

1 NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL
2
3 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
4
5 PUBLIC MEETING
6
7
8

9 VOLUME III
10

11
12 Barrow Inupiat Heritage Center
13 Barrow, Alaska
14 March 19, 2015
15 9:00 a.m.
16
17

18 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
19

20 Harry Brower, Chair
21 Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak
22 Gordon Brower
23 Lee Kayotuk
24 Sam Kunaknana
25 Robert Shears
26
27
28
29

30 Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42

43 Recorded and transcribed by:
44

45 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
46 135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
47 Anchorage, AK 99501
48 907-243-0668/sahile@gci.net

1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (Barrow, Alaska - 3/19/2015)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Good morning,
8 everyone. If we could take our seats I'd like to call
9 the North Slope Regional Advisory Council meeting back to
10 order after recess.
11
12 I'd like to just find out who's online
13 within the teleconference and we can have folks identify
14 who's on, please.
15
16 DR. YOKEL: Dave Yokel, BLM, Fairbanks.
17
18 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
19 Park Service, Nome.
20
21 MR. CRAWFORD: Drew Crawford, Alaska
22 Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage.
23
24 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We didn't get the
25 first name of.....
26
27 MR. CAREY: Dwayne Carey.....
28
29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I'm sorry, if you
30 could restate your name, please?
31
32 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: The one from Nome.
33
34 MR. CAREY: Dwayne Carey.
35
36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: There's.....
37
38 MS. RATTENBURY: Kumi Rattenbury,
39 National Park Service, Fairbanks.
40
41 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Did you get the
42 first name?
43
44 REPORTER: No.
45
46 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Could you restate
47 your name, I keep speaking over people that are
48 indicating who's where, the last person that just spoke,
49 please.
50

1 MS. RATTENBURY: It's Kumi, that's K-U-M-
2 I Rattenbury at -- with the Park Service in Fairbanks.
3
4 MR. JOLY: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.
5 This is Kyle Jolly with the National Park Service in
6 Fairbanks.
7
8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Anyone else.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If not, I didn't get
13 the first name of a person named Adkisson.
14
15 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Ken.
16
17 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Ken. Thank you.
18
19 MR. ADKISSON: That was Ken, Ken
20 Adkisson.
21
22 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Ken.
23
24 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, you're welcome.
25
26 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Any other
27 participants on the teleconference.
28
29 (No comments)
30
31 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, if I may?
32
33 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes.
34
35 MS. PATTON: Just a reminder.....
36
37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Eva.
38
39 MS. PATTON:for the folks on
40 teleconference, if you're calling in on a business phone
41 line, if you push hold on your phone it plays music in
42 the background and while we had a nice soundtrack for one
43 of our presentations yesterday, it's disruptive of the
44 teleconference. So if you get a call if you can hang up,
45 disconnect from the teleconference, please don't push
46 hold. And you can also mute your phones which cuts down
47 on the background noise by pushing star six and then if
48 you would like to address the Council just simply push
49 star six again.
50

1 Thank you very much.

2

3 And just to check in do we have Sam

4 Kunaknana online?

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MS. PATTON: Not yet this morning. He --

9 Sam was hoping to join us today as well if he had

10 teleconference.

11

12 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Maybe you want just

13 kind of a roll call of our Council members.

14

15 Lee.

16

17 MR. KAYOTUK: Morning, Mr. Chair, Council

18 members. Seat 1, 2011/2017, Gordon Brower, Barrow.

19

20 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon is excused.

21

22 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 2, 2011/2016, Robert

23 B. Shears of Barrow.

24

25 MR. SHEARS: Present.

26

27 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 3, 2016, vacant.

28

29 Seat 4, 2016, vacant.

30

31 Seat 5, 1993/2016, Harry K. Brower, Jr,

32 Barrow.

33

34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Here.

35

36 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 6, 2014/2017, Sam

37 Kunaknana, Nuiqsut.

38

39 MR. KUNAKNANA: (Not present)

40

41 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 7, 2008/2017, James M.

42 Nageak, Anaktuvuk Pass.

43

44 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: James is excused.

45

46 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 8, 2012/2015, Theodore

47 Frankson, Jr., Point Hope.

48

49 MS. PATTON: Teddy's excused.

50

1 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 9, 2006/2015, Lee
2 Kayotuk, Kaktovik. Here.
3
4 Seat 10, 2009/2015, Rosemary
5 Ahtuanguaruak, Barrow.
6
7 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Here.
8
9 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair, I've got the
10 Council members for the -- who's Council and present at
11 this time.
12
13 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. Thank
14 you, Lee, for the roll call. Lee's considering vacation,
15 we need one more member to form a quorum to take any
16 actions. So at this time I think I'll move on with our
17 agenda and hopefully Sam or Gordon will come on and we
18 can start with our agency reports.
19
20 Eva.
21
22 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
23 just spoke with Gordon this morning, he's in a meeting
24 until 11:00 and then had hoped to join us via
25 teleconference at that time specifically to work on the
26 Federal subsistence caribou proposals.
27
28 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Uh-huh.
29
30 MS. PATTON: Sam was hoping to join us
31 today as well so we'll check back in with Sam, but at
32 11:00 Gordon was able to call in.
33
34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So in regard to the
35 proposal that's been generated now and shared with the
36 Council members?
37
38 MS. PATTON: Yes. We worked with Robert
39 Shears last night to.....
40
41 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Uh-huh.
42
43 MS. PATTON:draft up the proposals
44 as the Council had discussed. So each of you has -- the
45 proposal is broken down by game unit because that's how
46 the regulations are arranged.
47
48 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Uh-huh.
49
50 MS. PATTON: And I emailed them to

1 Rosemary and to Gordon and to Sam last night so that they
2 have an opportunity to review them also.

3
4 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for that,
5 Eva. So we'll again -- not knowing when Gordon will call
6 in, you said after 11:00 hopefully, we could take action
7 on the action items once we get a quorum formed.

8
9 So thank you for that, Eva. And at this
10 time I'll have our agenda item 12, agency reports. You
11 got five minutes. Fifteen minutes, it says time limited
12 to 15 minutes.

13
14 Tribal governments.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Native
19 organizations.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Do you have anybody
24 from them wanting to provide comments?

25
26 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

27
28 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Eva.

29
30 MS. PATTON: Joe Sage from the Native
31 Village of Barrow had addressed the Council on the first
32 day.

33
34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Uh-huh.

35
36 MS. PATTON: We have a representative
37 from ICAS here and she had indicated she's here to listen
38 and learn from the Council, but didn't have anything to
39 present at this time.

40
41 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay.

42
43 MS. PATTON: The ADF&G reports was
44 actually yesterday, that was Geoff's report to the
45 Council.

46
47 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay.

48
49 MS. PATTON: And we had two agenda items
50 or Gates of the Arctic we had carried over from the first

1 day. It's unlikely James will be able to join us by
2 teleconference today, but again we can hear that report
3 and.....

4
5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: That's the person I
6 was thinking about earlier in regard to.....

7
8 REPORTER: Microphone, please.

9
10 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I keep forgetting to
11 turn on the mic. Anyway I just was commenting on the --
12 regarding the agency reports. We were hoping that James
13 Nageak had called in this morning. Not knowing that
14 situation at this time and his location I'm just playing
15 it by ear. I'm going to ask the Council members do we
16 continue going forward without the presence of James to
17 hear about what's happening in the Gates of the Arctic?

18
19 Eva.

20
21 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
22 can leave a message for James again. I believe he's
23 attending this -- funerals in the community at this time.

24
25 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Uh-huh.

26
27 MS. PATTON: We can certainly hear the
28 reports from Gates of the Arctic and both myself and I
29 know the Council is an important connection for James,
30 can share the -- this information back with him after the
31 meeting.

32
33 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Thank you for
34 that.

35
36 So we could begin with our -- Marcy with
37 Gates of the Arctic.

38
39 MS. OKADA: Good morning, Council
40 members, Mr. Chair. My name's Marcy Okada and I'm the
41 Subsistence Coordinator for Gates of the Arctic National
42 Park and Preserve. I'll be quickly sharing a handout
43 that Eva might have distributed already about Dall sheep
44 in Gates of the Arctic.

45
46 So at the last North Slope RAC meeting in
47 Nuiqsut in August of last year we had shared that sheep
48 populations were on the decline in Gates of the Arctic
49 National Park. The last Dall sheep survey covered an
50 entire Park was in 2010 and the peak number during that

1 time was about 10,000 sheep. So since then in 2013 and
2 2014 there's been a somewhat drastic decline in sheep
3 populations, about 63 percent decline in the Itkillik
4 area and 35 percent decline in the Anaktuvuk area. And
5 so you can see in the first part of the handout more
6 specifics on what has occurred in 2013 and 2014.

7
8 And just to share a little bit with you
9 even though James Nageak isn't here today, he's on our
10 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission and
11 we've -- we had a teleconference meeting in early
12 February and were able to share sheep information with
13 the SRC then and also we've been having meetings with the
14 Anaktuvuk Pass City Council, Tribal Council and Tribal
15 Council and have been sharing the same sheep information
16 that I'm sharing with you today with those Councils.

17
18 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Uh-huh.

19
20 MS. OKADA: So also on the phone we have
21 Kumi Rattenbury, our sheep ecologist, and Kyle Jolly, our
22 caribou ecologist on the phone ready to jump in hopefully
23 if there's more specific questions that I can't answer.

24
25 Mainly these declines have occurred due
26 to record cold temperatures and icing events in the
27 wintertime. And sheep have become more vulnerable to
28 starvation and predation because of these weather events.

29
30 Some -- I'll bring it back down to how
31 this would affect the community of Anaktuvuk Pass. Right
32 now the reported harvest for adult sheep for the
33 community is about 2 percent of the sheep population.
34 And as you already know the community has a community
35 harvest hunt of about 60 sheep that they can take between
36 July 15th and December 30 or December 31. And what we've
37 been doing is meeting with the community and we've
38 specifically been targeting sheep hunters. There aren't
39 any, you know, sheep hunters necessarily, there's only a
40 handful of them within the community. It's sort of a
41 specialized type of hunting and so we thought it would be
42 helpful if we created a Sheep Hunter Working Group, just
43 an informal working group just to share with them
44 information about the sheep declines, but also have
45 discussions with them on what they've been seeing out on
46 the land. Sheep surveys are conducted every summer
47 usually in the early part of July and we just wanted to
48 hear if some of their local observations have been
49 coinciding with what the sheep surveys have been showing.

50

1 And so we've been -- we've met with the
2 sheep hunters in February, they are willing to create a
3 small working group and we also asked -- asked if -- had
4 stressed to them the importance of collecting sheep
5 harvest data and trying to get a feel for how many sheep
6 are harvested through that community harvest hunt. And
7 so the information that was shared was that they have
8 been seeing less lambs, less ewes and so there is a
9 concern there on the sheep decline. And at this time we
10 had asked if maybe -- if it wasn't a burden to them to
11 maybe hold off hunting ewes just to allow the sheep
12 population to recover a bit. And it was -- for the sheep
13 hunters that were there they felt like they could do
14 that.

15
16 As far as the southern portion of Gates
17 there hasn't been any surveys conducted for the southern
18 portion of Gates since 2010, but due to the survey
19 information that was collected in the Itkillik area and
20 also the 73 percent decline in the Noatak National
21 Preserve area, it suggests the sheep population probably
22 declined in the southern portion of Gates as well.

23
24 And as you already know Anaktuvuk Pass is
25 near that unit 26, unit 24B border so they're also, you
26 know, able to hunt in unit 24 for sheep.

27
28 And I guess at this time I'd just like to
29 ask if there's any questions?

30
31 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Any questions to
32 Marcy from the Council members.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I realize you are
37 providing your presentation, Marcy, and I thank you for
38 that and I'm just writing notes down in what caused it.
39 My first question was what's causing the decline of the
40 sheep and you indicated cold temperatures and icing
41 events. Was there anything else that could have been
42 causing this at sites that I -- you know, I wasn't sure
43 if that -- it's causing the icing event meaning that it's
44 causing the animals harder to find their food and it's
45 causing a starving event as well through that icing event
46 or is that icing event making it just slippery for them
47 to slide off the hills or mountains that they're on, not
48 knowing what really covers the icing event?

49
50 MS. OKADA: My understanding is when

1 icing events occur the sheep can't break through the ice
2 to forage, to feed, and so it's more of a starvation
3 occurrence. But we also have Kumi Rattenbury on the
4 phone to maybe address that question.

5
6 MS. RATTENBURY: Hi, Chairman and Council
7 members. This is Kumi Rattenbury. And I respond to add
8 there was a combination of what goes on temperature wise
9 and also snow conditions. And in general the events have
10 been kind of extreme in the last couple winters, not this
11 winter, but the previous two. And it makes it difficult
12 for the sheep just like the caribou to get to their food
13 if there's ice. And then also icing events and deep snow
14 and whatnot can make it -- travel more difficult for
15 sheep which could increase the chance for predation.
16 Also if they go into the winter in any sort of
17 nutritional stress or experience that during the winter,
18 that makes them more vulnerable to predation and disease.
19 It's a combination of a number of different factors, but
20 it's the extreme weather and snow events that actually
21 can make the other things that affect sheep populations
22 more severe and allow -- and that kind of sets it up for
23 a big decline in a very short period of time which is
24 what we have.

25
26 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for that
27 and I guess a follow-up question I have in regard to this
28 predation is that does that mean the sheep are moving
29 down to lower areas to where the predators are available
30 to catch up with them much easier or is there something
31 else that I'm missing here?

32
33 MS. RATTENBURY: That can also happen too
34 if they need to spread out a little bit further to look
35 for food. In general, you know, they don't move around
36 very much, they don't migrate around like caribou do, but
37 they will move around on the mountain to find areas that
38 -- where the snow has been blown free from the hillside
39 to look for food or if they can find more nutritious food
40 somewhere else and that can sometimes mean that they're
41 farther away from the cliff and rocky caves that they get
42 into to get away from sheep or, excuse me, from
43 predators. So they're definitely -- if they're moving
44 around a bit more to get the food that exposes them more,
45 that's true.

46
47 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for that.
48 I guess -- again just from the presentation, Marcy, I'd
49 just look at the percentage indicated, 63 percent decline
50 in Itkillik area and then 35 percent decline in Anaktuvuk

1 area. How do you derive those percentages with -- in
2 terms of that number of animals declining and through
3 what methods?

4
5 MS. RATTENBURY: So this is Kumi again.
6 And we've been conducting aerial distance sampling
7 surveys so we're out there with a few Super Cub planes
8 and there's a person on the back seat and we fly trinsic
9 (ph) lines that follow mountain contours and there are
10 different, randomly placed points on the mountainside.
11 And we're able to cover a larger area with that, but we
12 don't cover it 100 percent like has been done with
13 earlier surveys and what's done with other surveys in
14 other parts of the state, but it allows us to get
15 estimates for the population for more areas. So we've
16 been doing that at Itkillik every year since 2009, that's
17 the area between Anaktuvuk Pass and Galvers Lake (ph),
18 the Haul Road using these methods. And for Anaktuvuk we
19 surveyed -- well, all of Gates of the Arctic in 2009/2010
20 and then we repeated that Anaktuvuk area this last summer
21 in 2014. So the decline for Anaktuvuk is basically the
22 number of sheep that were estimated for the Anaktuvuk
23 area in 2010 compared to 2014. That's what that 35
24 percent decline is there. And then for the Itkillik area
25 because we've done it every year we actually -- what we
26 saw was that numbers were pretty stable from '09 through
27 2012 and then in 2013 we saw a big drop of 50 percent.
28 And then this past year between 2013/2014, there was
29 another about 25 percent. So combined that is 63 percent
30 and that's the point estimate from doing those distance
31 sampling surveys. So there is a confidence interval on
32 that also.

33
34 But the other thing that I wanted to
35 bring up too is in 2013 the -- that decline that we saw
36 in the Itkillik, we didn't survey the Anaktuvuk area
37 there so I don't really know what the change was there,
38 but mostly what we saw in 2013 was new lambs and a big
39 reduction in the ewe-like category. The ewe-like
40 category includes yearlings, young rams and ewes and
41 adult ewes. And so the -- that winter was really cold
42 and it was really cold in May when lambs are born. And
43 so we don't know actually how many ewes were pregnant the
44 previous winter, how many lambs were born in that May
45 because we don't do a survey until July, but what we do
46 know is that any that were born in May, most of them did
47 not survive until July when we were out there flying
48 around. And that's probably because they were born when
49 it was really, really cold. And we saw that in a number
50 of different places across the range of Dall sheep on

1 other mountain ranges in Alaska and also in Canada that
2 happened that year, that the number of rams was very low
3 when people went out to survey in July. And then also a
4 lot of the young sheep that had been born the previous
5 year, so basically the ones that had been born in 2011 or
6 2012, they're younger so they -- their mortality we think
7 was also high during that cold winter of 2012 to 2013.

8
9 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. I guess
10 what I was trying to get out is I -- and I'm still
11 missing in terms of any observations by the researchers
12 in terms of the number of die outs of animals in regard
13 to any of these percentages that have been given, any
14 real observations in terms of, you know.....

15
16 MS. RATTENBURY: No. Sorry, we don't --
17 haven't seen any like dead sheep on the hillsides, it's
18 more like how many did we count that were alive in July
19 of 2012/2013 compared with what we saw how many were
20 alive in 2014. There have been -- people have reported
21 in -- around Anaktuvuk that they've seen some dead rams
22 that they expected normally would have survived through
23 the winter. And that pilots flying around the eastern
24 Brooks Range and Arctic Refuge also saw all that too in
25 a few places. But in general we, you know, don't see
26 them.

27
28 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah, I just -- I
29 didn't understand, get a better understanding of how do
30 we as a Regional Council provide meaningful input on
31 something that we don't really make observations on
32 unless we get the input from this type of information.
33 I'm just trying to do some ground truthing in terms of
34 how these impacts could be addressed in the sense that
35 they're meaningful for us. But then they -- we also have
36 to be cognizant of how it could have a negative impact on
37 -- to the users as well. So I'm just trying to basically
38 understand, to get a better understanding of -- on the
39 way forward and doing some ground truthing on these
40 efforts. And, I mean, I really appreciate the
41 information that you provide, it's just that there's
42 something that we have to be visually observant about in
43 terms of how we perceive things.

44
45 Any other questions from the Council
46 members?

47
48 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

49
50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Robert.

1 MR. SHEARS: Could you brief us on the
2 effects of the emergency closure, did it -- did it help?
3
4 MS. OKADA: So just to clarify, Council
5 member Shears, you're talking about the emergency closure
6 in unit 23 and then the closure in 26A. I think we have
7 Ken Adkisson on the phone from the Park Service office in
8 Nome that might be able to speak to that.
9
10 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, I'm sorry, what was
11 that question?
12
13 MR. SHEARS: Good morning, Ken, this is
14 Council member Shears. The emergency closure on the
15 sheep hunt in 23, 24B last year, has there been any
16 analysis -- follow-up analysis on that to see if that is
17 helping?
18
19 MR. ADKISSON: Well, actually, no. Let
20 me kind of explain. The emergency closure was -- that
21 I'm aware of was for -- on all the State hunts in unit 23
22 as well as the unit 26A hunt in the western part of 26A,
23 west of the Etivluk River. The Park Service took a
24 similar action and announced an emergency closure of
25 those same hunts through the Federal Subsistence Board by
26 special action. So that was in August of 2014 based on
27 the survey information that Marcy and Kumi have been
28 talking about.
29
30 What's happened since then is that the
31 Department of Fish and Game submitted an agenda change
32 request to the Alaska Board of Game called proposal 203
33 to essentially close indefinitely those seasons for the
34 State hunts. They left the actual drawing and
35 registration hunts on the books, but they closed the --
36 the proposal was to close the seasons. That proposal was
37 dealt with yesterday afternoon by the Board of Game in
38 Anchorage at its March -- mid March meeting and was
39 adopted. So those State hunts will be closed and the
40 Park Service, Western Arctic National Park lands is
41 currently in the process of preparing Federal subsistence
42 regulation proposals that have to be submitted by the
43 25th of this month to similarly close the Federal hunts.
44 We're also in the process of sort of going to make some
45 other -- request changes at the same time to adjust some
46 of the language for the seasons and harvest limits
47 that'll make it easier I think to get back into hunting
48 as the sheep recover.
49
50 The other thing that we'll be doing is

1 going to the Federal Board requesting letters of
2 delegated authority to the Park manager in Kotzebue, the
3 superintendent of Western Arctic National Park lands, to
4 make timely decisions without -- on harvest quotas,
5 announcing harvest quotas, opening and closing hunts and
6 that sort of thing without having to go back to the
7 Federal Board for a full special action which -- that
8 added flexibility will I think help us make more timely
9 decisions. For example when the State closed their hunt
10 the Parks Service had a really hard time getting its
11 closure in place because we had to go back to the Federal
12 Subsistence Board for a full special action request and
13 that took time. And we were criticized by the State for
14 that, but we did get it closed. And so if we get a
15 letter of delegated authority from the Federal Board
16 we'll be able to make -- the local manager will be able
17 to make those decisions on a much more timely basis.

18
19 The other thing that we're going to be
20 doing is continuing to try to collect annual population
21 information at least from the western Bairds on the sheep
22 every year and then use that as an index for like the
23 DeLong's hunt area. And if there's funding and staffing
24 available we'll try to expand the survey areas out to get
25 better data on some of the areas peripheral to the
26 western Bairds area.

27
28 And one of the things I think we're going
29 to be doing as the sheep recover is looking at how those
30 hunts are structured and one of the things we'll be
31 coming back to like the North Slope RAC for their input
32 on how those might look.

33
34 The letters of delegated authority that
35 we're requesting from the Board have specific provisions
36 in them that require consultant and coordination for
37 example with the Chair of the North Slope RAC.

38
39 I hope that answers the question. It's
40 kind of long, but that's where we're at now with sheep.

41
42 MR. SHEARS: Thank you, Ken.

43
44 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Any follow-up,
45 Robert.

46
47 MR. SHEARS: Yeah. Sounds like there's
48 a lot of activity, you know, to manage these. Throughout
49 the first half of last year I prepared and planned for a
50 subsistence sheep hunt in Anaktuvuk Pass to the point

1 where I quit smoking in early June and started an
2 exercise regiment and was -- and had travel arrangements
3 set to go in there in mid September when this emergency
4 closure came into affect. So I was personally affected
5 by it so I am watching it closely.

6

7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
8 sharing that, Robert. I think the -- any other Council
9 members have any questions regarding the report on Dall
10 sheep near or around the Gates of the Arctic?

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Again not having our
15 representative here kind of puts a hinderance in terms of
16 how to proceed for what observations they made over
17 there, you know, for the past two or three years
18 regarding these sheep and not really knowing the numbers
19 of animals being taken. I wasn't sure if you -- if you
20 reported on that Marcy, I just didn't hear it, in regard
21 to the past two or three years the number of animals
22 taken for subsistence hunt in addressing their community
23 bag limit.

24

25 MS. OKADA: So in regards to 2013 we had
26 worked with the North Slope Borough Department of
27 Wildlife Management Subsistence Coordinator in collecting
28 sheep harvest data for the community of Anaktuvuk Pass.
29 They were willing to tack on a Park Service survey on how
30 many sheep were taken when they were doing their normal
31 six month household surveys and so out of the 2013
32 results I believe it showed that 22 sheep were harvested,
33 I think three being ewes. 2014 data, so last year's
34 data, we still haven't gotten information for 2014, but
35 when we had met with the Sheep Hunter Working Group in
36 February and tried to get an informal count on how many
37 sheep were harvested and how they felt about possibly
38 lowering the 60 sheep quota, many of them said, you know,
39 they don't harvest anywhere near 60 sheep. So if we were
40 to lower that quota it would be reasonable enough to
41 lower it to maybe 25 sheep. But as the sheep population
42 increases again we could, you know, also increase the
43 quota so try and make it more of a flexible harvest
44 limit.

45

46 And I don't want to go back historically
47 to how the community got the 60 sheep community harvest,
48 you might have been on the North Slope RAC in 1997 when
49 that proposal was passed and -- but we haven't lowered
50 that number and we're not submitting a proposal to lower

1 it down from 60 sheep, what we have been asking the
2 community to do is to just not harvest ewes if they can
3 at this time. But.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for that,
6 Marcy, I'm just trying to get a better understanding of
7 how the community's take and how -- if it's meeting it
8 need -- nutritional needs for when it -- you know, you
9 have to think back in terms of some of their other
10 hardships that the -- the availability of the other
11 resources as well and when that occurs you start
12 depending more heavily on one resource when the other's
13 not available. And we've tried to accommodate even
14 taking of moose at different times of the year when that
15 situation arises, you know, in Anaktuvuk's history on the
16 use of caribou, it's been their way of life, their
17 livelihood. And when that hardship comes about with the
18 caribou not moving into the region they start depending
19 more heavily on other resources and sheep's been one.
20 And having that number at 60 at the time was the -- I
21 recall the populations were much healthier in those areas
22 and the sheep numbers were just on the increase. Not
23 knowing what the maximum range we'd be able to cover in
24 terms of the population growing, you know, what the range
25 could withstand in terms of the number of animals on that
26 -- within those specific areas around the Gates of the
27 Arctic. And the other things we had to keep in mind was
28 the distance the hunters had to travel to get to sheep.
29 They had some specific spots they went to and they didn't
30 go -- try not to travel too far which makes -- creates
31 even a more harder situation at times. And that's part
32 of the reasoning for that 60 animals. And it was just
33 trying to address the community needs when you -- when we
34 looked at caribou numbers that they used to take were up
35 to -- in the 500 range in the early '90s, you know, even
36 before then caribou migrations were much healthier and
37 moving towards Anaktuvuk Pass and sometimes right through
38 Anaktuvuk Pass. And that's when the numbers of animals
39 were -- of caribou were in the higher numbers than what
40 we see today. So those -- and the sheep hunts were much
41 lower then. But then when the caribous were not coming
42 through the sheep hunt increased. So that's what we had
43 to be in line with in terms of some of the developments
44 over the years in terms of caribou movements not growing
45 -- coming through or coming -- getting near and hunts
46 were getting harder so the increase of sheep take were on
47 the increase as well.

48

49 I'm glad you've not -- you mentioned that
50 you've not basically have tried to address the --

1 lowering the number, it's just how the community's able
2 to conduct this hunt and it's being reflected on the
3 number of animals that have been taken, 25, 26 ranges is
4 something that probably -- that quite have to amount of
5 the community bags limit so it kind of sets -- in my mind
6 there's still some conservation efforts just because of
7 the available and the communications that occur it --
8 and, you know, lessening the take of -- what was that,
9 the ewes?

10

MS. OKADA: Right.

12

13 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: You have to help --
14 excuse me, I have a hard time pronouncing some words
15 here. Anyways I'm not used to talking ewes.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And that's a -- I
20 mean, that -- that's an effort on -- a step on your part,
21 you know, trying to conserve the resource as well for
22 increasing numbers of the sheep and for their
23 availability. And I just encourage the Gates of the
24 Arctic and folks to continue communicating with Anaktuvuk
25 Pass and working with the community is always a great
26 step forward as to how, you know, the community feels and
27 work with the resource managers. That goes a long ways
28 in terms of how people are working together and then
29 trying to manage a resource. And that's something I tend
30 to look at in terms of managing a resource and lowering
31 numbers when doable. I think that's something that I
32 continue to look at and trying to identify with these
33 other ranges, I mean, the areas within the Brooks Range,
34 you know, it -- I think that's kind of hard for this
35 folks from Anaktuvuk are already going through a hardship
36 of these other resources not being available and decline
37 that are uncontrollable by -- regardless of how you
38 manage the resource, we don't have any final say so after
39 what -- what occurs because we don't dictate the weather
40 fronts, icing events. Let me see what else was there,
41 the cold temperatures that occur within a given season
42 and that we just have to play it be ear as to how we move
43 forward on better managing the resources that's in --
44 that's of concern.

45

46 I'm just trying to think back on what
47 else we were able to do on -- you know, I just -- the
48 harvest data collecting that's something I think that we
49 continue to do and using those numbers to help steer the
50 right direction for the resource managers and the user

1 groups to rely on. Sometimes I -- the reason I was
2 questioning some of the decline identifying that 63
3 percent seems to be a pretty high number in a, you know,
4 couple of years of decline and then what's left of the
5 population, you know, it -- do you as the resource
6 manager see what those numbers are, I guess there are
7 like 50 animals, 60 animals, 70 animals. Not knowing
8 what that -- what's the remaining percentage as to what's
9 available and the comment you made in regard to the --
10 from data collection is that 2 percent of the resource
11 are taken for removal so what's the factor, the other
12 numbers that are generated to become -- that come with
13 this. I think that would be helpful in helping
14 identifying what the numbers of animals are in this
15 region.

16

17 MS. RATTENBURY: Mr. Chair, if I may.
18 This is Kumi again.

19

20 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Kumi, go ahead.

21

22 MS. RATTENBURY: And for actual numbers
23 that area -- the map on your handout that's outlined in
24 black around Anaktuvuk Pass, in 2014 we estimated there
25 were about 1,200 adult sheep in that area. So the 2
26 percent is -- comes from that. So that would be 24
27 sheep. And then for the Itkillik area which is -- I
28 think it's purple on the map, anyway there's -- that line
29 I think is at 600 adults right now in that area. And
30 it's been pretty mark -- pretty noticeable the last two
31 summers flying around for (indiscernible - distortion)
32 2013 we didn't see any lambs and we've seen much smaller
33 groups of sheep. So it's been pretty obvious on the
34 landscape. For the Itkillik area it was around 16, 1,700
35 sheep from 2002 through 2012 and now it's down to just
36 600 adults and a handful of lambs were estimated. And
37 then like I said for the Anaktuvuk area it's now at 1,200
38 adults, adult sheep. So and that -- the adult sheep
39 decline I think it at like 54 percent. So there used to
40 be in the Itkillik, excuse me, so that's the numbers that
41 I was -- if that helps that's the numbers from the latest
42 surveys.

43

44 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, that does. I
45 mean, it does for me and that's what I have to look at in
46 terms of getting a better understanding of what we're
47 dealing with in cycle percentages. And I thank you for
48 sharing that, Kumi, and that's a little bit more light
49 into how we could better communicate the impacts on the
50 availability of the resource as well.

1 And again thank you for your
2 presentation. I'm not sure if I have any Council members
3 that have -- may have some questions or comments that
4 we'd like to share with Marcy or Kumi.

5
6 Rosemary.

7
8 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I appreciate the
9 effort to reach out to the Village of Anaktuvuk Pass.
10 And it is really important to work with the hunters as we
11 look at these declines and receive their information of
12 what's actually happening on the ground. Words on paper
13 to look at ways of protecting the animals without getting
14 the ground truthing done is very impactful into our
15 ownership of what you're presenting as well as our
16 willingness to work with the process before us. So I
17 really appreciate that outreach and hope that you
18 continue with that process as we go forward in this.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Any other comments.

23
24 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Robert.

27
28 MR. SHEARS: So you -- you know, I've --
29 you know, talking with people I know there in Anaktuvuk
30 Pass about their sheep as I go and so are you impacted by
31 this, you know, this declining population, these
32 emergency closures, the sport hunters and they're like
33 no, we get all the sheep we want. Those of us who want
34 it go out and get them. That being said a lot of people
35 want to go out and get them. There's a -- they're a lot
36 of work. I'm not going to take a -- go through a
37 tremendous effort to get them, but when they're close,
38 yeah, we'll get them and we get what we want. Not too
39 affected and as Marcy has indicated, you know, the -- you
40 know, a community harvest limit of 60, you know, that
41 would be like asking them is that enough and they're like
42 heck, yeah, we don't get that many. So, you know, we're
43 talking about, you know, possibly reducing, you know, the
44 subsistence harvest limits to better manage the
45 population, say if we, you know, through Federal action
46 reduced that harvest limit to 25 like Marcy was
47 indicating. Now this is not going to save -- you know,
48 this action on paper is not going to save the life of a
49 single sheep, but it still serves an important premise --
50 process in our -- it still serves a purpose in our

1 governing process too. Now could somebody like to talk
2 about the deeper intent, you know, of when we change
3 rules and regulations to react to declining populations,
4 we're going to deal with the same subject later on today
5 so you guys pay attention. We're not physically saving
6 the life of a single animal, but we're changing the
7 regulations, what good are we doing. And I'm not
8 necessarily asking this question of Marcy, but to the
9 general population of attendees, can anybody help shed
10 some light on this subject.

11
12 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: No hands raised.

13
14 MS. RATTENBURY: Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I'm sorry, who's
17 speaking, maybe Kumi?

18
19 MS. RATTENBURY: This is Kumi again, Mr.
20 Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes.

23
24 MS. RATTENBURY: And I just wanted to
25 respond to that comment. And what we're looking at right
26 now that's basically left after the two winters are your
27 healthiest sheep. All the young ones are gone and the
28 older ones probably didn't make those harsh winters
29 either. By reducing harvest that helps those healthier
30 animals have a higher survival rate during the winter.
31 And if let's say for example Anaktuvuk Pass was
32 harvesting up to the quota of 60 sheep that would be 5
33 percent of the adults in the area. And if you're looking
34 at your healthiest adults might have a 90, 95 percent of
35 them might survive and you're harvesting another 5
36 percent of that. It's true some of them might have died
37 anyway during the winter, but we have no lambs coming in
38 and no yearlings coming in. But I think by reducing
39 harvest in areas where numbers are down and harvest is
40 high you're helping to save some animals. It is true
41 that there are other factors playing a much larger role
42 with the population and harvest and harvest in general is
43 very low over at Gates of the Arctic. So and I think
44 also by reducing harvest on lambs and ewes you're also
45 helping that segment of the population which are really
46 low at the current time.

47
48 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

49
50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Robert.

1 MR. SHEARS: I'm sorry, Kumi, you may
2 have misunderstood me. Say for example any animals has
3 a harvest limit of 100 per year and the subsistence
4 communities that exist on that animal only in reality
5 harvest 50 per year. What is the benefit to the
6 governing bodies to reduce the 100 a year harvest limit
7 to 50 to meet the reality of the real harvest?

8
9 MS. RATTENBURY: I would agree that's
10 basically what's happening and the regular amount of
11 harvest isn't in that 2 percent. Reducing the harvest is
12 something that -- reducing your harvest is something that
13 would be a change, you know, a noticeable change I think
14 that could be for people. The hunters that we spoke with
15 this previous winter a couple times did state that it
16 would not be a hardship to reduce ewe harvest. And I
17 think I -- yeah, I think that question is definitely
18 something for the larger group as far as what you have on
19 the books and part of kind of an outreach and education
20 campaign.
21 Sometimes by changing the regulations on the books and
22 making it public that a quota is reduced, I don't know,
23 sometimes I think that that might help for people to see
24 that there -- there is an issue if they didn't already
25 know it. But, you know, that's something for you all to
26 decide I think.

27
28 MR. SHEARS: And it's an educational
29 tool. Thank you.

30
31 MR. JOLY: Mr. Chairman, this is Kyle
32 Jolly in Fairbanks if I can interject?

33
34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Kyle.

35
36 MR. JOLY: Yeah, one other benefit that
37 Kumi had mentioned is that as you bring harvest down say
38 from that imaginary hundred to the 50, it brings
39 expectations in line with reality. And it also steps up
40 a situation where if you didn't drop it down to 50 that
41 if the population was reduced again that you might go
42 from a quota of say a hundred to 25 and then people start
43 scratching their head going, you know, why do we have
44 such a large reduction, you know, 75 percent reduction in
45 just one time step, you know, you have this huge
46 reduction of the population and we didn't do anything
47 about it. And so if you drop from a hundred quota down
48 to a 50 quota even though it doesn't really impact any
49 animals being harvested, the harvest is still the same,
50 it lets people know that change -- additional changes

1 could be happening and then allows for a stair step
2 approach down in the harvest without impacting users when
3 they don't need to be impacted.

4
5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for that,
6 Kyle.

7
8 Marcy, did you have anything else in
9 regard to the sheep to.....

10
11 MS. OKADA: So, Mr. Chair, I can't stress
12 enough that the time that we will be working with the
13 community to collect harvest data for sheep, there's some
14 options available as far as how that harvest data could
15 be collected. When we met with the sheep hunters we had
16 provided some ideas, one was Federal subsis -- or Federal
17 registration permit, that was an option. At this time
18 the community felt like they'd rather take more of an
19 informal route where sheep hunters would just share with
20 us directly how many sheep were harvested for the
21 community harvest hunt. But no one idea has been settled
22 upon at this time.

23
24 And then also as we were meeting with the
25 sheep hunters they had also mentioned that if the caribou
26 aren't coming through like you said they're going to
27 target sheep more. But some of the -- some of the elders
28 had also mentioned that they do prefer eating caribou.
29 At times sheep meat can be a little bit too rich whereas
30 they can eat caribou meat every single day.

31
32 So we'll be continuing to meet with the
33 sheep hunters as Kumi collects data from her sheep
34 surveys in July we'll go back and share those results and
35 it'll be an ongoing process so to speak. But at this
36 time we really are trying to collect sheep harvest data
37 and work with the community on that. The idea of also
38 allowing the superintendent to have delegated authority
39 so that it allows for more flexibility as far as moving
40 that quota up and down as the sheep population goes --
41 increases and decreases is also an idea that we've shared
42 with the sheep hunters.

43
44 And then I'd quickly just like to share
45 some other projects and reports that have been going on
46 in Gates of the Arctic. Right now there's a grisly bear
47 survey occurring on the south side of Gates of the
48 Arctic, a few dozen bears have been collared on the south
49 slope of the Brooks Range and the Koyuk drainage.
50 Information collected is looking at movement and habitat

1 mainly with concern for development related to the Ambler
2 mining district road. So Arctic inventory and monitoring
3 network has been collecting vegetation and habitat data
4 and there's also ongoing fire ecology studies.

5
6 And then lastly there's a Vital Signs
7 annual report for caribou that's just been completed and
8 that report can be available via email or hard copies.
9 Most of the data came from GPS collars and the work
10 focuses on migration movements, range and survivorship of
11 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. So Kyle Jolly who's
12 also on teleconference who some of you have probably
13 already met is our biologist that works primarily with
14 the -- if not completely with the Western Arctic Caribou
15 Herd.

16
17 And that's it, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Marcy.
20 Any other questions from the Council members to Marcy?

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If not, thank you
25 very much for your presentation, Marcy.

26
27 MS. OKADA: Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Next on the agenda
30 is BLM. Dr. Yokel.

31
32 DR. YOKEL: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
33 Council members. I apologize for not being with you in
34 person today. In the last 23 years since this Council
35 began working I think this is the first time I've
36 attended a meeting by teleconference. But I'm a little
37 bit broken today and if I traveled up there I'd have to
38 take my wife along with me to help me tie my shoes and
39 other things. So are you hearing me?

40
41 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, we are. You're
42 coming in loud and clear.

43
44 DR. YOKEL: Okay. I wasn't hearing
45 anything back through my headset here.

46
47 Okay. Well, I wanted to give you an
48 update about activities this winter on the NPR-A and I'll
49 start with our planning and record of decision for the
50 Greater Moose's Tooth 1 development proposed by

1 ConocoPhillips Alaska. As I'm sure you all know we
2 completed our record of decision last month and in that
3 record of decision the BLM chose alternative A which was
4 ConocoPhillips' proposed project although there were some
5 additional mitigations added to it.

6
7 And in light of mitigation I want to also
8 mention that the BLM is going to hold a regional
9 mitigation workshop here in Fairbanks on March 31st and
10 April 1st and all of you on the Council are invited to
11 that workshop. I have emailed to Eva a invitation to
12 that which I'm hoping she will forward to you, but you
13 may have already received an email from Sarena Sweet, out
14 chief planner for the BLM in Alaska. Anyway if you are
15 interested in that and you can contact Sarena. If you
16 would -- if you're interested, but cannot attend Sarena
17 can put you on her mailing list so that you continue to
18 get information about this regional mitigation strategy.
19 And a regional mitigation strategy in this case would be
20 for the entire NPR-A. It's a new initiative in the
21 Department of Interior to try to better mitigate for any
22 impacts of development anywhere in DOI lands in the
23 United States.

24
25 If there's any questions about the GMT1
26 project I'll stop now, otherwise I'll go on with this
27 winter's activities.

28
29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Any questions from
30 the Council to Dr. Yokel?

31
32 Rosemary.

33
34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah, one of the
35 questions I had is on the document part of the process of
36 considering for mitigation is cleanup of historic sites.
37 And that's a concern for me, why are we having to utilize
38 our mitigation funds that could be done in ways to
39 protect our subsistence and our recovery of animals and
40 changes that are happening to our lands and waters have
41 to consider utilizing this fund to do cleanup of
42 industry's past activities.

43
44 DR. YOKEL: Well, I can't answer that for
45 sure, it's my understanding -- well, first of all there
46 are many legacy wells in the NPR-A as you're aware of and
47 the BLM has been working for a number of years to clean
48 those up and has developed a 700 page document describing
49 all of those well sites and what the priority for each of
50 them is in close out. We have plugged and abandoned and

1 cleaned up reserve pits at, I'm not sure, a dozen or so
2 wells in the last 10 or so years, but it costs many
3 millions of dollars to do so and Congress has not
4 appropriated sufficient funds to go out there and do them
5 all. So we want to continue to do them as we get
6 funding, but if there are other sources of funding that
7 can be used to -- for that cleanup then perhaps that will
8 be done. I'm not saying it will be, but I don't think
9 there have been decisions made yet on how mitigation
10 funding will be spent. I think this workshop will have
11 something to do with those decisions.

12

13 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Follow-up, Rosemary?

14

15 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I appreciate that
16 information. It is important to have us engage in that
17 process, there's a lot of discussion, it's the first time
18 that there's a set amount of money put towards an
19 opportunity to consider ways of mitigation and that we
20 can get engaged in the process. But for me it is very
21 concerning that we finally have a source of funds and now
22 we have a line in the process that says that we need to
23 consider cleaning up other activities. And I understand
24 the need to do so, but when we're looking at the reality
25 of this project and the impacts that it's going to create
26 with the Village of Nuiqsut. There's going to be -- have
27 to be some real serious considerations on what we can do
28 around that community to hope to put some mitigation
29 measures in to give them subsistence opportunities with
30 the changes that are going around their village.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 DR. YOKEL: Well, I would just respond
35 quickly that again invite you to contact Sarena Sweet,
36 she emailed that she has already sent to you or the email
37 that I sent to Eva to forward to you and present your
38 ideas to her directly. Also I would say that we have
39 invited several of the officers of the Native Village of
40 Nuiqsut to that workshop in two weeks and they will be
41 there to represent their interests.

42

43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Dave.

44

45 Eva.

46

47 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
48 just wanted to let the Council know I just received that
49 correspondence from Sarena last night and had asked for
50 Dave to make sure to announce that workshop today. So

1 would have received that email from Dave last night and
2 I'll be sure to forward it on to you today. And also if
3 you'd like to be directly on the mailing lists let us
4 know too so we can make those connections, ongoing
5 connections for the Council members.
6
7 Thank you.
8
9 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Eva.
10
11 DR. YOKEL: And I just sent the email to
12 you this morning, Eva, so you'll see it next time you get
13 to your email.
14
15 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Dave.
16
17 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Just another
18 question to Eva directly. Did we receive anything from
19 BLM in regarding to our discussion topics this morning in
20 terms of what backup materials or.....
21
22 MS. PATTON: No, there's no additional
23 materials that were provided for this meeting today.
24
25 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So, Dr. Yokel, are
26 you able to provide us some with your discussion topics
27 for Council members?
28
29 DR. YOKEL: I was planning to go over the
30 activities that we have permitted in the NPR-A this past
31 winter if you would like.
32
33 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I think that that
34 would be appropriate. I was just wanting to see a --
35 wanting to ask about materials that we could reference
36 from your presentation if we had any follow-up comments
37 or questions or needing other additional information to
38 reference. And I didn't see any.....
39
40 DR. YOKEL: Well.....
41
42 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER:in the Council
43 packets.
44
45 DR. YOKEL:again I apologize for
46 not being there. Normally I would come and try to
47 present a slide show to you and make hard copies of those
48 slides available, but I'm one handed right now and typing
49 is a little difficult and I've been unable to prepare a
50 packet for you. But perhaps Eva can take what I say out

1 of the record once the minutes are prepared or not the
2 minutes, but the transcription, and provide that to you.

3

4 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you.

5

6 Continue.

7

8 DR. YOKEL: Okay. Well, we did not have
9 any exploration drilling in the NPR-A this winter,
10 however, there was one exploratory well planned in the
11 Slough Bay several hundred feet off of the NPR-A and the
12 Ikpikpuk River delta by Nordac Energy. That would have
13 been on State submerged lands there in Smith Bay. They
14 moved their camp and equipment out to that area and began
15 ice island construction for drilling, but as the winter
16 went on they decided they were running out of time and
17 then also I don't know if the drop in oil prices caused
18 any reconsideration, but anyway they decided not to drill
19 this winter and to get out earlier next winter and spud
20 that well before New Year's. So they're now in the
21 process of demobing all that equipment back to Lonely and
22 Deadhorse.

23

24 We did have and do have one seismic
25 operation this winter going on just west of Nuiqsut by
26 SAE Exploration. I think part of that is SAE's own
27 seismic study and part of it is for ConocoPhillips.

28

29 At Umiat this year Marsh Creek has been
30 contracted to plug and abandon three of the old Navy
31 wells there. That's more of this slow progress I was
32 mentioning to Rosemary earlier. And cut the wellheads
33 off of three other wells there that have already been
34 plugged and abandoned in the recent past. And they're
35 just now beginning work there and will be out of there
36 sometime in early April probably.

37

38 And then finally ConocoPhillips is -- in
39 early April will be going out to what we refer to as Sea
40 Ray Creek and drilling -- doing some geotechnical
41 drilling which are just -- would be six shallow holes,
42 three on each side of the creek where the bridge
43 abutments for that will be and each hole will be 40 to 80
44 feet deep and that'll take about five days in early April
45 and that's for the road that would be constructed from
46 the CD5 pad out to proposed or new GMT1 pad which BLM has
47 just recently permitted.

48

49 And so that's what's going on on the
50 ground in NPR-A this winter. And if you have any other

1 questions I'd be happy to try to answer them.
2
3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Council members have
4 any questions to Dr. Yokel.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: No hands raised. So
9 thank you for your presentation, Dr. Yokel. We'll
10 definitely wait on the materials and probably raise some
11 questions then.
12
13 DR. YOKEL: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14
15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you.
16
17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.
18
19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Eva.
20
21 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. Yes,
22 next up we have U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Refuge
23 Manager Brian Glaspell is going to present on the CCP and
24 any other specific questions the Council has on the
25 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
26
27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Eva.
28
29 Brian, go ahead.
30
31 MR. GLASPELL: Good morning, Mr. Chair
32 and Council members. In the past we have presented to
33 you all a summary of all of our activities in the
34 previous year, research projects and other things. I
35 think I prefer to use my time here to focus specifically
36 on our recently released Conference of Conservation Plan
37 and I'm certainly available to answer questions about
38 other issues or projects if you're interested at the end.
39
40 So you all should have this handout that
41 says Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Planning for its
42 Future, Planning Update Number 5 on the top. And this
43 kind of summarizes what's happened since about 2012 when
44 our draft plan was released for public comment and
45 January 25th when our final plan was released. And this
46 whole effort of course goes back quite a few more years
47 than that. In 2010 we began the public scoping process
48 for a revision of our management plan that was first
49 completed in 1987 and signed in 1988. So we're closing
50 in on 30 years since we had a new management plan. This

1 one is a long time coming and much needed.

2

3 So again back in 2010 we began the
4 process of engaging the public across Alaska and across
5 the nation, we received several hundred thousand comments
6 on that early effort and then we began development of the
7 draft plan that came out in 2011. And we received
8 another almost 700,000 public comments on the details of
9 that draft plan. What we released at the end of January
10 is the result of that public input and a lot of work by
11 Fish and Wildlife Service staff and other partners. We
12 made some significant changes between the draft and the
13 final and those are all outlined in the handout that you
14 have here. And maybe what I'll do is just run through
15 the key components of what we have now.

16

17 There's really kind of three main
18 sections to the management plan. Those are -- there's a
19 general kind of statement of values and vision
20 statement. There's a list of specific planning goals and
21 objectives and management guidelines and then there are
22 so called planning issues that vary by alternatives. So
23 these were the issues that were identified by the public
24 during the scoping process and in the environmental
25 impact statement portion of the plan. We developed six
26 different alternatives for addressing those planning
27 issues. And I'll go through each of those sections
28 briefly.

29

30 The first key component of the plan is
31 that vision statement and there is literally a one
32 paragraph vision statement contained in the plan and then
33 there's a more general narrative that describes the
34 setting and our desired future condition, what's this
35 place all about, what's the public tell us they value
36 about it, what's the law tell us that we're supposed to
37 protect there and so on. The second key component of the
38 plans are those goals and objectives and from my
39 perspective as Refuge Manager that's really the meat of
40 this thing, that's the portion of the plan that I'm going
41 to go back to on a -- literally on a daily basis to
42 provide guidance about staffing and budget decisions and
43 work planning in a given year and so on.

44

45 Yes, sir.

46

47 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So, Brian, I have a
48 question in regard to just going over the general
49 overview and you get down to the bottom with the first
50 lines here and you get to ANILCA and it says ANILCA 10.04

1 does not apply to Arctic Refuge and all references to it
2 were removed from the planning EIS. Could you elaborate
3 a bit more on that, please?

4
5 MR. GLASPELL: Yes, sir. That's sort of
6 a technical issue, but those sections, 10.02, 10.03,
7 10.04, all refer to management of the Arctic coastal
8 plain and future decisions with respect to conservation
9 and potential oil and gas exploration or development in
10 that -- in that neck of the woods. So 10.04 is a more
11 general statement that we had referenced in the draft
12 plan and were challenged on by the State and in further
13 analysis by our solicitors and theirs we determined that,
14 in fact, it's 10.02 and 10.03 that really direct the
15 future of the coast plains so we removed those
16 references. But it -- at the core of this is section
17 10.03 rather than 10.04. And 10.03 is the section that
18 says in essence the Arctic coastal plain is presently
19 closed to oil and gas development and any future
20 decisions there are up to Congress, not the agency, not
21 the President, not anybody else but Congress.

22
23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I guess I'm trying
24 to look back in terms of what ANILCA's dealing with in
25 terms of subsistence and how does that impact their --
26 what the language reads here?

27
28 MR. GLASPELL: Yeah. So we can talk
29 about what ANILCA has to say with respect to subsistence,
30 but there -- it's really addressed in a couple of
31 different places, primarily in Title VIII of ANILCA, but
32 also in the section that actually expanded Refuges and
33 other conservation units. And in the case of Arctic
34 Refuge and all the other Refuges in the State, say for
35 Kenai Refuge, ANILCA gives us a specific subsistence
36 purpose. It says, in fact, that that's one of our
37 reasons for being is to provide continued subsistence
38 opportunities.

39
40 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I just didn't see
41 that right off the -- just from reading this segment of
42 that. And I was wanting to question to see and learning
43 more about that, when does that subsistence get covered
44 under this process?

45
46 MR. GLASPELL: Sure. Well, it appears in
47 numerous places in the plan and that's kind of a nice
48 segue to jump into the goals and objectives because we
49 specifically address subsistence a couple different ways
50 there. So maybe I can -- I can jump to that and if you

1 have further questions I'll try to answer those.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, thank you.

4

5 MR. GLASPELL: So if you look in your
6 handout on, let's see, page 3, the heading at the top
7 says Goals and Objectives, Chapter 2 and let's you have
8 nine broad goals and then within each of those goals
9 there are specific objectives for how we intend to
10 achieve that broader goal statement. I'll call your
11 attention to goal four, it's in the lower right-hand
12 corner of that page. This is one we received a lot of
13 feedback on, it specifically addresses subsistence and
14 I'll just -- I'll just read the goal for the benefit of
15 the audience here since you all have it in front of you.
16 The Refuge and in consultation with appropriate parties
17 addresses concerns about proposed actions that may
18 substantially or directly affect subsistence or cultural
19 resources, rural subsistence or cultural uses or the
20 right of Tribes. So I call your attention to this one
21 because it's one of our guiding management goals for
22 Arctic Refuge. And this plan if past history is any
23 indication might stand for the next 40 years or so. So
24 of the nine core things we say we're going to do, one of
25 them is to protect and work with everybody on protecting
26 subsistence opportunities.

27

28 Similarly I'll call your attention on the
29 next page to goal number 8. This one has a -- it
30 overlaps with subsistence, but it's more specific to
31 cultural resources and again I'll read this one. It says
32 in consultation with appropriate parties the Refuge
33 documents, conserves and protects cultural resources both
34 historic and prehistoric to allow visitors and community
35 members to appreciate the interconnectedness of the
36 people of the region and their environment. And you'll
37 notice the very first objective is in partnership collect
38 traditional knowledge about past and present conditions.
39 So again I'm calling your attention to these things
40 because having given some version of this presentation to
41 a number of other RACs and Tribal Councils and other
42 entities these are -- tend to be issues of high interest
43 and again they're things that we got a lot of feedback on
44 in the development of the plan and I feel pretty good
45 about the direction we're going.

46

47 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I have comments in
48 regard to some of the situations that we dealt with
49 within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and one key
50 species that's been there, the muskox. And, you know,

1 that since it was a transplanted resource I'm trying to
2 understand since its decline within the Arctic National
3 Wildlife Refuge what's being considered by the Arctic
4 National Wildlife Refuge folks in terms of maybe
5 replanting additional muskox into the area?
6

7 MR. GLASPELL: Well, that's a reasonable
8 question and I'll tell you there are -- there are no
9 plans or proposals at present to try again to reintroduce
10 muskox. There -- of course they occurred there
11 historically, they were essentially extirpated and we put
12 them back and now they're mostly gone again. And so it
13 leaves one to wonder a little bit about the conditions
14 there now and how well they could support a muskox
15 population. I will say we don't know for sure what's
16 going on there. In the years following ANILCA when we
17 had a congressional mandate to conduct coastal plain
18 resource studies there was very intensive research and
19 monitoring conducted on muskox and that continued well
20 into the '90s. And since that time of course we've seen
21 some really dramatic declines, it's hard to know for sure
22 if we've seen an overall population decline or if the
23 ones that were there have just moved east and west. We
24 see them periodically in the Refuge, but not in the
25 numbers we used to. And we certainly see them to the
26 east and west. So we're continuing our research and
27 monitoring efforts there. We have a spring survey
28 planned in April of this year that will base out of
29 Kaktovik and fly the entire North Slope in really tight
30 grid to once again see what we can find out there. But
31 again at present there aren't any plans to try for some
32 kind of reintroduction.
33

34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Where -- maybe
35 follow along with the discussion with the community of
36 Kaktovik to see what interest they might have in working
37 with the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to replant.....
38

39 MR. GLASPELL: Absolutely. I.....
40

41 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER:resource.
42

43 MR. GLASPELL: Yes, sir. I think that
44 Council member Lee Kayotuk could respond to this, but we
45 endeavor to meet pretty regularly with the community in
46 Kaktovik at least a couple times a year with the Tribal
47 Council there and with the -- with KIC as ell and the
48 city. And to date this just hasn't risen as a
49 significant issue. If and when it does we'll be on it.
50

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I was kind of hoping
2 that you wouldn't state that, but I -- in the national
3 interest I don't see the significance of the national
4 efforts, but maybe more locally it is an important
5 resource to the community.....

6
7 MR. GLASPELL: Uh-huh.

8
9 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER:and, you know,
10 it's been used as a subsistence resource over time and
11 the reintroduction of the resource was an effort in my
12 opinion to see how that resource would refurbish itself
13 and replenish itself within the Arctic National Wildlife
14 Refuge. And, you know, to, I have to say poor management
15 of the resource and care of the resource by all parts has
16 kind of failed in a sense. You know, we -- there was a
17 Muskox Working Group and there was the folks that we're
18 working with within that working group to see -- to try
19 and adjust subsistence issues in regards to removal of
20 the resource in numbers that we would be recognized in
21 the sense that would be used for subsistence purposes to
22 provide a food resource to a community. And that seemed
23 to have failed and just not even brought back by the
24 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in its common sense of
25 thinking as a National Refuge. It's more of a national
26 issue than local issues being addressed.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Robert.

33
34 MR. SHEARS: I have a question for Brian.

35
36 Thank you for being here, Brian.

37
38 REPORTER: Mic, please.

39
40 MR. SHEARS: Maybe I'm a little confused
41 right now of where we're at. A Refuge is an aggressively
42 managed piece of property, but now that President Obama
43 is suggesting that we should designate it as a wilderness
44 area and the draft plan that you're discussing with us
45 today is process -- is considering a -- is a plan to
46 manage a wilderness area. What are the difference --
47 what's the key -- what are the fundamental management
48 differences between a Refuge and a wilderness, a
49 designated wilderness area? I would think, you know, and
50 the question that our Chairman was just asking you, in a

1 Refuge we would -- we can -- we can if we desire to
2 aggressively manage population of animals like muskox.
3 But a wilderness area, isn't the implication that we are
4 now hands off, that we're not having a human interaction
5 with the ecology of this property?

6
7 MR. GLASPELL: Great question. And I'm
8 glad you asked it. It leads perfectly into the last
9 section of the plan which does contain wilderness
10 recommendations. And just as a point of clarification
11 what you have before you is a summary of the final plan,
12 this is no longer draft, it is -- it is final, it's
13 pending signature on a record of decision that should
14 occur any day now, frankly, but within the next month or
15 so. And at that point it's final final. But what you
16 have here is indeed the final plan. Within that final
17 plan the Service identified alternative E as the
18 preferred alternative and alternative E does, in fact,
19 just shy of 12.3 additional -- 12.3 million additional
20 wilderness acres within the Refuge. So a couple of key
21 points there. That's a recommendation. Only Congress
22 can designate wilderness, it takes an act of law to do
23 that. In the meantime it stands as a recommendation and
24 the lands that are recommended are managed precisely the
25 same way they're managed now and they have been for the
26 last several decades. At present about 7.2 million acres
27 of the Refuge, pretty much the mountain core of the
28 Refuge, extending near the Canadian border on the coastal
29 plain all the way to the ocean, but not extending onto
30 the 10.02 area of the coastal plain, that 7.2 million
31 acres is presently designated wilderness. It has been
32 since 1980 and it's been managed that way for that amount
33 of time.

34
35 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Rosemary. Did that
38 help, Bob?

39
40 MR. GLASPELL: I can -- if this question
41 is directly relevant I'll go ahead and tackle it, but
42 I've got some more to say to fully address your question
43 as well.

44
45 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Go ahead.

46
47 MR. GLASPELL: Okay. So you asked
48 specifically about the differences between designated
49 wilderness and Refuge lands and how things might change
50 going into the future. So the first key point is what I

1 just said, that the lands that are recommended get
2 managed precisely the same way they are now unless and
3 until Congress takes action and designates them as
4 wilderness. If that were to happen as a practical matter
5 there would be virtually no change in the way that
6 they're managed day to day. There are a host of
7 different management regimens that apply to other Refuges
8 in Alaska and across the nation, but Arctic Refuge has
9 long been a place where we -- where we do take a more
10 hands off approach, where our specific legislated purpose
11 is and the values for which the place was set aside talk
12 about wilderness, talk about wild natural settings, talk
13 about letting nature and evolution unfold as it would
14 without specific or purposeful manipulation on our part.

15

16

17 And it doesn't mean we don't manage
18 resources, it doesn't mean that we don't work closely
19 with the State to address resource concerns when we see
20 declining wildlife populations. We work hard to
21 condition special use permits for uses that occur on the
22 Refuge to protect the environment. There are many
23 management actions that we do take, but what we don't do
24 is the kinds of purposeful manipulations that you might
25 see in other settings. On some Refuges in the lower 48
26 for example they farm, they grow feed for migrating
27 waterfowl, they build water impoundments, they move dirt.
28 That doesn't occur at Arctic Refuge, it hasn't in the
29 past, it wouldn't in the future whether that place is --
30 the remaining portions of the Refuge are designated
31 wilderness or not.

32

33 The lands that are currently recommended
34 for wilderness are zoned in what we call the minimal
35 management category. That zoning regime is continued
36 from the previous management plan. Within the minimal
37 category we're directed to prohibit things like permanent
38 roads or construction of significant infrastructure or
39 large scale manipulations of the environment. That more
40 or less mirrors what would occur in a designated
41 wilderness setting, the principal difference is what we
42 have now is -- it's an administrative zoning action, it
43 could be changed with the stroke of a pen by the Fish and
44 Wildlife Service. If the area were to be designated as
45 wilderness, again that takes an act of Congress and that
46 -- that's a higher and more permanent level of protection
47 that what we can offer at the Fish and Wildlife Service
48 level.

49

50 MR. SHEARS: Perhaps just one more, you

1 know, clarification. What is it then -- explain briefly
2 what's the difference between the next level of
3 protection under -- the designation as a national park?

4

5 MR. GLASPELL: As a park?

6

7 MR. SHEARS: If it was to be considered,
8 you know, for the ultimate, you know, I understand that
9 that's the ultimate, perhaps it's not?

10

11 MR. GLASPELL: Perhaps you're talking
12 about some things in the press about national monument
13 status. Yeah, things -- so to back up and as an
14 important point of clarification, the entirety of the
15 lands that we're talking about here are now presently
16 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, they're protected as
17 Refuge. They were designated in 1960 and expanded under
18 ANILCA. We're not proposing any changes to that
19 boundary, whether adding or subtracting lands to the
20 unit. We're also not proposing that any lands -- the
21 change in terms of the governing management agency,
22 they'll be retained as National Wildlife Refuge lands and
23 they'll be managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
24 Wilderness is a management overlay, it doesn't -- it's
25 not managed separately by a different agency, it's a --
26 it's just that, it's a zoning regime, it's a management
27 overlay within the existing Refuge lands. And our policy
28 says specifically that wilderness purposes are within and
29 supplemental to the purposes for which the Refuge was
30 established. So within the current designated wilderness
31 and any potential future designated wilderness we look at
32 the purposes that ANILCA tells us were -- the Arctic
33 Refuge was established for and we look at wilderness
34 purposes and we manage those things together.

35

36 There has been a little bit of talk in
37 the press about this notion of a national monument and
38 you all may know under the Antiquities Act the President
39 has the ability to essentially designate conservation
40 areas as national monuments and that's sometimes referred
41 critically to -- as some kind of work around to create
42 conservation areas without appropriate involvement or
43 acts of Congress. If you seen in the paper the Secretary
44 of Interior and the President have recently said that's
45 not their intention for any portion of Arctic Refuge.
46 And so that's way above my pay grade, but it's my
47 understanding all that stuff is well off the table. What
48 we have before us is very simply a management plan just
49 like any other that's prepared for all National Wildlife
50 Refuges across the country and the law tells us when

1 we're doing a management plan that we are supposed to
2 consider the special values of the place and identify
3 practices and programs to protect those special values.
4 Wilderness is a tool to protect the values at Arctic
5 Refuge and that's why you see it as a recommendation
6 within this plan. It's just that, a recommendation,
7 Congress has to act to take any further action. And in
8 the meantime we manage it precisely the same way that we
9 do right now.

10

11 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. Thank you very
12 much, Brian, for helping me understand this, you know.
13 You know, I imagine everybody in the community of
14 Kaktovik has a deep understanding of, you know, what the
15 -- you know, how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife manages the
16 Refuge, but it's kind of -- you know, I'm very
17 disconnected from it.

18

19 So that was really helpful for me.

20

21 Please continue your discussion.

22

23 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We have additional
26 questions, Brian.

27

28 Rosemary.

29

30 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: One of the big things
31 that I see right here is that the Porcupine Herd is in
32 better arrays than the other herds that are near our
33 communities. And is there any assessment as to certain
34 types of things that are being done in these other areas
35 that may be impacting these caribou and their decline
36 besides just the weather and other things that we can
37 learn from things that are happening in the Refuge where
38 the numbers are really well. I recognize that the
39 Canadian side also has increased protections for
40 wilderness areas and that's something the U.S. hasn't
41 done on our side, but it is very stark in our discussion
42 over the last two days the difference between this herd
43 and the other two herds and the difference in the
44 designations of activities that are occurring in these
45 important areas.

46

47 MR. GLASPELL: yeah, I'm glad you asked
48 that question and I think we have a number of people in
49 the room and probably on the phone who are real life
50 caribou biologists and can speak to some of the nitty

1 gritty much better than I can. But as a land manager I
2 can tell you that if you look across the range of the
3 four Arctic herds and you see that the Porcupine Herd is
4 one that's doing pretty well right now and you look for
5 the kind of differences that you suggested there might
6 be, the one key difference is that the entirety of the
7 present range of the Porcupine Caribou Herd is protected,
8 every bit of it is within a conservation unit and
9 development activities at present are prohibited across
10 that whole range. And, you know, that's a key difference
11 and something that's hard to ignore. I can't -- I can't
12 tell you exactly what's causing the ups and downs that
13 we're seeing among the different herds and I'm certain
14 it's more complex than merely protecting the habitat, but
15 I think when we -- when we look at caribou conservation
16 and herds that cover some major ground along their
17 migratory routes and all the uncertainty we face with
18 changing habitats and so on, one of the most obvious
19 things we can do is protect the habitat that they rely
20 on.

21

22 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Rosemary.

25

26 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah, it's just really
27 important to recognize that with all of the discussions
28 we've had this is a major difference in some of the
29 communications that we're having on the changes that
30 we're facing and what is it doing to our villages that
31 are having to face these repercussions of declining
32 herds.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Lee, did you have a
37 comment?

38

39 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair and Council.

40 Yeah, you know, this take a really big affect in the
41 community of Kaktovik and, you know, again towards the
42 wilderness is going to -- I see it going in a different
43 direction and the -- you know, people that spoke to these
44 -- to the -- to these issues is really important and most
45 of the villages here, you know, don't want to see it
46 become a wilderness and other than that, you know, it's
47 not our say to who and when and if it's going to happen.
48 But, you know, I see it going in really a hardship way of
49 directing. And already since you have the ANWR in place,
50 you know, you're putting another stipulation on another

1 thing that's going to be overriding the ANWR.
2
3 So that's how we see it in the Village of
4 Kaktovik.
5
6 Thank you.
7
8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Lee.
9
10 MR. GLASPELL: If I can speak to that
11 real briefly.
12
13 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Brian.
14
15 MR. GLASPELL: I -- Council member
16 Kayotuk, I -- you and I know each other from some other
17 settings and you know that I've been in Kaktovik over the
18 past two years talking about this issue with the
19 Secretary of Interior, with the Director of the Fish and
20 Wildlife Service, with our Regional Director and a host
21 of other people. We certainly a lot of comments and I
22 know for certain that all those folks have listened to
23 those comments. And I guess I'd like to make two keys
24 points here. The first and really important one is that
25 subsistence opportunities are very clearly protected in
26 ANILCA and they'll continue to be protected under any
27 future management regime at Arctic Refuge. If the
28 coastal plain or any other portion of the Refuge were to
29 be designated as wilderness that would absolutely
30 continue. And means of access that are practiced now,
31 all present activities will continue to be permitted.
32 There will be no change except that -- except that the
33 habitats that those subsistence resources, wildlife,
34 depend on will be protected in perpetuity. And that's
35 kind of the key point here. I said this recently to the
36 Eastern Interior RAC and I'll repeat my same comments
37 here. The question about wilderness designation is
38 largely a political one, it's something that will happen
39 at Congress. It's -- I'm not offering an opinion one way
40 or the other, but I'll tell you that in this planning
41 process it -- based on some very sophisticated science
42 analysis and nearly a million public comments and five
43 years of hard work by the Service, it is our
44 determination that the best way to protect the habitat is
45 by recommending that it be designated as wilderness. And
46 ultimately the intention there is that we meet all of our
47 legislative purposes and we share many of those with you,
48 the subsistence users. So if we are successful in
49 protecting that habitat and maintaining healthy wildlife
50 populations, the net affect is good for subsistence

1 users.

2

3

MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

4

5

CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Rosemary.

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. GLASPELL: I'm not certain I understand your question there. Within Arctic Refuge, you know, it's the Fish and Wildlife Service that is the land manager, it's the Fish and Wildlife Service that would manage any future wilderness area. Certainly there are other agencies involved when it comes to questions about a potential development, offshore in particular, but within the bounds of Arctic Refuge, we work closely with our State partners, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the other Federal agencies are certainly partners, for example we partner with the Park Service in conducting sheep surveys. But we are the land manager and it's our principal responsibility.

CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Did that help, Rosemary?

MS. AHTUANGARUAK: My concerns are like in Nuiqsut we worked with Conoco and they came in and did some projects and they told us that there wouldn't be no restrictions to hunting and then the State comes in and, yes, there are restrictions to hunting. And so we've got real issues around Nuiqsut especially with some of the furbearing hunts that we had a large herd of or a large group of 30 wolves that went into the industrial area and the hunters couldn't go in there and they actually were confronted by some of the personnel over there. So it's really important for us that are living on these grounds and waters when you're talking about these various designations that there's other entities that may come in and put on additional communications and restrictions around the land use management decisions for our region. This is really important. We've worked through processes in trying to protect our way of life going forward, but we have to constantly defend it on a yearly basis on -- especially in the Refuge these activities with these

1 threats that come from other areas. But it's really
2 important that we really understand that the -- who's
3 going to make these decisions in these areas if there are
4 designation changes and what does it mean to us for other
5 land use management decisions or not that may affect us
6 in these processes going forward.

7

8 MR. GLASPELL: Okay. That made it very
9 clear. Thank you. I -- under the current plan and
10 unless and until Congress says something otherwise I can
11 assure you that there would not be developments of that
12 kind that would prevent access. And our governing laws
13 and regulations and policies make the subsistence
14 priority pretty clear. So I don't anticipate a scenario
15 of the kind that you describe there.

16

17 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: There's no questions
20 from the Council.

21

22 Continue, Brian.

23

24 MR. GLASPELL: Okay. Well, I'll just
25 wrap up the CCP discussion then with a quick summary of
26 what I just told you. Again there are really three
27 components of the plan and that wilderness issue has
28 received the most press, but really in terms of guiding
29 our day to day management it's the least significant
30 portion. The important parts are the up front narrative
31 and vision statement and then in particular the goals and
32 objectives. And so I would I guess urge you in your
33 reviews of the plan and/or references to it in the future
34 to really think about that portion as the meat of the
35 plan, that is indeed where the meat is.

36

37 In addition to the wilderness
38 recommendations the plans also recommends additional
39 rivers for inclusion in the wild and scenic river system
40 that's similar to wilderness, is a kind of overlay on the
41 existing management regime. And again in terms of how we
42 manage those areas day to day there would be -- there
43 would be no change. The plan also recommends some future
44 actions that are specific to the Kongakut River. That's
45 a river that at least in the past has received about 25
46 percent of all of our visitation, it's one of the most
47 popular areas to visit and we heard loud and clear from
48 the public that we needed to address management issues
49 specific to that portion of the Refuge and the plan says,
50 yes, we'll do that and we'll begin with a -- what we call

1 a step down plan, a detailed plan that would focus on
2 visitor use management within the Refuge.

3
4 And that's it. As I mentioned this is
5 the final plan, you won't see any changes, but we are
6 awaiting signature on a record of decision before we
7 begin implementing.

8
9 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Any other comments,
10 questions from the Council.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So when's the
15 timeline in regard to your final comment you're waiting
16 for the record of decision to be signed?

17
18 MR. GLASPELL: All right. So officially
19 there's a 30 day waiting period between release of the
20 final plan and the signature on the record of decision.
21 That 30 day period ended on March 9th and so now there's
22 -- there's no particular thing holding it up. There's a
23 lengthy of signatures and review and submissions to
24 different entities before that can get completed, but I
25 anticipate this month we'll see that record of decision
26 come out.

27
28 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: This month?

29
30 MR. GLASPELL: This month, March.

31
32 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes.

33
34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I think it's
35 really.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Rosemary.

38
39 MS. AHTUANGARUAK:important as
40 we're looking at this process going forward that we
41 really look at some of the things that are happening
42 between the various herds and if there are some things
43 that we could consider to help improve viability of the
44 reproduction such as we often have a cutoff in permits
45 for April 15th, but maybe there's some considerations
46 further south that we need to change that date or further
47 north we could extend that date, or maybe we can't
48 because of the viability of these herds. Other things
49 such as other land use decision factors such as allowing
50 seismic activity to occur during a increased productivity

1 of the herds on certain years like in this years when we
2 had such a severe decline there should be a process that
3 reacts to what's the real life on the ground when we're
4 telling hunters to hunt less, that there are some efforts
5 to look at some of these various changes in our region
6 that may be impacting these herds and some consideration
7 in certain years like on this severe decline that we may
8 have to react to previously approved land management
9 decisions.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

14

15 Bob.

16

17 MR. SHEARS: No.

18

19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I'm just trying to
20 think. I didn't fly with the presentation. Again thank
21 you, Brian, for your presentation and then it looked --
22 I was just looking back in terms of how long it's been
23 taking. This started in 2009 and we're down to the tail
24 end of the situation that -- from preplanning to the
25 record of decision. It started in fall, 2009, public
26 involvement and scoping in 2010, development and analyze
27 alternatives again in 2010. In summer of 2011 release
28 draft CCP and EIS. In 2015 release of revised CECP and
29 final EIS. And now it's the tail end of this is the
30 record of decision as to how this -- this is the final
31 stages of this planning effort that's been going on for
32 several years.

33

34 And I just haven't had any real
35 communications with folks from Kaktovik. Lee, I'm sure
36 the community's been involved and they've made some
37 comments, you know, to what's being proposed within this
38 plan. I'm not sure what all the concerns have been
39 voiced at the time, but we're -- that remains to be seen
40 as we move forward and how things arise with the changes
41 that are occurring.

42

43 And again thank you for your
44 presentation, Brian, and taking the time and spending
45 with us. Did you have any other issues or items you want
46 to bring up?

47

48 MR. GLASPELL: That's all for me unless
49 you have questions about other resources or projects
50 independent from the CCP.

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay.
2
3 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.
4
5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Lee.
6
7 MR. KAYOTUK: On your preplanning of 2009
8 to final record of decision, couldn't that wander into a
9 longer plan that a five year plan for this preplanning?
10
11 MR. GLASPELL: Can you ask that again,
12 I'm not sure I understood.
13
14 MR. KAYOTUK: On your preplanning of the
15 fall of 2009, the preplanning to the record of decision
16 of 2015, is there -- was there any way of changing it to
17 a longer plan than a five year plan?
18
19 MR. GLASPELL: Well, the plan is intended
20 to guide our management for at least 15 years and of
21 course it's not effected until we see that record of
22 decision. So according to this schedule if indeed we see
23 the ROD signed this month then our plan would be effected
24 through 2030 at least.
25
26 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Again thank you,
27 Brian. Like I said we'll continue to communicate on what
28 concerns come about from where we are today.
29
30 MR. GLASPELL: Okay. Thank you for
31 having me here.
32
33 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes.
34
35 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.
36
37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We've been going at
38 this for the last couple hours. I think I'm going ask
39 the Council if they wish to take a 10 minute break?
40
41 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes, please. Thank
42 you.
43
44 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Ten minute recess.
45
46 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
47 will try to reach both Sam and Gordon and they had
48 anticipated hoping to join us at 11:00 to resume
49 discussion on the caribou proposals.
50

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Eva, if you could
2 just provide some -- what additional items we need to
3 discuss besides the proposal.

4
5 MS. PATTON: So at this time -- at 11:00
6 again we had anticipated having a quorum for the Council
7 to resume discussion on the caribou proposals. I imagine
8 that may take some time to discuss those proposals. We
9 had scheduled presentations that were roughly going to
10 come after lunch, the Arctic Council and the conservation
11 of Arctic flora and fauna. Gilbert Casteuanos is here to
12 speak. The U.S. is about to take chairmanship of the
13 Arctic Council. These are important developments for the
14 communities in the North Slope region and Gilbert is here
15 in part to receive feedback and hear from the communities
16 to provide some guidance in reaching out and
17 communicating with the communities and also to provide an
18 overview of how the Arctic Council chairmanship may
19 unfold in this region.

20
21 And we were going to have the Inuit
22 Circumpolar Council, Carolina Behe was going to speak
23 about the ICC's permanent participation in the Arctic
24 Council and also the engagement of the Inupiat
25 communities in that process as well.

26
27 And then we have -- we saved the best for
28 the last. The Council has been requesting more youth
29 engagement and participation with youth both on the
30 Council and to help support outreach and education and
31 internships and we have Uinniq Ahgeak here who is a
32 biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and
33 also the education and outreach coordinator. She was
34 going to provide a picture presentation and work with the
35 Council on those outreach and education initiatives.

36
37 And then it's closing business. We have
38 a brief OSM update and just the closing business of the
39 Council. So I imagine, you know, after lunch we might
40 take a couple hours more yet for those presentations.

41
42 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I was being very
43 hopeful that we'd be done by lunch hour.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 (Off record)

48
49 (On record)

50

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So good morning,
2 everyone. If we could take our seats I'd like to call
3 the meeting back to order after a brief recess. We have
4 several more items we need to cover within this -- within
5 our agenda.

6
7 Just to -- maybe I'd like to call Brian
8 back up. I just -- just an oversight on my part and just
9 reading through some of the information I was wanting to
10 ask about a couple of -- maybe just a follow-up question
11 or a couple of them. I was trying -- reading through the
12 goals and objectives and I was meaning to ask a question
13 regarding the consultation. There you go, right here.
14 Goal number 4 now states, it's on page 4. It says
15 continued on page 4. It starts on page 3 I guess, that's
16 what I'm trying to figure out. The bottom corner on page
17 3, the Refuge in consultation with appropriate parties
18 addressed concerns about proposed action that may
19 substantially or directly affect subsistence or cultural
20 resources, road subsistence or cultural uses or the
21 rights of Tribes. So in that -- in regard to that did --
22 were you able to share your -- the objective or what --
23 what's the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service consultation
24 policy on -- in regarding to what the plan is
25 identifying?

26
27 MR. GLASPELL: Well, our basic
28 consultation policy is that Tribal organizations which
29 now are defined to include Native corporations, they get
30 -- they get first crack. So when we have something that
31 we want to engage the public on we start with the Tribes
32 and depending on what that item is, you know, it's
33 usually a month or more in advance. So a good example of
34 that is the proposed regulatory updates that I presented
35 on -- two days ago, Mr. Brower, I don't think you were
36 here for that, but that was an issue where we started
37 with the Tribes and we didn't even engage the broader
38 public until some months later. So the basic approach is
39 just how I described it, the Tribal entities and Native
40 corporations sort of get first crack at commenting on
41 proposals that we have. That's the practical way that we
42 implement that consultation policy, but beyond that, you
43 know, we have -- we have laws and policies that govern
44 specifically how we engage in consultation and in
45 essence, you know, it says that we have a government to
46 government relationship, that that kind of engagement and
47 feedback occurs at a higher level, it's not -- it's not
48 Joe Public, it's a fellow peer, it's a government to
49 government kind of relationship and, you know, that means
50 you essentially have more standing to make your voice

1 heard.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: That's basically
4 what we're trying to get at in terms of the consultation
5 process and the -- your policies within the U.S. Fish and
6 Wildlife Service or specific to Arctic National Wildlife
7 Refuge did you have any documentation as to how that
8 process went in terms of communicating the plan to the
9 Tribal organization or the corporation.

10

11 MR. GLASPELL: You bet. Yeah, we -- as
12 you might imagine this is -- this plan has been highly
13 political and controversial from the get go and so every
14 item of correspondence has been retained in what has now
15 become a massive file. So we have very good records on
16 that. There is a summary, I think it's on page 12 maybe
17 of the public comments we received, and those public
18 comments include those from things like Village Councils
19 and Native Corporations. It kind of sums up where
20 comments came from and it gives you a percentage
21 breakdown. But maybe most importantly on that page at
22 the end there's a bold heading that says volumes three
23 and four of the revised plan.

24

25 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Uh-huh.

26

27 MR. GLASPELL: I didn't bring a hard copy
28 of the plan because it is actually four volumes and it's
29 a stack about this high and you need an extra suitcase to
30 cart that thing around. But two whole volumes, about
31 that much of this stack, are just our description of the
32 comment and consultation feedback that we received and
33 how we responded to it.

34

35 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I guess that in
36 regard to the respondents within the correspondence of
37 the communications, how much of that was given weight to
38 or deference towards the community's concerns?

39

40 MR. GLASPELL: Well, when we -- when we
41 receive public comment it's not a vote, it doesn't matter
42 that we receive 10 comments in favor of something and one
43 in opposition, it's more about the substantive nature of
44 that comment, does it -- does it raise an issue we hadn't
45 addressed, does it identify a -- you know, a failure in
46 our analysis, something of that sort.

47

48 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Uh-huh.

49

50 MR. GLASPELL: So there is no single

1 entity or perspective that was given more weight than the
2 other except as I mentioned previously with respect to
3 Tribal organizations who have a government to government
4 relationship and that necessitates, you know, essentially
5 giving some more weight to those kinds of comments.

6
7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah. Yeah, I'm
8 just trying to remain focused on the subsistence issues
9 and not getting into economics or any -- and that's sort
10 of in terms of the communications which may have occurred
11 with the consultation with the corporations or the Tribal
12 entity itself. Okay. Not having read through all that
13 I -- you know, I'm kind of trying to understand where or
14 how the community felt within the engagement in regard to
15 the planning efforts into the future and where do they
16 feel this 15 year planning document is something that --
17 something that they're in favor of or they would like to
18 see in a shorter time frame because the previous plans I
19 think were five year plans.

20
21 MR. GLASPELL: Well, I think the five
22 year plans may apply to some other agencies, but it's --
23 since ANILCA was passed in 1980 it's been our policy that
24 we develop comprehensive conservation plans for 15 year
25 terms.

26
27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Fifteen years.
28 Yeah.

29
30 MR. GLASPELL: And with respect to where
31 the communities came down on that, there are issues
32 within the plan like -- well, it's a big plan and so
33 there's no single answer to that, but I'm guessing where
34 you're going with the portion that is maybe where they
35 came down with respect to the wilderness recommendations.
36 And there's some division between communities and between
37 different Native Alaskan entities, but in general the
38 Gwich'in community statewide strongly supports and the
39 Inupiat community has not. That's a very broad
40 generalization because I think there's no unanimous
41 opinion within the community of Kaktovik and certainly
42 not in Arctic Village or Fort Yukon or at the Gwich'in
43 communities either.

44
45 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I have to fault
46 myself as well not keeping apprised of all that activity
47 that -- and not reading through the full document that
48 was provided to the public as well in terms of how the
49 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Refuge Managers
50 were steering themselves in terms of how this plan is

1 going forward. You know, I think that we've heard bits
2 and pieces over the years that this has been ongoing and
3 not really trying to identify with how subsistence might
4 be impacted with these -- with the -- within this plan.
5 And, you know, like I made the comment earlier about the
6 muskox, you know, that's something that we've been
7 dealing with over the many years that muskox has had a
8 presence in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the
9 use for subsistence was something I've been trying to
10 keep close tabs with because it's an additional resource
11 that was used for a food -- supplemental food resource.
12 And how it seemed to be just put aside because of --
13 could have been poor management decisions. Just from my
14 observations in regard to how the Refuge could have
15 probably taken better of a resource that is being used
16 for subsistence. You know, when you look at the
17 preservation of resources or ecological resources that
18 are identified within the plan, muskox doesn't seem to be
19 an identified resource or even had real serious
20 consideration in terms of how management of that resource
21 could be improved.

22
23 MR. GLASPELL: Well, with respect to
24 muskox, you know, the tools that we have to make.....

25
26 (Equipment malfunction)

27
28 (Off record)

29
30 (On record)

31
32 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I guess we had a bit
33 of technical difficulties this morning. As we are having
34 our last presenter who is Vince Mathews, we're going to
35 have to ask you to come back up and take your hat off as
36 an employee and get back on the record as to what you're
37 commenting about subsistence this morning. So, Vince,
38 I'll give you that opportunity at this time and maybe
39 before we get started, Eva, have we had any
40 communications from Gordon or Sam this afternoon?

41
42 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
43 haven't heard back via cell phone or online, but last I
44 spoke with Gordon he had anticipated to be back on with
45 us after lunch at 1:00.

46
47 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If we haven't heard
48 from them we'll wait a little bit and give Vince Mathews
49 an opportunity to provide his presentation.
50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I'm speaking as an
2 individual, I'm Vince Mathews. I am employed by the Fish
3 and Wildlife Service as a Refuge Subsistence Coordinator,
4 but I'm speaking as an individual. And Robert spurred me
5 on with his conversation or discussion on quotas and that
6 I as -- my other duties, assist staff on dealing with the
7 poor returns of chinook salmon on the Yukon River and we
8 use methods and means and other mechanisms and regulation
9 to reduce the harvest so that fish population could
10 rebound. During that time the Village of Koyukuk passed
11 a resolution that they recognized that there was a
12 conservation concern with the chinooks and voluntarily
13 decided not to fish in reflection of the First Nations in
14 Canada. That changed the whole tone of discussion on the
15 Yukon River as the managers and the users were struggling
16 to address the decline. And so with Robert's discussion
17 about quotas, you can still have a quota and then
18 voluntarily not reach that quota. And that the incident
19 of Koyukuk they did -- they recognized their conservation
20 concerns to a resolution that they voluntarily reduce
21 their harvest of salmon. So there are aspects of dealing
22 with quotas, reducing a quota number, you know, there is
23 a possibility or a risk when you do that of bringing it
24 back because you're saying at one point you have this
25 certain need and at another point you have a different
26 need.

27
28 So that's -- kind of re-capsulates what
29 I was bringing across that we all know as individuals
30 outside your culture and as staff that the Native
31 cultures and Tribes are conservationists
32 themselves and so they can elect on their own to do
33 conservation measures. Sometimes it's not recognized.
34 In this case they went through a resolution and it
35 changed the whole discussion on the river.

36
37 So that's basically what I wanted to
38 share with you as an individual.

39
40 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And thank you for
41 doing that, Vince, it furthers the discussion on how we
42 can better manage the resources here on the North Slope
43 in the sense that we do here and listen to others as well
44 and communicating back and forth, trying to take the best
45 approaches to move forward.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.
50

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I'm out of paper,
2 Eva, I'm looking at my notes and I can't see your name
3 anymore and.....
4
5 (Laughter)
6
7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER:so I'm just
8 looking to you to help me move forward on where we are
9 with our agenda.
10
11 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, Council. We had
12 hoped to have Gordon Brower join us again at 1:00
13 o'clock. Maybe we can check in with folks on
14 teleconference and see who's joined us at this time.
15
16 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Are there any folks
17 on teleconference.....
18
19 DR. YOKEL: Yeah.
20
21 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER:please.
22
23 DR. YOKEL: Dave Yokel.
24
25 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Dave Yokel.
26
27 Thank you.
28
29 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson.
30
31 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Ken. Thank you.
32
33 MR. CRAWFORD: Drew Crawford, Fish and
34 Game, Anchorage.
35
36 MR. CAREY: Dwayne Carey.
37
38 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Drew and
39 Dwayne.
40
41 Anybody else.
42
43 (No comments)
44
45 MS. PATTON: Gordon, do we have you out
46 there at this time?
47
48 (No comments)
49
50 MS. PATTON: Maybe what I can do is give

1 Gordon a call again here and see if he's going to be able
2 to join us. Gordon would make quorum for the Council in
3 order to take action on the caribou proposals.

4

5 We have a few other presentations still.
6 And as we noted earlier we have Gilbert Casteuanos to
7 speak on the Arctic Council, Carolina Behe was going to
8 be joining us a little bit later, about 1:30, to speak on
9 their seat on the Arctic Council with the Inuit
10 Circumpolar Council. And then we have our local
11 biologist and education and outreach coordinator.

12

13 So maybe I could just take a moment and
14 give Gordon a call on his cell phone and see if he's
15 going to be able to join us.

16

17 Gilbert Casteuanos and he has a Power
18 Point which is loaded here, ready to go. If the Council
19 wishes we can -- while I'm trying to get ahold of Gordon
20 and see if he can join us.

21

22 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gilbert Casteuanos
23 and who?

24

25 MS. PATTON: Carolina Behe with the Inuit
26 Circumpolar Council. And she was available to join us at
27 about 1:30. So I think by the time Gilbert -- and she
28 was going to go after Gilbert and speak to the Inuit
29 Circumpolar Council seat on the Arctic Council.

30

31 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Now that you're all
32 set up for your presentation?

33

34 MR. CASTEUANOS: Chairman Brower,
35 distinguished members of the Council. Thank you for this
36 opportunity to address you. I have a Power Point
37 presentation and want to talk a little bit about U.S.
38 international interests and leadership in the Arctic
39 conservation, specifically looking at our engagement in
40 the Arctic Council and multi laterally with all the eight
41 Arctic nations. I have a presentation I'd like to give,
42 I'm going to start a little bit by just talking about
43 myself, introducing myself to you, what our -- where I
44 come from and how I got here. We'll spend a moment
45 talking about the Arctic Council and the CAFF Working
46 Group and just explaining what the heck they are and what
47 they do, and then a little bit about why do they matter
48 and what's coming up and then maybe hopefully have time
49 for some comments and questions.

50

1 So I'll just go ahead and get started.

2

3 A little bit about myself. I'm the
4 youngest of seven. My dad is Esardo Casteuanos and my
5 mom is Katalina Casteuanos. I was born and raised in the
6 concrete jungle that is Los Angeles, California and even
7 though I was raised very deep in a very big city, my dad
8 also found time to buy me a fishing hat and get me out
9 and going to hiking and fishing. And my dad used to do
10 quite a bit of trapping when he was a kid in Mexico. And
11 they -- he always enjoyed getting out and hunting and
12 doing that kind of stuff so I was very, you know, sort of
13 privileged to be able to take part in some of those
14 activities as a kid growing up. In 2010 my wife and I
15 visited Alaska. She ended up getting stationed out in
16 Bethel and she works for the U.S. Public Health Service.
17 If you're ever in the clinic at 3 East at the Alaska
18 Native Medical Health Center, she's there providing
19 services and can give you information on any drugs you're
20 taking. And in 2012 or last year, 2014, in February, we
21 welcomed my son, Nicholas. So my wife, Teresa, and I
22 live there in Anchorage and I've been with the Fish and
23 Wildlife Service for about I guess off and on for four
24 years. I serve as the International Affairs Specialist
25 for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and in that role
26 I have many different sort of hats that I wear as well.
27 One is as the staff lead for the Regional Director on the
28 International Porcupine Caribou Board and I sort of do
29 the administration and oversee our engagement with Canada
30 and implementing the agreement that we have with them on
31 the Porcupine Caribou Herd management. And then I also
32 serve as the United States Head of Delegation to the
33 Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group of
34 the Arctic Council and I'll go into what the heck that
35 is.

36

37 So a brief slide here on what -- so what
38 is the Arctic Council. Essentially it's the Foreign
39 Ministers from the eight Arctic nations. That includes
40 for the United States right now Secretary John Kerry and
41 the Foreign Ministers of the other seven Arctic nations,
42 Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Canada, Russia and who am I
43 missing, Norway. Yeah, Kingdom of Denmark and Greenland
44 and Faroe Islands. And so if you look at the map there
45 it's a little tough to see there, but on the top left the
46 dark blue are the member countries and then the light
47 blue are the multiple observers. I don't know, I think
48 we're up to like 27 countries that are observers, Korea,
49 Japan, China, India, Italy, France, there's a whole bunch
50 of them. And so these guys get together once every two

1 years in something that's called the Arctic Council
2 Ministerial and they basically just talk about, you know,
3 what's going on in the Arctic that is of interest to all
4 eight Arctic nations and what can we do about it. And so
5 Councilwoman Rosemary know that one of the first sort of
6 binding agreements that they did was a search and rescue
7 agreement so for the first time ever you had the eight
8 Arctic nations saying hey, if something goes down in the
9 Arctic who's responsible for doing what, you know,
10 whether it's life or spills or something along those
11 lines. And I think it's a great opportunity to get
12 people together and realize wow, we don't really have
13 much capacity to do what we're going to need to do when
14 we need to do it and it begins those kinds of
15 conversations.

16
17 So the Arctic Council on the bottom left
18 picture there you'll see the Arctic Council as I said is
19 those Ministers and representatives of the permanent
20 participants. Those are representatives of Arctic
21 indigenous people around the circumpolar Arctic. One of
22 those groups and the folks that represent the Inupiat
23 people is the Inuit Circumpolar Council, ICC. And so as
24 Eva mentioned, my colleague on the CAFF Management Board,
25 Carolina Behe who represents I guess Jimmy Stotts to the
26 CAFF Working Group, she'll be talking about what the
27 ICC's interested in and what they're doing. But the
28 Arctic Council includes those sort of Arctic indigenous
29 representatives and the Ministers and then they as I said
30 get together every two years and chat and they then say,
31 okay, we want to do this or do that. And then those six
32 working groups there at the bottom, you'll see there's a
33 little list of working groups and I won't go through all
34 of them, but the third one from the left is the CAFF
35 Working Group, C-A-F-F, that means the Conservation of
36 Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group which is again
37 representatives of each of the eight Arctic nations and
38 their permanent participants like the Inuit Circumpolar
39 Council, the Athabascans, the Gwich'in
40 International, and we get together and we try to
41 implement conservation issues.

42
43 Chairman Brower.

44
45 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Gilbert, I was
46 just going to ask did we have -- were we provided any of
47 your presentation to follow along in terms of your Power
48 Point or original material to reference?

49
50 MR. CASTEUAÑOS: No, I'm sorry, there was

1 no hard copies provided, but I can make that available
2 afterwards.

3

4 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Uh-huh. Yeah, it
5 would be -- it's kind of somewhat cumbersome for us just
6 to be responsive to hearsay and not have material to be
7 responsive to. And I can understand the -- you know, the
8 importance of how the Arctic Council and the Arctic
9 Affairs -- International Affairs are going to be
10 impacting us in the long run, but we need something
11 meaningful that we can reference to provide you comments
12 accordingly. Maybe that's something I should have looked
13 for a little bit earlier. I was trying to find something
14 on the agenda, but I didn't see it and that's why I'm
15 asking to see if we could have a copy of your
16 presentation sometimes?

17

18 MR. CASTEUANOS: Yeah, my apologies,
19 Chairman Brower, but I -- we didn't have a chance to
20 provide those and in the future I will certainly do that
21 if I have the opportunity to address you. For now we can
22 refer to the presentation and I'll make it available
23 afterwards. And I'll be -- you know, I work down in
24 Anchorage, you can contact me anytime, give me a call,
25 shoot me an email on anything that's happening.

26

27 So what is the CAFF Working Group. Those
28 are the folks there that we met recently in Whitehorse,
29 Canada and we talked about a bunch of different issues
30 including some subsistence issues. And that's the map of
31 what we consider the Arctic for the purposes of the CAFF
32 Working Group. I apologize, I know it's difficult to see
33 from where you are and one more indication why it would
34 have been good to have hard copies. But.....

35

36 MR. SHEARS: When were you in Whitehorse,
37 when was this?

38

39 MR. CASTEUANOS: This was in February so
40 just last month, yeah, beginning of last month we were
41 there making some decisions and agreements. It was nice
42 to get together with a bunch of folks. Carolina Behe is
43 in there among all those folks.

44

45 And so as I said we essentially follow
46 the directives of the Ministers who tell us what issues
47 they'd like for us to work on to address conservation
48 issues in the Arctic.

49

50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Do you have a list

1 of that to show or to provide?

2

3 MR. CASTEUNANOS: No, I do not, but again
4 I can certainly provide those.

5

6 In terms of why does it matter I think
7 for this group I don't really need to spend too much time
8 talking about how much the Arctic ends up being in, you
9 know, everything from the Washington Post to Anchorage
10 Daily News to the real life that you guys live here every
11 day, you know it's important, you know it's changing and
12 every day there's sort of new stuff going on. And I
13 think that from the Arctic perspective it's important and
14 we all know that it is. So why does it matter for
15 subsistence. And in this case I wanted to sort of talk
16 about how many of the species that have been discussed
17 during this meeting, whether we're talking about caribou
18 and reindeer or whether we're talking about polar bear or
19 walrus or Arctic char, are species that are distributed
20 in a circumpolar fashion. So they live not just in
21 Alaska, but in many cases they live in Russia and in
22 Canada and in Norway and in other places too. And if you
23 have a species that exists in other places then they're
24 probably spending money doing things like monitoring or
25 figuring out why are populations going up or going down
26 like caribou. And if they have information in Norway or
27 in Canada that says, you know, this population or that
28 population is going up and here is why, it could really
29 help us figure out what's happening with our populations,
30 but we'd never know it unless we sat down and chatted
31 about it. And so the Arctic Council provides a forum to
32 do that and I think that that can certainly help us in
33 the kinds of ways that we look at subsistence management
34 here in the United States and I think it already has.
35 There's also the -- this Pacific case of when you're
36 talking about migratory species like birds and mammals
37 where, you know, if you put all the money in the world to
38 try to protect an animal here in our backyard, if it goes
39 somewhere else and it gets killed somewhere else, no
40 matter what you do here you're not going to be able to
41 save it. So there's a lot of different reasons why
42 getting people together who have mutual interests in a
43 particular region or in a particular species has a value
44 to cooperating and to working together.

45

46 So that's sort of a quick and dirty of
47 what the Arctic Council is and what the CAFF does. I
48 wanted to just sort of talk a little bit about so what's
49 coming up and what's kind of the big deal here.
50 Essentially the Arctic Council has two year

1 chairmanships, they rotate among the member countries.
2 For the last two years and up until April of this year
3 Canada has been in the chair. Minister Okalik is an
4 Inuit person and she's been the Chair of the Arctic
5 Council and has basically had the voice and the face of
6 Arctic conservation and subsistence and the interests of
7 indigenous communities and people who live in the Arctic
8 and she's been sort of bringing forward Canada's
9 interests on what's important. Well, starting in April
10 the Chairmanship of the Arctic Council for two years is
11 going to come to the United States. That means that the
12 United States is going to essentially be the voice and
13 the leader on all things having to do with the Arctic and
14 obviously those are things that impact the Inupiat
15 people. So there's going to be a lot of meetings and
16 there's going to be a lot of people. If you think you're
17 busy now and you think you've got a lot of stuff going on
18 right now you wait because starting this April there's
19 going to be a lot more interest and lot more people in
20 Barrow, in Anchorage, in Juneau and a lot of different
21 places and they're all going to be talking about the
22 Arctic and they're going to be hopefully paying attention
23 to what's important to the Inupiat people. I know that,
24 you know, I'm going to come in and I'm going to try to do
25 my best to try to represent the interest that you all
26 have in the Arctic when we talk in the Arctic Council.
27 It's going to be important.....
28

29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Excuse me, Gordon.
30 That's the question I was just going to ask.....
31

32 MR. CASTEUAÑOS: Yes.
33

34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER:in terms of our
35 Regional Advisory Council and the importance to this
36 leadership change within the Arctic Council and how we
37 might be able to influence or make suggestions to
38 whatever the discussion topics are, subsistence is one
39 and the resources that we depend on are not just the ones
40 that we discuss within this management program, but
41 there's a -- like we stated the others that we don't even
42 begin to see here or discuss. I think that there to be
43 some careful interpretations as to how we perceive things
44 and move forward as a Regional Advisory Council and how
45 this chairmanship is important, but there's a lot of more
46 higher level people that are willing to take that spot
47 and go with their agendas. So that interpretation needs
48 to be carefully stated and progressed into communicating
49 effectively as to how that's going to pan out as we have
50 a lot of politics that are playing in that chairmanship

1 role. And we as subsistence users are basically at the
2 bottom of the totem pole in a sense. And interest in
3 other areas besides subsistence are going to take the
4 upper column of the totem pole so to speak and have a
5 precedence over things getting addressed. I think there
6 needs to be some comments made in terms of what the
7 limitations are of the Arctic Council and how those
8 limitations can be addressed in the sense that we just
9 don't speak about things and get blown off in the wind.
10 You know, I have to be careful in terms of how we
11 perceive things and move forward and not elevate our
12 expectations to go in a direction where we may not even
13 see it at the end of the day.

14

15 So I put that caution out in regard to
16 the -- you know, the chairmanship of the Arctic Council
17 and how important it is, but then there's a lot of
18 politics that are involved and we might not even begin to
19 address some of the very concerns that we discuss here as
20 a Regional Advisory Council.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Rosemary.

27

28 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I also have a lot of
29 concerns in that area. We watched various processes go
30 forward in trying to engage in addressing some of our
31 issues. We've had to go through many different meetings
32 and different processes to try to have the importance of
33 our life, health and safety included in the process of
34 decision making. And fragmenting this process has
35 greatly harmed us and especially with the reality that
36 some communities are facing the greatest harm in some of
37 these decisions and it's accepted that they will be
38 sacrificed in this process. I've been engaged in many
39 different meetings, but having to try to participate
40 without resources as a Tribal leader is a reality of
41 what's happening. We don't have a presence with our
42 Inupiat community of the Arctic Slope in that process and
43 it's a great hinderance for us to try to address some of
44 our concerns.

45

46 So I really appreciate you speaking up
47 into this process and it is very important that our --
48 strength of our communication isn't just put in as part
49 of the straws to say, yes, we should go forward with this
50 process because it isn't a part of the straws, it's a

1 reality of our future generations and the importance of
2 us trying to continue to be Inupiat into the future of
3 the energy policy, of the Arctic policies that are before
4 and international agreements. But we should not have to
5 suffer through the political stratus that we're going
6 through in allowing us to be sacrificed and piece mealed
7 into the process before us, especially with the
8 importance of what we've got going on in the next two
9 years and the reality that we're at great risk with
10 current decisions that are being put forward right now.

11

12 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

13

14 MR. CASTEUANOS: Thank you, Chairman
15 Brower and thank you, Council member. I will say and I
16 certainly hear what you're saying and I will make sure
17 and bring those back. I'll step back just a moment and
18 say that, you know, as an international forum it is the
19 United States Department of State that serves as the U.S.
20 lead and in I believe it was September of last year
21 President Obama appointed Admiral Papp, the former
22 commandant of the Coast Guard, as the U.S. Ambassador,
23 really his special representative to the Arctic. Admiral
24 Papp and Ambassador Bolton who's the Deputy Assistant
25 Secretary of State for Ocean and Polar Affairs were both
26 here in Barrow in the summer of last year. I was up here
27 in October and I addressed the assembly and Mayor
28 Charlotte Brower provided me with some input as well as
29 the assembly and members of the public. We've been
30 working for two years, but I have to also tell you that
31 from my heart and from sort of my ears I'm hearing and
32 feeling what you're saying and I would agree with you and
33 I think that there have been some admissions also from
34 special representative Papp, from Ambassador Bolton, from
35 the State Department, that the United States as a
36 government has not done a good enough job about listening
37 to the concerns and thinking about the people that live
38 up here and the way that we've approached developing our
39 chairmanship program. I have to say that I think those
40 are starting to get better. I -- you know, I am the only
41 U.S. government official who works on Arctic Council
42 stuff that lives in Alaska and admittedly I live in
43 Anchorage which is not the Arctic, you know. And I have
44 said and I did say to the assembly that, you know, I am
45 part of the problem really from what I'm hearing and I
46 agree with it, you know, I'm a carpetbagger that moved to
47 Alaska from Washington, D.C., I never experienced seals
48 or sealing or whaling or any of that until I came up
49 here. I've been very blessed and fortunate to have the
50 opportunity to eat muktuk and be up in Barrow and meet

1 people and talk with people and go fishing and hunting in
2 Alaska. That's been a real blessing to me and I'm trying
3 to my best to try to listen to what you guys are talking
4 about and what's going on up here and make sure that I'm
5 trying to sort of live up to those expectations and bring
6 those messages back to my colleagues. But I definitely
7 hear what you're saying and I hope that you'll give me
8 the opportunity to build trust. I know that trust is not
9 given, it's earned and so I want to sort of sit here and
10 tell you that I hold those things very sacred really and
11 I hear what you're saying and I -- all I can do is try to
12 do my best and I'm telling you now that I will definitely
13 continue to bring those messages back to my colleagues at
14 the State Department and in other Federal agencies who
15 work on these kinds of issues. And that kind of stuff is
16 going to be I think a continuing sort of evolution and a
17 continual process and your input as a Subsistence Board,
18 as an Inupiat person, as a citizen of the United States
19 is really valuable and I'd encourage you to continue to
20 make sure that every opportunity that you get that you
21 keep bringing those issues up so that they don't fall on
22 deaf ears and that some kinds of actions are taken.

23
24 So I'll sort of leave it at that for now
25 and say we've been trying real hard for two years to try
26 to get to where we're going to be in a good position
27 starting in May to lead the face and the voice of
28 leadership in the Arctic for the United States, but I
29 think that we still have a lot more to do to -- and we
30 can always be better and we're going to keep trying to do
31 that. I'm certainly going to keep trying to do that.

32
33 So on this slide I wanted to point out
34 that it's not just the two years that the United States
35 will be leading the Arctic Council, but immediately after
36 the U.S. ends chairing the Arctic Council we -- the
37 United States Fish and Wildlife Service actually takes
38 over the chairmanship of the CAFF Working Group. So we
39 have really four years to address some of the serious
40 concerns around subsistence and conservation of flora and
41 fauna in the Arctic Council through these international
42 mechanisms. And I said I'll be honored to be -- to serve
43 as your representatives in transmitting whatever your
44 concerns that you have. Another option -- another sort
45 of opportunity that you all have is through the Inuit
46 Circumpolar Council because the ICC serves as a
47 representative for the Inupiat people and if you transmit
48 those messages over to Jimmy Stotts, you know, his folks
49 will actually go to the ministerial and they'll be
50 sitting there right next to John Kerry and they can tell

1 him, hey, don't forget about subsistence, don't forget
2 about the people that live up here that these decisions
3 that you're making impact in a very direct way. And so
4 you have multiple opportunities and I encourage you to
5 continue to pursue those.

6
7 I wanted to just spend a quick moment
8 just talking about what the current plans are and I hope
9 that you'll see that over the last two years they've
10 evolved in a way that I think is much better, but not
11 perfect at addressing some of the concerns you raise.
12 You'll see that the brand that the United States
13 government has slowly evolved into is this quote, one
14 Arctic, shared opportunities, challenges and
15 responsibilities. We borrowed the one Arctic part from
16 the ICC 2014 General Assembly which they used as a
17 concept to demonstrate unity among Arctic states and
18 Arctic peoples. And so that's a big and important part
19 of our brand for the two years that we're going to be
20 chairing. I think that that tries to at least reflect
21 some of the concerns that the people that live in the
22 Arctic have and in particular the Inuit people, Inupiat
23 people. The shared opportunities, challenges and
24 responsibilities part shows and tries to sort of bring
25 forth this idea that it's not just the Arctic states and
26 the people that live in the Arctic, but all of the
27 country, the United States, citizens in Florida and
28 everywhere else and people in the rest of the world have
29 a connection to the Arctic and a responsibility to
30 protect it and to think about what's the best for our
31 Arctic, whether it's migratory species a number of which
32 -- like for example I know in our research and some of
33 the work that we've done, some migratory bird species
34 that are important to subsistence have declined by 60,
35 70, 80 percent and we don't know why. And so getting the
36 kinds of science and I said no matter what kind of
37 excellent work we do here if those species are being
38 impacted somewhere else it doesn't matter what we do
39 here, they're going to disappear. And so we have this
40 obligation, a sort of shared opportunity, challenge or
41 responsibility to protect the Arctic and to sort of think
42 about where we want to go.

43
44 And so that's the branding that we're
45 currently at. It's still in draft and won't be final
46 until the Ministerial in April which will be in Iqaluit.

47

48

49 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Where?

50

1 MR. CASTEUANOS: Then -- Iqaluit is in
2 Nunavut, in Canada. Yeah. So Canada is chairing the
3 Arctic Council right now, they will -- they chair it for
4 two years and then there's a Ministerial meeting. So
5 that Ministerial meeting will be the end of the Canadian
6 chairmanship and will start the U.S. chairmanship and
7 that will be in Iqaluit. And then as you may or may not
8 know President Obama will be here in Alaska in August,
9 this August. He's been invited here by Secretary Kerry
10 to address Arctic issues. And then in 2016 we'll have
11 another series of meetings with international delegates,
12 at least two a year in 2016 and then in 2017 the Foreign
13 Ministers, including Secretary Kerry if he's still our
14 Secretary of State, will be here in Alaska again to hold
15 a Ministerial. So it'll be two years of sort of U.S.
16 focus on the Arctic and a lot of people running around in
17 different places in the -- in this state.

18
19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So I just you need
20 to give us a follow-up in regard to the timeline of how
21 the -- beginning of the Arctic Council's year progresses,
22 does it start from June 30, does it start January or
23 June, August, I'm not sure or familiar with all that
24 cycle.

25
26 MR. CASTEUANOS: Yeah, typically --
27 that's a very good question. Technically the Ministerial
28 actually changes. This is the earliest Ministerial --
29 will be the earliest one ever in April, usually it's May,
30 sometime in May until sometime in May. So May, 2015 to
31 sometime May 2017, the U.S. will be chairing it. But the
32 -- really the Ministerial is where decisions are made and
33 Ministers agree to certain things. And the next meeting
34 -- the first meeting of the chairmanship doesn't usually
35 happen until September, but the United States doesn't
36 want to lose momentum coming out of Iqaluit so we will
37 hold the first meeting of what's called the Senior Arctic
38 Officials which are like the Ministers' staff person who
39 represents them. They're going to meet in Washington,
40 D.C. in June. And so that'll include -- ICC will be
41 there, the Athabascans will be there, the Gwich'ins will
42 be there and also the sort of Senior Officials from each
43 of the Arctic countries. For the United States the U.S.
44 Senior Arctic Official is Julie Gorley, she's with the
45 U.S. Department of State. So that'll be the first
46 meeting and then there'll be multiple meetings after
47 that. There will be working group meetings, there'll be
48 Senior Arctic Officials meetings, there'll be Ministerial
49 meetings. And I said the President will be in town. And
50 so there'll be a lot of -- I mean, a lot of that stuff is

1 still fluid so we don't necessarily know exactly where,
2 exactly when, maybe there'll be a meeting in Barrow,
3 maybe not. I'm not quite sure. Probably for Ministerial
4 meetings it can get real complicated just in terms of the
5 number of people involved and getting airplanes in and
6 out and delegations. So that'll probably end up being in
7 Anchorage just from a practical perspective. But I --
8 yeah, those things are still working and, you know,
9 there'll be multiple ways like I said for any member of
10 the Council or just folks who live in Barrow or anyone
11 else interested in learning more to either work through
12 me or work through Carolina Behe or ICC to get that
13 information.

14

15 Oh, sorry, I didn't go over this slide.
16 So this slide talks about the organizational thematic
17 areas that the United States wants to focus on. The
18 three focus areas are really the Arctic Ocean, improving
19 economic and living conditions for people who live in the
20 Arctic and then addressing the impacts of climate change.
21 Those are the three focus areas for the United States for
22 our chairmanship. There's way too many projects and
23 activities for me to go over right now that we plan on
24 making our priority, but just to touch on a few of them.
25 One of them is on energy and reducing energy prices in
26 the Arctic, getting fuel down, getting maybe increased
27 wind power and other demonstration like that, the
28 Department of Energy's very active; reducing the
29 incidents of suicide and other issues that affect the
30 cultures and people of the north, that's a really
31 important area for the United States; the expanding the
32 access to the internet and, you know, fast internet,
33 we're working with GCI and others to make sure the
34 internet is cheaper and gets to more villages and more
35 places; basic plumbing and sanitation in villages. Those
36 are just some examples of some of the priorities that we
37 have. With respect to conservation and biodiversity
38 we're looking at addressing for the first time in an
39 Arctic way looking at invasive species and what are the
40 risks and what are the dangers and the threats and how do
41 we address them and respond to invasions of certain
42 species, especially with increased shipping. What are
43 the threats to subsistence hunting if you have more and
44 more ships coming through the Arctic and things along
45 those lines. We're also going to be taking a look at
46 walrus and other marine mammals, what is the risk to
47 marine mammals and important subsistence species as sea
48 ice declines, we know sea ice is declining. We also know
49 how critically important sea ice is as a habitat. It
50 provides -- it's a very dynamic and interesting habitat,

1 sea ice. Algae grows on it that feeds little bugs, that
2 feed little fish, that feed the whales and if you lose
3 the ice you lose the algae, you lose the bugs, you lose
4 the fish, you lose the whales. And so there's these
5 kinds of connections that we want to spend some time
6 thinking about over the next two years and hopefully
7 doing something about them more importantly. And so this
8 is just an example of the kinds of issues we'll be
9 looking at.

10

11 Another one that I thought was
12 interesting that someone mentioned earlier and I had
13 never heard of which is one of the other good things
14 about getting folks like me out here to meetings like
15 this. Someone was talking about draining of lakes to
16 make ice roads. One of the important area -- focus areas
17 for the United States during our chairmanship is going to
18 be looking at freshwater and freshwater security because,
19 you know, if the permafrost starts melting a lot of the
20 ponds and lakes and rivers and things that we rely on for
21 our freshwater are going to start disappearing. And if
22 you don't have water to drink things start getting pretty
23 serious pretty fast. And then if you start getting water
24 that's contaminated or disappearing, these are things
25 that we're going to also start looking at the science,
26 trying to figure out what's going on and find ways to
27 make sure we're addressing those. So that's just an
28 example of the kinds of things that we're interested in
29 looking at and of course we're open and interested in
30 working with anyone who's interested in working with us
31 on those.

32

33 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Just a comment on
34 that.....

35

36 MR. CASTEUNANOS: Please.

37

38 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER:Gilbert. You
39 know, when you're talking about the loss of drinking
40 water all you got to do is sit back and look at -- and
41 make observations about the ice conditions, right,
42 they've shrunk so much that we don't have that multi year
43 ice presence anymore. And that carried a lot of our
44 freshwater in the ocean. As hunters we're using the
45 ocean ice as a platform to conduct our hunting
46 activities. With this -- all this new young ice we don't
47 see that multi year ice which we depended on for drinking
48 water when we're out in the ocean. So that's already
49 gone. You know, you're -- it seems like it's a little
50 bit too late in my opinion as to what you're -- the

1 message that's being sent. But what you're looking at is
2 what's on land and some of the impacts that have already
3 begun to be noticed from multiple events, draining of
4 lakes into rivers and thawing of the permafrost which
5 held those lakes in place. And that -- that's already in
6 motion, it's already in -- it's several years in the
7 works already. I -- in a sense that these are things
8 that are already in motion and these are things that
9 we're making observations on and the changes that we deal
10 with on a yearly basis. And, you know, cycles come and
11 go and we're -- we continue to adapt to these types of
12 changes as we do to survive here in the Arctic. Just an
13 observation I want to share with you in terms of how
14 that's -- just the presence of that sea ice and the
15 changing of -- because of global climate impacts these
16 are things that haven't even been noticed I guess in the
17 sense that type of message, I'm not sure who's going to
18 be sending and when is it going to be understood.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MR. SHEARS: And, Mr. Chair, me next.

23

24 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Robert.

25

26 MR. SHEARS: Thanks. Thanks, Gilbert.

27 And in your discussion on the thematic areas under the
28 U.S. chairmanship, you know, the elephant in the room
29 that's not on that -- that's not -- you did not discuss,
30 but it's obviously in the thematic areas of Arctic or
31 other Arctic countries, Norway, Russia, Denmark, Canada,
32 are all militarizing in the Arctic. Is that not a theme
33 of the United States chairmanship?

34

35 MR. CASTEUNANOS: Thank you, Chairman,
36 Bob. Yeah, the -- there's -- the short answer is no and
37 that's on purpose. The Arctic Council has always been
38 and will continue to be a forum to peacefully cooperate.
39 There are international forums, multilateral Arctic
40 forums that look specifically at defense and cooperation
41 on defense. Those currently exist and they meet every
42 two years and are becoming increasingly more formal. The
43 Department of Defense, the U.S. Coast Guard and others
44 have developed their own Arctic strategies and on the
45 hill in Washington, D.C. and other places you're seeing
46 more and more talk about this. It's certainly something
47 that has the attention of the president of the Department
48 of Defense and many others in Washington, D.C. and
49 elsewhere, people up here who think about these things.
50 But as part of the Arctic Council that's not what it is

1 intended to be. It's intended to be where can we
2 cooperate, where are things that we want to work together
3 on. Defense is definitely something that we want to work
4 together on and be cooperative on, but those are not
5 issues that are specifically within the Ottawa
6 Declaration which is the agreement that established the
7 Arctic Council in 1996, that Declaration focuses on
8 sustainable development and those kind of issues, sort of
9 culture, environment and economy.

10

11 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Rosemary.

12

13 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: It is important for
14 some of these issues for us to look at as a mother and
15 one that has breast fed my children knowing what's
16 happening to our lands and waters, getting that full
17 assessment of areas that have been impacted from existing
18 activities to change our lands and waters and other
19 things such as resource extraction is very important for
20 us to assess. If we know that areas have been impacted
21 as a mother we can choose to make sure we inform our
22 children as to the importance of how we utilize these
23 areas or not in order to protect the life, health and
24 safety of our future generations. I have a lot of
25 concerns about what's been re-injected over the years of
26 oil and gas development and what does that mean for the
27 health of our families and the foods that we depend on to
28 feed our families. But I also have a tremendous amount
29 of concerns about pre-authorization for dispersants and
30 the reality of what has already happened in the Gulf and
31 the -- from the Exxon Valdez and what we're at risk of
32 with monitoring our animals that some of them are over
33 100 years old and what does accumulated affects mean.
34 The difficulty to even to fully assess what their
35 exposures might be and trying to track that information
36 is astronomical and any efforts to improve this process
37 to help us make our informed decisions about our species
38 and our families and how we utilize our lands and waters
39 is very important in the forefront of trying to live and
40 our life, health and safety of the Arctic.

41

42 MR. CASTEUANOS: Thank you, Council
43 member.

44

45 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Could you state your
48 name, please.

49

50 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair, this is Gordon

1 Brower. I joined you guys about 15 minutes ago.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So you have the
4 floor, Gordon, go ahead.

5

6 MR. G. BROWER: All right. Well, I've
7 just listening to the dialogue and the -- and I think
8 it's important to, you know, convey to the folks that'll
9 be leading the Arctic Council, from a subsistence
10 standpoint when -- the United States is going to take the
11 lead for the next several years or so, is that what I'm
12 understanding?

13

14 MR. CASTEUANOS: Yeah, that's correct.
15 Two years for leading -- chairing the Arctic Council and
16 then two years after that from 2017 to 2019 chairing the
17 Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group.

18

19 MR. G. BROWER: All right. Well, maybe
20 some of the comments I have that kind of relate to the
21 different things either to flora and Arctic fauna issues.
22 But the main line dialogue along the lines of Rosemary,
23 you know, the use of dispersants is a cause -- it's very
24 alarming and concerning because of the resources that we
25 depend on in the Arctic that are in that particular
26 environment. And there should be keen awareness of its
27 impending implications or its potential use in the very
28 near future with the exploration plan being reviewed
29 right now for Shell. Well, anyway those -- that is the
30 one area where there needs to be some cooperation and to
31 find out, you know, the effects of dispersants in the
32 Arctic and training that in our food train -- in our food
33 chain up here.

34

35 The other thing is in terms of lakes and
36 withdrawing to make ice roads. I tend to agree that
37 there should be some level of concern and studies
38 associated with these types of uses and maybe make better
39 assumptions and better studies, you know, in some of the
40 traditional practices that we do to select the lakes for
41 our drinking water use at our camps. And not all lakes
42 are safe to drink and some of them are stagnant and don't
43 -- and you can really get sick from these things if
44 you're not careful. And to my understanding some of
45 these lakes that get permitted for water draw the
46 regulatory requirements surrounding the use of these
47 types of lakes that do not fish and sufficient to
48 withdraw from. Did the harbingers of sickness that
49 spread around. So just keep that in mind and, you know,
50 we're encountering the issues around Nuiqsut in terms of

1 fish mold and nobody really can identify what the causes
2 of fish mold is in that region. And they have certainly
3 other regions like the Colville delta, like the Ikpikpuk
4 delta that should be a center for comparison to look at
5 one that's not being impacted and one that's being
6 impacted in terms of fish mold. I certainly haven't seen
7 fish mold in the Ikpikpuk River area and I don't know if
8 it's associated with industrialization or debris or
9 contamination or some other things, but certainly, you
10 know, they allow extensively drilling in that Colville
11 delta and all that (indiscernible - distortion) comes up
12 from these runs into an active (indiscernible -
13 distortion). In the Colville an active (indiscernible -
14 distortion) should be explored and looked at in terms of
15 putting a finger onto it, you know, how you got a stove
16 and you got some hot water and you turn the thing to
17 super low and it simmers and stays really hot there.
18 Those types of affects should be really looked at.

19
20 So I'm concerned here, you -- I think
21 you've got some of this stuff right on the money in terms
22 of as global warming trends increase. I've already seen
23 some lakes that are completely dried out already in terms
24 of its affects on a much warmer period and things like
25 that. The other impact that I see is there are very hard
26 time for the rivers to freeze, to catch these fish that
27 we're really needing to catch and its impact on food
28 security and how we preserve those fish to be fresh at
29 the time we catch them, it's just not the same anymore
30 when you've got to go out of your way quite a bit to have
31 the same quality of food that the people enjoy when --
32 and you've got the best. And when it's not the best you
33 try to just -- well, you know, even when we make them
34 rotten it's pretty good to eat, but some don't prefer
35 that. That's another story in itself.

36
37 But one other thing is as the Arctic gets
38 heavily industrialized -- it's already heavily
39 industrialized in the Prudhoe Bay and moving westerly.
40 And I kind of can see in my mind that there's a lot more
41 activity going to come our way and we just haven't really
42 grasped that or seen that in terms of Arctic shipping,
43 the northwest passage and all that other areas, things --
44 there are a lot of different things. And I think it
45 impacts subsistence activities as well when we've got all
46 this energy, we've got all this energy in the Arctic that
47 the rest of the world wants or the lower 48 to support
48 the local mom and pop's store, they have a thriving
49 energy source, they'll drive their cars and they're
50 motorhoming and cooking and making life a lot better

1 somewhere else. And the way it ought to be with these
2 resources there should be mechanisms from an Arctic
3 policy developed so that these energy security issues can
4 be had for the Arctic. We live in the most extreme
5 environment in the world aside from Antarctica, I think,
6 or the moon for that matter, and that we need to have a
7 -- we need Arctic energy security developed for the
8 people that live in the Arctic. A lot of people struggle
9 with the basic needs of food because they've got to weigh
10 whether they're going to pay the extremely high cost of
11 living and then being subsistence or pay their utilities
12 or buy food, those kind of decisions. It seems to be --
13 there needs to be a willingness for the area to develop
14 its own Arctic policy about energy security up here in
15 the Arctic so that folks can retire like every place else
16 on earth, they don't have to work and scrape for a living
17 the rest of our lives and there's actual energy security
18 to be had for all. And especially for those that live in
19 the Arctic environments and I'm talking about making some
20 level of commitment from -- but we really need some
21 refining capacity up here in the Arctic developed and in
22 turn that would supply enough for me, them or from some
23 other nation with them products, but refine products that
24 service the Arctic itself, from Canada to Greenland to
25 Russia to America. And where it's now feasible with
26 these transportation routes open and to me it's a no
27 brainer and if we revise and look at energy issues up
28 here and we wouldn't have to order our fuels from
29 Louisiana and have, you know, all these tariffs and costs
30 that's associated with it.

31
32 Anyway I could probably go on too long so
33 I'm just going to stop at that.

34
35 Thank you for the opportunity to make
36 some comments.

37
38 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Gordon, thank
39 you for providing your comments as well, you know,
40 they're meaningful comments and I think Gilbert's taken
41 a whole earful already and he's running out of paper that
42 I can't see the table anymore.

43
44 So thank, you, Gordon.

45
46 I look to Gilbert to see how much more
47 information you have, you know, I was trying to put some
48 time limits and I was trying to think back on what was
49 that time limit we were supposed to put, 15 minutes.
50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I think we already
4 passed an hour. Anyway continue with your presentation,
5 Gilbert.

6

7 MR. CASTEUANOS: Thank you, Chairman
8 Brower and thank you, Council members for those comments.
9 I appreciate them sincerely. I only have one more slide
10 which is just the summary slide, but I did want to
11 address if there is enough time some of the points that
12 were raised very quickly.

13

14 Chairman Brower, you mentioned it's a
15 little late, guys, we kind of -- you know, the President
16 acknowledges and I think a lot of the folks that are
17 engaged in Arctic stuff understand that the Arctic is
18 changing faster than anywhere else on earth period.
19 Everything. Everything, water, ice, temperatures,
20 permafrost, animals, everything, it's changing faster
21 than anywhere else on earth. And just one of the things
22 that I would remind you is that because of all this extra
23 interest and because of all these folks, you know, coming
24 up here and figuring things out and, you know, there's a
25 lot of people who think that they just discovered the
26 Arctic, they think oh, wow, there's an Arctic up here and
27 don't realize that there are people who have been for
28 thousands of years and scientists that have been working
29 for decades and decades to look at some of these issues
30 and see how they've been changing. But I think I would
31 encourage you to look at it as an opportunity that this
32 is starting to move up the chain to really high levels
33 where things can I think really happen and I hope that
34 they will happen for the better. And the only way that
35 that's going to happen in my opinion is if folks like
36 yourself and others in the community are engaged and are,
37 you know, running yourself hoarse, right, just repeating
38 the same thing over and over again because there are so
39 many new people, so many new faces engaged in these
40 issues that have never been engaged before and that is --
41 can be frustrating because you find yourself saying the
42 same thing over and over again and think nobody's
43 hearing. But I think that it's kind of like you're in a
44 coal mine or you're digging, you know, it's just bit by
45 bit you got to chip away at it and I hope that at the end
46 of these two years we're going to be in a so much better
47 place than we are and than we were. And so that's my
48 sort of aspiration on that issue, that it's a little
49 late, but hopefully we can start to do something in a
50 bigger way and in a better way.

1 Regarding some of the other issues,
2 obviously my area of expertise is not natural resource
3 extraction, dispersants, oil and these kinds of
4 contaminants issues however it is within the purview of
5 the Arctic Council and there is different working groups
6 like the Emergency Pollution Prevention and Response
7 Group and the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment
8 Group and they are doing things and I'd encourage you to
9 become better informed about those and find ways where
10 you can engage on those. But I think that again it's
11 another situation where a lot of Johnny come latelys
12 maybe you might call them or just really, you know, sort
13 of goodwill people trying to make -- do something good
14 are learning things for the first time and so it's good
15 to kind of keep reminding those folks and, you know,
16 encouraging those folks to come in here and make sure
17 that they're trying to do things the right way.

18
19 So I'll just sort of leave it at that so
20 I don't go on much longer. I'll just sort of summarize
21 by saying, you know, I'm here, my job is to represent
22 U.S. interests on sort of flora and fauna issues. When
23 I say U.S. interest I mean yours individually, yours as
24 a Council member, yours as a U.S. citizen and so I take
25 that role as very -- I'm humbled for the opportunity to
26 be able to serve as that person and I take it very
27 seriously. And so I hope that you will sort of
28 appreciate over the years as we move forward that I do
29 hear what you're saying and I take it forward in a very
30 sort of -- well, in a serious manner. And the Arctic
31 Council and CAFF Working Group, they provide I think a
32 good mechanism to get people together, to leverage
33 resources and to really address some of these big issues
34 that are facing the Arctic that's changing as I said
35 faster than anywhere else on earth.

36
37 And finally just a reminder that the U.S.
38 is going to be in these real I think important positions
39 of power that are going -- the United States will be the
40 face and voice of what's going on in the Arctic and
41 what's affecting your lives and, you know, for the next
42 -- for two years after that specifically on subsistence
43 issues, on wildlife, on species, on plants and animals
44 that are important to your culture and to your people and
45 so I'd encourage you to remain engaged in that.

46
47 So that's all I have.

48
49 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Again thank you for
50 the presentation, Gilbert. Just a immediate comment just

1 for my part and I -- you know, just chairing -- listening
2 to the presentation and the tail end there I just -- I
3 have to use our facility, Arctic Research Facility for an
4 example. You know, it took many years to get our Federal
5 government to provide some funding for that through the
6 different agencies that are involved with Arctic
7 research. And it was planned out to be phased out in
8 like three or four phases. And they've done the first
9 phase, you know, of the proposed plan, they've done the
10 first phase of it, but since that got built everything
11 got short changed and our greater leader, Ted Stevens,
12 had an incident and passed away and now that -- it seem
13 to be a fading issue and yet Arctic concerns and
14 development continues to grow and science, what have you,
15 continues and research continues, but the facility just
16 sits there in the sense that it's not being used by
17 researchers from across the United States or other
18 countries. It may be at some point in time they hold
19 meetings out there, but no real research happening. I
20 think that's a poor side of events in terms of how
21 planning goes into -- you know, we're trying to plan for
22 the future, a lot of science and research were being
23 planned into the future and it seemed to have faded away
24 and now we're left without, just a fragment of a research
25 facility out there and not even begin to see the daylight
26 yet, I guess it's blooming out there sitting. I hope
27 that somebody gets an earful about that facility at one
28 point in time, you know, being -- this might be the
29 opportunity to make those comments in regard to President
30 coming to Alaska, you know, he may be one ear that we
31 might want to tickle and put a little bug in there to
32 make sure something comes about to finish these phases of
33 building a research facility in regard to the Arctic.
34 You know we have University of Fairbanks, but that's in
35 the middle of the state. We have University of Anchorage
36 which is on down in the southern part of the state. You
37 know, these things are -- you know, just to think a
38 little bit and just have a common thinking idea of what
39 could be developed in the real Arctic, you know. Like
40 what you said you're down from Anchorage and yet we're
41 talking about Arctic issues in Anchorage and the majority
42 of us here are twiddling our thumbs and trying to figure
43 out a way forward on these things.

44
45 So I'll stop there. I mean, I'm just --
46 like I said just my first reaction just hearing the
47 comments. And then I'd really appreciate if you could
48 provide us the information to the -- written literature
49 that we could cite and reference and provide meaningful
50 comments to.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Rosemary.

6

7 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I really appreciate
8 this opportunity to engage, it is very important and we
9 definitely want to stay engaged into the future. Some of
10 the issues around the polar bear are a perfect example.
11 Over a decade ago they talked to us about polar bears and
12 told us don't worry, the polar bears probably are
13 decreasing numbers this year because the ice moved away
14 last year. Those kind of things are not adequate to say
15 it's okay, we need to make sure that if they actually
16 moved over there, get some numbers from the other
17 countries and those kinds of things to help us assess our
18 populations and our way forward. Also any effort to help
19 improve the information around what is being transported
20 in the Arctic in the shipping process as well as what is
21 being used for resource extraction. The chemical
22 transparency in order for us to assess it, we really need
23 that information. It's a lot better in the European
24 Union, we need to improve it in our country.

25

26 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Lee.

29

30 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair, Council. You
31 bring pretty good information and there's a lot of
32 information that you provided and it would be nice if you
33 provide detail by detail as many of the animals and
34 things that you provide us are pretty important. Like
35 the Village of Kaktovik, you know, we're on an island now
36 and we're getting a runway on the island from -- moved
37 from the beach area, you know. I think the biggest
38 impact it's going to be a chemical impact in our
39 freshwater lake. You know, it's barely a quarter of mile
40 from the runway and I see a big change in that, you know,
41 even though we do have a water treatment system. But,
42 you know, there's a -- I'm sure there's some likelihood
43 of could be some fish in there, but, you know, it's a
44 great lake for waterfall too that are present in the
45 area. But I take that up in very high consideration
46 because we had three -- three turtle doves at the -- we
47 got the -- then shot down as two of them and we only got
48 one so we didn't have a choice of, you know, where it's
49 going to end up at. But things like that and I -- it's
50 important especially when it comes up the lakes and

1 rivers and things like that, I do see that drying up.
2 And people that, you know, the island is sinking, but I'm
3 pretty sure it is because it's -- all the permafrost on
4 the bottom of the island is draining from the bottom up
5 so, you know, just like on the Polynesian Islands, you
6 know, what they say the islands are sinking due to
7 thawing of the permafrost and one day the ocean is going
8 to rise up and have them under water and there'll be some
9 cities that are going to be impacted. But that's how I
10 see it anyway.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Any other Council
15 members.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If not, thank you,
20 Gilbert, for your presentation. And definitely keep in
21 touch with our Regional Advisory Council.

22
23 MR. CASTEUANOS: Thank you all very much.
24 I apologize for taking more than 15 minutes, but I'm here
25 to serve and I appreciate the opportunity.

26
27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you.

28
29 MR. CASTEUANOS: Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: You're asking that
32 we hear from Carolina now? Carolina.....

33
34 MS. BEHE: I'm here.

35
36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER:are you on?

37
38 MS. BEHE: I am.

39
40 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Good afternoon,
41 Carolina. Thank you for being patient with us this
42 afternoon, but we have other business that we have to
43 talk to.

44
45 MS. BEHE: Of course. No problem.

46
47 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So we'll give
48 you.....

49
50 MS. BEHE: So hi, everyone.

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Good afternoon,
2 Carolina. You have the floor. Go ahead.

3
4 MS. BEHE: So I'm about to give you guys
5 a presentation about ICC and also an update on the food
6 security process. But I think that all of you know we
7 tried to cover quite a bit of things and so I'm just
8 going to give a really surface level view of it and then
9 of course we can give you a lot more information if you
10 would like.

11
12 So for those are you that are not
13 familiar, ICC was founded in 1977 by Evan Hoffman, Sr.
14 and the -- and it came from the realization that Inuit
15 needed to speak with a united voice on issues of common
16 concern. And today ICC represents approximately 160,000
17 Inuits across Chukotka, Canada, Greenland and Alaska.

18
19 Sorry, I forgot to ask, Eva, is the
20 presentation up now?

21
22 MS. PATTON: Carolina, yeah, I'm going to
23 put it up right now. And just let me know, I can advance
24 the slides for you as you need.

25
26 MS. BEHE: That would be great. If you
27 wouldn't mind going to slide two. And then -- actually
28 I'm going to go on to slide three now.

29
30 So all of ICC's work -- well, I'll go
31 back to slide two for a second. So ICC was founded in
32 1977 and the Arctic Council came about in 1996. And ICC
33 actually had a huge hand in starting the Arctic Council.
34 So Mary Simon who was the president in Canada for ICC did
35 most of the negotiations for starting the Arctic Council.
36 So ICC was around for quite a few years before the Arctic
37 Council actually started and then there from the very
38 beginning and trying to use it as a platform to advocate
39 on behalf of Inuit interests.

40
41 So slide three shows an example of the
42 international areas that we're engaged in. Because ICC
43 is one of the six permanent participants at the Arctic
44 Council and also a participant at the United Nations, it
45 provides us a place at the table, an equal place of the
46 table at multiple forums such as these that you see
47 listed.

48
49 Then I'll go to slide four. And these
50 are some of the main things that we concentrate on at

1 least for the last five years. And this comes from our
2 declaration so every four years Inuit leadership comes
3 together and writes up a declaration to direct ICC and
4 what it needs to be concentrating on. So there was a
5 declaration in 2010 called the Nuuk Declaration and that
6 put food security as a top priority. Again there was
7 another one in 2014 in Inuvik and it again put food
8 security as a top priority.

9

10 And that's for our international, what we
11 need to do internationally.

12

13 Then when we come -- we come -- well,
14 I'll stick with the international for just a moment. If
15 we can go to the next slide. Internationally most of our
16 work especially for this office, for the Alaska office is
17 within the Arctic Council. And I'm not sure the slide
18 Gilbert shared was sufficient for sharing the
19 information, I apologize. But you'll see on this slide
20 that there's a hierarchical structure for the Arctic
21 Council that starts with the eight Arctic countries and
22 the six permanent participants and then the observers.
23 And we have all the Ministers and then the Senior Arctic
24 Officials and then the six working groups. What happens
25 is that the permanent participants are at the table at
26 every single one of those levels. And so for example I
27 attend CAFF Working Group meetings, but we also have ICC
28 representatives that attend the meetings of all the other
29 working groups also. So for example Jim Stotts or Jimmy
30 attends the PAME Working Group meetings and sometimes
31 covers SDWG also. He also attends the Ministerial
32 meetings and the Senior Arctic Official meetings. And so
33 we're there at every spot which gives us an opportunity
34 to advocate on behalf of Inuit interest at spot, but it
35 also has started this then be -- because we -- it does
36 mean that we need to know everything that's going on and
37 can't really break it up the way that maybe some other
38 offices can.

39

40 A huge -- if you can go to the next one.
41 A huge underlying theme for the ICC Alaska office is food
42 security and food security is the use of indigenous
43 knowledge. And this really comes with an understanding
44 that we need to have indigenous knowledge used through
45 research, through every day decision making, through
46 international decision making. And this is what I've
47 been asked to concentrate on very firmly within CAFF was
48 to help educate what food security is, but also educate
49 what indigenous knowledge is. This is really important
50 because CAFF has concentrated a lot on developing the

1 Circumpolar Based Monitoring Program. And something that
2 we've had to explain quite a bit in the last couple years
3 is that Inuit indigenous knowledge goes well beyond
4 observations, it is, in fact, isn't just observations at
5 all, but the actual meaning of what those observations
6 mean. And that Inuit themselves have their own
7 monitoring methodology so their own ways of validating
8 that information and that it's time to move past just
9 translating Inuit indigenous knowledge into science and
10 actually look at building projects that are based more
11 equally to bring that information together because the
12 only way we're going to really be able to understand all
13 of the changes that are occurring and to address them is
14 if we really can bring those two knowledge holders, the
15 Inuit indigenous knowledge holder and the scientist
16 together equally. Not -- again not to translate each
17 other's information, but to work together equally. And
18 we call that a co-production of knowledge. And so we've
19 been pushing them really hard for the last couple of
20 years and saying that this is what needs to happen and
21 Gilbert knows that because we had our last conversations
22 about that and even some conversations of what we could
23 maybe do under the U.S. chairmanship to help to push CAFF
24 along the lines of truly meaningfully engaging indigenous
25 knowledge.

26
27 The other part of that has to do with
28 actually having Inuit there as part of the projects. So,
29 I mean, and we have actually talked a lot about this
30 before and it's not okay just to have your information
31 there, but it's that the knowledge holder has to actually
32 be there to explain what the information means. And that
33 means that any Inuit knowledge -- Inuit indigenous
34 knowledge means. Just like you wouldn't ask me to
35 analyze physics because I'm not a physicist, right, then
36 it's only appropriate to ask an indigenous knowledge
37 holder to be able to say what the indigenous knowledge
38 means. But that does require funding, not just for them
39 to get to meetings, but actually funding them for the
40 work that they're doing and for their time.

41
42 That's has been -- that's been the
43 largest focus even when we're working on different types
44 of topics, the different topics will come up such as
45 ecosystem service evaluation or monitoring or these
46 different things and it always come back down to this
47 basic level of Inuits have indigenous knowledge and they
48 have their own methodologies that need to be respected
49 and worked with equally at the same table.
50

1 So I'll take a step back from the
2 international part for a moment to go to the national
3 part. Now nationally in case you guys don't know,
4 nationally ICC within Alaska is made up of a 13 member
5 board and that's basically from our membership
6 organizations. So from the North Slope region we have
7 ASRC, ICAS and the North Slope Borough. The Board
8 members from those organizations are Charlotte Brower,
9 Richard Glenn and George Olemaun. Our Board tells us
10 what to do, we don't do anything unless the Board tell us
11 what to do. And just recently this last May I think it
12 was they came up with -- no, I'm sorry, this last
13 October, they came up with their strategic plan for 2014
14 to 2018. And if you guys haven't seen that yet and I'll
15 definitely it on to Eva and maybe she wouldn't mind
16 passing it on to you guys.

17
18 Anyway that's our office's priorities
19 within the international priority. Again number 1
20 priority is food security. So I think that all of you
21 have heard us say before that when Jimmy is talking about
22 food security he's talking about subsistence, but he's
23 talking about a lot more than the legal framework of what
24 subsistence means, he's talking about what it means to
25 Inuits.

26
27 And so that brings us to the project that
28 I think all of you are familiar with that we've been
29 working on for the last three years. And it actually
30 came from Jimmy tried to talk to the Arctic Council six
31 years ago about food security and the importance of that
32 and what it actually means. And he found that people
33 sitting across the table have a completely different
34 understanding of what that meant. And so for the last
35 three years we've been working on this food security
36 project that is meant to define food security, identify
37 what causes food security and insecurity, identify
38 monitoring methods. Now this just came up because all of
39 the contributing authors to the project who are all Inuit
40 indigenous knowledge holders kept saying that they had
41 their own ways and that there's certain things they have
42 to know to be able to understand what is happening within
43 the environments. Environments provide a conceptual
44 framework and this is meant to provide all of the
45 concepts that are needed to be understood in order to be
46 able to do an assessment. And I'll come back to that
47 part in just a moment.

48
49 If we can go to the next slide. These
50 are all the villages that we were -- visited within this

1 project. Now there's 95 villages that ICC advocates on
2 behalf of within Alaska. And unfortunately we can't go
3 to all 95 and get the project done in a timely manner.
4 So a Steering Committee was brought together with
5 representatives from each region and that committee along
6 with the Board members assisted in deciding which
7 villages would be ideal to go to. So what mostly once
8 they did that we still had other things to -- before we
9 could go to the village, right, the only way we would go
10 to a village is if the Tribal Council wanted to work with
11 us in partnership for the project. So we went to these
12 villages, but at the same time we also kept in contact
13 with all 95 Tribal Councils and just calling them every
14 couple months, sending them updates on the project and
15 trying to provide them any problems they could have to be
16 able to give feedback to the project. When we went to
17 these villages we oftentimes went to schools and talked
18 about whatever the teachers would like us to talk about
19 including this project. We also had a community meeting
20 to hear from the community to get direction on if they
21 liked the methodology that was being used because this is
22 a methodology that is rooted in Inuit way.

23

24 The next thing we did was talk to
25 indigenous knowledge holders that were identified by the
26 Village Tribal Councils and other elders within the
27 community. And those people started to ask questions and
28 to develop themes and to -- sorry, give a lot of
29 information of what food security is and what many of the
30 causes are. From there we put that information together
31 within each region and we then had a regional workshop.
32 And the regional workshop, each Tribal Village Council in
33 the region would nominate a person to attend as an
34 expert. So in the -- and then when we had the workshop
35 in Barrow then each village within your region nominated
36 one person to come with the idea that that person had the
37 expertise needed to evaluate and validate the traditional
38 knowledge or indigenous knowledge that had been gathered
39 so far. Knowledge is a really important thing and that's
40 how we get back to this is being done with methods that
41 are used already within a community, they're just being
42 scaled up. So those people we would just let them know
43 the over-arching themes and ideas that people had said
44 and then they would further have conversations about it,
45 say if maybe we were thinking wrong about something,
46 definitely tell us things that we might be missing. Not
47 that it's really important because we were only able to
48 go to a couple of villages within a region when there's
49 many more.

50

1 So right now we're wrapping up the
2 project. I'm actually writing around the clock to be
3 able to have a rough draft done in a couple weeks here.
4 And then the Advisory Committee is going to come together
5 and they're going to do an evaluation of it and say what
6 they like or don't like and they make any changes that we
7 need. So right now there's 164 contributing authors.
8 Those are all of the indigenous knowledge holders that
9 contributed to this project. And the final report has to
10 go to them before anybody else outside of the Advisory
11 Committee can see it so that they can give it approval.

12
13
14 But there are a few things that we're
15 given permission to share. Huge one here is what is food
16 security. It's equivalent to environmental health. And
17 I think that maybe you guys have heard me say before that
18 the best way that an elder described it to me was that
19 the Arctic is a puzzle and each piece about that puzzle
20 fits together and moves with each other. And those
21 pieces should be the Inuit's culture, it could be food
22 storage, it could be the ocean, it could be whales, air
23 temperature, it's all these pieces put together. And
24 that the important thing is how those pieces are fitting
25 together. And they said that's food security. He also
26 said a problem happens when somebody from the outside
27 comes and they want to see what the Arctic is, but they
28 cut half the puzzle piece out. So they cut out the
29 culture part and said oh, I see what's happening now.
30 But he said you can't tell what's happening if you don't
31 have all the pieces there.

32
33 He also said a problem comes when
34 somebody tries to take a piece from some other part of
35 the world and slam it in there and re-adjust everything.
36 And he said that that's a regulation ploy, that that's
37 what other corporate values are like that come and try to
38 say this is how things have to be done and it messes up
39 the way things are working and it causes food insecurity.
40 That's just kind of a visual way of seeing that it is.
41 And actually in speaking with the contributing authors
42 many of them agreed that that is the way that it -- that
43 is a good visualization of it or describe something very
44 similar.

45
46 If we could go to the next slide. When
47 we talk about drivers of food security and insecurity --
48 actually we'll go ahead and go to the next slide, these
49 are about half of the ones -- these are just themes
50 again, half of the ones that were brought up. And we're

1 all very familiar with this and even listening to you
2 guys talk just a moment ago you were talking about the
3 same thing again. But the whole point is nothing is
4 about one of these things, it's all about how they're
5 connected to each other, right, so it's never just about
6 the character, it's also about the lichen, and it's also
7 about a young boy being taught to go get a caribou for
8 the first time. And about that young boy being taught to
9 give his first take away and how to respect the
10 environment around him. That's about the boys and girls
11 being brought together to learn how to process the
12 caribou, to learn how to process the whale or the walrus,
13 it's all of those things together that have to be looked
14 at, not just one piece. And so walrus provides a really
15 good example for this because walrus hunters tell me all
16 the time that you have to look at the contents of the
17 stomach of the walrus, right, because that's a food
18 source too, but it also tells you something about the
19 walrus. And they also have to know about sea ice
20 thickness to know about how the walrus is doing. But you
21 also have to know about if somebody has enough fuel to go
22 out and get the walrus and there are people having to
23 travel further away to get the walrus and what does that
24 mean to their interaction with the environment and what
25 impact can that have on the next generation learning the
26 skills that they need to have to be able to maintain food
27 security.

28
29 These are all just pieces together that
30 we need to try to explain on a report of how these all
31 interconnect, to be able to look at the Arctic, to be
32 able to do assessments, to do food security ones or you
33 could even say you're a subsistence user to be able to
34 see all that pushed together. And we can go to the
35 meeting and I can bring this back to CAFF because we've
36 able to provide CAFF with little pieces of information
37 that come from this project. And when we get done with
38 this whole project we'll get it to everybody that would
39 possibly listen. So of course all of the Tribal Council,
40 Villages and all of the State and Federal agencies and
41 industry, but also within the Arctic Council. And we'll
42 try to get them to learn from this annual report and
43 again go off of some of the information that we've been
44 sharing with them. Then it comes back to CAFF again and
45 their concentration in circumpolar monitoring. The way
46 that their monitoring programs are set up are through
47 solos and saying we're going to monitor whales and now
48 we're going to monitor walrus. And indigenous knowledge
49 has a lot to teach them because indigenous knowledge you
50 keep the contributing holders in this project so if you

1 look at it through a food security lens then you're
2 looking at the relationship, you're monitoring the
3 relationship. You monitor the relationship between the
4 walrus and the seals, between the benthic and the walrus,
5 between the young boy and the walrus, between the people
6 preparing the food and storing the food and the
7 temperature and that both are really key things that have
8 to be monitored, not just the component itself. This is
9 a huge key part of monitoring from an indigenous
10 knowledge perspective. And that's why it's so crucially
11 important that indigenous knowledge holders are actually
12 sitting at the table no matter what level it's at, not
13 just to give the observations, but to actually teach how
14 to be looking at this environment.

15
16 So as we look at the over-arching drivers
17 from the previous slide we see that a lot of this has to
18 do with accumulation of them. And we also know from the
19 regional workshops and also from the contributing authors
20 that many of those come back to lack a decision making
21 power. So on top of knowing about -- learning about
22 these kind of methods from indigenous knowledge and
23 importance of them, we also know that this project is
24 saying there's a huge need to increase co-management
25 within this country, to actually establish much stronger
26 co-management within this country so that hunters are
27 able to provide all of the information and the people
28 provide -- processing the food and gathering the food and
29 storing the food can provide all the information that's
30 needed to adequately make decisions and not just off of
31 science or just off of western economic kind of ideas.

32
33 So overall we're really hoping that this
34 project can help enhance the Inuit voice and we also hope
35 that it can help some of the Inuit in the other
36 countries. So there's a couple of villages in Canada
37 that really like this approach because it's an example of
38 an indigenous approach to gathering information and
39 validating the information and making a really strong
40 point that Inuit already have all the means to be able to
41 do this and that it's important for them to be able to do
42 that and also it's really important for everybody in
43 order to safeguard this environment to rely on all the
44 best information available.

45
46 That's everything I have for today, but
47 I do realize I went through it pretty quickly, I hope
48 that it made sense. If we (indiscernible - distortion)
49 and if you have any questions for me.
50

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Council members, any
2 questions to Carolina?
3
4 Rosemary.
5
6 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Is there going to be
7 a process in which you follow-up with outreach to the
8 schools?
9
10 MS. BEHE: For the food security project,
11 Rosemary?
12
13 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes.
14
15 MS. BEHE: Yes, just slightly. It's not
16 nearly what we would like it to be. For the school sites
17 we specifically went to for the 15 schools that I have
18 contact with them and they've been receiving updates
19 continuously just along this -- along with the
20 contributing authors and also the Tribal Councils. And
21 then a copy will also be sent to all of the schools.
22 From there it really becomes a choice for the Tribal
23 Councils and I will be on the phone with all of the
24 Tribal Councils to ask how they want that to be followed
25 up with for engaging all of the community.
26
27 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you. It's
28 really important that we engage this process into growing
29 the knowledge into the generations and not just the
30 process of completing a project. I really appreciate the
31 efforts of outreach that has occurred and trying to help
32 us understand the process and incorporate the depths of
33 the communications of the communities that engaged in
34 this process. I hope that this process moves forward in
35 a good way and continues in the criterias of addressing
36 Arctic decision and the process forward.
37
38 Thank you.
39
40 MS. BEHE: (In Inupiaq)
41
42 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for the
43 presentation, Carolina. I've just continually written a
44 whole -- information as the presentation was being
45 followed up on and then just my thoughts on some of the
46 comments you shared with us in regards to how people
47 perceive the term food security or even define it in
48 different ways. You know, with that being said I hope
49 you as one of the authors writing this food security
50 portion in the -- what it's developing to provide some

1 definitions in the beginning and the interpretations of
2 those definitions I think is very important as to how
3 people will perceive things, perceive the wording, the
4 language that's being used in terms of food security.
5 You know, food security in one sense -- I could share a
6 couple of them. One sense could be that I put up a whole
7 bunch of food I prepare for one season for that given
8 year, you know, that's food security. But in another
9 sense could be that my immediate use for that food
10 because of a situation that I may have encountered that
11 dealt with not having enough food in the sense that, you
12 know, we need nutrition to provide sustenance for our
13 bodies and not having that in a sense is a insecurity.
14 But as a food security I'd have stowed some away that I
15 could bring back and use as to provide nutritional need
16 for myself, for my family in a sense. So those kind of
17 definitions or interpretations would be helpful to help
18 your communications I think.

19
20 I'm just again, Carolina, just sharing my
21 observations and what I've written down as you're
22 providing your presentation. You know, it's again a lot
23 of information in a short period of time to comprehend
24 and trying to provide meaningful comments and help you in
25 a way to steer you in the right direction. And moving
26 forward, you know, I'm -- I think it's a positive thing
27 that ICC is working on this food security issue and, you
28 know, we -- you -- we can see it in different values as
29 we talk and communicate with others at different
30 meetings, you know, whether it be a national meeting or
31 international meeting or just a -- just a community
32 meeting that you provide a setting in. So that's very
33 meaningful anyway that we are trying to learn with all
34 our other constituents within the Arctic circumpolar
35 conference that we -- we're working together to better
36 understand what is it that we're dealing with.

37
38 You know, the comments I was looking at
39 regarding the previous presentation by Gilbert and some
40 of the situations that come about from that, you know,
41 it's something that again that information we need to
42 work with and some of the changes that we see in terms of
43 our observations as users of this region. We traverse
44 over the region, we use the areas, hunt and subsist and
45 reside in it. And the comments I made regarding the
46 Arctic Ocean has changed so significantly that it's --
47 the information that they're seeking is already left
48 behind. You know, I used the multi year ice as an
49 example. The presence of multi year ice is getting so
50 small we don't find it here in -- within our areas

1 anymore, it doesn't come to the coastline anymore because
2 of -- we see all of the beach erosion because of the ice
3 receding so far north it doesn't have a presence anymore.
4 So we're left without that fresh water that we normally
5 use and gathered from the multi year ice, it doesn't have
6 a presence anymore. So that kind of information I -- you
7 know, I continue to try and elaborate on a little bit
8 more in terms of the communications. Now we're left
9 without a drinking or freshwater resource that we
10 normally had out in the ocean and we have to resort to
11 lake water, drinking water that we have to bring out to
12 our hunting areas out in the -- out -- when we use the
13 ice -- ocean as a platform during the wintertime.

14

15 I just want to share some of these, the
16 -- a couple examples that I jotted down as you were
17 providing your presentation and I want to thank you for
18 that, the presentation you gave.

19

20 MS. BEHE: Thank you, that's very
21 helpful. And beginning at the -- where it asks you way
22 out what the Inuit that have been involved in this
23 project say food security is so in -- even in our
24 meetings -- in the regional meetings people would say oh,
25 that has to be part of describing what food security is
26 then we write that down. So for example in your region
27 at the Barrow workshop from just off the top of my head
28 some key things that people said had to be part of a
29 definition of food security is respect for the
30 environment and a right to be within the environment and
31 as well as feeding your family and having storage and
32 things like that. And so that'll be absolutely a key
33 part of the project is definitely to communicate what
34 that is because as you said there's over 800 definitions
35 for food security and I've only found one so far that was
36 written by an indigenous group and it came from South
37 America. So it is really important that that part is
38 communicated and thank you for raising that.

39

40 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Carolina.
41 Any other Council members comments, questions,
42 participants?

43

44 Rosemary.

45

46 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Is there any process
47 for this report to be engaged upon any of the actual
48 reactions that are occurring in various land use
49 decisions in the Arctic. Food security is really
50 important, but like in our region having a major decline

1 in the caribou, but having other land use decisions still
2 be approved when we're telling hunters to hunt less. Is
3 there any process in what you're doing that will engage
4 this report into actions on the ground that can affect --
5 be affected?

6
7 MS. BEHE: Yes, both. I have to say
8 they're really small baby steps, everything seems to
9 always be really tiny, tiny baby steps. But that is the
10 idea is for this project to be the argument behind the
11 actions that need to take place. So I think all of you
12 know that I'm just a technical person, but Jimmy working
13 within politics, it's his decision now to take this even
14 further and have more critical conversation, but also the
15 key part to -- that this project states very strongly
16 that even if we're just talking about erosion it leads
17 back to lack of decision making power and the need for
18 there to actually be food sovereignty before there can be
19 food security which means decision making power. And so
20 we have to look at other projects that can further -- and
21 when I say projects I don't mean -- and not -- the food
22 security project's not even a project for like oh, let's
23 just do research because it's an interesting question,
24 but a project to actually make some kind of action and
25 make some difference come out of it.

26
27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Carolina.
28 If there's no further questions I again thank you for
29 taking the time and giving your presentation this
30 afternoon.

31
32 MS. BEHE: (In Inupiaq)

33
34 Have a great afternoon.

35
36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Have a good
37 afternoon. Now we have.....

38
39 Eva.

40
41 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, if I
42 may. We have Gordon on teleconference and I know I don't
43 want to -- I don't want to keep -- I told Uinniq we saved
44 the best for the last.

45
46 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So you got the
47 message now we -- we saved the best for the last. We've
48 -- I've been trying to get you over here for a couple of
49 times now, but I guess -- Eva, go ahead.
50

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. And
2 I don't want to delay Uinniq, I'm really looking forward
3 to her presentation also. We do have Gordon on
4 teleconference and very important opportunity while we
5 have quorum to -- for the Council to discuss and take
6 action on the caribou proposals, if there'd be an
7 opportunity. We do have Geoff with us still if there's
8 any questions on the Board of Game proposal and Tom Evans
9 is -- can go back over and review. Tom and Robert worked
10 on developing the proposals based on what the Council had
11 discussed yesterday and so you have a few copies in front
12 of you there of what the Council discussed yesterday
13 broken down into the game units. And then Tom can speak
14 further about some of the details.

15
16 And, Gordon, are you still on with us
17 here?

18
19 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I'm on and I'm on
20 a computer looking at the existing lines and the proposed
21 changes.

22
23 MS. PATTON: And, Gordon, I emailed you
24 it'll be four attachments as a Word document of the four
25 proposals that the -- that came out of the Council's
26 recommendations yesterday and discussion and then also
27 there's a PDF of the supporting Board of Game record that
28 was part of the decision making by the Board and based on
29 a lot of feedback and perhaps we could just provide a
30 brief overview. Tom and Harry also spoke at great length
31 about the involvement of the North Slope Borough and
32 outreach to the communities and the feedback from
33 testimony and AC and recommendations from the communities
34 in this decision.

35
36 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I think it would be
37 important to -- you know, I don't want to digress and go
38 backwards quite a bit if you've already discussed a lot
39 of the issues, but I did read the existing -- or what's
40 on the ones for 26A, 26B, 24 and 23 I think we're being
41 suggested to be for proposed regulations change. And I
42 also had some questions about the amount necessary for
43 subsistence and that valuation there and what the state
44 of that is and how the calculations are derived for the
45 amount necessary for subsistence, ordering the factor in
46 all of these regulatory modifications are needing to go
47 forward in terms of a conservative management scheme and
48 the problem moving that into a more in touch management
49 scheme that may be needed if we're not
50 too careful in the -- doing the right conservation

1 measures. And in terms of the reg that I read here, I
2 don't see any language about non-Federally qualified
3 users, restricting those or the need to restrict those
4 and if these regs are for Federally-qualified subsistence
5 users only or if it's across the Board, I'd like to
6 understand more about those details. I have some
7 concerns about the control use area and perhaps defining
8 a tier II proposal that could go to the Board of Game for
9 Anaktuvuk Pass only, that area, to making sure that
10 caribou movements are unobstructed and get to where
11 communities that depend highly on these resources that
12 don't any other viable resource to replace that nutrition
13 value to that community and I think Anaktuvuk Pass is a
14 outlier there and it's one of those that should be
15 considered without having fear of reprisal for even
16 talking about control user.

17
18 Those would be my concerns and from there
19 I think I got a couple of concerns of unit 26A proposal
20 and I think they're minor and I think everybody would be
21 happy to at least maybe hear a minor thing.

22
23 Anyway I'll leave it at that.

24
25 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
26 providing your comments, Gordon, I think these are what's
27 generated in regard to what was shared. We -- this is
28 trying -- we tried including your comments as well from
29 the first day of meetings into having discussion and
30 having consideration for your comments as well and trying
31 to bring them on these proposals that have been
32 generated. So we have four proposals before us for unit
33 26A, unit 26B, unit 23 caribou and unit 24. So these are
34 the areas that are of concern to us in regard to -- that
35 are specific to caribou. In unit 26A we're talking about
36 the communities of Barrow, Wainwright, Atkasuk, Nuiqsut
37 and Point Lay, Anaktuvuk, Point Hope. I think those are
38 the communities that we are trying to address.
39 Kaktovik's kind of out in the eastern portion so Western
40 Arctic Caribou are the caribou that we're trying to
41 address at this time. And what was presented or what
42 passed at the Board of Game is referenced through the
43 RC76 was the proposal that was passed by the Board of
44 Game just a couple days ago I think and it's referenced
45 several times in these proposals, in each of -- I think
46 in each of the proposals. So I could read through the
47 first proposal and then we'll take -- we can take action
48 to support the proposal. I guess it start in the
49 positive sense and see which direction the Council
50 deliberates on each of the proposals or maybe making

1 amendments to the proposal might be another factor to
2 consider as well.

3

4

Tom.

5

6 MR. EVANS: You did a very good job of
7 summarizing what we went through yesterday and I'd like
8 to thank Robert and Geoff and other members of the staff
9 for helping put together these proposals we have in front
10 of us. There are a few things that Geoff brought forward
11 this morning, not so much for 26A here, but for the other
12 proposals that's the specific area that we're talking
13 about. In the Federal regulations we have more general
14 areas versus the State regs and so when we get to each
15 proposal I'll give a brief summary -- if I could, I could
16 give a brief summary of the area that we're actually
17 talking about. A good example is the Point Hope area.
18 It's just that area in unit 23, it's right in the corner
19 of 23, it's not all of 23. The way our regulations read,
20 we have one set of regulations for all of 23. So those
21 kind of things will have to be put into the regulations
22 -- the proposals that you'll submit forward.

23

24 So that's all I have to say other than
25 Anaktuvuk Pass and Point Hope are included in our regs,
26 just the villages, they can also hunt in 26A. So.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Tom. So
29 I could read through the first proposal. North Slope
30 Regional Advisory Council, their existing regulations in
31 unit 26A on caribou. The existing regulation reads 10
32 caribou per day however cow caribou may not be taken from
33 May 16 through June 30, the season July 1 to the
34 following year, June 30.

35

36 MR. SHEARS: All year.

37

38 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: It's a year round
39 season. Those are the current existing regulations.
40 Their proposed regulation changes in unit 26A for caribou
41 and it reads up to five caribou per day however no more
42 than three cow per day, calves may not be taken from
43 January through March 15. The next sentence reads up to
44 five bulls per day however cows may not be taken, calves
45 may not be taken from March 16 through July 15. The next
46 sentence reads up to five caribou per day however no more
47 than three cows per day. A cow accompanied by calves and
48 calves may not be taken from July 16 through October 15.
49 The last sentence reads on this -- in the square or the
50 rectangle shape, up to three cows per days however calves

1 may not be taken. No bull may be taken from October 16
2 through December 31. Then it reads why the regulation
3 should be changed. To align Federal regulations with
4 amended language for State proposal 202 submitted by
5 ADF&G. Record copy RC76. March, 2015.

6
7 Changing the State regulation for the
8 Western Arctic/Teshekpuk Caribou Herds. Currently the
9 Teshekpuk Herd population has experienced a population
10 decline of approximately 50 percent in the last decade.
11 Further impact of proposed regulation change to wildlife
12 populations. To reverse the declining population trend
13 of Teshekpuk Caribou. Continuing impact of the proposed
14 regulation change to subsistence users. Reduction of
15 daily takes will require more field days for harvest.
16 This is likely to impose an additional burden on
17 subsistence hunters due to increased cost and time
18 required to get enough caribou for subsistence needs.
19 Impacts of proposed regulation change to other users as
20 sports or recreational users identifies none. So that's
21 the first proposal regarding caribou in unit 26A.

22
23 What's the wish of the Council?

24
25 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

28
29 MR. G. BROWER: I've got a couple
30 questions and also maybe -- I'm not too sure if Geoff
31 Carroll or any of the caribou folks that work on caribou
32 issues -- we didn't hear an update on the combined
33 Western Arctic Herd/Teshekpuk Herd ANS situation and how
34 that is being viewed or discussed with anybody else. I
35 do have a concern to what the last statement you made
36 about impact of proposed regulation on subsistence uses.
37 I mean, the last one on proposed regulation change on
38 other users such as recreational users and it says none.
39 Does that mean that it does not impact sport and
40 recreational personal use by other users when we have to
41 roll our sleeves up and look at how we can make
42 justifiable conservation measures from the area. And I
43 wanted to make a friendly amendment I think in terms of
44 before that you read. I think throughout the entire
45 season, January 1 to January 1, a cow accompanied by a
46 calf, all year long, there's -- you're giving them
47 opportunity for a cow to nurture its fawn until she
48 releases it to be an independent member of the herd, a
49 cow accompanied by a calf, 24 hours a day, 365 days a
50 year. We consider that only for that particular pair, a

1 cow accompanied by a calf. I see that there's some
2 language in there cow accompanied by a calf and the calf
3 may not be taken, but it doesn't say that the cow and the
4 calf pair is protected 365 days a year.

5
6 The other part was the last one from
7 October 16 to December 31. I think the rut starts about
8 somewhere around October 8 and by December 1 I'm -- when
9 I'm up there hauling fish back to town the bulls that
10 have dropped their antlers are good to harvest, they look
11 like bulls -- they look like females with absolutely no
12 horns, but, you know, that -- I just thought that would
13 be a consideration to think about Maybe October 10 to
14 December 5 or something like that about the bulls, you
15 know, because I really like to, you know, catch those
16 bulls when they still got fat and they're not stink
17 anymore and that's about somewhere around October 5.

18
19 Anyway just food for thought. If there's
20 any questions because I may have said a mouthful already,
21 but the amount necessary for subsistence, the cow/calf
22 pair and the October rut season.

23
24 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So we do have Geoff
25 Carroll here and he might be able to answer parts of your
26 questions. I'm not sure to what extent, but I'll give
27 the floor to Geoff to provide his responses.

28
29 MR. CARROLL: Hello, Gordon. Yeah, this
30 is Geoff Carroll. Yeah, good to hear from you. As far
31 as the ANS there was no change in that status, it's still
32 a combined ANS for the Western Arctic Herd and the
33 Teshekpuk Herd. I think many of us agree that those
34 really should be separated, but, you know, we did -- at
35 this Board of Game meeting we were -- we were there kind
36 of out of sequence anyway and there was kind of a rush to
37 get through things and there just really wasn't time to
38 address that ANS situation at this Board meeting. You
39 know, we -- it -- it's something that probably could come
40 up next year although we'd be out of sequence again next
41 year, but in two years for sure, that's our regular time
42 for region five to meet with the Board of Game. So,
43 yeah, no change on that.

44
45 You know, and as far as your idea about,
46 you know, don't harvest cows with calves, you know, I
47 mean, I think that's good thinking, but the entire
48 regulation or -- well, now it is a regulation, but
49 initially it was a proposal that was written basically by
50 the North Slope Advisory Committee and was a result of

1 many meetings in many villages and, you know, working
2 with the Borough Wildlife Department. And, you know,
3 it's -- a lot of it were compromise points, you know,
4 some people thought no, there should never be a time that
5 you couldn't take cows with calves, other people, other
6 people thought that maybe year round, but that was kind
7 of a little bit of a compromise thing. So I don't know
8 if you're willing to kind of compromise and go along with
9 the flow. It is -- I mean, it's really a big change in
10 caribou regulations. I think it's the first time
11 anybody's ever suggested that you couldn't take a cow
12 with a calf. So, you know, to have it in there during
13 that crucial -- those summertime months, you know, when
14 the cows are really -- calves are really dependent on the
15 cows, you know, I think that's a big step in the right
16 direction.

17
18 But and then with the bulls again, you
19 know, there were -- there was quite a range of opinions
20 on when that, you know, no bull season should start and
21 when it should end and again it's kind of a compromise.
22 So, you know, it would make things easier if you could
23 kind of compromise and go along with everybody else and
24 keep, you know, the Federal regulations in alignment with
25 what the State came up with.

26
27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Any follow-up
28 comments, Gordon.

29
30 MR. G. BROWER: I do. I do. You know,
31 I've always been told when -- you know, when I was a
32 young boy and I even passed it onto my own sons, you
33 know, don't take the cow that has a calf, just don't take
34 the cow that has a calf. You stalk them and you weed
35 them out because you're probably going to eventually have
36 to just kill that calf. And I've seen calves in October
37 without a cow accompanying it and the foxes are chasing
38 it and it usually is -- it succumbs to predators fairly
39 quickly and it has no direction and it's kind of sad to
40 see those kind of things. But the -- I'm one of those
41 that generally just doesn't like to go with the flow, I
42 like to do -- make sure we're clear in our approach. I
43 certainly think the amount necessary for subsistence and
44 combining two herds, one that actually -- and they're
45 actually two different herds and may be detrimental to a
46 smaller herd. And it also -- it leads to the question
47 about well, the amount necessary for subsistence is
48 created artificially high, it provides for the additional
49 take of the excess to sport and other uses. And if you
50 look at that and separate them, those other uses would go

1 away in my -- in my view. I'm not making it the most
2 important thing on earth, but certainly the rate of
3 decline for the Teshekpuk Herd should put a lot of people
4 on notice to be more vigilant in accounting for this
5 correctly. Well, anyway, yeah, I just try to go with
6 what I know and I caught a bull October 5 and thinking it
7 was a good thing, but it -- and it certainly wasn't -- it
8 was pretty awful, the skin. And so I think, you know, it
9 should have more realistic times and I guess, you know,
10 the ball park is okay if you want to go with the flow,
11 but I really think somewhere around October 8th I --
12 somewhere around there usually I stop hunting the bulls
13 and just tend to fishing because that switch is just
14 about right on target, you know, you stop hunting bulls
15 and you start hunting -- you start pulling your fish nets
16 and concentrate on that.

17
18 Anyway that's what I thought it was
19 important for me to voice that. And you're always taught
20 that, you don't hunt the cow accompanied by a fawn at
21 anytime.

22
23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
24 Just a quick comment there, Geoff. Maybe what Gordon
25 raised regarding the last sentence there on the proposal.
26 Impact proposed regulation change to other uses such as
27 sport and recreational uses and it identifies none. And
28 yet we're -- we look forward to lessen the impacts on
29 subsistence users.

30
31 MR. CARROLL: Well, in the State process,
32 you know, the other thing that was changed is the non-
33 resident, both the season and the bag limit was greatly
34 reduced, it was reduced from five caribou to one bull for
35 non-residents and the season was reduced from a year
36 round season to July 15th to September 30th season. So
37 it was reduced. And through the State system, you know,
38 it -- as it went up, you know, population -- when the
39 harvestable surplus, you know, gets below the amount
40 necessary for subsistence then, you know, we start going
41 through steps that -- you know, the first step is to
42 completely eliminate non-resident harvest and then when
43 it gets lower still we -- then you have to start deciding
44 between subsistence harvests and, you know, we have
45 mechanisms, tier I hunts with -- where permits are
46 required and tier II hunts and that sort of thing. And
47 so that'll be coming, but at this point, you know, it's
48 through the State system it's -- you know, it's difficult
49 to eliminate non-local hunters. However I think you're
50 all aware through the Federal system you do have

1 mechanisms to do that if you decide that that's -- that
2 that's appropriate.

3
4 And so I -- like I say that is something
5 you could address through the Federal system, but through
6 the State system we're going to have to go through some
7 steps first as far as the population declining and that
8 sort of thing.

9
10 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Geoff.
11 Just trying to get that clarification in order so we can
12 have a response to the concern that Gordon raised.

13
14 Rosemary.

15
16 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes, it is important
17 to consider as we're going through this process some of
18 the other concerns that he brings up especially on the
19 Colville River and the increased activities on that
20 scenic designation. There's also increased activity on
21 the Dalton Highway with its national designation. Those
22 kinds of activities that bring in large quantities of
23 people like 20 man floats and those kind of things have
24 to be considered as part of some of these current
25 concerns during important times of what's happening in
26 these areas where the caribou are moving.

27
28 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

29
30 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
33 Gordon.

34
35 MR. G. BROWER: Oh, would Geoff respond?

36
37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I was going to make
38 a comment, but you can go ahead, Gordon.

39
40 MR. G. BROWER: All right. Yeah, I mean,
41 you know, Geoff says very important words about the
42 amount necessary for subsistence. And when that level is
43 already below -- the amount necessary for subsistence is
44 already below that it could not support non-resident
45 hunters for the Western Arctic Herd. That -- it's
46 already there, I mean, the population itself and the
47 amount necessary for subsistence is already low enough
48 where non-resident hunters would be weeded out. By
49 combining the two herds, Teshekpuk Herd, Western Arctic
50 Herd and not recognizing them as two herds is calculating

1 the amount necessary for subsistence and bringing that
2 additional calculation in my view is artificially higher
3 which when you have an artificially higher ANS it allows
4 to be calculated that there is sufficient amount for
5 everybody including non-resident hunters. That's where
6 I see that and when you do that bag limits and everything
7 like that are artificially in my view and the amount
8 necessary for subsistence, a confidence level is
9 increased to increase -- to have higher bag limits.
10 We're working on reducing bag limits right now for
11 subsistence users with this artificially high ANS. So I
12 don't know where to draw the line, but I certainly think
13 really as a general advisory consult separate those two
14 herds and for what they are, the amount necessary for
15 subsistence by the Regional Subsistence Advisory Council
16 or independent of each other, one for the Western Arctic
17 Herd, one for the Teshekpuk Herd and send that off to the
18 Federal Subsistence Board as our recommendation. By
19 looking at the rate of decline, conservation measures and
20 very soon we're going to be entertaining probably
21 intensive management schemes which is going to reduce
22 further and decide who's a resident. Right now the State
23 of Alaska is in -- it is retribute for the residents. So
24 if you're in Kotzebue you're residence include Fairbanks,
25 and your residence include Anchorage, Juneau, anybody
26 that's a resident of the State of Alaska is recognized as
27 a residence so the amount of harvest for personal use
28 substantially is already increased of resident use of
29 these resources. It's kind of like there's so many
30 different angles to think about here and why would we
31 really think we keep these up and we don't try something
32 that recognizes the nutritional needs of the communities
33 that are in range of the migration itself have to be a
34 resident, rural resident, I don't know if that's tier I
35 or tier II in the state books, but those are my concerns.

36

37 I can go on and on on these things, but
38 I think we need to have some level of schooling for all
39 of us to understand the State system and not be so
40 inclined to align ourselves with the State because
41 sometimes I think there's some games being played in my
42 view it jumps out looking at how to give everybody the
43 piece of the pie.

44

Thank you.

45

46

47 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
48 I think that these are valid concerns and you know that
49 we've had -- like Geoff indicated we've had discussions
50 with our North Slope Borough of Fish and Game Management

1 Committee who are our local advisory committee to the
2 State and discuss these -- the situation of the decline
3 on caribou. But you're right, the amounts necessary for
4 subsistence and the combined numbers that are generated
5 from Teshekpuk and Western Arctic Caribou need to be
6 differentiated. I'm not sure how Geoff or the other
7 biologists within the state are looking to address that
8 some point in time. I think there needs to be some
9 follow-up discussions regarding what -- the steps that
10 we've taken and see the implications will be throughout
11 the season, you know, the concern is about caribou and
12 the decline of caribou within our region and it's
13 impacting the two herds. So I think that there's -- the
14 other side of the coin is that we have a -- under the
15 North Slope Regional Advisory Council what we have the
16 term subsistence use amounts that we -- that even begin
17 to identify within this discussion. You know, we need
18 some biological work and documentation as to how we can
19 apply that for responsible management of caribou. So
20 these are things that are again valid concerns that we
21 need to provide and identify with.

22
23 At this time so we're -- I mean, we're on
24 discussion of the proposal and you see that we -- if you
25 feel that we need to amend the proposed regulation
26 through this Council, you know, we're -- you're welcome
27 to make the amending motions to the proposal. As I read
28 earlier it's a -- we have four proposals and they address
29 the range of the caribou at different parts because we do
30 have communities in 24 who resides in Anaktuvuk Pass or
31 right in the boundary line of unit 24 and 26A. We have
32 another proposal addressing unit 23 and so Point Hope
33 being just on the northern portion of unit 23 and we also
34 address their membership to the North Slope Borough Fish
35 and Game Management Committee and this Regional Advisory
36 Council as well as representation to those herds, users
37 of these herds. So we have four proposals that have been
38 generated to try and address the needs of these
39 communities.

40 Rosemary.

41
42 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I appreciate the
43 communications. That was some of the discussion I had
44 yesterday, are we going far enough. The reality is we
45 don't have enough animals, we're having to consider our
46 reduced harvest, but if we don't take adequacy of these
47 decisions then we're going to have further hardship for
48 many years and it is a hard decision to make. I think
49 about our Native allotment and the reality that on the
50 Denali Highway there are restrictions for us to subsist

1 in our Native allotment, hunting is not allowed. But yet
2 we can have five campers show up on our Native allotment
3 and other hunters travel through the area to get to other
4 hunting grounds as an acceptable part of actions in that
5 area. These are real serious concerns about what we're
6 doing and I'm -- I also worry about are we going far
7 enough. My druthers would be to realize that we have to
8 have a hardship now in hopes to reduce the depth of the
9 hardship that's going to go on into the future. And I
10 have seen difficulties of what it does to a community
11 when you have serious declines in subsistence. When you
12 have multiple species those hardships are real, the
13 losses that occur in the village are real. The conflict
14 that occurs in the local level is astronomical and that's
15 what we want to prevent for our region to deal with
16 because it is some real serious losses of life that
17 happens when we fail in many of these areas because of
18 the depth of the process and how it affects throughout
19 our culture and tradition and the lives of our families.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

24

25 Tom.

26

27 MR. EVANS: I think Gordon and folks have
28 raised really good points, but one thing I think we
29 should take in consideration these are Federal
30 regulations so these are only focused on Federal
31 subsistence regulations. We're not dealing with non-
32 resident hunters, these are only regulations for resident
33 hunters in the communities that have been identified in
34 the subsistence regulations. So I don't know, one
35 suggestion I might have is maybe for the annual report we
36 could identify some of these issues that we might want to
37 have the Federal Subsistence Board submit a letter to the
38 State expressing some of the concerns that you've had
39 concerning Native allotments, ANS decisions or whatnot.
40 But I think we should, you know, try to focus that these
41 are Federal regulations here and just stick with that.

42

43 And another little quick point for Harry,
44 the information at the bottom of these -- each of these
45 proposals is exactly the same so you probably don't have
46 to read that each time. That will shorten up the speed
47 of going through these.

48

49 Okay. Thank you.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Eva.
4
5 MS. PATTON: If I may also just to help
6 follow-up with what Tom was just discussing there. So
7 because these are Federal subsistence regulations which
8 only apply to rural residents under the Federal
9 subsistence regulations, the concern that Gordon had
10 raised about impact to sport or recreational uses.
11 Because this is just addressing, you know, the current
12 regulations which allow the harvest of 10 caribou for
13 rural residents that's why there's no impact to other
14 users is these regulations only apply to rural residents
15 within the region.
16
17 Thank you.
18
19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for that
20 refresher.
21
22 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.
23
24 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon.
25
26 MR. G. BROWER: My -- here's a -- I wrote
27 this letter proposal or anything like that, but just a
28 wrench -- throwing a wrench into a dialogue. Let's
29 assume that the problems created by some other regulatory
30 regime, either the State and their management of the
31 caribou herd and we say we're going to keep 15 caribou
32 per day and -- until such time that the State wakes up
33 and makes a -- in the same kind of sweeping changes we're
34 allowing to occur and settle the public lands. And I
35 don't know, I'm just -- I'm -- it seems to me these
36 issues are -- there's so many different angles that come
37 in, the ANS, the rural hunters, the resident hunters
38 which include the entire state population and then the
39 non-hunters that are not from the -- they're not from the
40 state, I would think, they're non-residents. The only
41 non-residents that could be hunting on this is, you know,
42 folks that are flown in from different countries and
43 different states. Anyway all we would have bet I would
44 like to maybe propose a change to unit 26A that at the
45 end of the sentence of why the regulation should be
46 changed, immediately following after the sentence, the
47 last sentence of that section, currently the Teshekpuk
48 Herd population has experienced a population decline of
49 approximately 50 percent in the last decade. Regional
50 Advisory Council -- something to the effect that this --

1 the Teshekpuk Herd should have an independent ANS for
2 itself. And just leave it at that. And I know you went
3 along with the rest of all of the verbiage on the -- in
4 agreeing with any 26A caribou. I like all of it, it
5 looks fine, I'm just worried about the mother cows and
6 calves for the entire year.

7

8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.

9

10 We have a comment from Tom.

11

12 Tom. Could you state your name for the
13 record, please.

14

15 MR. KRON: Yeah, Tom Kron with OSM. Mr.
16 Chair, distinguished members of the Council, Gordon. The
17 Federal program does not have an ANS, we do not have
18 amounts necessary for subsistence anywhere in Alaska. So
19 that is not part of the terminology that you need to
20 worry about. That's an issue on the State side. We know
21 that they have ANS amounts, the Federal system has never
22 -- has not embraced those, we do not have those anywhere
23 in our regulations.

24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: But the term we have
28 is subsistence use amount, isn't that within our --
29 within our Federal program?

30

31 MR. KRON: Basically we talk about
32 subsistence opportunity. And again that's something
33 that, you know, you can all provide perspective on based
34 on your involvement from your communities. But again I
35 would -- I would focus on the issues that are here, but
36 the ANS issue, the amounts necessary for subsistence,
37 would be something to deal with through the Alaska Board
38 of Game, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for that
43 clarification, Tom.

44

45 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon.

48

49 MR. G. BROWER: Tom, yeah, I know exactly
50 where that belongs and that it's one I suggested, but if

1 you look at the sentences before those, that section of
2 that -- why the regulation should be changed, to align
3 Federal regulations with the amended language of the
4 State proposal 202 submitted by ADF&G. Record copy 76 of
5 March, 2015. And it's not suggesting that we have an
6 ANS, but it is suggesting in that language there
7 currently the Teshekpuk Herd population have experienced
8 a population decline of approximately 50 percent the last
9 decade therefore the Regional Advisory Council is
10 determining that the amount necessary for subsistence
11 should be independent for the Teshekpuk Herd. And this
12 is all coupled with State language and aligning ourself
13 with the State. And that's all I'm saying. It's not
14 saying we're creating our own ANS, it's going to be to
15 those prompters that say hey, we need to have the Federal
16 Board of Game or Federal Subsistence Board comment to the
17 Board of Game, hey, they lack the means up there, there
18 needs to be a change in the ANS and the Teshekpuk Herd
19 should enjoy its own ANS at this point in time.

20

21 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.

22

23 Tom.

24

25 MR. KRON: Yeah. Mr. Chair, members of
26 the Council, Gordon. I guess my recommendation and we
27 kind of talked about this a little bit earlier would be
28 to raise the ANS issue as something for your annual
29 report to be conveyed to Fish and Game and the Alaska
30 Board of Game. But again relative to this proposal and
31 the regulations it's nowhere else in State reg -- in the
32 Federal regulations and it would be -- I don't know how
33 Tom would deal with it in the analysis, but it would be
34 difficult to put it in here because we don't have it
35 anywhere else in the Federal regulations.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah, it's only come
40 about because of the situation on caribou in 26A and the
41 proposed changes to the regulations is what we're trying
42 to address.

43

44 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Eva.

47

48 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council and
49 Gordon. To follow-up as well, an avenue that the Council
50 can take as Geoff had indicated, there's opportunity to

1 bring up recommendations to the Board of Game out of
2 cycle in an agenda change request. This Council does
3 have the ability to make recommendations to the Board of
4 Game. This proposal is a Federal subsistence proposal
5 and the Federal Subsistence Board does not in turn make
6 recommendations to the Board of Game. The Council can
7 make recommendations to the Board of Game, but under
8 these proposals what the Council can do is make a
9 recommendation to the Board on what the authority the
10 Federal Subsistence Board has on Federal subsistence
11 regulations. So the Board wouldn't be able to take up
12 ANS anyway. So the Board does defer to the Council in
13 its authority on Federal subsistence regulations on
14 Federal lands. And so that's where the Council can make
15 the strong recommendations here. We can follow-up in
16 making recommendations to the Board of Game in a separate
17 proposal.

18

19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you.

20

21 So we still have.....

22

23 MR. G. BROWER: I have no further
24 comments, Mr. Chair unless -- I don't have any further to
25 add.

26

27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
28 What's the wishes of the Council in regard to the
29 proposal?

30

31 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I'm trying to
34 identify the proposal number and it -- but it doesn't
35 have one.

36

37 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair, can I have my
38 moment?

39

40 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes.

41

42 MR. SHEARS: Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Robert, go ahead.

45

46 MR. SHEARS: Before I introduce the
47 proposal to the motion I like to go through and make my
48 own specific comments about it.

49

50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Sure.

1 MR. SHEARS: Although, you know, I had a
2 -- you know, we heard -- let me go back to the beginning
3 where we started at, you know, a year ago recognizing
4 that we had an impending emergency with populations of
5 both herds, most notably the Western Arctic Caribou. And
6 continued monitoring we're realizing that maybe we need
7 to do something about it. We're watching -- we're -- you
8 know, those of us on the Federal subsistence advisory
9 side are looking for leadership and we got the Western
10 Arctic Caribou Working Group, we got the Wildlife
11 Department, we've got U.S. Fish and Wildlife, we've got
12 the Board of Game, we got a number of entities that are
13 aggressively trying to understand this problem and the
14 Board of Game is the first one to come through with a
15 real executable strategy to perhaps address the declining
16 population with a goal to reverse it. And when Geoff
17 brought it through -- you know, got back on the plane and
18 rushed back here to present it to us yesterday we heard
19 and it's -- it's ambitious, it affects -- it affects
20 units 21, 23, 24A, B and C, 26A, 26B, it affects sport --
21 it closes sport hunting on the west side of the Dalton
22 Highway, it limits non-residents to one bull only during
23 a small segment of the season, those guys flying in out
24 of Kotzebue into the upper Noatak Valley and stuff like
25 that and it hits -- and it hits their subsistence users
26 on State land in Point Lay and Point Hope and on Federal
27 land in Barrow and Atkasuk and Wainwright and Nuiqsut and
28 our -- and the Federal land hunters in Anaktuvuk Pass,
29 everybody is affected by this State recommendation. But
30 we have two sets of hunting regulations, we got a --
31 Geoff's side is only coming up and affecting the State
32 hunting reg. Those of us who oversee the other side of
33 the fence, the Federal hunting reg, now have an
34 opportunity to meet the State's intent, you know, meet
35 them bullet for bullet, sweat for sweat and match them,
36 try to create, you know, something so that there is some
37 sort of compromise so that we can say that we too, not
38 just the State of Alaska, but U.S. Fish and Wildlife side
39 are doing something else -- are doing our share to help
40 stop this declining population. It's scaring the heck
41 out of us. We realize that, you know, but there's going
42 to be pain with it, we got to suck it up, draw our belt
43 tight.

44
45 So realizing that and that our deadline
46 to execute change to the Federal subsistence regulations
47 that are effective on July 1st, 2016, a little over a
48 year and a half from -- or a little over a year from now,
49 our deadline to get our proposals in is March 25th, less
50 than a week away. And we're not -- and I know how hard

1 it is to pull this group of committee members together to
2 make a decision and how long it takes us to decide on it
3 is like going well, let's throw it out on the table and
4 have this discussion tomorrow, let's have an active
5 discussion and consider it because if we're going to do
6 something about this we need to do it now.

7
8 So we roughed out these four draft
9 proposals and these are -- you know, they ought to be
10 watermarked and stamped and say it's first draft in big
11 letters on them because they're meant to be changed. But
12 for discussion purposes we tried to make it -- it's the
13 same thing as what the State is doing on their side.
14 But, you know, so now let's talk about, you know, putting
15 these proposals forward and they're basically boiler
16 plate. They're slightly -- everyone of them is slightly
17 different, but for the most part they're the same in
18 intent to reverse the population. And the impact is the
19 same and that it reduces the daily take and requires more
20 field days for harvest.

21
22 Let me go through it real quick about
23 what my personal impressions are of this and I'm going to
24 use unit 26A caribou for example. Current subsistence
25 regulations that I've experienced hunting in Wainwright,
26 10 caribou per day, however cow caribou may not be taken
27 May 16th to June 30th. And this is all year around. And
28 this is -- this is a luxuriously extravagant, very
29 lenient bag limit. Almost anybody can operate easily
30 within this with their eyes closed. It doesn't impact --
31 you know, we go about subsistence and we don't worry
32 about, you know, if we're breaking the rules because this
33 -- you know, this is a very generous amount, 10 caribou
34 per day per person. Occasionally get a herd -- you know,
35 three people in a boat will catch a herd of 60 going
36 across the river and they'll put them all on the bank and
37 they'll get on the radio you guys, you just got a whole
38 bunch of caribou. And so 10 people will descend on the
39 butchering site and they'll all take equal shares away.
40 Yeah, big deal. But 10 a day, no problem. About -- you
41 know, but with the proposed regulation changes what we're
42 looking at is basically five a day, we're going to cut
43 that in half. And with the extenuating circumstances
44 that only three cows per day spec -- most specifically
45 October 16th to December 31st. No bulls during rut.
46 Sometimes I need to take bulls during rut specifically
47 for the forelegs, for the skin on the forelegs, from the
48 shoulder to the hoof line for making uppers on mukluks.
49 It takes eight set of legs to make a set of hunting
50 mukluks. But other than that rut bulls are only good for

1 fox bait. No big deal there. Calves, I see seven cows
2 with four calves and I -- by god I don't want to kill a
3 mother cow, I mean, that's the -- you know, that's a --
4 that's just makes me feel terrible, but I've left more
5 orphan calves than I can count. It happens, they come
6 out of nowhere. And that's why the reg -- the existing
7 regulation was written to allow cows -- you know, allow
8 the take of cows accompanied by calves because I think
9 everybody realizes that it happens, you know, to the most
10 responsible hunters. Yeah, we don't like -- I don't know
11 of anybody who likes killing a mother caribou. I've
12 never met, you know, anybody on the subsistence side that
13 does that, but it happens and when it does well, you just
14 add -- you just add a calf to your boat, you know.

15
16 So but here's the worst part about this
17 proposed regulation. Three cows per day from October
18 16th to December 31st. Now that hurts. That actually is
19 going to impact people and it is going to cause a reduced
20 -- a reduction of daily take and it's going to -- and
21 it's going to increase an expense of money, time and
22 equipment on people who hunt, you know, because that's
23 when the cows -- you know, the cows are fat and the cows
24 are tasty. And that's when the waterbodies are freezing
25 up and the rough, frozen tundra is finally getting
26 leveled with snow and you can implement a snowmachine and
27 you can really ambush a lot of caribou real fast. And
28 that's when all the people I know really put up their
29 winter meat, their cellar co-op (ph) for the next summer.
30 I can get three cows before breakfast in November and I
31 often do. Now that I'm limited to three cows per day now
32 you're actually -- now you're actually hurting the
33 people. This regulation is stringent. This actually has
34 an impact and will reduce the take of caribou and thus
35 help reverse the decline of the population. This is an
36 effective regulation. We're not talking about 10 caribou
37 per day anymore.

38
39 Why the Federal regulations should be
40 changed. To align Federal regulations first of all with
41 -- for number 1, intent, was to align Federal regulations
42 with the amended language suggested for State proposal
43 202 under the Record Copy 76. That's the intent to align
44 it. We're not saying that we have to match it word for
45 word, we can change this. But you'll notice and -- you
46 know, and Gordon was saying could we possibly use this
47 proposal as a mechanism for employing policy changes on
48 how the ANS is determined, you know, the controversy
49 between grouping the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk Caribou
50 Herds and differentiating it out. Gordon, you may -- I

1 was thinking the exact same thing you were, I just didn't
2 want to come right out and say it and Tom and I were
3 working on this last night, writing this together and I
4 didn't want to make a political statement out of this
5 proposal change, but do you notice how cleverly we put
6 the two subjects in there into that statement. First of
7 all where we say we're changing the State regulations for
8 the Western Arctic slash Teshekpuk Caribou Herds.
9 Currently the Teshekpuk Herd population -- I didn't
10 mention -- I made no mention about the Western Arctic
11 Herd in the second sentence. You got me?

12

13 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah.

14

15 MR. SHEARS: All right. The impact of
16 the proposed regulation change to wildlife populations,
17 this is the goal of this regulation change. And
18 recognizing that this is only one thing that we might be
19 doing of 20 different things we should be doing to
20 reverse the decline of the population herd. But just
21 affecting the daily bag limit is one of many things to
22 meet -- to achieve the ultimate goal of reversing the
23 declining population trend of the Teshekpuk Herd. I --
24 by no mean do I intend that this proposal in itself will
25 reverse the declining population trend. We need to do a
26 lot of other things including predator control.

27

28 Impact of proposed regulation change to
29 subsistence users. A reduction of daily take will
30 require more field days for harvest. This is likely to
31 impose an additional burden to subsistence hunters due to
32 increased costs and time required to get enough caribou
33 for subsistence needs, especially that last block of the
34 proposed regulation only allowing three cows per day from
35 October 16th to December 31st I believe.

36

37 The impact of the proposed regulation
38 change to other uses such as sport and recreational uses
39 where it says none. Well, really if you think about it
40 in unit 26B on the Dalton Highway there's sport hunters
41 hunting that highway, hiking in a mile off the highway
42 and hunting with bow and arrow in 26B and they're hunting
43 the Teshekpuk Herd. And they are -- and this is, you
44 know, even though the State proposed regulation 202 is
45 closing that section of 26B west of the Dalton Highway
46 south of pump station two, that area north of pump
47 station two up to Prudhoe Bay is still a walk in area.
48 And if we are reversing the declining population trend of
49 the Teshekpuk Herd with this proposed regulation well,
50 then aren't we making a better opportunity for sport

1 hunters in 26B in that area that's open for sport
2 hunting.

3
4 Under this proposal the impact of this
5 proposed regulation change, other uses such as sport and
6 recreational uses, instead of saying none it should be
7 saying this will improve the sport hunting opportunity in
8 unit 26B.

9
10 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Maybe.

11
12 MR. SHEARS: Yeah. So anyway I -- thank
13 you all for letting me have my 15 minutes in the sun on
14 this. I'm sorry for rambling on, that's just my opinions
15 on it.

16
17 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I mean, thank you
18 for that.....

19
20 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

21
22 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER:Robert, I think
23 these are good to share and it's good to hear different
24 opinions as to -- for moving forward on why and -- why we
25 should make these changes and identifying ourselves as
26 conservationists in a way.

27
28 (Laughter)

29
30 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

31
32 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And that we are.

33
34 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

37
38 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, after listening to
39 Bob, you know, he's really convincing. Wordsmithing is
40 a -- maybe the word to say. And I completely agree. I
41 mean, I was thinking that, you know, by making more
42 changing to the wording and never even looked at what
43 it's saying. Bob's absolutely correct, I -- yeah, those
44 little (indiscernible - distortion) out of my ears and
45 mouth. So sorry.

46
47 MR. SHEARS: Gordon, I forgot.....

48
49 MR. G. BROWER: I get kind of heated up
50 while I'm talking about what's going to happen to my

1 hunting activities and I just -- it worries me. I think
2 Bob's correct, a lot of people are worried about the
3 harvesting aspect after the regulations get enacted.

4
5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.

6
7 I think that.....

8
9 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. One more
10 thing.

11
12 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Rosemary.

13
14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I think it's really
15 important because of what is happening and the reality of
16 life on the ground that this process has to go out in
17 other ways such as there a public assistance program that
18 needs to be informed that we're limiting hunting, it's
19 going to impact people's needs for other resources and
20 those kinds of things, but making sure we put this
21 information out there far and wide to try to help all of
22 the various resources people may need to resort to to
23 meet their nutritional needs.

24
25 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for that,
26 Rosemary. Any further discussion or comments regarding
27 the proposed regulation change?

28
29 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

32
33 MR. G. BROWER: Are these going to be
34 action items for motions to -- so that we can forward
35 them on?

36
37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, that's why we
38 were patiently waiting for you to come back on because we
39 don't have a quorum to move forward. So, yes, you are
40 right.

41
42 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair, are you waiting
43 for a motion?

44
45 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Patiently.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 MR. SHEARS: Okay.

50

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Robert.
2
3 MR. SHEARS: All right. Gordon, I'm
4 going to move forward with a motion at this time unless
5 you got some more discussion?
6
7 MR. G. BROWER: Go ahead, you beat me to
8 the punch.
9
10 MR. SHEARS: All right. Here we go.
11 First motion. This is a proposal to modify the Federal
12 subsistence hunting and trapping regulations. This is a
13 proposal for caribou in unit 26A. The -- this is to
14 change the bag limit. The current bag limit is 10
15 caribou per day, however cow caribou may not be taken May
16 16th to June 30th for the periods July 1st to June 30th
17 each year. Motion to amend the regulation for unit 26A
18 that five cari -- for the period January 1st to March
19 15th up to five caribou per day, however no more than
20 three cows per days, calves may not be taken. For the
21 period March 16th to July 15th, up to five bulls per day,
22 however cows may not be taken, calves may not be taken.
23 For the period July 16th to October 15th, up to five
24 caribou per day, however no more than three cows per day,
25 cows accompanied by calves and calves may not be taken.
26 October 16th to December 31st, up to three cows per day,
27 however calves may not be taken, no bulls may be taken.
28
29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We have a motion on
30 the floor.
31
32 MR. G. BROWER: Second.
33
34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Seconded by Gordon.
35 Further discussion?
36
37 MR. CARROLL: Mr. Chair.
38
39 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Geoff.
40
41 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, just one thing. I
42 probably didn't make it clear enough yesterday is, you
43 know, in the State regulations, this is on the one map I
44 handed out, this is for what we call area D, I believe,
45 and it's basically unit 26A north of the Colville and the
46 Utukok Rivers. Because the next -- you know, the
47 following proposal it's going to be part of unit 26A
48 south of that and that includes -- you know, it's 26A
49 south of that line plus, you know, Point Hope and
50 Anaktuvuk. You know, we're trying to get them all

1 included in that. So actually Point Lay would be.....
2
3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Geoff, I didn't get
4 what.....
5
6 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, I'm just saying this
7 proposal is for the -- I mean, in the State regulations
8 it's for the area north of the Colville and the Utukok
9 Rivers, it's a part of 26A north of the Colville and the
10 Utukok Rivers.
11
12 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for that
13 clarification.
14
15 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: So we're needing to
16 add those clarification to this wording?
17
18 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: To the language.
19
20 MR. CARROLL: Well, yeah, if you want to
21 stay in alignment with the.....
22
23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Bob.
24
25 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. And this is
26 where I come up to, you know, saying we're trying to
27 align Federal regulation with State -- you know, with the
28 State proposal as best we can, however we're not -- you
29 know, it's not a -- you know, it's not a necessary
30 premise of this proposal to match the State proposal word
31 for word, line on the map for line on the map. For all,
32 you know, intents and purposes if the communities this --
33 this affects the communities of Atqasuk, Barrow,
34 Wainwright and Nuiqsut who hunt under the Federal
35 subsistence harvest regulation. The other community in
36 unit 26A that is not directly spoken of here, but is
37 affected by what Geoff is speaking of, is affected under
38 the State hunting regulation because they hunt on State
39 land. And it -- this -- you know, this change to the
40 existing Federal regulation that we're proposing is kind
41 of a moot point for Point Lay.
42
43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Geoff.
44
45 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, that's a good point.
46 I don't -- I mean, I don't think that it's going to make
47 a big difference. So.....
48
49 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Geoff.
50

1 Rosemary.

2

3 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: No, I'm fine.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. I have a

8 motion to that -- to what Bob has said, it's been

9 seconded and we're still under discussion. Any further

10 discussion?

11

12 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Call for the question.

13

14

15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Question's been

16 called on the motion to adopt the proposed regulation for

17 unit 26A caribou. All in favor of the motion signify by

18 saying aye.

19

20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21

22 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Opposed say nay.

23

24 (No opposing votes)

25

26 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: None noted. Thank

27 you. Unit 26A caribou proposal has passed the Regional

28 Advisory Council.

29

30 Our next proposal.....

31

32 MR. EVANS: Harry.

33

34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Tom.

35

36 MR. EVANS: If I may. I notice there's

37 a little mistake on the next one so before you read it

38 and I also wanted to include the unit restriction that

39 the State had for this one.

40

41 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Maybe before I go

42 any further I better back up myself. I have this

43 proposal sitting here that we're supposed to be following

44 on June 3rd.

45

46 MS. PATTON: Madam Chair. I'm sorry, Mr.

47 Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Eva.

50

1 MS. PATTON: I didn't mean to -- and
2 Council. This presentation of proposals is when these
3 proposals that the Council is developing now goes before
4 the Board.....
5
6 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Uh-huh.
7
8 MS. PATTON:and then we'll come
9 back to the Council again and to all the Councils and to
10 the public for review at the fall meeting.
11
12 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So we're doing.....
13
14 MS. PATTON: You're doing fabulous.
15
16 Thank you.
17
18 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Tom, go ahead.
19
20 MR. EVANS: Okay. So just some -- a
21 quick change. On the very first part the existing
22 regulations it says 10 caribou today, however cow caribou
23 may not be taken October 1st to April 30th. Cross out
24 the not, it should be may. And then for the.....
25
26 MR. G. BROWER: Which proposal is that
27 one?
28
29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: You have to restate
30 that.
31
32 MR. EVANS: This is the proposal for unit
33 26B and for the record this is Tom Evans.
34
35 MR. G. BROWER: (Indiscernible -
36 distortion).....
37
38 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: You have to turn
39 your mic off. You have to restate what you were talking
40 about, Tom, but turn your mic off when you're done
41 speaking, please.
42
43 MR. EVANS: Sorry about that. It's for
44 the proposal for unit 26B caribou.
45
46 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And for the record
47 what is the change you want?
48
49 MR. EVANS: Okay. So the change is under
50 the existing regulations. It says 10 caribou per day,

1 however cow caribou may not be taken October 1st to April
2 30th. Cross out the word not. And then for the unit 26B
3 to make the actual area the same as what the State was
4 recommending under Record Copy 76 it should be unit 26B,
5 that portion south of 69 degrees, 30 minutes, north
6 latitude and west of the Dalton Highway.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 MR. G. BROWER: Did I get cut off or we
11 just quiet?

12

13 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We're just quiet in
14 a sense, Gordon. I'm just trying to get Tom and Geoff --
15 Tom Evans and Geoff Carroll to help communicate on the
16 proposal before we bring it out for consideration by the
17 Council.

18

19 Geoff, go ahead.

20

21 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, the significance of
22 that 69 degrees, 30 minutes, is north of that is the area
23 where Nuiqsut hunts when they hunt in 26B. And so that's
24 always had fairly liberal regulations over there. And
25 the area south of that is -- you know, it's a lot more
26 people driving up the road hunting that section. So,
27 yeah, the idea of this -- well, this regulation now is to
28 basically close the season in there during the time that
29 the Teshekpuk Caribou move into that area. They kind of
30 change their movement patterns and, you know, well, in
31 recent years they tend to -- a fair number of them tend
32 to go south every year and a certain number of them move
33 into that area right up to the pipeline. So.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Geoff.
36 So we have a -- the proposal, it's proposed regulation,
37 26B caribou, that portion 69
38 degrees, 30 minutes north and south along the Dalton Haul
39 Road. Five caribou per day as follows. Up to five bulls
40 per day, however calf may not be taken from July 1 to
41 October 14. And the second one is February 1 to June 30,
42 no bulls from October 14 to February 1. And then it
43 continues within that rectangle shape box is the up to
44 five cow per day, however calves may not be taken, July
45 15 through April. No cows, April 30 to July 15. So how
46 does that -- you need to help me with that parentheses.

47

48 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon.

1 MR. G. BROWER: Just at the location of
2 this stuff, I'm wondering the difference here in some of
3 the timing and up to five bulls per day without -- and
4 however no calves may be taken July 1 to October 14, so
5 on. And then October 14 to February 1, no bulls. And
6 kind of think that no bulls season is unusually long
7 there. It seems to me that should be maybe like unit 26A
8 up to somewhere in December. And then the five cows per
9 day from July 15 to April 30 and then it just -- just
10 having a little trouble grasping what this means and.....
11

12 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Do you want me to
13 ask Tom or Geoff for a clarification in regards to these
14 -- the dates that have been identified, maybe starting
15 backwards from this no cow from April 30 to July 15, is
16 that to stop hunters from taking cows between April 30
17 and July 15 within 26B. And then the other -- the one
18 above that, July 15 to April 30, it's kind of confusing.
19 You can take five cows per day, however calves may not be
20 taken, July 15 to April 30. Could you help clarify that,
21 please.
22

23 MR. CARROLL: Okay. The point is there
24 that you cannot take bulls from October 14th through
25 February 1st and that's because those are the dates that
26 we have found that the Teshekpuk Herd is -- moves into
27 that area. We don't want to have -- you know, there's
28 relatively good numbers of Central Arctic Herd caribou in
29 there so the season is open when people are likely to be
30 harvesting Central Arctic Herd, but when the Teshekpuk
31 Herd on their southern migration tend to generally move
32 in there about the middle of October and be in there a
33 lot through mid -- you know, up until February. So
34 anyway the bull season is closed for that time.
35

36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Does that help,
37 Gordon?
38

39 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, it does, but I'm
40 wondering who your customers are going to be between
41 October 14 and February 1 when the Teshekpuk Herd -- I
42 don't have a map with me right here, and is this impact
43 mostly on Anaktuvuk Pass?
44

45 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Who would we be
46 serving at this time of the year regarding this
47 regulation?
48

49 MR. SHEARS: Anaktuvuk Pass.
50

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Nuiqsut and
2 Anaktuvuk Pass?
3
4 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Because Nuiqsut
5 is.....
6
7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Because we need to
8 be concerned of the Federal lands, what are the Federal
9 lands within that -- where the Teshekpuk Caribou may be
10 at that time.
11
12 MR. G. BROWER: I think this one should
13 lead to October 14 to December 15, it would be -- it
14 would be an opportunity for those Federal public lands to
15 have a harvest. It just -- and not having the map here
16 makes it a little bit difficult to see what's going on
17 here because these bulls do come back to good table food
18 about December 5, somewhere around there.
19
20 Other than that I don't believe we have
21 any beef other than the cow season seems to be different
22 from the other one. But it looks good though, it's
23 doable and looks good, it's good. The no -- I was
24 thinking about the no cow season actually.
25
26 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, the no cow season is
27 -- I mean, you know, again it's just around the calving
28 season, prevent people from harvesting cows during the
29 calving season.
30
31 MR. G. BROWER: That should be action
32 based on somewhere in March when they're really pregnant
33 and they got fully formed fetuses in there, March 15 or
34 something.
35
36 All right, Bob, I can live with it. I
37 didn't come up with the dates on this and I'm just
38 worried about general public users from our villages.
39
40 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for that,
41 Gordon. We can definitely make changes to the dates. I
42 think like what Bob said, this should have been stamped
43 draft earlier, but it's something that's been proposed so
44 we -- the proposal is subject to change during our
45 discussion. So if you wish to see that the change --
46 specific changes be made to the dates now would be the
47 opportune time to insert those dates that you wish to see
48 on 26B proposal on caribou.
49
50 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Rosemary.
2
3 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I agree with the
4 designation for the October 14 to February 1st. We had
5 elders in Nuiqsut that talked about increased traffic on
6 the Dalton Highway and increased access with off road
7 vehicles during those times. And this area is south of
8 the Village of Nuiqsut so I recognize that we have a
9 tremendous interest in hunting on the Dalton Highway and
10 any efforts to try to restrict the impacts when we're
11 telling our local hunters to reduce harvests and looking
12 at others that come up there not from our region, it is
13 important to restrict.
14
15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Geoff.
16
17 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, you know, I -- I'm --
18 I apologize for this. I didn't look closely enough at
19 this earlier, this is a little bit confusing. You know,
20 the way it's written in the State regulations it's
21 basically you know, in that area there's a season for
22 five caribou. And you can't take either cows or calves,
23 you know, during that, you know, period of what, from
24 October 14th to February 1st. And then in addition to
25 that you can't take cows from April 30th to July 15th.
26 So, yeah, just the way it's written it's a little bit
27 confusing. I -- up to five -- that should be up to five
28 caribou per day and -- but only during that time period.
29
30 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Any question on the
31 remaining language, however calves may not be taken?
32
33 MR. EVANS: (Indiscernible - away from
34 microphone).....
35
36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Tom, turn the mic
37 on, please.
38
39 MR. EVANS: Sorry. Yeah, just kind of
40 difference in wording here is, you know, you can't take
41 either bulls or cows during that October 14th to February
42 1. And in addition you can't -- yeah, you can't take
43 cows from July 1 to October 10th or, no.
44
45 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.
46
47 MR. EVANS: Okay. Just a second,
48 I'm.....
49
50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Just a second,

1 Gordon. Tom, are you done or Geoff?
2
3 MR. EVANS: So cows (indiscernible -
4 simultaneous speech).....
5
6 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If you could finish
7 clarifying that, Geoff. Go ahead. Geoff, finish
8 clarifying what you were saying.
9
10 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, I think we can work
11 out the wording on this, but the idea is that you can't
12 take either bulls or cows during that period from October
13 14th to February 1. And then cow caribou may be taken
14 only from July 1st to October 10th.
15
16 MR. G. BROWER: What did you see, only
17 cow caribou from which dates?
18
19 MR. CARROLL: No, you -- neither bulls
20 nor cows can be taken from October 14th to February 1 and
21 then, let's see, cow caribou may be taken only from July
22 1st to October 10th.
23
24 MR. G. BROWER: Well, you make it really
25 difficult to even see who's impacted here. So the -- I
26 know this would probably be on the State regulatory side
27 of things on State lands, but for any of that to be on
28 the Federal lands I would go with the traditional periods
29 of time like February -- not February, from December --
30 maybe December 10 to -- five bulls per day, however cows
31 will not be taken from July 1 to October 14. And
32 February 1 to June 30 no bulls October 14 to February.
33 That's -- I would change no bulls October 14 to December
34 15 or December 10. And then right after July 1 to
35 October 14, I would change that December 10 to June 30
36 and then up to five cows per day, however calves may not
37 be taken July 15 to April 30. No cows April 30 to July
38 15. April 30 to July -- yeah, that's right. But I would
39 -- I would give some cows in the October time frame, but
40 the ones with no fawns because those would be the only
41 edible ones is the cows with no fawns. It's kind of
42 confusing here, but that's -- I hope you kind of see the
43 picture that I'm looking at. I'm just looking at the
44 ways that might be traditional users and all of Nuiqsut
45 and Anaktuvuk that implies that some of this might be on
46 Federal public lands.
47
48 DR. YOKEL: Just to be a little, tiny bit
49 different around the state.
50

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Gordon, thank
2 you. Geoff.
3
4 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, Gordon, I don't know
5 if you have, you know, the Federal land status map in
6 front of you, but it's almost all State land through that
7 area except there's a strip right along the Haul Road
8 that is Federal, I believe that's BLM land. And so, you
9 know, that would be the only part and that's where the --
10 you know, people are going to be driving up the road and
11 they're going to be hunting along there. I think -- I
12 don't think there's any real Federal qualified hunters
13 that are going to be getting up into that area to speak
14 of.
15
16 DR. YOKEL: Mr. Chair.
17
18 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Geoff, are
19 you done?
20
21 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.
22
23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Dr. Yokel.
24
25 DR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
26 think according to the Federal regs the residents along
27 the Dalton Highway in unit 24A are -- have eligibility to
28 hunt there. So that would be the people from Cold Foot
29 and Wiseman who would primarily be affected by this
30 proposed regulation.
31
32 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: People from Wiseman
33 and Cold Foot would be the ones affected by this
34 regulation change?
35
36 DR. YOKEL: That's the way I read it, Mr.
37 Chair.
38
39 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you.
40
41 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.
42
43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Bob.
44
45 MR. SHEARS: I we ready to make a
46 proposal, I think I've captured Gordon's comments.
47
48 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Then -- okay.
49 Continue.
50

1 Robert.
2
3 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair, I'd like to make
4 a proposal changing the Federal subsistence regulations
5 in regards to caribou in unit 26B. Currently it's the --
6 the bag limit -- the take authorized under Federal
7 subsistence regulations is 10 caribou per day, however
8 cow caribou may be taken October 1st to April 30th. This
9 is for the period July 1st to June 30th, all year round.
10 Proposed changes to the regulation for this unit as
11 follows. Unit 26B, that portion south of 69 degrees, 30
12 minutes north and west of the Dalton Highway to read five
13 caribou per day as follows. Up to five -- for the period
14 July 1st to October 14th and the period for December 10th
15 to June 30 up to five bulls per day, calves may not be
16 taken. And a footnote under five bulls per day, that no
17 bulls for the period -- in the period of October 14th to
18 December 10th. Furthermore in regard to cows, up to five
19 cows per day in the period July 15th to April 30th with
20 no calves and a footnote, no cows taken during the period
21 of April 30th to July 15th.
22
23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Motion on the floor.
24
25 MR. G. BROWER: I second the motion.
26
27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Seconded by Gordon.
28 Further discussion on the motion.
29
30 Rosemary.
31
32 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Calling for question.
33
34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: The question's been
35 called on the motion. All in favor of the motion signify
36 by saying aye.
37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.
39
40 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Opposed say nay.
41
42 (No opposing votes)
43
44 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: None noted. Thank
45 you. Unit 26B caribou proposal has passed this Council.
46
47 Geoff.
48
49 MR. CARROLL: I have one more suggestion
50 for 26B in that area north of 69, 30. At this point I

1 think probably the regulations are 10 a day and I'd like
2 for you to consider maybe changing that to five a day.

3

4 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I thought that was
5 included. Robert read 26B caribou, that portion 69, 30
6 north and west of the Dalton Highway, five caribou per
7 day as follows.

8

9 MR. G. BROWER: That's what I understood,
10 Mr. Chair.

11

12 MR. CARROLL: Okay.

13

14 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. So
15 that's -- we've actually done this proposal, we're on to
16 the next one.

17

18 Next proposal is regarding unit 23
19 caribou. The current regulation reads -- existing
20 regulations in unit 23 caribou, 15 caribou per day,
21 however cow caribou may not be taken from May 16 to June
22 30. The season was July 1 through June 30. The proposed
23 regulation change in unit 23 on caribou is five caribou
24 per day as follows. Up to five bulls per day, however
25 calf may not be taken, July 1 through October 14.
26 Continues with February 1 to June 30. Following sentence
27 reads up to five cows per day, however calves may not be
28 taken, July 15 through April 30.

29

30 What's the wishes of the Council?

31

32 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon.

35

36 MR. G. BROWER: I'd like to move to --
37 for this in order for discussion.

38

39 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Motion on the floor.

40

41 MR. SHEARS: Second.

42

43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Seconded by Robert.

44 Discussion.

45

46 Geoff.

47

48 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chair. This
49 unit 23 caribou can be generally described geographic
50 area, there's primary Point Hope or is this Anaktuvuk

1 area, is it primarily State land, how much of it might be
2 affected on Federal public lands.

3

4 MR. EVANS: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Tom, go ahead.

7

8 MR. EVANS: So to give you the
9 description of the area that we're talking about, again
10 it's that portion north and -- north of and including
11 Singoalik River drainage. So it's just that little
12 corner portion in unit 23.

13

14 MR. G. BROWER: That's not enough
15 description for me. Is it by Umiat or where is this?

16

17 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: This is for unit 23,
18 it's for Point Hope, Gordon, the Point Hope area.

19

20 MR. G. BROWER: Okay.

21

22 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah, in our
23 regulations our unit 26 ends north of Point Hope, the
24 boundary is north of Point Hope so we have to as
25 suggested by our Point Hope constituents they want to be
26 included in the discussions. Unit 23 has missed the
27 Point Hope community so they look to the North Slope to
28 provide its representation. So we're working with the
29 State again and the Board of Game so that language was
30 generated through our -- the consultation with a
31 representative from Point Hope, Blair King and others,
32 identifying and communicating with Geoff and Taqulik and
33 others identifying these locations. So if we could maybe
34 give a better geographic description of -- besides
35 Singoalik might help Gordon identify where we're talking
36 about.

37

38 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Klianuk, that's
39 good. So if this was communicated through a
40 representatives from Point Hope then I'm going to defer
41 to them.

42

43 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Robert. We're
46 still in caucus.

47

48 MR. SHEARS: I'd like to amend the motion
49 to narrow down and define the area of the proposed
50 regulation, to further, you know, explain that this is

1 not the entire unit 23 including Kotzebue, Deering,
2 Candle, Buckland, Kiana, Noorvik, Noatak and 16 other
3 communities. Now what we're specifically seeking to
4 modify regulation to is those federal lands associated
5 with hunt -- hunters of Point Hope. And this would -- so
6 I would make a motion to amend the description to unit
7 23, that area used by Point Hope subsistence users north
8 of the mouth -- north of Singoalik River and all areas
9 extending to the east to the boundary of the Noatak
10 National Preserve or that -- excuse me, that area used by
11 Point Hope subsistence hunters enveloped between
12 Singoalik River drainage and unit 26A. How's that?

13
14 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We have amending
15 motion.

16
17 MR. G. BROWER: Second.

18
19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Second by Gordon.
20 Further discussion.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MR. G. BROWER: Call for the question on
25 the amending.

26
27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: The question's been
28 called on the amending motion. All in favor of the
29 amending motion signify by saying aye.

30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32
33 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Opposed say nay.

34
35 (No opposing votes)

36
37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: None noted.
38 Amending motion has passed the Council. We're back down
39 to the main motion.

40
41 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Question on the main
42 motion.

43
44 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Question's been
45 called on the main motion for unit 23 caribou. All in
46 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49
50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Opposed say nay.

1 (No opposing votes)
2
3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: None noted. Thank
4 you. You got that all recorded, right, Tom?
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 MR. EVANS: 10/4.
9
10 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Our last proposal is
11 on.....
12
13 MR. EVANS: Can I -- can I start with
14 a.....
15
16 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Tom, go ahead.
17
18
19 MR. EVANS: Okay. So in this proposal
20 the -- sorry to interrupt, Mr. Chair, but the -- our
21 Federal regulations again are more general than the State
22 regulations in this so we're going to have to subset the
23 Federal regulations, the ID here. So for this it'll be
24 -- for the Federal regulations it'll be unit 24B
25 remainder and we have another regulation in the Fed
26 regulations that deals with that controlled use area in
27 the southern -- southwest portion of 24 and then 24A.
28
29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Was that language
30 included in the proposal?
31
32 MR. EVANS: Not in the proposal you're
33 looking at, but -- so I would -- so in the proposed
34 regulation I would say unit 24B remainder and 24A.
35
36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And the remaining
37 language is -- just to go over the existing regulations,
38 unit 24 remainder caribou. Five caribou per day, however
39 cow caribou may not be taken, October 1 through April 30.
40 It was a year round season, July 1 to June 30. The
41 proposed regulation reads unit 24B remainder or unit 24B
42 and 24A remainder on caribou. Five caribou per day as
43 follows. Up to five bulls per day, however calves may
44 not be taken, July 1 through October 14. Then the other
45 season -- winter season is from June -- February 1 to
46 June 30. Remaining verbiage reads up to five cows per
47 day, however calves may not be taken, July 15 to April
48 30.
49
50 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

1 MR. EVANS: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Tom.
4
5 MR. EVANS: Just one little quick
6 correction. It's unit 24B remainder and all of 24A.
7
8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: All of 24A.
9
10 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.
11
12 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.
13
14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.
15
16 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Can I recognize
17 Gordon, Robert?
18
19 MR. SHEARS: (No audible response)
20
21 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon, go ahead.
22
23 MR. G. BROWER: And so the existing
24 regulations are also five caribou per day July 1 to June
25 30. There's no real change here that -- in that five
26 caribou per day will still be allowed, but with cutoff
27 periods for rutting and maybe for calving. I don't see
28 exactly that it's for calving -- yeah, it is. I'm --
29 July 15 to April 30, five cows per day. But if this is
30 something that's worked out with the community I would
31 accept that in its entirety. If it's -- I'm thinking
32 this is Anaktuvuk Pass issues.
33
34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: You're right,
35 Gordon, it's for AKP. And we did have communications
36 with representatives from the Tri Group, Geoff and
37 Lincoln and others from North Slope Borough Department of
38 Wildlife Management that traveled to AKP to communicate
39 to them about the change -- proposed changes and we did
40 voice concerns on some of the discussions that we had for
41 caribou and the proposed regulation changes. So we did
42 have significant communications with AKP. But a segment
43 we included is across the border from 26A and 24. So
44 that's one of the changes that we've made since then.
45
46 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, my concern here --
47 Mr. Chair, if I may be recognized.
48
49 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Go ahead, Gordon.
50

1 MR. G. BROWER: My concern here, this is
2 one of probably -- maybe the only village that I know of
3 other than the folks on the other side of the Brooks
4 Range that depend nutritionally almost exclusively on
5 caribou whereas the coastal folks can have seals, we can
6 have caribou, we can have whale. And this particular
7 area to me poses some additional challenges in that it is
8 plagued by non-resident hunters and really should be
9 designated as a subsistence use area for a period of time
10 especially when the caribou is migrating in their annual
11 movement from about maybe August to October 20. And the
12 caribou need to move and be fairly uninterrupted by
13 competing users of the resource and competing uses of the
14 land. In the same way that we put blackout dates to oil
15 and gas operations offshore to allow for the movement of
16 the bowhead whale to come in reasonable reach of the
17 communities that depend on the bowhead whale. I think
18 this is a candidate for something like that. I'm not
19 sure what we can do to effect that, but I thought it was
20 worth mentioning that this is an impacted community in
21 pursuit of its primary subsistence resource.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank for sharing
26 that, Gordon.

27
28 Robert.

29
30 MR. SHEARS: Just ready to move forward
31 with motion to accept the proposal as you read it into
32 the record with the revised description -- area
33 description.

34
35 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Motion on the floor.

36
37 MR. G. BROWER: Second.

38
39 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Second by Gordon.
40 Further discussion.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Hearing none, calling
45 for question.

46
47 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: The question's been
48 called on the motion to -- the proposed regulation in
49 unit 24B and remainder of all of 24A on caribou. All in
50 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Opposed say nay.

4

5 (No opposing votes)

6

7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I think there are

8 two ques -- none noted. Thank you.

9

10 So that takes care of the proposals at

11 this time. It was more than we were anticipating, but

12 thank you, Tom and Eva and Geoff for -- to help on the

13 proposed -- help changes to the regulations and we'll

14 definitely be looking forward to addressing them during

15 our next round of proposal review.

16

17 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Rosemary.

20

21 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: The question I have

22 is.....

23

24 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

25

26 MS. AHTUANGARUAK:are we going to

27 have any opportunity for our villages to work together on

28 considering community hunts, is that something that we

29 can plan for?

30

31 MS. PATTON: Madam Chair [sic] and

32 Council. So when these proposals are submitted they have

33 an extensive Tribal and community public participation in

34 the process, that the proposals are not actually enacted

35 into law until a long process. So once these get

36 submitted and are on the record they get published

37 publicly. OSM works actively to get the word out on

38 these proposals, the analyses are done. We will conduct

39 Tribal consultation as part of our Federal subsistence

40 Tribal consultation policy in advance of the Regional

41 Advisory Council meetings. The falls meetings that are

42 coming up are opportunity for both public and Tribal

43 participation to make recommendations to each of the

44 Council. So there's opportunity again to review and make

45 recommendations or amendments. And then again when these

46 proposals go before the Board there's an additional

47 opportunity for Tribal consultation directly with the

48 Board to make recommendations and also again a public

49 process. So this just initiates these proposals and

50 starts a long public process in conjunction with the

1 Regional Advisory Councils. If communities want to
2 submit a proposal for a community harvest this is also
3 the time so communities, Tribes, can also submit their
4 own Federal subsistence proposals and bring those forth
5 at this time as well.

6

7 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

8

9 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: The thoughts I'm
10 having are we're making this effort to go forward, but if
11 things continue to decline and we have to revisit this
12 are we going to have resources so that our villages can
13 work together and consider this, are we going to be able
14 to ask for technical assistance to come in and help us
15 with some of these criteria, is that something that's
16 going to be available to us if we have to consider it?

17

18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Eva.

21

22 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Rosemary, are
23 you talking about if these proposals are accepted and
24 enacted if there's additional support that will come to
25 the communities at that time?

26

27 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah, if we -- if we
28 take these actions and they get approved through the
29 Board and then we come back and next year the decline is
30 even further and we have to consider this will we have
31 resources that we're able to tap into to have some of
32 these technical consultants come to our communities to
33 help us plan out some of these options?

34

35 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
36 Gordon. I've got to take off and forgive me for
37 interrupting, but if I may be excused.

38

39 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon, before you
40 go I think we had one more proposal in regards to special
41 actions. Maybe you could -- if you could help elaborate
42 on that or Tom, whichever.

43

44 MR. SHEARS: Perhaps -- Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Robert.

47

48 MR. SHEARS: One thing, you know, now we
49 got these proposals, you know, going through their
50 standard process to be considered, you know, under adopt

1 -- you know, under adoption in the regulations effective
2 July, 2016. Do we want to consider -- further consider
3 these proposals as special actions for adoptions on July
4 1st of this year?
5
6 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I think the answer
7 is yes.
8
9 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes.
10
11 MR. SHEARS: Gordon, what do you think.
12 If I make -- if I make a motion.....
13
14 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah.
15
16 MR. SHEARS:for a special action on
17 these four proposals do we have general consensus or is
18 there -- should we have this discussion first before we
19 make a motion?
20
21 MR. G. BROWER: I would agree with the
22 group, yeah.
23
24 MR. SHEARS: All right. Mr. Chair.
25
26 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Robert.
27
28 MR. SHEARS: Motion for special action on
29 all four proposals for modifications of regulations for
30 caribou in the units 24B and remainder of -- or remainder
31 of 24B and all 24A, for the proposal of unit 23, Point
32 Hope north of Singoalik River and bounded by 26A, unit
33 26B, that portion south of 69 degrees, 30 minutes north
34 and west of the Dalton Highway and unit 26A, motion for
35 special action.
36
37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Motion on the floor
38 for a special action.
39
40 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Second.
41
42 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Seconded by
43 Rosemary. Further discussion.
44
45 (No comments)
46
47 MR. G. BROWER: Question.
48
49 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: The question's been
50 called on the motion. All in favor of the motion signify

1 by saying aye.
2
3 IN UNISON: Aye.
4
5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. Opposed.
6
7 (No opposing votes)
8
9 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: None noted. Thank
10 you. I was trying -- really trying to listen for those
11 folks that are in opposition, but there's none noted.
12
13 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair, may I be
14 excused at this time?
15
16 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Gordon. Thank
17 you for taking the time to help us with these proposals
18 and taking our final actions on the proposals.
19
20 Thank you.
21
22 MR. G. BROWER: All right. Bye.
23
24 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Tom.
25
26 MR. EVANS: So Tom Evans, Mr. Chair,
27 members of the Council. One more thing we had talked
28 about, we had talked about since we had two proposals
29 that occur in other RAC regions that we might want to
30 share that information with them now before the March
31 25th to see if they have a major objections or they want
32 to have any discussion on those two proposals.
33
34 So I just wanted to bring that up if you
35 wanted to do that and not forget.
36
37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I'm trying to think
38 back of when was this to occur.
39
40 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.
41
42 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Eva.
43
44 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. The
45 other Councils that are within the regions of these
46 proposals have already met. But as part of our Council
47 correspondence process I will definitely share these
48 proposals that have been generated by the Council
49 here.....
50

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Uh-huh.
2
3 MS. PATTON:with those Councils so
4 that they're aware that these are being submitted and,
5 you know, they have an opportunity certainly through our
6 program to -- you know, to ask questions or follow-up.
7 Again these proposals come before all the Councils to
8 review so there'll be a full process of all the Councils
9 and public and Tribes having an opportunity to be engaged
10 and comment or make recommendations.
11
12 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, definitely that
13 -- that -- we'll move forward on that.
14
15 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We have a hand up.
16 Vince.
17
18 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Vince, come on up to
19 the mic, please.
20
21 MR. MATHEWS: I'm glad you brought that
22 up. This does impact Eastern Interior, Western Interior,
23 Northwest and of course your Council. The one that's
24 speculative on my part that it really has high interest
25 in would be Western Interior not speaking against
26 Northwest. I don't have much background in area. You
27 meet at the same day so I'm sure Eva will work with the
28 other coordinator. You may have to be creative or
29 teleconference or whatever so you have their input
30 because this does affect residents of the Dalton Highway,
31 Stevens Village, Tanana, there's others, but those are
32 the keys ones and Wiseman. So I'm sure there'll be
33 dialogue, but just so you know ahead of time your next
34 meeting may have to be a little bit creative to get these
35 inputs and I'm sure staff will help out, but it's going
36 to be a lot of staff work which is fine. I don't have to
37 do it so.....
38
39 Thank you.
40
41 (Laughter)
42
43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for that,
44 Vince, I -- we definitely need to communicate with our
45 other regions that we are proposing regulation changes
46 for and I think our Subsistence Resource Commission might
47 be another avenue in terms of Wiseman and Cold Foot in
48 that sense that they get apprised of these changes in
49 unit 23. And that the folks that represented in here 23,
50 I think that those folks will be understanding because we

1 did again during the Board of Game meeting have some
2 communications with some representative, not all the
3 representative, but some. There's a few folks from there
4 that we were communicating to and that they were real
5 supportive of what Point Hope's concerns were in that
6 region. So definitely we'll work on the Federal side of
7 things and continue to communicate on these proposal
8 changes. I think that's on -- that's only to help
9 improve our efforts on conservation of caribou. I think
10 they'll support that as well. I think just crafting
11 language to be meaningful in that sense would progress
12 further on these important matters.

13

14 Geoff Carroll.

15

16 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, this is Geoff
17 Carroll. Well, I'd just really like to thank you guys,
18 I mean, this whole process has been, you know, very
19 rewarding watching the hunters and working together with
20 the managers and, you know, we're all kind of really
21 working hard together, doing the best we can to conserve
22 these caribou herds and at the same time, you know,
23 minimize the impact on the people that are so dependent
24 on them. And, yeah, congratulations you did a great job.

25

26

27 And one other thing I almost hate to say,
28 I -- I'm signed up to retire in end of May. So this is
29 probably going to be my last meeting with you guys as a
30 Fish and Game biologist and, you know, it's just ever
31 since your inception I think we've been working very
32 closely together. Sometimes -- well, I always got along
33 with the members, I've had a few head butting sessions
34 with a few of the Federal managers now and then, but
35 we're -- anyway it's been a long and rewarding
36 association with you guys and I'm really proud of you,
37 the way you've come along and done a really good job.
38 And so, you know what, thanks a lot.

39

40 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Not so fast. I
41 think we should be thanking you as well for all the
42 services you provided for the North Slope communities as
43 the area biologist and, you know, all the communications
44 and all the different resources that we've been trying to
45 manage over these years has been very hard at some points
46 and times and you see the high peaks of animals at some
47 points and you -- the regulation seem to participate at
48 times, but then as soon as the directed decline comes
49 we're right back on the table and we've got to do
50 something here and we've got to move forward and

1 sometimes we -- like you said we'd be headbutting and at
2 different time of the year on different resources. I
3 know moose has been one, muskox has been another and then
4 now we're dealing with caribou and sheep. And after all
5 those many years of muskox and moose and they're still
6 declining and we're still not harvesting. So -- but,
7 yeah, I hope your predecessor is going to be well
8 apprised as you've been in terms of all the years you've
9 put into serving the North Slope.

10

11 So good luck in your retirement and take
12 it easy.

13

14 MR. CARROLL: Thank you very much.

15

16 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah.

17

18 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Rosemary.

21

22 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I also want to thank
23 you for all your efforts, your personality that you bring
24 into this process has been very instrumental in our
25 ability to work through these issues. Having the
26 openness and the willingness and the humbleness that you
27 bring into the process has really facilitated the energy
28 that comes in with the reality that this is a real
29 emotional process as well as physically resulting in
30 reactions to our villages. And without having the type
31 of person you are engaged in this we wouldn't have been
32 so successful. So I really appreciate what you've
33 brought to the process.

34

35 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Uinniq's been very
38 patient and waiting back there, smiling at us all
39 afternoon. I think we have to give her an opportunity at
40 this time. Sorry for the long delay, Uinniq, I was
41 trying to get to you early this morning. So we'll give
42 you your opportunity at this time.

43

44 Is the computer warming up?

45

46 MS. PATTON: It's thinking.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay.

49

50 MS. PATTON:it's moving around and

1 thinking.

2

3 MS. AHGEAK: So my name is Uinniq Ahgeak.
4 My parents are Kaleak and May Ahgeak. I was born and
5 raised here in Barrow and graduated from Barrow High
6 School in 2007 and went to UAF to get a fisheries degree.
7 And after that I worked seasonal and temporary jobs until
8 I was hired as a biologist last May for the Barrow field
9 office. And if you haven't been there before the Barrow
10 field office is near the 32 unit by the Native Village of
11 Barrow Food Bank and we're open year round. Usually
12 you'll see me or Ernest Novack over there and our
13 supervisor, Anisha Starlight, comes in regularly to
14 attend our outreach events.

15

16 And what I'm going to present to you
17 today is like a -- the youth programs and our community
18 events that occur throughout the year. So one of our
19 youth programs is a migratory bird calendar contest.
20 It's a statewide contest encouraging art and literature
21 for the students in kindergarten through twelfth grade.
22 And we encourage them and visit the schools and teach
23 them about migratory bird and their importance to Alaska
24 since they come up to Alaska to breed every summer. And
25 the 2015 calendar features artwork by Jayna Nethercot who
26 graduated from Barrow High School last year. And we just
27 wrapped up next year's contest last month and we had some
28 pretty good art entries from students from Barrow High
29 School, Nunamiut School, Tikigaq School.

30

31 And usually we're able to provide ribbons
32 and prizes to the winners, though we give prizes to the
33 top three winners in each grade category. And the
34 categories are elementary school, middle school and high
35 school. And in 2014 Jacqueline Morgan, another student
36 at the high school won the grand prize. So her artwork
37 was featured was on the 2014 calendar. We also have some
38 younger students who are blue ribbon prize winners and
39 they're usually really happy when we come to their
40 classrooms and award them with the certificates and the
41 prizes.

42

43 And next month we're -- we scheduled our
44 spring gathering event for April 14th and if you're in
45 Barrow you're welcome to attend. And usually it's our
46 way to provide information about migratory bird hunting.
47 The Office of Law Enforcement sends representatives to
48 like be able to discuss the regulations with the
49 community and Ernest Novack does a good job at being our
50 host, you can see him right here. And we also announce

1 summer youth programs like our high school internships,
2 North Slope science and culture camps and we always have
3 activities for kids and the partner, Alaska Ducks
4 Unlimited, usually donates a shotgun to be raffled off.
5 So that's always a big draw to community members and last
6 year Tommy Oomina won the 12 gauge shotgun.

7
8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Tommy's my neighbor,
9 I better go see him.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 MS. AHGEAK: Yeah, so we're very grateful
14 to have Alaska Ducks Unlimited as a partner, they're a
15 good support of the event.

16
17 And next month we are also going to start
18 recruiting high school students for our internship
19 program and for some students this is their first time
20 going through the job application process. So we visit
21 the classrooms, we hand out applications and they fill
22 those out and turn them in by deadline and we schedule
23 interviews and like we really try to make it as real a
24 job experience as possible. And this program began in
25 1999 as Eider Journey to include community members and
26 research that's happening like right outside their door.
27 And actually I did -- I did training when I was in high
28 school about nine years ago so it was like really fun for
29 me to kind of lead it and coordinate it for the first
30 time last year. And since then it's grown to include two
31 programs, a lemming monitoring study and the fox trapper
32 assistant program. And so last year we were able to hire
33 16 students, it's our largest program like since 1999.
34 The lemming monitoring study interns help the wildlife
35 biologist, the principal investigator and doing the daily
36 trap checks at survey plots around Barrow. So here is
37 Alfred Bingston, one of the interns. He is setting up a
38 lemming trap at -- well, if you can kind of see the trail
39 where the lemming left on the tundra and so they're
40 actively -- like they go out with the field crew, they
41 haul the gear, they set the traps and are involved in the
42 research for the duration of the program. And this is
43 more of the lemming monitoring study students. So
44 whenever there's a lemming in a trap they weigh it and
45 they collect like the weather observations, the sex of
46 the lemming and like the tag number. And every lemming
47 that is caught is implanted with a tag so the way the
48 biologists interpret that data and estimate population
49 size is by mark recapture methods.

50

1 And Eider Journey students are involved
2 with the ground based eider breeding pair survey. So
3 they go out on the tundra in different plots around the
4 Barrow area and they count and map the locations of
5 waterfowl and they also help with nest searching and nest
6 monitoring in July and August. And during -- before the
7 internships starts we go through like a training and
8 orientation week so we teach them bird identification,
9 bear safety and awareness. So there's a student right
10 there practicing using bear spray. And we also go
11 through field methods, techniques and you can see a
12 student trying to figure out what stage the egg is by
13 floating it in water. And we also teach them how to use
14 a Trimble which is the device right here, the data
15 collection device and GPS. And these were the Eider
16 Journey students last year so we were able to get some
17 high school students from Barrow High School and also
18 from Chevak through the partnership with the steller's
19 eider reintroduction program.

20
21 And our fox trapper assistants work with
22 U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Service wildlife
23 technicians so they're paired with a wildlife trapper and
24 they help them set fox traps. They check those traps
25 daily and usually it's a full day of work, like walking
26 out to the traps each day and checking them and seeing if
27 they're -- if they caught any foxes.

28
29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Are these leg traps
30 or.....

31
32 MS. AHGEAK: No, they trap the foxes and
33 then they kill them on -- in an effort to increase the
34 nest success of steller's eiders since the foxes are
35 predators of those birds.

36
37 And our summer program for younger
38 students are the North Slope science and culture day
39 camps. And one of the like big initiatives for the Fish
40 and Wildlife Service and for the Department of the
41 Interior is youth involvement and getting kids outdoors.
42 So we have these camps where we teach students about the
43 research going on around Barrow. We bring them outside,
44 bring them to like different habitats and coastal areas
45 around Barrow. So here we have students at the gas well
46 area where they like observing a small bird in the creek.
47 You can kind of see it right there. And we encourage
48 them to like record their observations and like really
49 write down what they learned and what they see while
50 they're outside.

1 And Rosemary was kind enough to lead a
2 hike last summer about local plants and traditional uses
3 of those plants.
4
5 And we also went to the Department of
6 Wildlife Management and they showed the students the bird
7 skin collection. We also got to go out to the lab and
8 watch a king eider necropsy.
9
10 And some biologists from the migratory
11 bird management program also took the students out to
12 check on shore bird nests. So one of the nests hatched
13 that day and we were able to watch Jenny Cunningham put
14 a band on a American golden plover chick. And they also
15 got to like weigh the bird and even hold it while they
16 were banding it.
17
18 And every fall we have an open house and
19 we even encourage our students to share their experiences
20 in their internship program by presenting it at the open
21 house. It also gives a chance for researchers and like
22 the Office of Law Enforcement to give updates about the
23 previous field season. So we had Ryan Cody from the
24 Office of Law Enforcement and Rod Benter from the marine
25 mammal marking and tagging program. They were able to
26 visit us that time.
27
28 And Ernest wanted me to mention that he
29 is a certified marine mammal taker so he can mark and tag
30 walrus ivory and polar bear skins and skulls. And he's
31 also really good at teaching the summer camp students
32 like what he does and gives a demonstration. So that's
33 what these pictures show. He's -- he likes walks through
34 the process of what measurements he takes and shows them
35 how to use a drill to put a tag in a walrus ivory tusk.
36
37 And the Barrow field office isn't
38 directly involved with this, but they receive funding
39 from the school yard habitat program from -- in the
40 Fairbanks office. So the Barrow Youth Conservation Corp
41 last summer repaired parts of the metal lagoon boardwalk.
42 And it started as a school yard habitat program at first
43 near the middle school and it kind of turned into like a
44 education program where they learned about diabetes
45 prevention, local plant ecology and lagoon ecology, like
46 the importance of incests to migratory birds since the
47 lagoon has some important invertebrates as food sources
48 for those birds. And in this top picture here some
49 visiting researchers were able to come to Barrow and
50 teach the students about like collecting those

1 invertebrates and identifying them and really connecting
2 the dots between -- the relationship between the animals.
3

4 And then the Barrow field office is like
5 I said open year round. We also post announcements
6 around town through flyers and also on our Facebook page.
7 We also have an annual newsletter which I passed out to
8 the Council. It hasn't come out in mailboxes yet, but it
9 should be coming out to North Slope residents pretty
10 soon. It details all the outreach events that I kind of
11 summarized and also research and monitoring projects that
12 have been around Barrow and on the North Slope.

13

14 So if you have any questions I'd be happy
15 to answer any.

16

17 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Council members, any
18 questions to Uinniq?

19

20 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah, have you had any
21 opportunities to bring some of these opportunities to the
22 villages?

23

24 MS. AHGEAK: I wasn't able to make any
25 village trips last year, but we're planning on bringing
26 summer camps to the villages since there's always been
27 interest in that for them.

28

29 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: And then there's a
30 number of discussions that we've had that are going to
31 engage with the villages on research coming up, is there
32 any effort for you to engage in that process also?

33

34 MS. AHGEAK: Yeah, our internship program
35 is open to all students in the North Slope Borough, but
36 it -- they would have to find their own like housing
37 while they're here so it's kind of difficult for them to
38 do that. But we have hosted students from Kotlik before
39 and I think a few other villages for that program.

40

41 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I really appreciate
42 that effort. It's been a process that we've been trying
43 to grow for decades and oftentimes when we get some of
44 these programs such as a caribou monitoring program that
45 we did a number of years ago in Nuiqsut, it moved with
46 others and building in the longevity of this process is
47 so very important for our region and the ownership of
48 that research that's being done. There's some of this
49 stuff that we can be doing in our villages, but we're not
50 getting the funding to do this. But we need specialized

1 people such as yourself with these degrees to help us in
2 being successful and being able to obtain some of these
3 resources to do this research. So I really appreciate
4 you bringing your education back, working with the youth
5 to improve their understanding of wildlife issues and the
6 process forward as well as building in a strong base for
7 the science that needs to continue to occur.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

12

13 Any other comments.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I too want to thank
18 you, Uinniq, for coming back. I was calling you how many
19 times.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I mean, it just
24 shows that, you know, when you have an incentive in the
25 community and you follow through with it and trying to
26 promote younger -- our younger generation to seek
27 interest in either biology or science field or what have
28 you, you know, political science and that kind of
29 incentives to seek other students and promote interest in
30 the sense that you know there's opportunities for them to
31 seek other than being at home and doing other things that
32 are -- that probably -- that leads them to be outside.
33 You know, we have a lot of families that are not going
34 out camping so much anymore like when I was younger, we
35 had to go do our subsisting out in the summertime to --
36 while our father was at work he'd leave it up to us to
37 conduct our hunting activities and gather resources
38 throughout the year. But it's changed, our lifestyles
39 have changed quite a bit and promoting this type of
40 outreach for students and getting this pamphlet out, I
41 think the newsletter out is a very important start in
42 communicating back to the -- to our village and our
43 constituents and letting them know there's other things
44 that are happening with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
45 Service and not just in Barrow, but it also reaches out
46 to other communities that have students who are
47 interested in becoming biologists or scientists in the
48 sense or researchers in different fields. So I really
49 appreciate that you make -- promoting that as well,
50 Uinniq.

1 Thank you for being patient with us
2 today.
3
4 Any other questions or comments.
5
6 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.
7
8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Robert.
9
10 MR. SHEARS: Yeah. Thank you for coming,
11 good information. Really interested in your -- the
12 science and culture camp and the interaction you have
13 with the kids here in the summertime, reiterating what
14 Harry was saying. Really valuable to engage with these
15 kids at a young age like you do. I mean, I -- you're the
16 great -- you're a great liaison for them. Is there
17 anyway I can volunteer and assist with that program, when
18 do you start considering your program for this coming
19 summer and I'd be happy to help.
20
21 MS. AHGEAK: That's great. We -- we'll
22 start planning in June. Usually the camps happen in mid
23 July for three weeks and each week is a different grade
24 level so it would depend on what kids you want to teach
25 or like if you want to teach at all the camps. So I'll
26 start organizing that in June.
27
28 MR. SHEARS: Okay. I'll come by and see
29 you in June and we'll start talking about it.
30
31 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I was going to tease
32 Bob, he's like second graders.
33
34 (Laughter)
35
36 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Also any effort to
37 gather statistical data about how we're doing with this
38 process of number of local people that are engaging in
39 your internships and successfully completing them and if
40 -- whether or not they advance into additional
41 opportunities. It's really important for us to build the
42 recognition that we're doing a good work in this area and
43 building the understanding of wildlife issues.
44
45 MS. AHGEAK: I think our supervisor,
46 Anisha Starlight, has the records since she started the
47 program in 1999, but I think that's the primary reason we
48 target high schoolers so we can follow their progress
49 along and encourage them to like seek higher education
50 and like offer them like what helps for me or what worked

1 for me when I was going to school in Fairbanks.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Again thank you,
4 Uinniq, for taking the time and thank you for your
5 presentation.

6

7 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Eva, any other
10 agenda items that we need to cover, it's after 5:00, you
11 know, I'm on overtime now.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MS. PATTON: We just have two really
16 quick one and before Uinniq goes I just want to thank you
17 again for coming and also hope that we can be in touch.
18 This is a really important -- very important topic for
19 the Council and they're hoping to develop a youth
20 internship or mentorship seat on the Council. We also
21 had some presentations yesterday, the OSM Fisheries
22 Resource Monitoring Program grants have a built in
23 incentive and requirements to work with students. So
24 we're -- we can help network in terms of fisheries
25 internships for students in the region. We had a couple
26 of projects that were proposed yesterday. So we hope to
27 be in touch and if you have any recommendations for us
28 and how we can help make those connections too please do
29 contact me.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: And if you're
34 furthering your education for master's degree, there's
35 opportunities that you can communicate with us to help
36 you with financing that and getting reimbursement for
37 some of those expenditures.

38

39 MS. PATTON: Okay. Mr. Chair and
40 Council. Very inspiring. Thank you, Uinniq. We just
41 have two more items, our future meeting dates, closing
42 comments and then to adjourn. If you'll look on page 92
43 of your meeting book, the dates that the Council chose
44 for the next fall meeting, fall of 2015, is actually
45 November. So the Council had discussed last time to try
46 and meet later in the year after the fall whaling season.

47

48 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Uh-huh.

49

50 MS. PATTON: Oh, goodness, we have Jeff

1 here. I forgot about Jeff. He has a very brief update
2 from OSM just to touch on some topics for the Council
3 that'll also building into our discussion of the winter,
4 2016 meeting. So.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Go ahead, Jeff.

7

8 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
9 name is Jeff Brooks for the record. I work in the Office
10 of Subsistence Management in Anchorage in the
11 Anthropology Division. And I want to wrap up a couple of
12 brief updates from OSM into an agenda item that we didn't
13 have time cover in depth. The customary and traditional
14 use determination update.

15

16 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Uh-huh.

17

18 MR. BROOKS: First as you know we are
19 coming to the end of a meeting cycle at OSM, yours is the
20 last Regional Advisory -- Regional Advisory Council
21 meeting for this round. And so now the busy work of --
22 the important work of following up and getting the
23 letters out and the proposals drafted is going to be
24 happening. We're going to be coming into a wildlife
25 proposal analysis phase. Also we have the Fisheries
26 Resources Monitoring program investigation plans or
27 proposals coming in that we need to evaluate and get
28 funded. Also the leadership team has been working
29 tirelessly, effortlessly to fill the vacancies at the
30 Office of Subsistence Management. I'm not going to go
31 into detail on that, but for your Council in particular
32 a while back you had made a pitch to the leadership that
33 we need to continue with a strong Anthropology Division.
34 So those positions have been filled. Recently they hired
35 a Chief of Anthropology who I believe is starting Monday.
36 And I just want -- just wanted to let you know.

37

38 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: When can we bring
39 him up?

40

41 MR. BROOKS: Actually it's a she.

42

43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: When can we bring
44 her up to the North Slope?

45

46 MR. BROOKS: I hope it's as soon as -- as
47 soon as you see fit. That would be -- that's a great
48 suggestion.

49

50 So one of the other things that your

1 Council has.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We have another
4 comment right here, Jeff, before you get going.

5

6 Rosemary.

7

8 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I appreciate that.
9 That's a very important issue. The reality is much of
10 our history is not recorded and making sure that we have
11 the right people creating the surveys and interview
12 processes that help us collect that information is very
13 vital. I talked to you specifically about some concerns
14 I have around reproductive health and so that's another
15 reason why this is so very important because our
16 statistical data is not -- it's not in existence with
17 Indian Health Services or Public Health Services which is
18 our primary health care provider here.

19

20 MR. BROOKS: Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Jeff.

23

24 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Rosemary.

25

26 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Jeff, go ahead.

27

28 MR. BROOKS: All right. The other --
29 another thing that your Council has been interested in as
30 well as others is more information and time training
31 workshop opportunities to learn more about the customary
32 and traditional use determination process and also the
33 section 804 process from the Alaska National Interest
34 Lands Conservation Act. And I'm here to briefly update
35 you on the Secretarial Review concerning customary and
36 traditional use determinations. There's been quite a bit
37 of discussion in the last couple of years about changing
38 the process that the Federal Subsistence Board uses to
39 make these customary and traditional use determinations.
40 Now just to step back I had talked to you about the rural
41 determination process already and you actually passed a
42 motion on that proposed rule. This is something that's
43 different from that just so everybody's clear. It's the
44 process that the Federal Subsistence Board uses to make
45 customary and traditional use determinations.

46

47 Now the discussions and the Secretarial
48 Review portion of this has been about the process, not
49 the existing determinations themselves. If a new process
50 were adopted today there would be no changes to the

1 existing determinations in your region and it couldn't be
2 done until a proposal was submitted and a recommendation
3 was made by a Regional Advisory Council for example. So
4 I just wanted to let you know that this is an update on
5 where we are. The Southeast Council down in that part of
6 the state in addition to the Secretarial Review submitted
7 an informal proposal concerning some language changes to
8 how the process is done. And they requested that the OSM
9 staff do an analysis of that. And we prepared some
10 information which is in your books for that Council. But
11 the decision was made to also share that with the other
12 Councils. And that is the part that I'm not -- did not
13 have time to go into detail with you on, but that is in
14 your books, it is there for you to read. We're sharing
15 it with you for the sakes of transparency. It's
16 important to remember that that is not an official
17 regulatory proposal, that's an expanded briefing. And in
18 the future if the Southeast Council does submit a formal
19 proposal to the process that would go out for analysis
20 for staff, it'll come before all the Regional Advisory
21 Councils, be officially analyzed and put forth for
22 recommendation to all the Regional Advisory Councils in
23 the future. But that's not where we are in the process.
24 Where we are in the process is now I need to let you know
25 that both the Secretarial Review and the review of what
26 the Southeast Council has suggested is ongoing. And the
27 reason that this is at the end without quorum is because
28 it's not an action item for you today.

29

30 And with that I'm going to end and try to
31 answer any questions if you have any.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. Just
36 right off the bat, Jeff, I'm just trying to think back do
37 we have any resources that we haven't done any C&T
38 determinations on?

39

40 MR. BROOKS: Well, I do have a handout
41 actually that shows all the current customary and
42 traditional use determinations for the North Slope and it
43 bleeds over a little bit into management unit 23, but for
44 the most part it's for the North Slope. And I'm not --
45 I don't know if you have resources out there that are
46 important subsistence that have been traditionally and
47 customarily used that are not covered by one of those
48 C&Ts that's currently on the books. I don't have an
49 answer for that, I could find out for you. I won't
50 probably be able to get it until next week.

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I mean, I just -- I
2 just faintly recall we did make these determinations at
3 one of our Council meetings in the early 90s. And that
4 it was put to a stop basically because of the process
5 that we were using at the time was being questioned, I
6 think, if I recall right. And that was basically put to
7 a stop at that time. And I wasn't sure if we had
8 identified all the resources that we use for subsistence
9 and customary and traditional use determinations made on
10 them. You know, this process, it's a -- like I said I
11 just faintly recall some of these discussions and it's
12 been well over -- almost 20 years since I had any
13 thoughts about this again.

14

15 Tom.

16

17 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, members of
18 the Council. And again I'll be really quick. There are
19 some cases across the State where determinations haven't
20 been made so those resources are available to all
21 Federally-qualified users statewide, but I don't know if
22 we have any in the North Slope region and it sounds like
23 Jeff has offered to check on that for you. But there are
24 places in the State where that is the case. And what --
25 in places like that it's all Federal subsistence users
26 anywhere.

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Tom.

31

32 Rosemary.

33

34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: This did come up on a
35 meeting at the statewide process about three years ago
36 that I participated in. It was around the Yukon River
37 and the decline in the salmon. We got into an extensive
38 discussion around this and it's reality that we have
39 inner usage of trade that occurred throughout the
40 generations. And when you're looking at these
41 determinations, some of the conflicts that come in is
42 that where do you draw the line as who can be considered
43 to utilize these resources when there's not enough. We
44 went into extensive communications because I was
45 primarily remembering this young man from Point Lay who
46 had some inner Tribal relations with another Tribe and it
47 was so very important for that young man when his father
48 passed to be able to have some of these certain types of
49 food that his father had hunted for the funerary process
50 and the difficulty of him to try to travel with those

1 resources to be able to give that ceremonial process for
2 him, it was very difficult. It was around the seal issue
3 and the difficulty of traveling innerstate for the
4 process. But these kinds of things, there's things that
5 we would traditionally restrict when we had to with
6 reduced resources. But those important ceremonial uses
7 or these special foods are very important to continue to
8 recognize into this customary and traditional use
9 process. And it was not well received in that process
10 and that's a big concern for us because it is not
11 something that we're going to highly utilize when we
12 don't have enough of these resources. But when we have
13 those special events such as funerary processes it is so
14 important to continue that customary and traditional use
15 and trade of these items to allow for the ceremonial uses
16 that can greatly impact our families when they're not
17 able to do so and can affect generations of them that
18 have not been able to utilize these important ceremonial
19 substances for these processes.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

24

25 Jeff.

26

27 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Rosemary, Mr.
28 Chair. Yeah, that's a very important comment and I don't
29 have a response, I don't need to respond. I feel -- I
30 think that you're talking about customary trade of Yukon
31 salmon for the North Slope and it's very unfortunate that
32 your region was left out of that. And just a quick note
33 of clarification. The customary trade is covered under
34 ANILCA, it's not the same thing as the customary and
35 traditional use determination however. But we have heard
36 this concern from the region before and I feel --
37 personally feel it's legitimate and thank you for
38 pointing that out again.

39

40 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Any other questions,
41 comments to Jeff.

42

43 Eva.

44

45 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council and to
46 address Rosemary as well. There are provisions within
47 the Federal subsistence program, special allowances
48 outside of the normal season or the normal bag limits
49 that are established under Federal regulations for
50 funerary, ceremonial processes. So if there are events

1 or things like these that you're aware of that are not
2 currently recognized that need to be recognized there is
3 a process for that under the Federal subsistence. So
4 even -- even when there are conservation concerns, you
5 know, if it's a single moose, there are special
6 allowances that are identified to allow for that
7 potlatch, events, ceremonial purposes. So please do
8 bring that to the attention of the Federal Subsistence
9 Board if it's not in awareness.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes, and we did do
14 that and it did take many different layers of
15 communications to get this process dealt with and it was
16 something that did go through many different processes to
17 try to meet this need. It is something to just be very
18 cognizant as we're discussing these type of things.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Any further
23 comments from the Council.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If not, thank you,
28 Jeff.

29

30 Final action.

31

32 MS. PATTON: All right. Mr. Chair and
33 Council. So the meeting dates are the final action for
34 the Council. And currently the Council had recommended
35 November 3rd and 4th which is later and had identified
36 Kaktovik as an important community to meet in and has
37 also identified Anaktuvuk Pass. Those are the two
38 communities with some real issues that the Council had
39 wanted to meet in and be there with the community. So
40 it's just a vote from the Council if those dates still
41 work well for you or if you have other recommendations
42 for dates or request for location.

43

44 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I know we can't
45 vote, we don't have a quorum.

46

47 MR. SHEARS: That's fine with me.

48

49 MS. PATTON: Just the feedback from the
50 Council for those of you that are present if that time

1 still works well for you?
2
3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: That'll work for me.
4
5 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I agree and I agree we
6 should try to go to Kaktovik. If we had James here I'd
7 push for consideration for Anaktuvuk Pass, but.....
8
9 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: That's a second
10 spot.
11
12 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah.
13
14 MR. SHEARS: Is November 3rd an election
15 day?
16
17 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We're going to vote
18 in Kaktovik.
19
20 MR. SHEARS: And in Kaktovik where do
21 they hold the elections at, is it at the community center
22 or the school?
23
24 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair, Council. They
25 have that at the City of Kaktovik.
26
27 MR. SHEARS: The gathering area, right,
28 the community meeting area?
29
30 MR. KAYOTUK: Yes. Yep.
31
32 MR. SHEARS: So you'll be challenged to
33 put us in a meeting space in Kaktovik on November 3rd.
34
35 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I think we may have
36 to use Fish and Wildlife facilities in Kaktovik. I think
37 we do have some of those things there.
38
39 MR. GLASPELL: Mr. Chair, we have a
40 bunkhouse there with a rudimentary meeting space, but
41 we'd be -- we could host you all, we'd be challenged to
42 have the public in and you there at the same time.
43
44 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. We may --
45 Lee, you may want to identify a different area or a
46 different place in terms of a meeting place. Maybe you
47 could share that with Eva once you communicate with your
48 constituents there in Kaktovik. You may be able to speak
49 about one now, but -- and that's fine too.
50

1 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair, Council, Jeff.
2 We need to bring that forth and see what we can do then
3 between November and the time of the meeting.
4
5 Thank you.
6
7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Lee.
8
9 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, if it
10 works for the Council we can also offset the meeting by
11 one day and meet on the 4th and 5th and avoid voting day
12 so everybody can have an opportunity to vote and we're
13 not trying to all meet in the same community hall there.
14
15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Everyone can
16 keep it flexible to see what happens with those dates.
17
18 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.
19
20 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah. Keeping the
21 option open. I guess that's it.
22
23 MS. PATTON: The last one. The Councils
24 had all weighed in on an all Council meeting for the
25 winter of 2016 and the range of dates were around the
26 time of middle of March. But just to bring up for the
27 Council, we are working on it, we're moving forward on an
28 all Council meeting and one of the key focuses is for
29 Councils with similar interests to be able to meet
30 together, so North Slope, Northwest Arctic would have an
31 opportunity, the three Yukon Councils could meet
32 together. It's also -- the opportunity this Council has
33 been asking specifically for in depth workshops on
34 ANILCA, in depth workshops on C&T and this is one of the
35 primary reasons for bringing all the Councils together.
36 And also the Council has asked repeatedly the difficulty
37 of the segmentation of the different subsistence
38 regulations under Marine Mammals Management Act, under
39 Migratory Birds Management Act, the Federal Subsistence
40 Management Program, an opportunity to bring
41 representatives from all of those groups together, both
42 so that we can network and be more effective for the
43 Councils and for the Communities. So that's another
44 opportunity. If the Council has other requests for
45 workshops or trainings and these will be open to the
46 public and open to Tribes participation as well, please
47 do think about that and make those recommendations over
48 the -- you know, the next few months here if you have
49 ideas today that we should bring back to start working on
50 as well.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Rosemary.

4

5 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: The only area I think

6 about is this international process that we have coming

7 up that we have a different mindset that we need to take

8 in this process. So any insight you could help us with

9 that would be very helpful.

10

11 MS. PATTON: I just got a nod from

12 Gilbert over there. So he lives down the hall from me so

13 I'll go ask him.

14

15 MR. CASTEUANOS: Thank you. I was just

16 going to say that as we discussed I'll provide a few

17 documents with the understanding that they're still

18 draft. I think to the credit of the Department of State

19 they've provided many different iterations of the U.S.

20 Chairmanship Program for the next two years. Also as

21 I've said we've worked for two years to get to where we

22 are and done our best and I think we need to do more work

23 still, to do outreach. And we are just starting now to

24 develop a sort of plan for the Fish and Wildlife Service

25 chairmanship of the Flora and Fauna Working Group in 2017

26 to 2019. So that one's not been written yet, but the

27 U.S. chairmanship one has and I'll send that to Eva so

28 she can share it with you guys and we'll just make sure

29 there's a continuous dialogue over the next four years.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for that,

34 Gilbert.

35

36 Time to adjourn the meeting? I'm really

37 working overtime, it's 5:32.

38

39 Okay. That's all?

40

41 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Motion to adjourn.

42

43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Motion to adjourn.

44 All in favor say bye.

45

46 IN UNISON: Bye.

47

48 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. Thank

49 you, everyone.

50

1 (Off record)
2
3 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 263 through 412
contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH
SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING, VOLUME III taken electronically on the 19th day
of March in Barrow, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct
transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter
transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to
the best of our knowledge and ability;

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 3rd day
of April 2015.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18