

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 Atqasuk, 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

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

12

13

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

20

21

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

29

30

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

46

47

48 There are also a number of protocols  
49 that are targeted at specific issues that are developed  
50 under the guidance of the MOU. The subsistence  
51 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 )

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DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 23rd day of March 2011.

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