and one of the
48 many things that we authorize are rights-of-way for
49 utility and transportation purposes. So it's not all
50 unusual for the Bureau of Land Management to grant a

1 right-of-way for a road. That's part of our mission.

2

3 We would look to try to minimize the
4 impacts of that road, but it would be unusual that we
5 would say no, you cannot build road somewhere across
6 the BLM lands here. And that doesn't look to be in the
7 works this time either.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Go ahead,
10 James.

11

12 MR. J. NAGEAK: No.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: There are
15 definitely some issues in this area that are increased
16 concentration of activity that causes concern to
17 reactions to subsistence. James's comments related to
18 the road is one thing and the increased activity that
19 has gone on in the Umiat area is another, but
20 additional activity stemming from that area into the
21 North Slope area is a third part of that.

22

23 Having some information to this process
24 is going to be important because our traditional
25 knowledge leads us to have increased concerns to this
26 type of an action that traditional knowledge has shown
27 there are repercussions to subsistence with.

28

29 It also has other issues such as the
30 designation of the Dalton as a scenic byways --
31 associated issues with those considerations, what type
32 of increased activity is that causing, what kind of
33 activity that is or increasing into areas along those
34 areas that are considered North Slope subsistence use
35 areas, and how our subsistence resources are reacting
36 to some of these changes that are occurring there. So
37 definitely we have concerns.

38

39 I'm not sure how we could incorporate
40 some of these layers of information into our process,
41 but I appreciate James bringing up these concerns. In
42 Nuiqsut there were also concerns related to similar
43 types of things. In Nuiqsut we had to go to the Red
44 Dog Mine Road study to hope -- show some of the
45 reactions that we were having in our area because our
46 studies were controlled by industry and thereby answers
47 to some of the issues were not coming from their
48 studies that we were able to get some answers to our
49 concerns from the road study.

50

1 So definitely making sure that we're
2 looking at ways to gather this information and get it
3 into the process so that if there are needs to look at
4 subsistence proposals, we're doing so because we know
5 in our near future this is going to be an area that has
6 increased land use changes and concerns for subsistence
7 reactions to that are very important to this Board.

8

9 DR. YOKEL: Well, of course there are a
10 lot of different things that may affect subsistence
11 activities.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yeah.

14

15 DR. YOKEL: Your mission is to provide
16 advice for the development of Federal subsistence
17 regulations. They -- those would not apply to most of
18 the length of the Umiat road if it is ever built
19 because that would be on State lands.

20

21 The BLM has its own subsistence
22 advisory panel that we go to for advice on what the
23 activities that we authorize, you know, what impacts
24 may they have on subsistence and how can we mitigate
25 them. The State -- I don't know exactly what their
26 process is at DOT, but I know they have been to
27 Anaktuvuk Pass once or twice and held public meetings
28 about the road and probably listened to considerable
29 comments at those meetings, but I don't know what their
30 process is for dealing with that.

31

32 And then of course you have your own
33 Borough government which is -- can be very active in
34 State and Federal politics.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Do we have
37 any additional comments or concerns.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: The other
42 issue that you brought up was the polar bear study.
43 That information, what other uses -- is it going to be
44 on a website others can access? Is there going to be
45 an effort to protect those denning sites from that
46 information going out too broadly and causing a
47 repercussion?

48

49 DR. YOKEL: Well, the denning habitat
50 study that we did was in the NPR-A was a continuation

1 of what's already been done on the rest of the North
2 Slope east of the Colville River, between the Colville
3 River and Canada, and it simply looks at the topography
4 of the area and so bluffs, heights of bluffs,
5 orientation to prevailing wind in the wintertime. In
6 other words, they're looking for what areas are likely
7 to build up snow drifts that are adequate for denning
8 habitat for pregnant female polar bears.

9
10 And so we're not looking at dens
11 themselves.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay.

14
15 DR. YOKEL: We're only saying okay,
16 where on the NPR-A near the coast, the Beaufort coast,
17 do we have bluffs that are likely to be used by polar
18 bears and that just provides us information when we
19 authorize other activities like industrial activities
20 and say, well, we might have a sensitive situation
21 here. We should probably take actions to mitigate
22 impacts to the denning polar bears. So there's no.....

23
24 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay.

25
26 DR. YOKEL:actual den sites
27 involved. There's no sensitive information to protect
28 here.

29
30 We do get information on actual den
31 sites in the winter when we have winter activities that
32 we're authorizing. One of our requirements is that
33 they avoid known den sites by a mile and now that the
34 polar bear is listed under the Endangered Species Act,
35 the Fish and Wildlife Service takes that pretty
36 seriously and we often have to have surveys for polar
37 bear dens prior to using those routes with vehicles,
38 with surveys with forward-looking infrared, and with
39 dogs trained to smell denning polar bears and in that
40 way make sure that we're avoiding den sites.

41
42 But that information on those den sites
43 is not made available to the general public.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay.
46 That's helpful. James.

47
48 MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah. There's another
49 concern that we have. There's plants that are not
50 customary to our area, you know, like on the road

1 system, they -- what do you call those?

2

3 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Invasive
4 species.

5

6 MR. J. NAGEAK: Invasive.....

7

8 DR. YOKEL: Oh, plants. I'm sorry.
9 Yeah.

10

11 MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah.

12

13 DR. YOKEL: Well, that is also a
14 concern that State and Federal agencies have, non-
15 native invasive plants.

16

17 MR. J. NAGEAK: Invasive plants, yeah.

18

19 DR. YOKEL: They're non-native plants.
20 Some of the, if they're growing somewhere, they'll kind
21 of stay there. Others will spread rapidly throughout
22 the habitat that's suitable for them.

23

24 And we haven't had extensive surveys on
25 the North Slope for invasive plants. There have been
26 some in the -- you know, there have been some along the
27 Dalton Highway. We know that there are some
28 populations of dandelions and a grass called foxtail
29 barley along the highway in the disturbed habitat next
30 to the road. There have been some surveys by the Park
31 Service in those lands south Anaktuvuk Pass and
32 southwest of there and I believe there have been a few
33 occurrences of non-native plants found.

34

35 But this is a serious concern to a lot
36 of people further south. Plants get introduced from
37 people bringing them for ornamentals or whatnot or any
38 number of things. They can be introduced up the
39 highway by seeds getting in the treads of tires and
40 getting -- hitchhiking a ride up the highway and
41 dropping off somewhere and sprouting and starting a
42 population.

43

44 So it's a concern in the Bureau of Land
45 Management. It's a very active program in the Lower
46 48. It's just developing here in Alaska and probably
47 last of all on the North Slope, but it is something
48 we're going to have to look more closely at.

49

50 Do you have specific concerns around

1 the Anaktuvuk Pass region or.....

2

3 MR. J. NAGEAK: Well, it's affecting --
4 you know, there's some of these invasive plants are
5 good to eat I guess by the species that we hunt
6 and.....

7

8 DR. YOKEL: Uh-huh. And some are not.

9

10 MR. J. NAGEAK: Huh?

11

12 DR. YOKEL: And some are not.

13

14 MR. J. NAGEAK: And some are not.

15

16 DR. YOKEL: And that's the greater
17 concern that they'll be actually decreasing the
18 wildlife habitat by some of these plants replacing good
19 forage species that wildlife depend on.

20

21 MR. J. NAGEAK: Uh-huh.

22

23 DR. YOKEL: But to the best of my
24 knowledge, that's not occurring yet on the North Slope.
25 There is a chance along the Dalton Highway south of
26 Atigun Pass there, there's an invasive clover I think
27 that's spreading along the highway and there's a chance
28 it could spread down -- up and down some of the river
29 corridors. But I don't work down there, so I'm not --
30 I know that they have some programs that go along and
31 pull those weeds off the edge of the road, but it's --
32 once they get there, it's pretty tough job to get rid
33 of them especially, you know, back in the old days,
34 they'd spray them with pesticides. But that's not very
35 well accepted by most people nowadays.

36

37 MR. J. NAGEAK: There was a suggestion
38 that those that are incarcerated could go down the road
39 and pick up all of that stuff out of there.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 DR. YOKEL: We get volunteers
44 voluntarily.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 DR. YOKEL: Excuse me.

49

50 MR. J. NAGEAK: To clean up the area.

1 DR. YOKEL: Haven't used any inmate
2 labor yet in the BLM at least, but.....

3

4 MR. J. NAGEAK: Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: So for
7 discussion points, there is concerns to invasive
8 species and if the BLM takes that concern and seeing
9 ways that these can be assessed and looked at and
10 communication if we're having more of an issue or if
11 we're taking the protections, especially if we're going
12 to deal with this road, to look at the issue and
13 prevent it.

14

15 DR. YOKEL: Well, as an example, non-
16 native invasive species will be addressed in our coming
17 NPR-A plan, but it will probably be addressed rather
18 cursorily because we don't think that there's any issue
19 out there at present. As far as the road goes, I don't
20 know what plans the State has to manage those. I mean
21 the Dalton Highway is on BLM lands for much of its
22 length north of the Yukon River, but it's a right-of-
23 way to the State for that highway.

24

25 Nonetheless, the BLM is spending some
26 funds to go along the highway and pull some of those
27 weeds. But that's not a good plan. Chasing the weeds
28 is not a good plan

29

30 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: I
31 think.....

32

33 DR. YOKEL: It's better to get out
34 there ahead of them and prevent that spread.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yeah.
37 That's why I'm looking at ways that we can incorporate
38 -- whether we're spraying the trucks down or whatever
39 it is, we need to be looking at some of those
40 considerations. It's -- if we do a preventative
41 fashion, it's going to be much more beneficial than a
42 reactive fashion.

43

44 Any other comments or concerns.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Any
49 questions.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Thank you,
4 Dave.
5
6 DR. YOKEL: Thank you.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Alaska
9 Department of Fish and Game.
10
11 MR. B. NAGEAK: Yea, Fish and Game.
12
13 (Laughter)
14
15 MS. ATORUK: This is a handout for
16 Arctic Refuge.
17
18 MR. CARROLL: Okay. That's not a
19 handout for me I guess.
20
21 MS. ATORUK: No, not from you.
22
23 MR. CARROLL: Okay.
24
25 MS. ATORUK: That's from the Arctic
26 Refuge.
27
28 MR. CARROLL: All right. Yeah. Thank
29 you. I'm Geoff Carroll, the area biologist for Alaska
30 Department of Fish and Game for, you know, 26A which is
31 kind of the western two-thirds of North Slope and this
32 is kind off the cuff, so if you have any questions,
33 I'll be glad to answer them, but I'll -- you know,
34 what -- basically our function up here is to look after
35 the land mammals on the North Slope and one of the most
36 important of the land mammals are caribou, so we put a
37 lot of our time and effort into the caribou work.
38
39 And out of the most recent interesting
40 information with caribou is we were able to finish the
41 count on the Porcupine Caribou Herd. We photographed
42 them last summer and just got the photographs counted
43 and it turned out we came up with about 160,000 caribou
44 in that herd and that was very interesting to us
45 because we haven't been able to have a successful photo
46 census with that herd since 2001. So, you know, at
47 that point, they'd gone from about 170,000 down to
48 120,000 and everybody was kind of afraid that they just
49 continued their downward trend, but it turns out that
50 there's actually a pretty substantial healthy

1 population.

2

3 It's been so long since we've had a
4 successful count, we can't really say within the last
5 few years if they're going up and down, but they
6 certainly -- more of them there right now than there
7 were in 2001. So we're happy to see that.

8

9 North Slope herds in general are doing
10 pretty well for some reason. Worldwide the caribou and
11 reindeer are just taking a nosedive. There's probably
12 about 50 percent as many caribou and reindeer in the
13 world as there were ten years ago, but for some reason
14 Teshekpuk Herd, Central Arctic Herd, and now there's
15 recent information with the Porcupine Herd, they're
16 some of the few caribou herds in the world that are
17 actually increasing. So that's good.

18

19 The Western Arctic Herd, we're not
20 quite sure what to say about that. That's our -- as you
21 know, that's our really big herd, probably the biggest
22 -- largest herd of mammals on the continent and the
23 recent surveys, they're up 490,000 around 2003 and then
24 they went down to -- our next count was 370,000, so we
25 lost 120,000 caribou between one photo census and
26 another and, you know, probably part of that might be
27 counting error, but we had some really tough winters
28 with freezing and thawing in the middle of the winter.
29 You know, that's just deadly for caribou when
30 temperatures go up above freezing and it might even
31 rain and so you got an ice layer over everything. So --
32 and we could see just looking at the caribou that lots
33 of them died those winters and the ones that survived
34 were in real poor condition, you know, so that's tough
35 on calving and everything else.

36

37 So anyway the Western Arctic Herd --
38 and then we -- so we became concerned with the numbers
39 and then two years ago, we -- well, not only do we
40 count them every three years, but we decided to do it
41 after two years and this time they were up to 401,000
42 again. So they're back.

43

44 Anyway again, we were afraid they might
45 be on a serious downward trend if we counted and, you
46 know, counted 300,000 the last time we'd be pretty
47 depressed, but anyway it looked like they were at least
48 stable and maybe on a slow increase and we'll plan on
49 counting them again this coming summer. So, you know,
50 compared to the rest of the world, our caribou are

1 looking pretty good at this point and the Central
2 Arctic Herd in particular seems to be on a rapid growth
3 cycle. They produce a lot of calves and most of the
4 calves survive and they're doing very well, so that's
5 the latest on caribou.

6

7 We plan on continuing with our
8 monitoring program for all the herds. We really keep
9 pretty close tabs on the caribou. We do these photo
10 censuses every few years and look how many calves are
11 born, how many calves survive, you know, how many bulls
12 we have compared to how many cows and keep pretty close
13 tabs on them.

14

15 We are planning on a kind of expanded
16 calf study this year in the Teshekpuk Herd. We'll be
17 looking at, you know, weighing calves shortly after
18 birth and things like that, see how many of those
19 calves are -- how successful the calving is for cows
20 that for instance, spend the winter on the North Slope
21 compared to how many spend the winter in the mountains
22 and things like that.

23

24 And the last few years, we've been
25 putting more radio collars on bull caribou in the
26 Teshekpuk Herd which has been very interesting. I --
27 it's almost like you're looking at two different
28 populations when you look at the cows and the bulls,
29 you know, the -- for instance, the fall previous to
30 this one, shortly before mating season, all of our
31 collared bulls headed right up to the crest of the
32 Brooks Range had a big stag party up there. All the
33 cows were out on the plains and you think what in the
34 world are they thinking. You know, what are they
35 doing, but I don't know.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MR. CARROLL: You know, the calving
40 didn't seem to be far off. It seemed like there were
41 enough bulls that were smart enough to stay down on the
42 coastal plains that the cows got bred, but, you know,
43 it's kind of the same thing. It's really -- you know,
44 you look at these maps and right now there's a lot of
45 caribou on the North Slope that spent the winter, but
46 almost all of them are cows, you know, as far as the
47 collared ones, and bulls seem to spend a lot more time
48 down the mountains and even south of the Brooks Range.

49

50 So I don't know. It's kind of

1 interesting stuff.

2

3 I keep running close tabs on Colville
4 River moose as well and they're kind of driving me
5 crazy. You know, they had about 1,600 moose in that
6 Colville River in the early '90s and they took a big
7 nosedive and went clear down to about 400. Then they
8 gradually picked back up until about 2006, they were in
9 the range of 1,200 and now they're in the process of
10 another nosedive. They're probably back down to the 5-
11 or 600 moose range and -- so I don't know. We know
12 that there's some food problems with them for some
13 reason.

14

15 We had some starving moose and
16 everything, but we've had real high wolf populations in
17 those areas too and they've essentially eaten all the
18 calves the last two or three years. So, you kind of
19 lose all your recruitment and isn't much the population
20 can do but go downhill.

21

22 So we're keeping pretty close tabs on
23 the moose at this stage too. We're not -- we really
24 cut the -- for a while when the population was looking
25 real good, we were giving out some drawing permit --
26 well, some drawing permits where people could put in
27 for a drawing and get a permit to use aircraft to fly
28 in to hunt their moose.

29

30 That's one big advantage I've always
31 had with managing moose up here is there's -- all of
32 Unit 26A is a controlled use area and one of the
33 stipulations is you can't use aircraft to hunt moose in
34 that area unless, you know, we create a special season
35 like that. So we did allow some permits to go out in
36 the drawing hunt, but we've cut way back on that, so
37 there's almost no people coming in by aircraft anymore
38 which just leaves it to us guys on the ground, you
39 know, which is mostly from the Nuiqsut or there's a few
40 of us that fly into Nuiqsut and Umiat and go up the
41 river.

42

43 So it's kind of the latest on the
44 moose.

45

46 Of course the other side of that, the
47 wolves have been very healthy in that area for a few
48 years and a fair number of number from Barrow and
49 Nuiqsut have been pretty successful in going and
50 getting wolves and doing pretty well on wolverines too.

1 So although the -- we're seeing the
2 numbers on the -- you know, a couple years ago, there
3 were major wolf -- there was a large wolf pack on every
4 one of the drainages up there, the Anaktuvuk, the
5 Chandler, the Killik, and, you know, two of them on the
6 Colville where this year there were only kind of a
7 total of two wolf packs on all of those. So numbers
8 are kind of down there, but everybody is saying that
9 they're seeing lots more wolves out on the coastal
10 plain. So I think they're just kind of spreading out
11 of that area and following the caribou.

12
13 Yeah. It's -- kind of in relation to
14 the moose situation right there in Umiat, in that area,
15 I don't know, kind of some current news is, is the Army
16 Corps of Engineers is planning a huge cleanup project
17 for Umiat. You know, we've been hollering for years
18 about that landfill with PCBs and everything in it and
19 they're going to go in and just get started on a very
20 extensive and expensive project that they're planning
21 on cleaning out that landfill and all that stuff and as
22 far as I can tell, they're planning on -- and -- but,
23 you know, as part of that, there's going to be a lot of
24 activity. They're going to be running Rollagone trains
25 in and out to Umiat, back and forth to the haul road,
26 and hauling all the toxic stuff out of there. And it
27 sounds like, you know, oil drums and things like that
28 that aren't really toxic, they're going to find a nice
29 dry place up on the side of a hill there and rebury a
30 lot of that stuff, so -- anyway just an interesting
31 detail. I don't know.

32
33 It kind of caught me by surprise. I
34 wasn't sure how aware people were of that.

35
36 Think it's kind of interesting. I was
37 talking to one of their guys and he said that boy, it
38 would sure make things a lot less expensive and easier
39 if they finished that road, got that road in here, and
40 so we're talking to the road people, and the road
41 people said well, the bridge we want to build across
42 the Colville ends up right near a landfill, so we can't
43 build that bridge until you clean that landfill out, so
44 it's kind of like a catch-22. They can't really take
45 advantage of each other much and -- I don't know. That
46 road to Umiat, that really scares me. I really don't
47 like the thought of that.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yeah.
50

1 MR. CARROLL: You know, it's one of
2 those things you just -- you look at the money involved
3 and it's going to be incredibly expensive, you know,
4 and they pretty much there aren't big oil finds in
5 there, I don't know, you know, you kind of -- you know,
6 imagine the justification for it, but we've seen it
7 several times. You know, they talk about one road -- a
8 foothill road to Nuiqsut or this or that and, boy, it's
9 just like they're going to do it, going to do it,
10 they're going to do it, then all of sudden one day you
11 never hear about it anymore and I kind of hope this one
12 goes away too, but I don't know.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Yeah.

15

16 MR. CARROLL: They seem much more
17 serious about this one. They're doing a lot of
18 studies, they got a lot of environmental companies. I
19 think they put \$9 million into studies in that area
20 already.

21

22 I just wanted -- a good thing we talked
23 a little bit about bear regulations earlier. I -- you
24 know, we've had a lot of complaints about bears
25 breaking into people's cabins and things like that.

26

27 You know, we don't really have a good
28 way to count bears up here, so we -- I can't really say
29 what the bear numbers are doing, but just by the
30 increased number of interactions people are having with
31 them, it seems like there's more and more of them all
32 the time. So anyway, it's -- we -- at the last Board
33 of Game meeting, we did take it to a 12-month-a-year
34 season and also at this coming up Board of Game
35 meeting, we have a proposal in to do away with the tag
36 fee.

37

38 There's a -- for the -- you know, we
39 have the subsistence hunt up here and then we have the
40 -- kind of the general season hunt and there's a tag
41 fee for bears for that general season hunt. The
42 difference is if -- for a subsistence hunt, you're
43 required to use the meat and you cannot remove the
44 trophies from the area. And -- but, you know, a fair
45 number of local guys shoot a bear, they'd like to get
46 the bear tanned -- the hide tanned. So to do that, you
47 have to buy a general season tag to do that and so it
48 just makes it a little more convenient for people that
49 want to be able to use their hide and skull and all
50 that sort of thing.

1 I mean really a lot of the -- and also
2 there's probably going to be a regulation to be able to
3 take two bears a year. And, you know, frankly there
4 aren't that many people that are real keen on shooting
5 grizzly bears up here. Not that many people want to
6 shoot and utilize a grizzly bear, but a fair number of
7 people do have to deal with bears that are breaking
8 into their cabin and the idea with the two bear a year
9 thing is if you come up and there's two bears in your
10 cabin, you can take care of it.

11
12 So anyway it's -- it seems like nothing
13 we've done up here ever greatly increases the number of
14 bears that get harvested, but -- so it's a 12-month-a-
15 year season. Basically we have a good big healthy bear
16 population and if we could provide means of people
17 utilizing some of those and making some of them less of
18 a pest, then -- or people being able to deal with bears
19 breaking and entering their equipment.

20
21 The other thing we've been doing on
22 that is -- I always have -- I still have one hunter or
23 cabin owner up with a bear fence. You know, it's -- has
24 a solar recharger on it and a fence around the cabin
25 and zaps the bears when they come up. That was very
26 successful, you know, so if there are people that are
27 interested in that, then I'll sure get them information
28 on how to get access to some of that equipment.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Any
31 questions or concerns from the Board.

32
33 MR. J. NAGEAK: I do. How about the
34 toxic stuff in the Colville River.

35
36 MR. CARROLL: The toxic stuff?

37
38 MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah.

39
40 MR. CARROLL: Well, that's what this
41 Army Corps of Engineers program is supposed to address
42 that.

43
44 MR. J. NAGEAK: They do some sampling
45 of the water or.....

46
47 MR. CARROLL: Oh, you know, it's been
48 done a bit over the years and kind of my impression is
49 that there hasn't been any real high levels found, but
50 there have been some indication of a small amount of

1 PCBs in some fish that were caught, things like that.
2 I don't think that -- I don't think it's been a major
3 problem, but -- yeah. I guess I don't -- I can't give
4 you a real thorough answer on that, but I do have one
5 more little news item that unfortunately I'm going to
6 pass on is part of the reason I straggled in here late
7 today is there were several people from Nuiqsut calling
8 me reporting that there'd been some muskox killed, you
9 know, outside of town.

10

11 And anyway they kind of had names and
12 they contacted -- you know, I had them contact the
13 enforcement guy and he's on his way up there, so you
14 might be hearing more about that. That's.....

15

16 MR. J. NAGEAK: Isn't that an invasive
17 animal for the North Slope?

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. CARROLL: Well, it's kind of how
22 you look at it. They were -- they're an animal that's
23 been around since the -- you know, they were around
24 with the mammoths and saber tooth tigers and those guys
25 and they lasted through all of that up until the 18 --
26 late 1800s and then they were kind of hunted out from
27 this area or, I don't know, a combination of weather
28 conditions and hunting, something. Anyway the muskoxen
29 were completely eliminated from Alaska and so, yeah,
30 they were -- then they were reintroduced from
31 Greenland.

32

33 Kind of an interesting story.

34

35 They picked them up at Greenland,
36 shipped them down to New York, put them on a train,
37 sent them across the country to Seattle.....

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MR. CARROLL:shipped them up to
42 Seward, put them on a train and hauled them to
43 Fairbanks, you know, and then eventually they hauled
44 them down the Yukon River to Nunivak Island and they
45 did so well there that then those animals were used to
46 -- you know, it depends on what you call, you know,
47 transplanted or bred or, you know, moved into their
48 formally existing range and to areas on Seward
49 Peninsula, Cape Thompson, and ANWR.

50

1 So some of them done pretty well. For
2 some reason our ANWR population has been on the decline
3 for several years, mostly because they're getting hit
4 pretty hard on bear predation.

5
6 But anyway, I guess you could --
7 depends on how you want to look at them.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 MR. J. NAGEAK: Thanks.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Any other
14 questions or comments.

15
16 MR. LEAVITT: Just a comment. Last
17 summer -- I go out quite a bit with -- used to go out
18 with the fourwheeler, now, I'm going out with an
19 eightwheeler with my wife, but they were seeing like
20 six small grizzly bears within 20 miles within -- right
21 outside of Barrow. One of them had -- two of them had
22 a couple of cubs on there, so each summer they're
23 getting a little closer to Barrow. I know that. I go
24 out quite a bit on weekends and I noticed that there
25 were six of them out there last summer.

26
27 The other concern I have that Ray
28 brought up is when caribous are in a certain area and
29 some hightail before -- like up here, last fall we had
30 some rain during October, November.....

31
32 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

33
34 MR. LEAVITT: And I went up inland and
35 all the caribou was gone and dad told me rained a
36 couple days ago, that's why all the caribou's gone.

37
38 With that in mind, when the caribous
39 are outside or away from the Slope, have you guys
40 looked at the weather factor to see if that's a part of
41 it? My father always said that they can forecast the
42 weather. I mean has the weather pattern been looked at
43 when other villages complain that we have no caribou
44 here or haven't had caribou here the last year or the
45 year -- even the year before that? You think the
46 weather plays a major role on it?

47
48 MR. CARROLL: Oh, I fully agree with
49 you. I think the weather plays a major role.
50

1 You know, just over the years of
2 watching that Teshekpuk Herd, you know, they're a very
3 interesting bunch of animals. They're different than
4 all the other Arctic herds because most of them spend
5 most years up on the coastal plain, but every three or
6 four years, boy, they just take off on some royal
7 migration. You know, they'll go clear down to the
8 Seward Peninsula or one year, about half of them took
9 off and went over to ANWR, you know, and you just -- it
10 just seems like that -- what would drive them, you know
11 those big movements.

12
13 I just -- I mean I think you're right.
14 I think it's, you know, freezing rain or, you know,
15 hard-packed snow like that that they probably do
16 whatever they can to get away from that stuff.

17
18 MR. LEAVITT: That's why it would be
19 beneficial for the three Boards to meet on weather
20 patterns or global warning. We'd get a little more
21 information on items like these.

22
23 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Any other
26 comments or concerns. Ray.

27
28 MR. KOONUK: Yeah. He asked my
29 question I was going to ask about the caribous.
30 Because I mentioned earlier that Point Hope, Kivalina,
31 Noatak area didn't see any caribous all year-round and
32 we're trying to figure out if the weather was, you
33 know, paying as far as, you know, shifting them to a
34 different migration so.....

35
36 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, -- you know, it's
37 just -- I can't really answer that question. I mean I
38 certainly suspect.....

39
40 MR. KOONUK: Well, did you talk to.....

41
42 MR. CARROLL:that the weather had
43 something to do with it, but I -- you know, it's just
44 so hard to look at the whole weather picture. You
45 know, you -- I mean I don't know if there was ice all
46 across the, you know, the Brooks Range at some point or
47 if, you know, maybe just area got more ice than other
48 places.

49
50 MR. LEAVITT: What about Jim Dau, does

1 he know anything about it?

2

3 MR. CARROLL: Well, I think he'd
4 probably answer about the same that, you know, we feel
5 that the weather certainly has an effect on them, but
6 we just don't have a good enough handle on what the
7 weather is, you know, on the big scale. That's -- but
8 it's, you know, from one year to another, you know,
9 there's always some village that's getting left out.
10 You know, the migration takes a different route for one
11 reason or another. You know, sometimes the Upper
12 Noatak, sometimes it's the lower. You know, it just --
13 you know, something affects all that, but it's bigger
14 than what we understand.

15

16 MR. LEAVITT: It could be something
17 very minor.

18

19 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: James.

22

23 MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah. The walrus on
24 the beach, how is that going to affect the -- you know,
25 I see caribou getting away from the sun or, you know,
26 the bluffs underneath there. How is that going to
27 affect -- those animals going to affect that? I
28 wonder. I'm just wondering what's going to happen. Is
29 there going to -- is there a study proposed or a study
30 going on now because of the global warming and they're
31 starting to stay like at Point Lay there, you know.
32 All that walrus there -- walrii.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. So you're asking
37 if the walrus are going to affect caribou movements
38 or.....

39

40 MR. J. NAGEAK: Or some of -- how is
41 that going to affect the subsistence usage of.....

42

43 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

44

45 MR. J. NAGEAK:land mammals?

46

47 MR. CARROLL: Well, yeah, this is part
48 of this crazy huge experiment we're all part of, you
49 know. Just keep putting a bunch of crud up in the air
50 and changing our environment, what's going to happen,

1 you know, and boy, it's just a -- nobody knows, you
2 know, where all we're headed.

3

4 I mean those walrus are obviously
5 having a really tough time. You know, they don't have
6 their ice flat for them to float around on and be able
7 to dive down and get clams and things. They're all
8 crowding together on these little bases on the beach
9 and you know, you can't -- I mean there's got to be,
10 you know, overusing -- you know, overusing the -- you
11 know, everything that they eat within a, you know, a
12 long range there. So it's -- I don't know. I mean
13 that's got to be a bad thing.

14

15 You know, caribou -- one reason or
16 another worldwide, they're really on the decline right
17 now. I have no -- but I'll bet it's related to, you
18 know, icing conditions in different places and things
19 like that, but.....

20

21 MR. B. NAGEAK: The smell -- they might
22 stay away from the smell.

23

24 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

25

26 MR. B. NAGEAK: You get that many
27 walrus in one place, you know, the smell will go a long
28 ways.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Any others?

31

32 MR. J. NAGEAK: Maybe we could propose
33 the oil companies to build an island for them out there
34 someplace.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MR. B. NAGEAK: Barter Island.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MR. J. NAGEAK: Walrus Island or.....

43

44 MR. LEAVITT: (Indiscernible) work with
45 the oil companies.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MR. CARROLL: Okay. Anything else?

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 MR. CARROLL: All right. Thank you.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Thank you,
6 Geoff.
7
8 MR. J. NAGEAK: Geoff with a G.
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Arctic
13 National Wildlife Refuge next.
14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Vince Mathews,
16 Subsistence Coordinator for Arctic Kanuti and Yukon
17 Flats.
18
19 When you talk about invasive weeds or
20 plants, Yukon Flats last year hired youth through the
21 Youth Conservation Corps and all the villages on Yukon
22 Flats and they mapped the areas. Weed infestation,
23 that was mainly white sweet clover. I've been gone
24 from the office so long that I don't know if we're
25 funding the youth to go back out and actually start
26 pulling those.
27
28 I was involved with weed invasion
29 earlier in my career and it takes three to four years
30 of active pulling and even then you don't have much
31 success, but it is an issue.
32
33 Okay. Basically you covered the other
34 issue earlier on on the sheep area for Arctic Village.
35 The only thing I have is to assume you've been getting
36 these newsletters on that with Richard Voss's smiling
37 face on there. He's the Refuge manager.
38
39 And then this thing is out of date.
40 You can't send any more comments in, but I didn't know
41 if you had these copies. Okay. And on that, a little
42 bit on the humor side, since you've been talking about
43 caribou, at length that Western Interior -- this is
44 over there too if you want to bookmark. but Western
45 Interior, they thought there should be a subsistence
46 hunter in those caribou. So I'll have to talk to
47 Richard Voss the next time to get a picture of the
48 subsistence hunter amongst that herd.
49
50 The update that Barb handed out, the

1 main thing to get across there is there's a series of
2 -- well, the first thing is, is that the draft
3 comprehensive conservation plan should be out no later
4 than April 10th. I heard April 1st, but someone may
5 have played with the zero there.

6
7 But it's forthcoming and they're
8 expecting to go out during the 90-day public comment
9 period. They're going to have meetings in Anchorage,
10 Arctic Village, Fairbanks, Fort Yukon, Kaktovik, and
11 Venetie and they're hoping to have a meeting in Barrow
12 on this and at that meeting, they would meet the North
13 Slope Borough and the Arctic Slope Regional
14 Corporation. So on your handout, which I think Barb
15 handed out, are the dates of those meetings.

16
17 Other than that I don't think I have
18 anything else on the Arctic Refuge. It was mentioned
19 earlier those proposals you talked about will come back
20 before you.

21
22 There is one proposal that you have a
23 current C&T on, customary and traditional use
24 determination, but I kind of doubt it'll come your way
25 and that's in Unit 25 which is up and over the mountain
26 going from three bear to five bear for black bear, but
27 usually those ones are more localized, but you do have
28 a positive C&T and they're looking at meat on the bone,
29 but that is specific to their area to address waste
30 that they've seen by other hunters that they feel do
31 not practice traditional ways of taking out meat on the
32 bone.

33
34 Let me look at my notes here quick to
35 make sure. I had a lot more to talk about on Yukon
36 Flats, but no, that's it.

37
38 And if you want to know about fishing
39 on the Yukon, I can cover that too, but that's really
40 out of your area.

41
42 But I think Rosemary saw the benefit of
43 going to the Board meeting. If that works out, I
44 encourage you to go there because she was able to
45 interact with leaders across the region as she
46 mentioned.

47
48 There was discussion about one region
49 taking actions on another region. So if you have a
50 chance to go as your representative, don't pass it up.

1 If you have a chance -- if you're in Anchorage and
2 there's a board meeting, stop by and see how it's done.
3 It'll change somewhat with this makeup, but it's
4 generally going to be same and that way you can make
5 connections. Like, James, I believe you're on the
6 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission.
7 So issues that affect that are sometimes discussed at
8 these meetings.

9

10 So if you get a chance to go by there,
11 it was a dream where I was a coordinator to have some
12 kind of training program on that, but the money's kind
13 of dried up to get Council members in to see, because
14 that's the end product. That's where all your work
15 goes and the Board takes action on it, and so it's good
16 to see what happens at that level, but you have other
17 members going and talk to them.

18

19 So that's all I have unless you have
20 questions.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Comments or
23 questions from the Board.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I hope to make
28 your meetings regularly. I'm glad the way you pick the
29 dates, because I need to go to Western and Eastern and
30 North Slope, so I was in the back room trying to make
31 sure you guys didn't select those, but there is other
32 Staff that can go, but right now it's my duties to
33 cover those three Refuges and they're affected by three
34 regional councils.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Arctic CCP.
41 Is that -- you're done with that?

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Copy of -- it's a
44 conservation plan You know, government's real good at
45 acronyms. I gave a new one for Eastern Interior.
46 Maybe you guys know this one, G2G.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Government
49 to government.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Have you had that one?
2 Government to government tribal consultation. It's now
3 working its way into conversation on tribal
4 consultation to say, G2G. I personally don't like that
5 name, but it's starting to surface. So Eastern
6 Interior came up with C2G, council to government.
7 Anyway, and acronyms have their power and purpose, but
8 many times they lose people.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Uh-huh.

11
12 Okay. New business?

13
14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Do we have
18 any new business, Barb?

19
20 MS. ATORUK: What?

21
22 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: New
23 business.

24
25 MS. ATORUK: I don't have any.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Okay. Then
28 we're not ready to go through closing comments because
29 we need to come back and address the MOU.

30
31 MS. ATORUK: In the morning.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: So we're
34 ready for adjournment today and come back tomorrow
35 morning at 9:00 o'clock.

36
37 MR. LEAVITT: I make a motion to recess
38 until 9:00 o'clock tomorrow morning.

39
40 MR. J. NAGEAK: Second that.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: By Lloyd,
43 seconded by James.

44
45 MR. J. NAGEAK: Second.

46
47 REPORTER: Thank you.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: All right.
2 Call for question. All those in favor of recess do by
3 saying aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR AHTAUNGARUAK: Motion
8 passes. We're good to go.

9
10 MR. J. NAGEAK: Aloha.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 (Off record)

15
16 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

C E R T I F I C A T E

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

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THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

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Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 9/16/14