

1 NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 Barrow Alaska
7 August 24, 2010
8 9:00 o'clock a.m.
9

10
11 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
12

13 Harry Brower, Chairman
14 Rosemary Ahtuanguak
15 Gordon Brower
16 Lloyd Leavitt
17 James Nageak
18
19 Regional Council Coordinator, Barbara Atoruk
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Barrow, Alaska - 8/24/2010)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, everybody. It's 9:12 by that clock on the wall. I'd like to call the meeting of the North Slope Regional Advisory Council to order at this time. I'd like to ask for, according to our agenda, a moment of silence. We have a lot of things that we deal with within our community and not just this organization but all the other organizations that we represent as well. Our community, our families, travel, emergency situations that we all deal with on daily life. It's no different from any place else, but we also have to think about our men and women in the military service that provides us our freedom for what we do on a daily basis.

So at this time I'd like to ask for a moment of silence in remembrance of all that's been mentioned, that I mentioned this morning.

Thank you.

(Moment of silence)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, everyone. We welcome you all here this morning. According to our agenda we have a roll call and establishment of quorum. Our secretary Lee Kayotuk is not present at this time. Maybe I'll ask Barb.

MS. ATORUK: Okay. Harry Brower, Jr.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here.

MS. ATORUK: Lee Kayotuk didn't make it because of weather. Ray Koonuk excused. Lloyd Leavitt.

MR. LEAVITT: Here.

MS. ATORUK: Paul Bodfish, because of weather. James Nageak.

MR. NAGEAK: Here.

MS. ATORUK: Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak.

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Here.
2
3 MS. ATORUK: Good morning. You have a
4 quorum.
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Barb.
7 Welcome you all to Barrow and for all of you that have
8 traveled to come to Barrow. At this time I'd like to
9 go through an introduction of our guests as well.
10 Starting right from Gordon.
11
12 MR. BROWER: Good morning. Gordon
13 Brower. I'm kind of lost where I'm at now. Just
14 introducing ourselves?
15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.
17
18 MR. BROWER: I'm from here. A lifelong
19 resident of Barrow. I've been here all my life
20 whaling, fishing, hunting, using NPRA and other areas
21 on the North Slope for hunting. I also work for the
22 North Slope Borough in the planning for the last 16 to
23 17 years.
24
25 MR. NAGEAK: I thought you were a part
26 of this group.
27
28 MR. BROWER: I am, Barb, right?
29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You are? Barb?
31
32 MS. ATORUK: He will be when we get the
33 appointment back by winter meeting. We haven't gotten
34 them, so we're still up in the air of who would be
35 appointed to the Council. But he did apply. Gordon
36 did apply.
37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: He's been a member.
39 It's just that we're going through this transition
40 again. Anyway, Barb, going through our introductions.
41
42 MS. ATORUK: Okay. As a guest, I'm
43 Barbara Atoruk, Council coordinator.
44
45 MR. NAGEAK: Ben Nageak, Barrow, BLM
46 field office.
47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Ben. And
49 you?
50

1 MS. SLAYTON: Lisa Slayton. I'm a new
2 subsistence resource specialist in Fairbanks with Fish
3 and Game. Present a little brief thing here about --
4 oh, I'm sorry. I'm going to present here at the end a
5 little brief synopsis of the three projects that we're
6 working on here in the North Slope.
7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.
9
10 DR. YOKEL: Dave Yokel, Bureau of Land
11 Management, Fairbanks.
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dave.
14
15 MS. BROWN: Cole Brown, wildlife
16 biologist with OSM.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Cole. Use
19 these mikes right in front of you.
20
21 MS. DAVIS: Alicia Davis,
22 anthropologist with Office of Subsistence Management.
23
24 MS. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong. I'm
25 the chief of the anthropology division with Office of
26 Subsistence Management.
27
28 MS. OKADA: Marcy Okada, National Park
29 Service, Fairbanks office. Good morning.
30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. James,
32 you're up.
33
34 MR. NAGEAK: My name is James Nageak.
35 I'm from Anaktuvuk Pass by way of Barrow, Kotzebue.
36 It's good to be part of this group. I've learned a lot
37 since I've been on it. Thanks for letting me be a part
38 of it. Maybe there will be time to talk about the
39 meetings that I've been in. The Gates of the Arctic --
40 what do you call that?
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gates of the Arctic
43 Subsistence Resource Commission.
44
45 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah, Subsistence Resource
46 Commission. And then talk about bear claws and all
47 that.
48
49 Thank you.
50

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Rosemary
2 Ahtuanguaruak. I've been in Nome for 25 years then
3 moved to Barrow. I've been involved in a lot of
4 different activities in Nome and started at ICAS
5 natural resources.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. My name
8 is Harry Brower. I'm born and raised here in Barrow.
9 Hunter, whaling captain and I wear other hats in our
10 community. I represent our North Slope Borough
11 Department of Wildlife Management at different meetings
12 to other resources that we help manage the use of the
13 resources and provide comments in regards to marine
14 mammals, migratory birds, terrestrial animals that we
15 deal with within our fisheries, within our North Slope
16 Borough Department of Wildlife Management. Part of my
17 responsibility is to monitor and observe the Federal
18 Subsistence Program and learn from it as well. That's
19 been part of my task since my job within the Department
20 of Wildlife Management.

21
22 I'm currently the deputy director for
23 the Department. It's been a climbing the ladder, but I
24 was very reluctant to move from my other position as
25 subsistence research coordinator, which was dealing
26 with documentation of subsistence use resources within
27 each of our communities on the North Slope. That was a
28 very challenging and fun time to be doing that kind of
29 work, traveling to the villages, meeting all the family
30 members and all the hunters in the communities and how
31 the resources are shared. Anyway, that's part of my
32 background.

33
34 Good morning and welcome you all to
35 Barrow. Lloyd.

36
37 MR. LEAVITT: Good morning. Lloyd
38 Leavitt, lifetime member of Barrow. Born and raised
39 here in Barrow. Subsistence way of life has been very
40 important to me as I utilize it on a yearly basis. I
41 live off the land. I've learned to live in both worlds
42 and it's very complicated for me to live both worlds
43 and teaching my children to live and succeed in the
44 Western way of life, so subsistence is a very important
45 part of my life.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We also have another
48 person just walking in. We're just going through our
49 introductions.

50

1 MR. DRISCOLL: I'm Richard Driscoll,
2 State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you and
5 welcome.
6
7 MR. SAGE: Good morning. Joe Sage,
8 Native Village of Barrow.
9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Joseph. I
11 think that's pretty much everybody in the meeting here.
12 Thank you for the introductions. At this time I'll
13 move down the agenda items and review and adoption of
14 the agenda at this time.
15
16 MR. LEAVITT: Make a motion to adopt
17 the agenda as is.
18
19 MR. NAGEAK: Second.
20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor
22 to adopt the agenda as is and seconded. Any further
23 discussion.
24
25 MR. LEAVITT: Question called for.
26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question on the
28 motion. Barb.
29
30 MS. ATORUK: I have one insert. I
31 think Helen talked to you about the other one.
32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Those two items to be
34 added to the agenda?
35
36 MS. ATORUK: Yes. I just have one that
37 I want to discuss with you regarding the Arctic Region
38 Councils. You had requested at your annual report for
39 the three Arctic Region Councils to meet and you need
40 to discuss that at this meeting to see if you still
41 want to go forth with that request because OSM supports
42 it. We'll keep that Arctic Region Councils under 13.
43
44 Thank you.
45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Helen.
47
48 MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 Under 12A, under agency reports, Office of Subsistence
50 Management, I'm going to add just brief information on

1 the new Federal subsistence permit system and then an
2 OSM update on salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea/Aleutian
3 Islands pollock fishery. Those will just be brief
4 information items.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MS. ATORUK: I don't know if anyone is
9 here from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge because
10 Vince got deployed to the cleanup down there, so I
11 don't know what -- we'll just have to get by with what
12 we have under the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
13 there.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. If
16 there's no further comments or additions to the agenda,
17 we'll recognize the question. All in favor of the
18 motion with the two modifications to the agenda signify
19 by saying aye.

20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed same sign.

24
25 (No opposing votes)

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. All the
28 absents are not here to voice their concerns or issues
29 regarding the agenda. Review and adoption of the
30 minutes of February 16, 2010, page 4.

31
32 MR. NAGEAK: I move to accept the
33 minutes for discussion.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor
36 to accept the minutes of February 16, 2010.

37
38 MR. LEAVITT: Second.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Lloyd.
41 Under discussion. I'll give Council members ample time
42 to review the minutes. As you can hear, James'
43 discussion of the minutes are by phone.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon, I don't see
48 why you don't have a packet. You should be able to
49 receive some materials.

50

1 MS. ATORUK: He didn't pick one up on
2 his way in town.
3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.
5
6 MR. NAGEAK: The reason I wanted it for
7 discussion is on Page 3 -- Page 6. Do you see that
8 North Slope proposals in the minutes?
9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: On Page 6?
11
12 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah. I had such a
13 question here. It says Proposal 106 and 107 seek to
14 shorten the Unit 26 wolf hunting season and then
15 Council recommendation, Mr. Lloyd Leavitt moved to
16 support the proposal and then the motion failed
17 unanimously. The wording should have been maybe that
18 Mr. Lloyd Leavitt moved for discussion maybe. Not so
19 much support 106 and 107 because we made it fail
20 unanimously. See what I mean there?
21
22 MS. ATORUK: Yeah. But if you look in
23 the back on the 805 letter, the Board did oppose --
24 they opposed Proposals 106 and 107 following your
25 recommendation, right?
26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think for
28 clarification what James is indicating is that the
29 wording doesn't reflect what was being discussed during
30 our meeting.
31
32 MR. NAGEAK: I seconded that motion.
33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I know we had some
35 discussion about how we should approach each of the
36 proposals and to recognize that there needs to be
37 following Robert's Rules of Order in terms of taking
38 action on proposals.
39
40 MR. NAGEAK: I said just to open
41 discussions on proposals.
42
43 MR. NAGEAK: That's what I was
44 thinking, that maybe the wording should have been
45 to.....
46
47 MR. LEAVITT: Open discussion on
48 Proposals 106 and 107. I think that's what they wanted
49 to do.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we did have
2 some concerns in terms of trying to reduce the number
3 of animals taken for subsistence.
4
5 MR. LEAVITT: And we all concurred with
6 that at the time. We didn't want to shorten the season
7 and lower the harvest limit.
8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. I recall some
10 of that discussion. So a suggestion by Ben would be
11 appropriate I think if we could reflect that. Lloyd
12 made a motion to.....
13
14 MR. LEAVITT: Open discussions on
15 Proposal.....
16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Open discussion on
18 Proposals 106 and 107.
19
20 MR. NAGEAK: And I would second that.
21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Could we have that
23 noted and reflected into changing the minutes from
24 February 16.
25
26 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair.
27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.
29
30 MR. BROWER: Just a concern. I think I
31 wasn't present during this one, but I had some phone
32 calls from some biologist concerning wolf hunting time
33 frames and trying to get more detailed information
34 about when is a good time frame from the hunters
35 standpoint. (In Inupiaq) Latter part of October,
36 first of November. So that was one of the concerns. I
37 don't know if this had led to any of these proposals
38 being entertained with a shorter window when I was
39 being questioned about what is a good time frame for
40 wolf hunting and then maybe somebody crafting a
41 proposal with that kind of soliciting for information
42 like that.
43
44 Anyway, I use just my own best judgment
45 of trying to be on the land when it's opportunistic.
46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
48 We're reviewing the minutes at this time to reflect
49 what was discussed on Proposals 106 and 107, wolf
50 hunting in season and lowering the harvest limits

1 segment of the minutes and the actions the Council had
2 taken at that time.

3

4 Thank you for your comments, Gordon.

5

6 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair. I just wanted
7 to make those notes. (In Inupiaq) I just don't know
8 who called me up to talk about it. But I am concerned
9 in the framework of the minutes concerning the topic.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So I hope we got the
12 language right in terms of how Lloyd had moved to open
13 the proposal. I think move to support the proposal I
14 don't think is the right language that was presented.

15

16 Any other discussion in regard to the
17 minutes. Lloyd.

18

19 MR. LEAVITT: Council would like to
20 keep Unit 26 wolf hunting regulations. There are 15
21 wolves in August 10 through April 30. This is up for
22 discussion. I would want to open the wolf hunting
23 season November or December and keep the harvest limit
24 as is. It's not till wintertime that their fur starts
25 getting better for us. Through the summer months
26 they're still pretty rugged, so November or December is
27 when they open up trapping season. That's when they'll
28 start getting a little firmer and tougher, so they're
29 getting a little better. So November or December be an
30 open season.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's two processes
33 we could use in this Council to modify the regulations
34 if we wish to submit proposals as a Council. With your
35 suggestion and recommendation, Lloyd, I think we can do
36 that under one of our -- as something that we discuss
37 after the review and adoption of the minutes. Do we
38 just sit down with Staff to generate a proposal and
39 submit it as.....

40

41 MR. LEAVITT: So an action item.

42

43 MR. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, James.

46

47 MR. NAGEAK: I'd like to make a comment
48 also that the open season is kind of a loophole
49 situation from August to the end of April, but I think
50 that the trappers and hunters of the area are kind of

1 self-regulating. They way until the furs are starting
2 to look good. But there are times when wolves are
3 taken in season inadvertently before they get -- but
4 those are used for things like handicrafts, you know.
5 The Anaktuvuk masks have those wolf things. They use
6 those ones that have (indiscernible) for some other
7 stuff like the ruff and stuff. For that reason I think
8 that having a liberal kind of season. The way that it
9 is now and saying that we as trappers and hunters are
10 self-regulating because we like to get those that we
11 can exchange with people from up here when we come for
12 giveut or something and there's a nice wolf skin or
13 wolverine. There are times when people get carried
14 away and get wolves that isn't very good, but that is
15 being used also in handicrafts that people make.

16

17 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

20

21 MR. BROWER: Yeah, I would tend to
22 support Mr. Nageak from Anaktuvuk Pass primarily
23 because if you look at how winter sets and it
24 fluctuates (in Inupiaq) late September, normal time
25 frame. Late September I'm usually walking on the ice.
26 Things start to turn. (In Inupiaq) So it depends on
27 how the weather and also, you know, your handicrafts
28 and those kinds of things. When I was being questioned
29 in terms of trapping, I was not being questioned in
30 terms of making handicrafts, those kind of things. I
31 was only being questioned as to when is the best time
32 for the wolves to turn and their furs are prime for
33 what we're primarily using them for. About the end of
34 October is when they turn over and they're getting
35 prepared for -- their winter coat is setting in. Then
36 it's a very good time frame. That was the only
37 conversation I had in terms of the best time for these
38 furs for trapping. I wasn't talking about any of the
39 other uses that may apply.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
42 We're still under review and discussion of the minutes
43 from February 16, 2010. Any other discussion on the
44 minutes. Lloyd.

45

46 MR. LEAVITT: The reason I'm trying to
47 move it forward is because of our late freeze-up. We
48 normally freeze-up mid September. We don't freeze up
49 until end of October anymore and that's the only reason
50 why I'm thinking about moving it forward. It's still

1 pretty warm and nothing is really frozen in first
2 couple weeks of October. This is due to our global
3 warming. This could be 100 years that we're just going
4 to -- global warming or whatnot. Our land has changed.
5 I am not able to get my fish with caviar the week of
6 September 25th. I haven't done that in, what, 15, 18
7 years because of the global warming. So our freeze-up
8 weather has moved to October. Let's consider that.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We can bring this up
11 for further discussion when a proposal is being
12 considered to be generated at that time. We're
13 reviewing the minutes and discussing the contents of
14 the minutes. I did mention I would like to work with
15 Staff and probably submitting a proposal for James to
16 the regulations. If that's the wish of the Council, we
17 could discuss it further in terms of what timing we
18 would like to change. But I think the hunting numbers
19 of animals to be taken it's not been reflected as to be
20 changed, but just the season.

21

22 Helen. I almost said Barb.

23

24 MS. ARMSTRONG: She's not Armstrong
25 anymore, so we don't get confused.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I do.

28

29 MS. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong. Mr.
30 Chair. I just wanted to say that we're in a different
31 cycle now than what you and I have been used to for so
32 many years. We do wildlife every other year. We won't
33 be taking wildlife proposals for changing regulations
34 until the spring. If you had a special action you
35 wanted to do, we can certainly do that if you felt it
36 was something that needed to be changed right away, but
37 I just wanted to let you know. So we could take a
38 proposal now as a special action or we could take a
39 proposal and hold it until we submit it in the spring.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Before you move,
42 Helen, I'd just, you know, for sharing that
43 information, I'm just thinking do we see any drastic
44 changes within the wildlife population with the current
45 regulation? Is that something that's being monitored
46 by the Office of Subsistence Management? If that's not
47 the case, I don't think we should jump right into doing
48 a special action.

49

50 MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we could
2 accommodate the time frame that's presented by the
3 Office of Subsistence Management in the time that we
4 need to consider and continue discussing the issue I
5 think that's before us, the season. Starting to draft
6 the proposal early on would help the communications
7 back and forth. Just make sure it's reflective of the
8 concerns being voiced.
9
10 MS. ARMSTRONG: Certainly. And there's
11 nothing that would prevent us from doing that. Cole
12 Brown would be the person that would work with you on
13 developing a proposal so that it would be ready to go
14 and she could even begin doing background work on it in
15 advance if she had the time to do that as well.
16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any
20 further discussion of the minutes.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further changes,
25 comments.
26
27 MR. NAGEAK: I'm glad I brought that
28 up. Good discussion on that. Thank you.
29
30 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Call for the
31 question.
32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
34 called on the motion to adopt the minutes of February
35 16, 2010. All in favor of the motion signify by saying
36 aye.
37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.
39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed same sign.
41
42 (No opposing votes)
43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank
45 you. We are now down to election of officers. Between
46 the four of us -- five of us.
47
48 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair. Since I have
49 put myself down there and then we don't have all the
50 Council members here, maybe you guys can do a motion to

1 defer that for your winter meeting.
2
3 Thank you.
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Barb.
6 Lloyd.
7
8 MR. LEAVITT: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
9 make a motion to set this aside until all officers are
10 selected to winter, March probably.
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: When is our winter
13 meeting?
14
15 MR. LEAVITT: March, isn't it?
16
17 MS. ATORUK: February.
18
19 MR. LEAVITT: Okay, February or March.
20 I saw it in here somewhere. March 6, 7, 8, something
21 like that.
22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion to defer
24 election of officers until February or March winter
25 meeting.
26
27 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Second.
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Rosemary.
30 Further discussion.
31
32 MR. LEAVITT: Question.
33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
35 called on the motion. All in favor of the motion
36 signify by saying aye.
37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.
39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed same sign.
41
42 (No opposing votes)
43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank
45 you. So election of officers to be held during our
46 winter meeting.
47
48 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Western Arctic
49 Caribou Herd.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
2 We have next on our agenda item Western Arctic Caribou
3 represented by Barb.

4
5 MS. ATORUK: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
6 Council members. I was able to collect this Caribou
7 Trails and this is the group that gets together that
8 discusses caribou from all parts of the Arctic Region.
9 When I attended this last meeting that they had in
10 Anchorage, they have their meeting once a year in
11 Anchorage and it's the first part of December.

12
13 I brought up the question why North
14 Slope Council and the Northwest Arctic Council did not
15 have a representative in this group and they said they
16 had no requests from the Councils to be in the group.
17 They have representatives from practically each village
18 and the Native villages in the region that you would
19 see the members are in there. Then I asked them that
20 if I had talked to the Council members and asked them
21 to see if they're interested to have a representative
22 in there from your Council, then you would have to do
23 an action item regarding this. The only one that has a
24 representative on this group here is Seward Peninsula
25 and that would be -- he's from Brevig, Elmer Seetot,
26 Jr. He's also on the Seward Peninsula Council.

27
28 That was why I was bringing it up
29 before you, to ask you if you are interested in having
30 a representative from your Council that would hear
31 things out because it is a big meeting and it concerns
32 your areas too and then your concentration should be
33 getting this booklet right here as a report from this
34 group. So it is your call that I bring it before you.

35
36 Thank you, sir.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Barb.
39 What is the wish of the Council.

40
41 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

44
45 MR. BROWER: (In Inupiaq) What would be
46 good to listen to. It would be good, I think, to learn
47 about what's happening with this. I always often feel
48 that I'm hunting the outer periphery of the Western
49 Arctic Herd from where I'm at. (In Inupiaq) I always
50 think that we're hunting the outer periphery when it's

1 coming through and going through Colville because of
2 the size of that herd.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for sharing
5 that, Gordon. Barb, just my question, is the group
6 being managed by the State?

7

8 MS. ATORUK: Yes, they are.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: They're not under the
11 Federal program? This is a State program?

12

13 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, this is a State
14 group. Yes. When I asked them if they -- if the North
15 Slope or Northwest would come in, they said, yeah, we
16 would do a letter and write to them and ask to see if
17 there would be a representative from North Slope and
18 Northwest Arctic. That is entirely up to you, but you
19 would be getting more information about the caribou in
20 your region if you had the representative from your
21 Council. It would come directly to you. The people
22 that work here, Mr. Benti (ph) and them, would be
23 directly in contact with you and all this information
24 you would be getting directly from them. They would be
25 mailing you this information and other information,
26 meeting dates and stuff like that. That is the only
27 reason why I'm asking this because I saw a lot of stuff
28 that went on during the meetings and I went all three
29 days that they had and I think it would have been an
30 interest to you and that's why I was asking. I went to
31 that meeting and I think you guys would be interested.

32

33 MR. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: James.

36

37 MR. NAGEAK: Is that beyond this
38 designation of Anaktuvuk and Nuiqsut and then there's
39 Atqasuk, Barrow and Wainwright. Would that be in
40 addition to those designations?

41

42 MS. ATORUK: Yeah. This is from their
43 Regional Council. Then those people that are
44 representatives here should be reporting to the people
45 in the area, I guess, where their caribou and stuff.
46 Since that isn't happening, you would have a direct
47 line in from your Council to this group that would be
48 able to report to you at the meeting to see what went
49 on. That's what happens over in Seward Peninsula.
50 Elmer Seetot gives a short written report plus verbal

1 report to the Council to see what happened at this
2 meeting. That's why I was interested to bring your
3 Council and Northwest Arctic Council before them and
4 asking them to see if there would be a representative
5 from your Councils to go to this meeting.

6

7 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

10

11 MR. BROWER: (In Inupiaq) but I don't
12 know what the selection process is to fill Anaktuvuk
13 and Nuiqsut for something like this unless we approach
14 -- if there are processes to approach those villages to
15 get a representative. We might have to have another
16 one added that is a member from -- I don't know how you
17 would say it. It's a member from the Regional
18 Subsistence Advisory Council.

19

20 MS. ATORUK: You can do it that way
21 too. Elmer Seetot represents the village of Brevig
22 Mission and also the Seward Peninsula. Seward
23 Peninsula nominated him on their record to say that he
24 would also be representing them at this meeting. So
25 you can do it that way too. If you want to fill
26 Nuiqsut seat and Anaktuvuk seat to request someone gets
27 in there from the Council. Like, for instance, James is
28 on your Council. You can write a letter on his behalf
29 to them to see if he would represent Anaktuvuk and no
30 one was there from Anaktuvuk.

31

32 MR. NAGEAK: And then ask Nuiqsut to
33 have through this regular process. That way we get two
34 of them from the North Slope to be a part of this.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Lloyd.

37

38 MR. LEAVITT: Mr. Chair. With this
39 discussion going on about the Western Arctic Caribou
40 Herd, I'd like to make a motion since it's held the
41 first week of December that you attend the meeting the
42 first week of September and make us the recommendations
43 in February or March whether to get in with that firm
44 and join the club with them. That would be another way
45 of looking at it and see if it correlates with a lot of
46 our issues up here. I'd like the State or Federal to
47 recognize up here. The State is mandating the Western,
48 Southwestern side, so I would want to feel around and
49 make a motion to have you attend this meeting in
50 December since we'll have our meeting in March and make

1 that determination. Just a recommendation that you can
2 look at.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have a motion
5 before the floor.

6

7 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair. Can I have
8 Lloyd to say either the Chair or his designee because
9 your Chair is very busy and so if he's not able to go,
10 then he could recommend someone else to go in his
11 place.

12

13 Thank you, sir.

14

15 MR. LEAVITT: I'll rephrase that. I'd
16 like to make a motion to have the Chairman or the
17 designee attend a meeting and we discuss that in our
18 March meeting.

19

20 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Seconded.

21

22 MR. BROWER: Question.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Further discussion.
25 I'd like to make a comment in regards to the direction
26 that -- I'd like to also hear why our North Slope
27 representatives are not represented as communities to
28 this organization. I'd also learn the reason why we've
29 not been involved in this. I think that's part of your
30 motion, Lloyd.

31

32 MR. LEAVITT: We're Federally mandated
33 versus the Southcentral, they're under the State of
34 Alaska.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further
37 discussion.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question was
42 called by Gordon. If there's no further discussion,
43 all in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

44

45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed same sign.

48

49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank
2 you.
3
4 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair.
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.
7
8 MR. BROWER: I've got to remind myself
9 that I can't vote yet.
10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll just have to
12 get the Office of Subsistence Management to indicate
13 that you're still on the Council. You're still
14 practicing. Do we need to revisit the motion if that's
15 the case, Barb? I'm not going to question it any more.
16 Gordon has been on our Council and he's been very vocal
17 with all our issues. Despite the transition that's
18 occurring, it's not our fault that these transitions
19 get longer because of conditions that are being
20 considered by our Federal agencies.
21
22 MS. ATORUK: Just for the legality,
23 maybe you guys should because it will fall back on me.
24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So the choice is
26 yours.
27
28 MS. ATORUK: For the legality, if you
29 would do it over and take Gordon out.
30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. We have to
32 reconsider the motion that was just before us in terms
33 of our representation to the Regional Advisory Council.
34 We've been advised to re-vote or retake the action on
35 the motion in regards to the representation to
36 attending the meeting of the Western Arctic Caribou
37 Working Group, either the Chairman or his designee to
38 attend the meeting this winter, is it?
39
40 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, December.
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: December. The motion
43 is on the floor.
44
45 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Question.
46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Am I making the
48 motion on my own?
49
50 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I don't know where

1 we're at, but I know that he called for the question.
2 That was the only part.
3
4 MS. ATORUK: Rosemary seconded the
5 motion.
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary seconded the
8 motion. It was Lloyd's motion.
9
10 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I seconded it and
11 called for question.
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
14 called on the motion. All in favor signify by saying
15 aye.
16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.
18
19 MR. NAGEAK: It was so moving.
20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, thank you, Ben.
22 It was so moving.
23
24 MR. NAGEAK: It was so moved. I ask
25 for a five-minute or 10-minute recess.
26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll take a 10-
28 minute recess.
29
30 (Off record)
31
32 (On record)
33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're on agenda item
35 9, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, priority
36 information needs. Karen. We have a new Karen.
37
38 MS. ARMSTRONG: Yes, you do. Karen
39 wasn't able to come, so I'm doing this. Sorry, I was
40 not focusing. This is on Page 10 of your books. We
41 currently are doing this every two years. For the
42 record, I'm Helen Armstrong, OSM. I think you may
43 recall, some of you were at the meeting when we talked
44 about this a couple years ago and Karen was here. I
45 did it with Karen. Every two years we put out a request
46 for proposals for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
47 Program and prior to that we come to the Councils and
48 we ask what research needs you would like to see go
49 into that request for proposals. The request will be
50 going out in November of this year and we have

1 somewhere around \$2.7 million for new projects for the
2 whole state. Well, for all the state except for
3 Southeast. I don't believe is included in that amount.

4
5 This is an action item for the
6 Councils. We do want you to provide us with either
7 support for what we have in here or for additional
8 information. The Office of Subsistence Management and
9 Forest Service Staff developed this document and it's
10 based on strategic plans, although in the North Slope
11 we don't have a strategic plan. Priorities that we had
12 in the past and then work that's being done that's
13 ongoing. We also provided for review to the Technical
14 Review Committee, which is made up of Federal and State
15 agencies, and then we come to the Councils for their
16 input.

17
18 So the parts that are really pertinent
19 then to this Council, there's a general discussion on
20 Page 11 and then on Page 12 there's the Northern Region
21 priority information needs. In the first paragraph
22 you'll see that the North Slope Council identified
23 char, whitefish and arctic grayling fisheries as the
24 most important for its area. Then they also identified
25 at the last time that we did a request for proposal the
26 effects of climate change on subsistence fishery
27 resources were identified as a priority research need.

28
29 That need for research on climate
30 change is also in the multi-regional section that's on
31 Page 15 where we have a request for information for all
32 of the regions and that one reads changes in
33 subsistence fishery resources and uses in the context
34 of climate change where relevant, including but not
35 limited to fishing seasons, species targeted, fishing
36 locations, harvest methods and means, and methods of
37 preservation. That includes the management
38 implications.

39
40 Back to Page 12, the North Slope Region
41 has a need for baseline harvest assessment and
42 monitoring of subsistence fisheries information and
43 historic trends and variability in harvest locations,
44 harvests and uses of non-salmon fish. The other two
45 needs that are listed there are more specific to the
46 Northwest Region and Selawik River Region.

47
48 So what we need from you, are there
49 additional things that you think need to be put in here
50 and, if so, what are those or do you support what we

1 have? They're written rather generally so that it
2 could be a variety of proposals that could come in.
3 Looking forward what happens from here is that after we
4 complete the -- we take all the Councils input and we
5 complete the announcement for November, then
6 consultants, agencies, any entities that will come up
7 with proposals, they supply those to us I think it's in
8 January of 2011 and then draft monitoring plan is
9 compiled for review for all 10 Councils in the fall of
10 2011 and then they review the draft plan in January
11 2012 and then projects funded can begin in April of
12 2012. So it's kind of a long process, but that's what
13 we're looking forward to.

14

15 Right now we're in the cycle for 2010
16 proposals and projects. We had hoped when we put out
17 the call for proposals for the 2010 that we would get
18 some proposals for the North Slope and we didn't
19 receive any. So we're actually quite hopeful that
20 maybe some will come in this time for North Slope.
21 Harry, you probably remember we had a really good
22 discussion at that Council meeting about some of the
23 effects people were seeing with fishing that were
24 because of climate change. I think it's an area that
25 could really use some research as well.

26

27 These projects have to have some kind
28 of Federal linkage to the Federal program so that it's
29 fisheries that are either on Federal public lands or
30 waters, which isn't a hard thing to do on the North
31 Slope there's so much Federal water, and some kind of
32 management issues. Any questions.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Before we get into
35 questions, I just need to mention that we have a couple
36 of new people in the -- they're not rather new, but new
37 faces in the meeting this morning. Geoff, we went
38 through introductions this morning just for the record
39 that they have a presence here. Just introduce
40 yourself, please.

41

42 MR. CARROLL: I'm Geoff Carroll. I'm
43 the area wildlife biologist. I guess this is a
44 fisheries meetings, I might kind of be in and out
45 today, but my office is right next door if anybody has
46 any questions you need to ask me.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Thank you.
49 Thomas.

50

1 MR. OLEMAUN: Thomas Olemaun, Native
2 Village of Barrow, executive director and tribal
3 council.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Council,
6 do you have any questions in regards to what you heard
7 from Helen this morning? I just had one that caught my
8 attention right off the bat. When we're talking about
9 char, is that our true arctic char that stays in the
10 lake or is this the transient fish that goes back and
11 forth into the ocean that we call Dolly Varden now? I
12 guess there's that clarification that we had made
13 before because of the misidentification of fish. The
14 true arctic char live in lakes. Is that the one we're
15 concerned about or is it the Dolly Varden?

16
17 MS. ARMSTRONG: I am not a fish
18 biologist, so I'm not sure which ones, but maybe you
19 could -- you guys know which ones should be of concern
20 or maybe both.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We've had some
23 concern from Raymond Poneak (ph) in the past about the
24 Dolly Varden, but their identification was being
25 confused because of char and Dolly Varden they were
26 thinking they were the same species, but I don't think
27 they are. They're sub-species.

28
29 MS. ARMSTRONG: So do you think we
30 should be putting here -- we should be saying Dolly
31 Varden here?

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think so. Again,
34 that concern was from Kaktovik and Anaktuvuk in terms
35 of -- there was some kind of fish research that went up
36 near Anaktuvuk area. It was some kind of parasite that
37 was.....

38
39 MS. ARMSTRONG: Right.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER:being discussed
42 at the time. I can't recall all the scientific names
43 that are used for the parasite. Then the concern was
44 that the subsistence fishermen were fishing the fish
45 they were noticing the fish coming out in a real jelly
46 content in the muscle or the meat of the fish. They
47 were questioning whether that should be an edible fish
48 or not. I'm not sure it really got answered in terms
49 of the concern that was voiced. There was some
50 research on that and I've not heard anything on that to

1 respond to the communities.

2

3 I think that's the only one I needed to
4 get clarified in terms of char because I know we have a
5 lake right close by where I do my fishing we have
6 arctic char, which are much smaller fish and they're in
7 the lake. They're not able to access out.

8

9 MS. ARMSTRONG: Would there also be
10 concerns for arctic char, do you think?

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: James.

13

14 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah, they're lake trout.
15 We get lake trout in that area and that's not mentioned
16 in that fishing issues. Another concern may be in line
17 with the parasites. We were told in our village that
18 Eleanor Lake in which there are some fish that come to
19 our area that that lake is contaminated. So what kind
20 of contaminants are they.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Identified?

23

24 MR. NAGEAK:identified with the
25 fish that we eat in our area. So that's another
26 concern.

27

28 MS. ARMSTRONG: James, what was the
29 lake again?

30

31 MR. NAGEAK: We call it Eleanor Lake.
32 It's just right at the village there. I guess in the
33 early '50s there was some drums on the lake that has
34 contaminated that lake. What effect those contaminates
35 have on the fish that are coming in. Like the Dolly
36 Varden, there's a different name for them in Anaktuvuk
37 Pass. We have (Inupiaq), which is the arctic char,
38 that we get. Also Dolly Varden, which is (Inupiaq),
39 they call them. So we're kind of concerned on how the
40 contaminants have effected those fish.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm just trying to
43 recall there's another concern from our representative
44 from Atqasuk, Paul. He was wanting to get some kind of
45 fisheries research done on the Mead or in the Mead
46 River. I recall some of that was on whitefish, the
47 round whitefish.

48

49 MS. ATORUK: Parasite.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Something to do with
2 parasites. Then we've had a couple of occurrences in
3 the spring breakup of lots of fish washing up onto the
4 beach after the river flow starts moving and a whole
5 bunch of dead fish washing up and there's been some
6 concerns over that whether some kind of die-off from
7 the water depth and losing oxygen because over the
8 wintering ground the water depth shrinking and the ice
9 thickening the number of fish in large quantities and
10 then the oxygen depletion causing that die-off. That
11 was one of the reasonings behind that. The birds were
12 already eating up a lot of that fish. I'm not sure
13 what kind of samples were collected from our Department
14 of Wildlife Management. So that's been something
15 that's been noticed along the Mead River for the past
16 couple years in that spring/summer breakup in the Mead
17 River. So it's happened probably twice in three years
18 now. In a short period, it's been repeated a couple
19 times. So that has been one of the concerns that was
20 being voiced from our representative from Atqasuk.

21
22 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

25
26 MR. BROWER: Just as a resident here I
27 did get a chance to speak with some folks in Atqasuk
28 and they saw that again this year. Lots of whitefish,
29 in the spring breakup, dead all over. I could only
30 think about what I've seen sometimes. Those that get
31 trapped in these shallower -- they're kind of deep, but
32 they're only like six feet deep. When they can't move
33 in the river anymore and it's (in Inupiaq) and then
34 they try to overwinter in these little bit deep, but
35 not deep enough. (In Inupiaq) like it was mushy. The
36 meat on freshly-caught fish, the texture was -- they
37 were afraid that something was happening to those fish,
38 the conditioning.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Like jelly and mush
41 put together sort of. That kind of was referenced by a
42 representative from Atqasuk, Paul, in regard to the
43 fish that they were harvesting in the summer. So I'm
44 not sure how we could get this combined with the global
45 warming impacts. I guess it has an overwintering
46 trend. The later cycles are occurring, the
47 winter/spring thawing coming much more rapidly and
48 having some kind of impact to the fish. What's
49 happening with the fish population when these kind of
50 die-offs are happening. Those are the questions that

1 were being asked. So I couldn't answer them. There
2 needed to be some kind of research to help to address
3 that concern. I mean that's one I could recall that
4 was mentioned.

5
6 The other one was in regards to
7 grayling. The concern was coming from our
8 representative in Point Hope, Ray Koonuk. Their river
9 system is deep right in their access routes and they do
10 a lot of grayling fishing and there was some concern.
11 I can't recall exactly what the concern was, but the
12 numbers were declining. Barb.

13
14 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair. That one with
15 the grayling, I had Fred DeCicco talk directly with
16 Ray. Actually the resource there of grayling had just
17 been depleted because of overharvesting. He discussed
18 it with him to say that the large grayling take like 30
19 years to get to that size, the large size. If they
20 keep taking more than what they need and stuff, it just
21 gets depleted. He talked with him and that's exactly
22 what is happening over there also in the Wulik River
23 where all the trout from all different areas of the
24 Arctic Region congregate there in the fall time and
25 that's what he was trying to discuss with the local
26 people there to just take what they need because
27 otherwise it would also get depleted.

28
29 Ray talked with Fred DeCicco and I
30 think that got ironed out to where Ray understood to
31 say what was going on with the grayling over in that
32 area.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think in
35 regards to that, Barb, we need some kind of report and
36 documented so that there's this interaction that went
37 on so could have it on record and reference it at times
38 when the concern is voiced again to address it properly
39 in a way.

40
41 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.

42
43 MR. BROWER: My personal opinion that
44 things need to be documented. You know, it just can't
45 be responsive to hearsay or information that's being
46 shared with others.

47
48 MS. ATORUK: Yeah. I think Fred wrote
49 his report, but I don't think we've seen it yet, but
50 next time Ray comes to the meeting here you guys can

1 bring that up and he should be able to do that report
2 in person.

3

4 Thank you, sir.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Barb.
7 There was a couple more fisheries issues that we had
8 talked about. It's kind of unfortunate that we don't
9 have our representatives from those communities here to
10 address these concerns. I'm just trying to address it
11 by memory in terms of our communications with these
12 fisheries issues and bring them back to where we don't
13 forget about them, but we need to make progress in
14 communicating with the communities that have voiced a
15 concern. Lloyd.

16

17 MR. LEAVITT: Not only is the fish
18 happening, it's also happening on the Inaru River. The
19 last several years I've been going out to Inaru River.
20 Before that I used to go out southeast, about 80 miles
21 there for fish with caviar and the fish I've been
22 catching last fall were soft and they did pretty quick
23 even during the winter months. They start getting
24 yellowish earlier than normal.

25

26 The fish I got last fall in October and
27 earlier this June I went up and about two-thirds of the
28 fish I got, I got about 60, about two-thirds of them
29 were very soft and the grayling I got all of them were
30 very mushy too. I did get sick. I went to the clinic.
31 They said I picked up some parasites from the water. I
32 didn't believe the doctor at all until I saw David
33 Hopson and I told him about what they told me I had.
34 They gave me some antibiotics to do away with the
35 parasites. David was telling me that Inaru River is
36 now contaminated since -- we've been bringing up
37 salmon, coming up the last several years. They're
38 bringing in parasites or sea creatures that don't
39 belong on the Inaru River.

40

41 These are just some of the things and I
42 was told that I've got to start boiling water from the
43 running water from the river. These are just some of
44 the things I was told. I go I've been drinking water
45 out of the rivers all my life. David told me that you
46 don't know the rivers as well as I do. It is
47 contaminated nowadays is what we've been told. The
48 fish there are mushy too, not just in the Mead River.
49 It's also on the Inaru River. We have some -- I call
50 them aliens that we never had before at the Inaru River

1 where I've been going the last four or five years.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I just need some
4 clarification in terms of how on this last sentence on
5 Page 12. The multi-regional priority information needs
6 section at the end of this document includes climate
7 change research needs. Is that something that is
8 asking to be documented in terms of our observations as
9 fishermen, hunters in using the land and observations
10 on climate change?

11

12 MS. ARMSTRONG: I think ideally what
13 we're asking is that some group that could come to the
14 Slope. It could be a wildlife department, it could be
15 Fish and Game, it could be university, it could be some
16 other entity on the North Slope. Some consultant,
17 somebody, do some research and then they would come and
18 collect those observations from people like you and
19 find out what people are observing on climate change.

20

21 There are three climate change studies
22 being done right now. There's one in the Northwest
23 Arctic, one in Seward Pen and one in the Yukon. Those
24 proposals all came in last time. We're hoping that by
25 putting out a request for proposals again on this we
26 might get something for the North Slope as well.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So it should be a
29 fisheries climate change.

30

31 MS. ARMSTRONG: Could be, yeah.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You know, just
34 reading the language in that sentence there I was
35 starting to think to myself if there's something that
36 we, as hunters, you know, use the ice cellars, which
37 are getting thawed beyond the permafrost and there's
38 not much use for them because of the repeated filling
39 of water in the summer and the permafrost conditions.
40 They just start filling with water even though we clean
41 them out. It's reoccurring throughout the summer.
42 That's what I'm trying to understand for myself in
43 terms of climate change effects in terms of fisheries.

44

45 We use our ice cellars to take the fish
46 and put them in the ice cellar and keep them frozen for
47 later use, but that's being hindered by again global
48 climate change. We see a lot of those ice cellars not
49 being used anymore. Some continue to clean them out
50 and reuse them manually because there's no other means.

1 We don't have freezer chests or generators that would
2 be useful for it out in our fish camps. So that's our
3 only means of really storing when we harvest in
4 preparation for the oncoming winter.
5 These are the things I was questioning myself in terms
6 of what I read.

7

8 MS. ARMSTRONG: Harry, I was going to
9 ask. I think the last meeting you also talked about
10 this or discussions about the decedents were shifting.
11 It might have been Gordon. I can't remember who was
12 talking about how they were harvesting fish and
13 throwing them out on the tundra. It wasn't cold enough
14 to freeze them. Was that you who was talking about
15 building little lean-tos and trying to keep them in the
16 shadows.

17

18 So changing seasons, changing methods,
19 changing your preservation methods, your storage is
20 affected, all those. It would be a really interesting
21 study for someone to do and start documenting this.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That continues -- I
24 still note that difference in observations of what's
25 been mentioned. The conditions and timing of change
26 Lloyd was saying. Our freeze-up is in October now.
27 It's the second week of October that we start seeing
28 ice forming on the river system. Some of that is still
29 appearing. I think last winter was one of the -- last
30 fall was one of the earlier freeze-ups I've seen in
31 several years. I was hoping to do some gillnet fishing
32 right into open water, but my nets got frozen in
33 overnight and I had to take them out. While I was
34 working on one a boat came by and tore up one of them
35 not knowing my fish was underneath there. Not my fish,
36 but my net was underneath the ice. I was working on
37 one and he just happened to come right through, going
38 to attempt to rescue another boat that was up the
39 river. That was a bit unexpected. We had people that
40 were stranded up in the river last fall.

41

42 So these are the things that keeps
43 fluctuating. You know, warmer temperatures for a
44 couple years. Just when you think you're going to have
45 another warm season an earlier freeze-up occurs. So
46 those are the changes that we continue to make
47 observations on. That's why I was raising my comments
48 in terms of climate change research needs. If that
49 could be, you know, something that fishermen and
50 hunters could elaborate and see how we could

1 communicate to better document that in terms of the
2 changes that we've been challenged with, is what we're
3 dealing with. We try to keep the ice cellars
4 continually useable, but it takes a lot of work to keep
5 that in preparation.

6
7 I'm not sure if any other Council
8 members may have any comments.

9
10 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

13
14 MR. BROWER: Not being a Council
15 member, but as an area hunter and fisherman in Ikpikpuk
16 and Chipp River, those are the trends we've been seeing
17 too. Last fall's fishing was really good. We did very
18 well. Those issues keep coming up every year. Whether
19 or not we're going to make it in time when the spawning
20 occurs. (In Inupiaq) It's just a short window. Maybe
21 a little over two weeks is the spawning period and then
22 it's over. You get all these (in Inupiaq) and nobody
23 usually like to eat those because their sumac is coming
24 out, that green stuff, at that time because they've
25 already spawned.

26
27 That's my worry all the time, is
28 whether I'm going to be able to harvest it because the
29 window of opportunity is so small. At the same time,
30 snow or ice is just moving around and your nets can't
31 -- you really can't use your nets, but you can't go on
32 top of the ice to fish. I mean these are real things I
33 worry about, whether or not I'll be able to harvest the
34 type of fish. You can get the fish practically year
35 around, but the prize fish that everybody loves to eat
36 with sumac, that is hard to calculate.

37
38 If it freezes up and you finally put
39 nets under the ice by October 10, you're at the very
40 far end of the end of the spawning. You know, they
41 start spawning about September 25 to about October 7.
42 It's exactly the same time frame when rutting starts.
43 When rutting starts, you quit hunting caribou and you
44 start fishing. It's right exact time frame. It's so
45 matched well. You practically do your caribou hunting
46 September, cut it off and start fishing.

47
48 What we have tried to do to make it
49 better is we hauled up a freezer about that long.
50 Usually in September I'll have fish on top of the ice

1 and overnight I throw them up on top of the riverbank.
2 We don't like it to stay out and be thawed out because
3 the blood gets into the eggs and it turns orange. When
4 they're bright yellow, it's really good, the eggs
5 portion. So we start making -- I've got pictures of
6 them in my little library of fishing where I made all
7 these lean-tos just to keep them off the sun's shadow.
8 That seems to help. Then you throw them into that
9 freezer for a couple hours with a generator and then
10 put them somewhere where they'll try to stay frozen.

11

12 We're doing everything we can to try to
13 preserve these traditionally by using technology to do
14 it. Usually, traditionally, you freeze them naturally
15 to keep them preserved with that flavor. It's becoming
16 much harder to do that. If we accomplish it, you know,
17 the whole town is usually happy about the fish eggs.

18

19 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I agree. Just
20 coming back to Barrow for the festivities this year it
21 is well known throughout the region there Nelaquaduk
22 (ph) is the one to go to to get these kinds of fish.
23 It is really important and it is much more difficult to
24 try to harvest these in the normal ways that we have
25 been doing them. In Nuiqsut we also have the same
26 difficulties. Trying to get to our fishing sites
27 without the ice forming and even if we do we're having
28 these abnormal rains. So if we do get our nets out, we
29 may have difficulties of trying to keep checking them
30 because of the rains.

31

32 There are a lot of concerns that are
33 affecting things. One of my concerns also is the
34 increasing amount of shipping that we're having out
35 here. We had tons of ships out here, thousands of
36 trips this year. I don't think that's normal for this
37 area, but it's something that we're going to see more
38 of and I'm concerned as to what effects those are going
39 to have on our resources.

40

41 Also there's increased changes to our
42 near shore environment. We're having a lot of
43 activities that are occurring in the near shore
44 environment related to other activities out there and
45 how is that going to effect these issues. We have to
46 communicate a lot about changes that have occurred in
47 trying to get responses to these changes takes a long
48 time. So it's really important that we have a way to
49 look at some of these additional factors that are
50 affecting traditional subsistence activities.

1 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. I just want
2 to ask Rosemary a question.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Helen, go ahead.
5 Thank you, Rosemary.

6
7 MS. ARMSTRONG: You were saying there
8 were lots of ships. Were these with industry, oil
9 industry?

10
11 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We've got increasing
12 shipping this year. There is reports that are out
13 there we've had 6,000 trips this summer. I saw
14 hundreds of ships this summer just being out here, but
15 I'm more observant of it being my first year back.
16 Working at ICAS I look out there and we're seeing
17 ships. It's just a lot of activity. Whether it's
18 related to industry, whether it's related to increased
19 international shipping, I don't know what all the
20 factors are. I am just observant. This is not what I
21 normally see in Barrow when I'm up here.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I could respond.
24 These are some of the research vessels that are coming
25 back and forth. There's the icebreakers, there's the
26 Chinese research vessel. We have a couple other
27 countries doing research up here and the joint work
28 that's happening with the Canadian/U.S. icebreak work.
29 What is that, Law of the Sea claiming -- doing
30 pathometric surveys under the ocean, the sea bottom
31 floor and that kind of research that's been happening.
32 There's some seismic activity that's going on.

33
34 We also have numerous research -- not
35 research, but oil industry vessels traversing back and
36 forth. Those are multiple ships and barges and tugs
37 that are coming back and forth throughout the summer
38 here. That's been on the increase. I don't think it's
39 going to decrease in the near future as well because of
40 the activity that's being proposed here in the arctic,
41 oil and gas exploration and development. It's only
42 going to be on the increase.

43
44 To get back into this, you know, Gordon
45 brought up some good comments in regards to spawning
46 and timing. Just looking down on this page again and
47 the last bullet there's spawning distribution, timing
48 and stock structure of Selawik River whitefish. I
49 think that's something that, you know, we could
50 probably look into making a similar proposal for

1 probably the concern for Mead River. Something similar
2 to that.

3

4 Baseline study. I think that's what
5 Paul kept referring to was baseline studies before any
6 more industry activity occurs on land. He wanted to
7 make sure we had some kind of study on that fisheries
8 in regards to the Mead River.

9

10 MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: He kept referring to
13 that. I mean that's what I was trying to remember
14 earlier in terms of how his comments were being
15 expressed.

16

17 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. I think
18 maybe a motion would be good just to make it really
19 official what you want added. I've noted that on that
20 first paragraph you wanted to add to say -- where it
21 says the North Slope Council identified char,
22 whitefish, that we say lake trout, arctic char and
23 Dolly Varden, whitefish and Arctic grayling fisheries
24 as the most important in the area?

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

27

28 MS. ARMSTRONG: James added lake trout.
29 Then we can add spawning distribution, timing, and
30 stock structure of Selawik River whitefish species. Do
31 you want to add that?

32

33 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

36

37 MS. ARMSTRONG: And then anything else
38 that you specifically want to add. We have a generic
39 thing about climate change, so that could be anywhere,
40 but if there's a specific river or species you wanted
41 to look at, we could add something more specific too.
42 I mean it's up to you. I don't know.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's things I just
45 can't remember for Wainwright was what -- I think Terry
46 and.....

47

48 MS. ATORUK: John.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gunderson.

1 MS. ATORUK: David.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: David.
4
5 MS. ATORUK: And John. Asked for
6 baseline studies.
7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Who was the last one?
9
10 MS. ATORUK: John Hopkins.
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: John Jr. Okay.
13 Yeah, thank you. I just couldn't recall what the
14 concerns was. They, again, had voiced concern about
15 baseline information needs on the fisheries research
16 and how we could include the area as well. There's
17 some research going on, but I know from different
18 research in different areas, but I'm not sure the
19 reasoning behind the research for those activities that
20 are going on.
21
22 So I think that Wainwright we need to
23 also communicate with -- again, for the representatives
24 not being here it makes it a little bit hard to try to
25 address and continually voice their concern and to
26 basically re-voice their concerns, it's difficult for
27 me because I can't remember all the concerns that were
28 being voiced. I just try to recall just from the
29 material that I read before me because of all the
30 different meetings I have to go to and the amount of
31 information that we have to go through.
32
33 Anyway, that's what I was trying to
34 remember was the Wainwright was the other community
35 that had voiced concerns as well. I mean it started
36 out with Terry and then David and John in the interim
37 had come to a couple of meetings requesting that we do
38 something on fisheries for subsistence use in those
39 areas. They have (in Inupiaq).
40
41 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Smelt.
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Smelt fishing going
44 on right off the inlet there. Now there's the increase
45 of activity going on of different sorts in that inlet.
46 What is it, safe harboring of vessels in that area they
47 were being concerned about. But if it could be
48 researched under subsistence fisheries and documenting
49 and getting baseline information for that it would be
50 helpful so that they have some kind of documentation

1 for the smelt fishery. That's the first one I can
2 remember. I think there was a couple more he
3 mentioned. It's just that I can't recall what they
4 were.

5
6 So those would be the ones that we --
7 communities on the Mead River, Point Hope. I think
8 Barb mentioned something about a concern for Point Hope
9 has been addressed, but the ones for Atkasuk and
10 Wainwright have not been addressed satisfactorily. In
11 looking again at that last bullet, spawning
12 distribution, timing and stock structure would be a
13 question.

14
15 MS. ARMSTRONG: So would you like me to
16 add that one with Wainwright? Would that be with
17 smelt?

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Smelt.

20
21 MS. ARMSTRONG: What's the.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Kuk.

24
25 MS. ARMSTRONG:body of water that
26 you were talking.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Kuk, K-U-K. Kuk
29 River. So those were the -- I mean I just recall
30 these. Like I said, I can't remember all of them that
31 they were wanting to get addressed, but baseline
32 research for subsistence use species in their areas
33 were of concern.

34
35 I see a hand raised back there. If you
36 could come down and state your name, please.

37
38 MR. DRISCOLL: My name is Richard
39 Driscoll. I'm with the State of Alaska Fish and Game.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Closer to the mike,
42 please. We're being recorded. There's these other
43 mikes as well.

44
45 MR. DRISCOLL: Hi, I'm Richard Driscoll
46 with the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
47 I just wanted to state that we are currently working on
48 salmon stocks in Point Hope, Point Lay and Wainwright
49 doing the baseline studies, looking at the subsistence
50 caught fish in those communities. Currently we're only

1 looking at salmon though, not the non-salmon species
2 that you were talking about, but I wanted to mention
3 that.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Point Hope.....

6
7 MR. DRISCOLL: Point Lay and
8 Wainwright.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Point Lay and
11 Wainwright. Thank you.

12
13 MR. DRISCOLL: And we're also trying to
14 get a baseline genetic samples of all the rivers
15 between those areas so the Ikpikpuk, Kukpowruk, Kuk
16 River.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for sharing
19 that. Lloyd.

20
21 MR. LEAVITT: Are you going to be
22 including Barrow in the future due to all the salmon --
23 different sorts of salmon coming up to spawn in the
24 North Slope Region? I know at Pupita (ph) several
25 years ago we came across a ton of silver salmon
26 spawning over there and I don't know if they do any
27 spawning in our Dease Inlet here. I know they do down
28 there in the coves and the ravines we have. I know
29 that for sure, but I'm not too sure about our Dease
30 Inlet and they go into all our major rivers and all.
31 I've heard Mark Riddell make statements that the salmon
32 is going into the Kavik River and they're not catching
33 as much as whitefish as they used to before. So I've
34 always had thoughts that the salmon is also chasing our
35 original fish away that we traditionally eat. It could
36 be affecting our fish since they're going into those
37 major rivers.

38
39 So are they doing any baseline studies
40 in the near future within our rivers with the Dease
41 Inlet connected to all the rivers?

42
43 MR. DRISCOLL: Yes. We did, I believe,
44 in 2008 they collected samples in the lagoon on pink
45 salmon. I believe possibly some chum salmon. We're
46 trying to collect samples on the Killik River and I
47 think there's some more work being done on the eastern
48 side, but I don't -- I'm not sure what exactly is being
49 done there.

50

1 MR. LEAVITT: What about the general
2 Barrow area, is that going to be included in the near
3 future?
4
5 MR. DRISCOLL: I know they've been
6 talking about that. I'm not sure if additional funding
7 will have to be sought out for that, but I believe it
8 has been talked about.
9
10 MR. LEAVITT: With the new fish coming
11 into our region they could be bringing in parasites
12 that we've never had before and causing us to get sick,
13 causing our fish to go wary too and spook them away and
14 that could be the cause, the other fish chasing our
15 fish away.
16
17 MR. DRISCOLL: Yes, that could be.
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just a quick
20 question. In terms of your research, how long has this
21 been going and how far into the fish are you planning
22 to conduct your research?
23
24 MR. DRISCOLL: This work, I believe,
25 started in 2008. We're continuing to work on the
26 western portion west of Barrow. We've been trying to
27 get people in each community to take the subsistence
28 samples and we're continuing to try to get out to those
29 rivers during the spawning season and collect samples
30 from the actual spawning locations at the rivers too.
31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is this going to be
33 ongoing for several years or just a one-year project?
34
35 MR. DRISCOLL: It should be ongoing.
36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any other
38 questions or comments. Benjamin.
39
40 MR. NAGEAK: You might want to talk to
41 one of your staff members and maybe Geoff. Craig
42 George has been doing studies on fish for many years
43 and he's talked to a lot of people over the years, so
44 I'm sure he's got a lot of literature that he did over
45 the years and then with the present studies you could
46 maybe make some correlations between what happened in
47 the early days and then up to date, which fisheries are
48 becoming more predominant if they are because they've
49 done a lot of studies over the years. So you could use
50 that information to determine what changes are

1 happening and parasitic situations or parasites in fish
2 or whatever. They might be able to come up with
3 something using that information that has been done in
4 the past. You can do a lot of things with information
5 that has been done in the past. That's what MMS did on
6 some marine mammals over the years. So you could use
7 that information to see how much change has happened
8 between periods, so it would be very helpful to have
9 maybe Craig George and Geoff and others to talk to them
10 and see what they've observed over the years. I know
11 Geoff still fishes over nearby here.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Ben.

16 James.

17

18 MR. NAGEAK: Clarification on
19 terminology here. There's a word used on Page 12
20 Inupiaq taxonomy of fish species.

21

22 MS. ARMSTRONG: I think what they're
23 looking for, this came out of the Selawik Refuge.
24 They're looking for Inupiaq words. Sometimes the words
25 that are translated into English and trying to
26 understand what one fish means in English versus what
27 it means in Inupiaq. So a listing really of Inupiaq
28 names for fish.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You gave it a whole
31 new definition. I was thinking it was going to be
32 something about the way to approach IRS and taxes.
33 Taxonomy. I was going to think about new taxes to
34 write about for fisheries.

35

36 MS. ARMSTRONG: You never know what's
37 going to come out of this Council.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: On the last page
40 there, 15, that last multi-regional priority
41 information needs, that last thing there, such as tubs,
42 sacks or buckets. What are you talking about?

43

44 MS. ARMSTRONG: When researchers go in
45 and ask people how many fish they got, they might say
46 we got -- this is a statewide some of these terms, so
47 they may not apply in the North Slope. But somebody
48 might say, well, we got.....

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, okay.

1 MS. ARMSTRONG:20 buckets of
2 fish. And some of those change over time. Maybe they
3 use a different size of bucket or something. When
4 you're trying to estimate how many pounds of fish
5 people have harvested, a lot of times people don't
6 think in terms of how many fish. They think of how
7 many sacks they got or buckets or whatever. We then
8 convert that into edible pounds. This actually came
9 from the Subsistence Division at Fish and Game and the
10 person who suggested it said that when those edible
11 pound conversions had been established maybe 20 years
12 ago that maybe some of those aren't so accurate and
13 we're not accurately estimating how many pounds of fish
14 people actually are using.
15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So talking about wash
17 tubs and.....
18
19 MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. Exactly.
20
21 MR. NAGEAK: Honey buckets?
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No, not that kind of
26 bucket.
27
28 MR. NAGEAK: No, not that part? Oh,
29 I'm sorry.
30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we use them
32 for food.
33
34 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah, I'm clear on that
35 now. I thought they were, you know, terminology that
36 is relevant to scientists or something.
37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do we have anything
39 else, Helen, in regards to this.....
40
41 MS. ARMSTRONG: No.
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER:information you
44 presented under fisheries. Any questions or any other
45 comments from Council. Yes, Lloyd.
46
47 MR. LEAVITT: Ben, when did you get in
48 the mayor's office?
49
50 MR. NAGEAK: '96.

1 MR. LEAVITT: It's been since 1996. I
2 went 80 air miles from here the week of September 25th.
3 Before that it was on and off you could go. Some years
4 you couldn't go the week of September 26th. So it's
5 been that many years for us to go get the fish with
6 caviar. We haven't had any freeze-up through October
7 since then. I remember the night he got in the
8 mayorship. That was the last time we got our fish with
9 caviar.

10

11 MR. NAGEAK: I have a picture of my son
12 with his hand raised listening to the radio.

13

14 MR. LEAVITT: A lot of us do miss out
15 on the fish now the week September 25th is very
16 critical for us to be inland, but due to Mother Nature
17 not allowing us we've been very unfortunate not to
18 catch all that fish with caviar. I can do one day of
19 fishing. I can bring home eight sled loads. One day,
20 two nets.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The other segment,
23 Lloyd, is the access. We don't have the air taxi
24 business anymore that normally was used back then when
25 it was available. Yes, Gordon.

26

27 MR. BROWER: I just wanted to add, you
28 know, you have to improvise quite a bit nowadays.
29 Sometimes I make walking shoes out of plywood because I
30 want to put my koveruks (ph) out that bad.

31

32 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah, we have a
33 variety of things that we are starting to do also.

34

35 MR. LEAVITT: My son, Lloyd, asked me,
36 Dad, are you talking me fishing. I'm taking you to the
37 Inaru River, the only place we can go. I take him
38 there for four days. He's fishing. He barely gets his
39 two, I believe, two grayling. One evening he goes,
40 Dad. What. Don't you ever bring me here again. I go
41 this is the only place we can go now. We can't go up
42 -- he can fill up a 12-foot box sled in one day just
43 with grayling. In one day he can do that versus four
44 days he got two, I believe, at the Inaru River.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we've gone
47 through, as you can hear, changing times and access is
48 a problem nowadays because of the climate change
49 impacts. Global climate change impacts. We see it
50 elsewhere in the world and we hear of flooding and

1 earthquakes and all that stuff happening. So we do
2 have our fair share of impacts up here regarding
3 permafrost thawing. Access in dry seasons is a
4 problem. When it's a rainy summer, the river level
5 rises and some are able to get up to their camps for a
6 short period of time, then coming back is always
7 another situation that we have to deal with. So access
8 is always a problem. Without those commercial flying,
9 flying to campsites is not available anymore, so that's
10 drastically cut back on some of the access to our
11 camps.

12

13 The other things we are faced with is
14 the brown bear situation that comes to invade our fish
15 that we just got done harvesting. So that's been one
16 of our biggest problems in the last few years, increase
17 of brown bear predation on some of the resources in our
18 camp sites as well.

19

20 I probably should mention in terms of
21 some of this activity that we've been going through
22 changes on the North Slope. I'll stop here and ask the
23 Council to see if there's any more comments or
24 questions to Helen in regard to this agenda item.

25

26 Tommy. Come on down. Tommy is our
27 executive director for Native Village of Barrow.

28

29 MR. OLEMAUN: Good morning. Thomas
30 Olemaun for the record, Native Village of Barrow,
31 executive director. On Mr. Nageak's comment early on
32 contamination, we have an advisory board who deals with
33 all these dewline sites throughout the state of Alaska
34 and, yes, we do have a lot on the North Slope. Just
35 contact me, then I could contact Robin Maneak, who is
36 our manager, then we'll get, you know, your area and
37 then in those days, 1940s, '30s, you know, what dewline
38 sites in a community and then we could bring the
39 concerns to them and probably communicate with you on
40 your contaminated fish in your area.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for your
43 comments, Tommy. I don't think we should lose sight
44 over the concern. Thank you for stating that. I think
45 we need to collaborate with our Federal agency. Which
46 would be the appropriate one to address James's area
47 near the Brooks Range and Eleanor Lake is what you
48 mentioned, right, the area you mentioned. So might be
49 Gates of the Arctic.

50

1 MS. ARMSTRONG: Is that actually Native
2 corporation land or is that Park Service land, do you
3 know, James? Eleanor Lake, is that on the Park or is
4 it Native corporation lands?

5
6 MR. NAGEAK: It's right in the village.

7
8 MS. ARMSTRONG: It's right in the
9 village, so it's probably Native corporation lands.

10
11 MR. NAGEAK: We have the graveyard and
12 it's right where the lake where it starts flowing north
13 toward Colville and it gets into the Colville and out
14 into the Arctic Ocean. I don't know how much affect
15 that has on the fish that migrate up the river.

16
17 MS. ARMSTRONG: I'll check into it.

18
19 MR. NAGEAK: The city was notified that
20 there were drums on the bottom of that lake that's
21 been there since the early '50s, I guess. Now I guess
22 they're more deteriorated now that it's affecting the
23 -- we can't use that lake for water. We used to take
24 ice and water from that lake and now they say it's
25 contaminated, we can't use it for that purpose.

26
27 MS. ARMSTRONG: Is there any discussion
28 about cleaning it up? Is anybody talking to people in
29 Anaktuvuk about cleaning it up?

30
31 MR. NAGEAK: That's in the process. I
32 think the tribal council and the city are starting to
33 put some pressure to see what contaminants they are and
34 how they are going to be.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Monitored.

37
38 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah, modified too, so
39 that we can get back to normal.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Are you done, Helen.
42 Lloyd.

43
44 MR. LEAVITT: The land could belong to
45 the Native corporation. We've been dealing with some
46 fencing issues up there, so it could belong to the
47 corporation. We've been dealing with the north side of
48 town on the fencing issues we have up there, so it
49 could belong to the Native corporation. They have a
50 lot to say about that piece of land a couple weeks ago.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I see it could be a
2 multi-organizational task to address the concerns, but
3 in terms of fisheries that's something maybe we could
4 communicate with whoever the responsible agency is.
5 I'm not trying to point fingers at anybody, but just to
6 address the concern and share the results with the
7 community that is being impacted I think would be
8 helpful in terms of a way forward on addressing the
9 concern of why they're being asked not to utilize that
10 lake. As James and Mr. Olemaun indicated, there would
11 be other agencies also involved in terms of what
12 occurred in the past. Now that we're dealing with
13 these issues in the present time with regard to
14 drinking water, fisheries, items that could be used for
15 food are now being mentioned not to be used for food.
16 So those under this program I'm not sure what our
17 limitations are under the fisheries.

18
19 MS. ARMSTRONG: That's why I asked
20 whether it was on Native corporation lands because it
21 probably -- I mean not probably, but the Federal
22 Subsistence Program only addresses Federal lands and
23 Federal waters. So I don't think we would have a role
24 in it. Not that we couldn't try to help if we need to
25 help in some way. I mean I'm happy to make a couple of
26 phone calls or something. I think it would be -- I
27 also don't know what the EPA role would be in helping
28 to clean up because I think the EPA gets involved in
29 things like that. I think they've done a lot of
30 cleanup on the North Slope for other places where that
31 sort of thing has happened if I'm not mistaken. So I'm
32 not sure. And the State -- what the State's role is in
33 assisting with cleanup on that.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: James.

36
37 MR. NAGEAK: There's another issue.
38 You know, you've heard of that drowning in that lake.
39 There were people that swam to see if they could
40 recover the body before -- there's a one-hour window in
41 which if you recover a person who has drowned in the
42 lake or water you have a chance for recovery. So there
43 were people that swam out there, you know, without any
44 protection of any kind and we have been told to keep
45 away from that lake, but this accident happened and
46 there are some people that -- I don't know how the
47 contaminants are going to affect those people that swam
48 out there.

49
50 Also the United States Army from Fort

1 Wainwright responded and sent divers in to help us
2 recover the body and they were out there swimming, but
3 they had their protective stuff, protective from the
4 cold, but I don't know if they had any protection from
5 the contaminants in that lake. It would be good for us
6 to keep track of the people that are -- that were
7 exposed to the contaminants in that lake.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for your
10 comments. Like I said, this is getting to be kind of
11 a -- it started off with fisheries, but the contaminant
12 issue is for real and we need to address it in some
13 way. Not trying to push it aside from one organization
14 to another or one agency to another agency, but there
15 needs to be some kind of collaboration to resolve the
16 matter. I think it's only for the betterment in the
17 community and responsible parties to accommodate that
18 need to resolve the situation. So these are concerns
19 that we have to deal with in regards to what we learned
20 from discussing fisheries. It leads to other important
21 matters as well. Ben.

22

23 MR. NAGEAK: I don't know if this will
24 be helpful or not, but we grew up with NARL and then
25 after NARL there's North Slope Borough Department of
26 Wildlife Management. A lot of the work that's been
27 done over the years was started by graduate or
28 post-graduate students. You know, you may be able to
29 entice young scientists, as Dr. Atwood (ph) would say,
30 who are working towards a doctorate to see if they can
31 come up with some programs to study contaminants in
32 different areas of the north, especially around where
33 people have made their homes and different villages.
34 That would be a good study to determine what
35 contaminants on different areas because things have
36 changed in the past 20 years or so. There's a whole
37 lot of other stuff that's moving in we don't know.

38

39 So you may be able to entice young
40 scientists to come up with a study to -- you know, like
41 these young people who are not so young anymore. I
42 mean look at George Divoky, look at Robert Suydam,
43 Craig George, Geoff Carroll, all these guys started out
44 doing one thing or another and they've become experts.
45 So we need to grow more young people, young scientists,
46 to have them stay here as long as these guys have and
47 maybe they can come up with contaminants studies.

48

49 We need those people now. The only way
50 to do it is to entice graduate or post graduate

1 students to come up and become experts in these fields.
2 After hearing you guys talk, you know, we've heard this
3 over the years. We need people who are experts in
4 these fields and I know they're looking for someone
5 right now over at the Department of Wildlife
6 Management. We need people who will stay 20-plus years
7 to prove that there is something going on.

8

9 Thanks.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Ben.

12

13 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Helen.

16

17 MS. ARMSTRONG: One thing I can do that
18 Ben gave me a thought is we've been working with Dr.
19 Courtney Carothers at UAF, who is in the fisheries
20 department. Just make a suggestion to her to let
21 graduate students know that there's a need for
22 research. This might be a good research topic. Not
23 that we could necessarily fund it because it's not in
24 Federal public waters, but it's a need for research
25 that needs to be done and make a suggestion to her. I
26 can certainly do that.

27

28 MS. BROWN: This is Cole Brown with
29 OSM. We have an entire environmental contaminants
30 branch within Fish and Wildlife Service in our regional
31 office in Anchorage and I know that we just got a new
32 regional coordinator, Veronica Varela, who has joined
33 us there, so I can definitely confer with her and find
34 out what's being done in the area, what they have in
35 terms of prospects for the area, and mention this
36 concern.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Cole.
39 Helen, I'm just trying to think in terms of what we're
40 discussing under the priority informational needs and
41 what we've learned as of this morning. I know we can't
42 jump the gun and try to make any decisions or sway
43 which way we need to go forward with this concern.
44 Maybe having a continuing discussion and learning who
45 the appropriate people are to help generate a proposal
46 for research in terms of contaminants. Is that
47 something that's within the purview of this program?

48

49 MS. ARMSTRONG: I'd have to check on
50 that. I think the larger question is whether it's in

1 Federal public waters. There needs to be some linkage
2 there. So I don't know that the Federal Subsistence
3 Board would see it as a priority. You've been in those
4 meetings when they've assessed which research has a
5 priority and they'll make cuts and they only allot a
6 certain percentage of money for the northern regions.
7 I mean first the question would be should it be in
8 there because it's got some linkage to Federal public
9 waters and Federal management. Second would be would
10 it be a high enough priority for them. I can certainly
11 take it back. I can't guarantee it would make the list
12 because you would have to demonstrate some kind of
13 Federal linkage to the program.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're all under the
16 United States Federal government. That's the linkage
17 right there. I mean that's what I've been meaning to
18 say, but I was withholding from making that comment.
19 You know, we're all under the United States Federal
20 government as we claim that we're under the United
21 States. So there's that linkage right there. Under
22 the states, our states are generated and claim their
23 sovereignty over these resources and the use of the
24 resources in different states. Anything on the
25 surface, you know, it has matters of State and Federal,
26 but anything subsurface it's all Federal. So anything
27 that dives under water -- I've had this conversation
28 with my cousin Gordon and with my Uncle Arnold. Any
29 time we go inside our ice cellars we're going into
30 Federal jurisdiction.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's subsurface.
35 We had those conversations, me and my uncle, many
36 times. When I'd go up to his cabin, we'd talk about
37 ice cellars and jurisdiction over land. The funny
38 little things that we have conversations about. Any
39 time a duck goes into a pond and it dives it goes into
40 Federal waters. Any time we go into the ice cellar and
41 we go under subsurface we're in Federal jurisdiction
42 now. Then we come back up out of the ice cellar, we're
43 back in State land. These are the little things that
44 we converse about, just making conversation at times.
45 In looking at regulations, these are the things that we
46 would discuss.

47

48 You know, how do we get all these
49 issues identified to where they could be addressed
50 correctly. There's all these different protocols and

1 loopholes that we have to deal with, which make it more
2 of a disarray to address. We all could just sit down
3 and come together and address the concern and
4 satisfactorily remedy it, I think that would be the end
5 result, is what we're asking for.

6

7 MS. ARMSTRONG: The other thing, when
8 James said the Eleanor Lake feeds into the Colville
9 River, is that what you said? Did you say that Eleanor
10 Lake feeds into the Colville River?

11

12 MR. NAGEAK: Yes.

13

14 MS. ARMSTRONG: So then it becomes.....

15

16 MR. NAGEAK: You know, Anaktuvuk River
17 begins -- we're at the summit. So Eleanor Lake is the
18 beginning of the flow to the north and the contact goes
19 toward Koyukuk River and into Yukon River and over to
20 the Bering Straits. So the Eleanor Lake comes this
21 way.

22

23 MS. ARMSTRONG: I think if the Council
24 wants to put it in as a priority information need that
25 they would like to put in there, then the next step is
26 some other entity, some group, would have to make a
27 proposal for a project and it would be up to them to
28 show the linkage to Federal management and to Federal
29 waters. So I think it's in the purview of the Council,
30 if you feel very strongly you would like this in here,
31 to do that and then we'll see whether somebody makes
32 the proposal for a project or not. Then if you get
33 five project proposals, then the Council will have to
34 recommend which ones are the highest priority at a
35 later date. Last year we got none or the last cycle we
36 got none. I certainly don't want to say that you can't
37 present it. I really don't know about the contaminant
38 issue. I was trying to think if we've had other
39 proposals and I'm not sure if we have or not, but I
40 think it would be worth it. If you'd like to put it
41 in, I certainly don't want to say don't do that.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I think
44 we'll need to discuss it as a Council as to whether to
45 submit the proposal specifically for that research. We
46 could work with James and others from his community to
47 help generate the proposal and see if we're going down
48 the right direction, working with our coordinator as
49 well in the communication of this research, whether
50 we're going down the right avenue or not. I think that

1 needs to occur because it's a concern being voiced,
2 which are being identified through the fish that is
3 used for subsistence. As soon as that fish -- you
4 know, wherever the fish ends up, the first concern is
5 it being utilized for food. If it's being
6 contaminated, that source needs to be cleaned up or
7 evaluated to where assessment is made in regards to the
8 food item that's being used for subsistence.

9

10 MR. NAGEAK: Do you want us to meet
11 maybe for lunch and talk about this and then maybe put
12 it under the new business for some kind of a proposal?

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: James, I think that's
15 a good idea if that's something that would be
16 considered by our Staff and see how we can best
17 approach this and going forward. I think in regards to
18 fisheries and contaminated fish people are being told
19 not to use this fish in the lake anymore and there
20 needs to be an assessment and determination made to the
21 importance and the safety of the community as well.
22 It's not for individuals, but it's for the whole
23 community as well.

24

25 I don't want to be an alarmist or
26 anything like that or raising a red flag, but trying to
27 set a path in a way that addresses the concern. Ben.

28

29 MR. NAGEAK: Jimmy here, he could be a
30 resource also. He's a representative for ICC and I
31 know they've been concerned about the contaminants
32 issue. He may be a resource to help you make contact
33 with the right people also within the Federal and State
34 system. Also there's the Northern Forum, Institute of
35 Polar Studies and other organizations you can use to
36 help you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Jimmy
39 Stotts with ICC.

40

41 MR. NAGEAK: You might want to talk to
42 him about that.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Any other
45 comments or concerns under this subject?

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Thank
50 you, Helen.

1 MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So this was regarding
4 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program priority
5 information needs. Next meeting. Establish date for
6 winter 2011 and fall 2011 meetings.
7
8 MS. ATORUK: Page 16 of your book.
9
10 MR. LEAVITT: Mr. Chair.
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Lloyd.
13
14 MR. LEAVITT: I'd like to make a motion
15 to have the spring or the winter meeting on March 7th
16 and 8th here in Barrow. The winter meeting to be held
17 on August 23rd, 2011, here in Barrow also.
18
19 MS. ATORUK: You mean the fall meeting.
20
21 MR. LEAVITT: Yes, the fall meeting.
22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Winter meeting was
24 March.....
25
26 MR. LEAVITT: 7th and 8th, however long
27 we hold the meetings here in Barrow. It would be a
28 one-day meeting. And August 23rd for our fall meeting.
29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: 23 and 24. We've got
31 to make them two days. The fog might be here 23 and
32 clear on 24. We have to start considering our travel
33 arrangements for our other participants. That's the
34 problem I've been having over the years, trying to get
35 our regional reps all here. When we have meetings
36 without them, it's like we're progressing forward
37 without being fully informative to our other
38 constituents who also may be wanting to voice concerns
39 as well. Decisions are being made regardless of what's
40 occurring.
41
42 MR. LEAVITT: You'll have your new
43 officers in place by then. Just give them the dates.
44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: March 7 and 8, 2010
46 winter meeting. Fall 2010, August 23, 24.
47
48 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Seconded.
49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further

1 discussion.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 MR. LEAVITT: Question called for.
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question has been
8 called on the motion. All in favor signify by saying
9 aye.
10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed same sign.
14
15 (No opposing votes)
16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Noted. Thank you.
18
19 MR. NAGEAK: I would like to invite you
20 to Anaktuvuk Pass for the fall meeting.
21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's our limitation
23 in terms of traveling to villages?
24
25 MS. ATORUK: Right now they're still
26 asking us to meet at the hub places because of the
27 decreasing of the dollars. Unless there's some issues
28 that are really stringent that you meet in the
29 villages. If you have a good reason regarding some
30 issues that you have in a certain village, then you can
31 make that request and I can bring it forward.
32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You mentioned
34 something about a meeting of the Arctic Councils.
35
36 MS. ATORUK: Oh, that's right. That is
37 to come up under 13.
38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Where is 13?
40
41 MS. ATORUK: It's on the next page.
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So is that going to
44 impact us regarding our meetings here or is that going
45 to be a whole different setting?
46
47 MS. ATORUK: That would be your call
48 because you are the requestee. You made a request that
49 all regions, three regions meet at a joint meeting. If
50 you guys want to do it in the fall of 2011 and make a

1 request now, it's your call. That's what the annual
2 report is saying. That will be discussed. If you guys
3 still want to do it, OSM is supporting you. This is
4 where you guys are saying that you wanted to meet
5 together so you guys will discuss the global warming
6 and all different kind of issues that are going on in
7 your areas, in your regions.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was just trying to
10 recall what the reasoning was for us to meet. I think
11 it was Gordon's involvement to address these common
12 issues that we're dealing with in regard to the Arctic
13 Region.

14

15 MS. ATORUK: The resources because all
16 the way down to Seward Pen now and that area and the
17 global warming. You guys wanted to see what the other
18 regions are going through with the global warming and
19 their resources and then you guys wanted to get
20 together and understand each other to see what was
21 going on. OSM is supporting you as they answered you in
22 your annual report. So it's up to you to decide whether
23 you want to set out a date since you are the first to
24 meet and give the date to Seward Pen and Northwest
25 Arctic. If we start early enough, then it will give us
26 coordinators enough time because I work with Northwest
27 and North Slope and would have to work with Alex Nick
28 with Seward Pen to set up the meeting and then you guys
29 would need kind of a local central place for a meeting
30 place.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I don't mean to be
33 jumping ahead in terms of our agenda items, but that's
34 something we need to consider.

35

36 MS. ATORUK: It's just a thought that
37 you can think about in the meantime and then we can go
38 back to number 11 to go on with the meeting right now.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So did we act on
41 those two dates?

42

43 MS. ATORUK: Those two dates were acted
44 on and then.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: March 7 and 8, August
47 23, 24, 2011.

48

49 MS. ATORUK: You can do another action
50 to make it August 23, 24 for the joint meeting to

1 happen at that date and then just change the meeting
2 place if you need to do that.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And then the agenda
5 will follow the concerns that were voiced before?

6

7 MS. ATORUK: Yes.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I need to look at
10 Gordon because he was part of the discussion at the
11 time and reflect some of the concerns that we are
12 voicing. I'd like that noted that it was the Council
13 at the time that was together and here discussing this
14 tri-group to meet to discuss common issues.

15

16 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Brower applied and we
17 should be hearing by either October or November, this
18 fall, whether he's been appointed or not. By that
19 time, by fall 2011, if he's appointed, he should be
20 involved with this Council again.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right. Thank you.
23 Any further comments.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Next agenda item is
28 draft 2010 annual report.

29

30 MS. ATORUK: That's me. From your
31 discussion earlier today, I know you guys are very
32 concerned with Wainwright, Atqasuk, Nuiqsut and Barrow
33 on your baseline fish studies. If you want to put that
34 into your annual report, I will do so. Those are the
35 only things that I have heard so far besides the
36 Eleanor Lake at Anaktuvuk, the contamination of Eleanor
37 Lake. If you have another discussion further on and if
38 you have any other concerns, please get a hold of me.
39 You guys have my email. We don't submit this until
40 fall of 2011 anyway.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: In regards to other
43 concerns from Atqasuk and Wainwright, the fisheries.

44

45 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, baseline studies on
46 fisheries.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, I think that's
49 what's missing. There's fish studies right here.

50

1 MS. ATORUK: Actually John Jr. made a
2 request on baseline studies regarding all their
3 resources. That would mean both fish and wildlife at
4 the time when he was on the Council.
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Who?
7
8 MS. ATORUK: John Jr. made that
9 request.
10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I wasn't sure how we
12 were supposed to address that in terms of the two
13 programs, the fisheries program and the terrestrial
14 resources that were managed.
15
16 MS. ATORUK: But if you want to start
17 with just fish, baseline studies of fish, that's good
18 too. It's a good start because that's one of the main
19 resources that people feed on up here too.
20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do we need to take
22 any action on that information?
23
24 MS. ATORUK: No, I don't. Except for
25 that meeting date. I just brought that forward since
26 you brought it up just for you to think about during
27 lunch and then you will get to it on number 13.
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's 11:45. At this
30 time I'd like to ask the Council what's the wish of the
31 Council on continuing forward or go to lunch and take
32 our lunch break.
33
34 MR. LEAVITT: Take a motion to have
35 lunch through 1:15.
36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Lunch till 1:15.
38 We're in recess till 1:15. No discussion.
39
40 (Off record)
41
42 (On record)
43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's 1:20 by my watch
45 and I'd like to call the North Slope Regional Advisory
46 Council back to order after lunch recess. We're on
47 agenda item 12. Under new business maybe. Helen, want
48 to take care of this one or should we take care of it
49 right now?
50

1 MS. ARMSTRONG: I think we should do it
2 now.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We need to discuss
5 some concerns in wishing to generate proposals in
6 regard to Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
7 priority information needs and communications and
8 identify issues that we could go forward on and we
9 forward on the concerns that were identified this
10 morning. Maybe just for background, Helen.

11
12 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. I did check
13 on the jurisdiction for Anaktuvuk Pass and because it
14 is within the boundaries of Gates of the Arctic
15 National Park or Preserve, it is within Federal
16 jurisdiction, so the waters within it would be under
17 Federal jurisdiction, so you could make a proposal if
18 you wanted.

19
20 I did also check on the contaminant
21 issue and there are guidelines that the Federal
22 Subsistence Board puts out regarding what they will and
23 will not accept proposals on for the Federal Resource
24 Monitoring Program. They won't accept proposals on
25 contaminant issues specifically. If there were a
26 concern for looking at the fish population, then that
27 could be done because it's a subsistence resource, but
28 they don't deal with contaminant issues per se.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So I guess the
31 question, if there's an assessment on the fish resource
32 that's used for subsistence, it could lead to
33 identifying maybe a potential way of assessing the
34 fish.

35
36 MS. ARMSTRONG: You could do harvest
37 assessment on the populations in the lake. I believe
38 that would be all right. You certainly could make the
39 request to put it in the priority information needs and
40 I can take that back to our office.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Helen. I
43 think we had something drafted over the lunch.

44
45 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: With the discussions
46 that we had, we'd like to make a motion to add lake
47 trout, arctic char, Dolly Varden to the list of species
48 most important to the North Slope, add these prior
49 information needs, the spawning distribution, timing
50 and stock structure of the Mead River whitefish

1 species, spawning distribution, timing and stock
2 structure of the Kuk River smelt, the health and
3 abundance of grayling, burbot, Dolly Varden and arctic
4 char in Eleanor Lake in Anaktuvuk Pass.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
7 the floor.

8
9 MR. LEAVITT: Second.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Lloyd.
12 Any further discussion.

13
14 MR. NAGEAK: Question.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If there's no further
17 discussion, the question is recognized. All in favor
18 of the motion signify by saying aye.

19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed same sign.

23
24 (No opposing votes)

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank
27 you, Rosemary. Next is item 12, which is the Agency
28 reports. We have 12(a), Office of Subsistence
29 Management. (1) bear claw handicraft working group
30 update. Staff. Is that you, Helen?

31
32 MS. ARMSTRONG: That's me.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

35
36 MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 This is a handout. It's not in your book. For those
38 people in the audience, there are copies on the table
39 out by the sign-in sheet. For the people on the
40 Council, it looks like this. It says brown bear claw
41 handicraft workgroup. It's an update. This workgroup
42 has been going on for a couple of years now.

43
44 The workgroup met July 29th in
45 Anchorage and we had representatives of 7 of the 10
46 Regional Councils there in person. We had two people
47 online. We did not have a representative from Western
48 Interior Regional Council because for cultural reasons
49 they choose not to discuss brown bears.

50

1 James Nageak was there representing the
2 Council. He did a fine job. We had a really
3 interesting day of discussion. It lasted all day. We
4 had Staff from Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
5 people from Federal agencies. I was chairing the
6 meeting along with Larry VanDale from ADF&G, who is a
7 brown bear biologist, and we had other State
8 representatives and we had a representative from Fish
9 and Wildlife Service law enforcement.

10

11 We had a lot of really interesting
12 discussion. We focused initially on the question of
13 whether or not there was a need to have a change in
14 regulations that allow the sale of handicrafts that
15 incorporate brown bear claws. We had some handouts
16 that were done actually for another meeting a year
17 before but we used again. Cases where people had been
18 cited for illegal possession and sale of handicrafts
19 with brown bear claws and paws and other brown bear
20 parts. There is some evidence of there being an issue
21 in Alaska. But it was also recognized at the meeting
22 that it wasn't a concern really for subsistence users.
23 That was clear that that wasn't the issue.

24

25 What we discussed though is that if
26 somebody wants to sell a brown bear claw handicraft and
27 the person they sell it to wants to take it outside of
28 the country, then they would have to have first a CITES
29 tag on the hide and the tag is the tag that you get
30 when you seal the brown bear. This took a while for
31 everybody to kind of understand and the tag has a CITES
32 number, so people are already getting a CITES number
33 when they seal their brown bear hides. Then you take
34 that number and if the person who bought the handicraft
35 wanted to take it out of the country, they would take
36 that number and go to a law enforcement office. I
37 don't know if it's always Fish and Wildlife Service --
38 yeah, it is, and then get a permit to take it out of
39 the country and that makes it legal.

40

41 So after a lot of discussion about that
42 and about sealing and there were concerns James
43 especially brought up, the concern that if you get a
44 brown bear hide sealed, do you have to go all the way
45 to Fairbanks or Anchorage and where do you get it
46 sealed. The ADF&G representatives assured Council
47 members that you do not have to leave your community to
48 have the brown bear sealed. That was reassuring.

49

50 We also discussed other ways of -- you

1 know, could we have Federal people be able to seal the
2 brown bear and we had a lot of discussion on that too.
3 After we discussed that and we did discuss the actual
4 proposal that had been deferred, the State
5 representative said that they would recommend to the
6 Federal Board that the proposal that's been deferred,
7 which is WP08-05 should be rejected. I think that one
8 will no longer be under consideration.

9

10 The group agreed that a new proposal
11 should be submitted and that the new proposal would
12 require sealing the brown bear if the subsistence user
13 intends to sell a handicraft incorporating the claws.
14 That would only be if you were planning on selling it.
15 Then you would have it sealed and then you'd have the
16 CITES tag number. The new proposal would be submitted
17 by OSM staff and this would be then presented to all
18 the Councils for their input at the fall 2011 meeting.

19

20 We still have some details to work out
21 on how the CITES tag number would accompany the
22 handicraft. We discussed things like creating a
23 certificate that would go with each claw or at other
24 meetings they discussed having a little sticker you put
25 on the claw. I know previously they discussed they
26 probably wouldn't go with actually putting something
27 into the claw because that would damage the value of
28 the handicraft. We're going to work out more details
29 on that.

30

31 The proposed regulation is only going
32 to apply to Federally qualified subsistence users who
33 sell handicrafts incorporating brown bear claws.
34 There's no change for those who take brown bears, make
35 handicrafts for personal use and do not intend to sell
36 the handicraft. So it's really not a large number of
37 people that we know of. Of course, as someone pointed
38 out at the meeting, there could be a new market that's
39 developed because if it is made that it's legal. It's
40 already legal in most areas, but that it might make
41 people feel like they could more legitimately sell
42 handicrafts with brown bear claws there might be a
43 market that would be developed. At this point, we
44 don't believe that there are that many people that this
45 would really affect.

46

47 At the bottom of Page 2 is the proposed
48 regulation that will come to you in the form of an
49 official proposal next fall. This is the one that the
50 working group came up with and it reads you may sell

1 handicraft articles made from the skin, hide, pelt or
2 fur of a brown bear including claws taken from Units 1
3 through 5, 9(A) through (C), 9(E), 12, 17, 20, 22, 23,
4 24(B), only that portion within Gates of the Arctic
5 National Park 25 and 26.

6

7 Then the bolded part is the new part.
8 If you intend to sell a handicraft incorporating brown
9 bear claws, the hide must be sealed, which includes a
10 CITES tag number. The CITES tag number must accompany
11 the handicraft. As I said, we'll present that at the
12 fall 2011 meetings and it will be considered by the
13 Federal Board at the January 2012 meeting.

14

15 I'm not going to go through it unless
16 people have questions, but we did attach the question
17 and the answers on Pages 3 and 4 of this handout that
18 gives more of the background, 3, 4 and 5, of the whole
19 issue. This was presented to the Council last winter
20 meetings, I believe. With an addition -- on Page 5
21 there's a paragraph that says in which units sealing
22 brown bear is currently required.

23

24 So in some places it already requires
25 that you seal brown bears. Actually it's all the
26 places that are not listed here. So in this region,
27 right now if you take a brown bear in 26(A) or 24, you
28 don't have to seal a brown bear, but in 26(B) and (C)
29 you already do. So this new regulation would only
30 apply to people in 26(B) and (C) if brown bears were
31 taken there or anyone who takes -- you have to seal a
32 brown bear if you're in any of these units that are
33 listed if you're taking it outside of the unit.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have some questions
36 and need some clarifying. In regards to brown bear and
37 CITES, Convention on International Trade of Endangered
38 Species, fauna and flora, the brown bear isn't under
39 the endangered species, is it, currently?

40

41 MS. ARMSTRONG: Not in Alaska, but they
42 are considered endangered in many parts of the world.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: In other parts of the
45 United States.

46

47 MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, but not in
48 Alaska, correct. That's why it falls under CITES. The
49 concern here is that even though there's not a
50 conservation concern so much in Alaska as there is in

1 other places that if you have an illegal harvest here
2 and they already have a problem with gall bladders,
3 brown bears being taken for gall bladders, and brown
4 bear claws do bring a lot of money. I think they can
5 sell for \$800 or something on the market. Quite a bit
6 of money. The concern is that we don't want to
7 encourage an illegal market. So they want to be able
8 to document that if a brown bear is taken by a
9 Federally qualified subsistence user that it's legal.
10 It gives more value to the handicraft as well.

11

12 MR. NAGEAK: Question.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Ben.

15

16 MR. NAGEAK: I have some questions
17 related to this. I'm familiar with CITES. I'm
18 familiar with this because back in the late '80s and
19 early '90s the population of walrus on the Canadian
20 side -- or there's a distinct species of walrus over on
21 that side and a distinct species of walrus on this
22 side. The walrus over there has smaller tusks and the
23 ones over here are the bigger ones. Anyway, back when
24 I was chairing the Eskimo Walrus Commission we heard
25 from someone that there was a meeting in Toronto and
26 they were going to place the Pacific walrus under
27 protection of CITES because the population of walrus
28 from Canada was going down and they were trying to
29 combine the two and say under CITES they could control
30 the take and trade of walrus ivory at that time. So we
31 heard about that they were having a meeting in Toronto,
32 so we went down there. If we hadn't found out about
33 it, you know, the hunting of walrus would have
34 completely changed in that.

35

36 I don't know when the CITES became a
37 Federal law because it's an international law, it's not
38 a Federal law. So what I'm concerned about because,
39 you know, we stopped them in Toronto on the CITES and
40 then they turned around and there's going to be an IUCN
41 convention in Australia and the animal rights and
42 environmentalists decided they were going to go that
43 route because they lost in CITES.

44

45 So we went down to -- me and the late
46 Matthew Iya, the late Burton Rexford, he was Alaska
47 Eskimo Whaling Commission, and Matthew was the director
48 of Walrus Commission and I was chairman then. We went
49 down there and we had dinner with the general secretary
50 and we told him you can't unilaterally change something

1 without the people that you're going to be impacting,
2 trying to go around them. And then he took that off
3 the table down there.

4

5 So I'm just wondering how CITES became
6 a Federal law.

7

8 MS. BROWN: Hi, this is Cole Brown.
9 I'm with OSM. It's not a Federal law. CITES is a
10 Convention on International Trade of Endangered
11 Species. The United States is a participating party in
12 that convention. So, as you just said, there are cases
13 where our country may not agree with the placement of
14 that species on a certain list.

15

16 There are three criteria that you can
17 have for wildlife. It can be an appendix 1 species,
18 which means it's the most highly endangered. That
19 means you can't import it or export it. It can be an
20 appendix 2 species, which is what brown bear are for
21 the majority of the world except for Alaska where it's
22 not a conservation concern. That means you can export
23 it with a CITES permit. And then there's an appendix 3
24 species where those species are of concern for that
25 particular country, which you'll see like the conch
26 shell is a species within that country.

27

28 But there are exemptions by countries,
29 like Wales for instance. Japan is exempt on certain
30 whale species being appendix 1, 2 or 3. So that's
31 where the Federal government -- the treaty is complied
32 to by Federal governments, so it's not a Federal law
33 except by our participating country saying we are in
34 accordance with this. So because of that, because
35 brown bear are endangered to the level of appendix 2
36 species, how this came about was to protect the
37 subsistence user in order to sell those handicrafts.

38

39 Greenland is a great example of a
40 country that has high indigenous people that have had
41 subsistence uses for millennium and they are able to
42 export polar bear, walrus, all kinds of animals with
43 CITES permits. It gives their handicraft-makers a
44 little bit of an edge for marketing saying this was a
45 handicraft created by that subsistence users, and it
46 allows whoever buys it to take it out of that country
47 and into their own country without it being taken from
48 them because that's what could occur right now.
49 Without the CITES permit, if someone were to buy a
50 handicraft from you of a brown bear claw and take it

1 over to Europe without a CITES permit, it will be
2 confiscated. It will be seized from them. That
3 property will be taken without a CITES permit.

4

5 Now they can do that with how our law
6 is set up. They can take it from Alaska, go into
7 Canada and back into the Lower 48. They don't need a
8 CITES permit. That's the loophole and that's what
9 we're trying to protect the people, not only the
10 subsistence user to make those handicrafts, to sell it
11 to whoever they want to, but also the people who buy
12 it.

13

14 MR. NAGEAK: I'm sorry. I've been
15 through this a lot of times. It was because of this
16 that the Canadians and Alaskans had an agreement signed
17 in 1988 and I was the Director of Wildlife Management
18 at the time and we saw some of these things happening,
19 you know, and we decided to do something about it on a
20 user-to-user basis. So we went back and forth to the
21 State department and to Canada and we went to Ottawa a
22 few times with our Canadian counterparts and we went to
23 Washington, D.C. on our side.

24

25 So what we did was -- because we saw
26 all this stuff that's happening because if we hunt
27 polar bears for subsistence over there and they could
28 have sports hunting. They still do to this day. We
29 didn't at this time at this side. So we were concerned
30 about that, so we decided to make an agreement instead
31 of amending the treaties because it would be a long
32 fought battle with the treaties, but we could do it
33 with an agreement. So that's what we did in order to
34 work with the Canadians on the take of polar bears.

35

36 In 1988 it was the first time that a
37 user group from Alaska placed a voluntary quota on
38 polar bears. I sold that to the people here in the
39 North Slope because we saw how it would benefit our
40 people in the long run. We just celebrated the 20
41 years, what, two years ago. They took me over to
42 Canada and it's still a really good agreement. So
43 that's how we use some of those concerns raised by both
44 sides.

45

46 When I was reading this, this is a
47 mischaracterization that CITES is a Federal law. It is
48 not a Federal law. It says right here CITES -- this is
49 a Federal law. It is not a Federal law. So, you know,
50 it's a mischaracterization when you say that it's a

1 Federal law.

2

3 MS. ARMSTRONG: Ben, I'm glad you --
4 this is Helen. I'm glad you pointed it out because
5 we'll correct that. Unfortunately.....

6

7 MR. NAGEAK: But these are the things,
8 you know, that I see are coming again. All this stuff
9 that I went through I see it starting to come out, even
10 that same way through this process. I was involved in
11 the International Treaty on Porcupine Caribou and I was
12 director of that wildlife management and we gave
13 \$90,000 to that so we can work with our Canadian
14 counterpart because we were concerned about the take of
15 Porcupine Caribou and it had become a big issue. We
16 were promised at that time that they wouldn't use it as
17 a tool to stop us from development, but it happened.
18 I've been really ticked off since then because they
19 used us at that time and I always tell people.

20

21 When I see things like this happening,
22 I know I work for the Federal government, but I'm
23 speaking as a person who lives in the North Slope and
24 as a Native user. When I see things like this, it
25 raises the hackles in the back of my hair. So when I
26 see this mischaracterization that it's Federal law, it
27 keeps me saying what else is coming down the pike when
28 people who don't know these things, they listen to them
29 and say, well, it's Federal law we've got to -- you
30 know.

31

32 So when I see these things, you know,
33 you've got to be careful because you know you're going
34 to give up something that you shouldn't be giving up.
35 There are other ways of making sure that the illegal
36 trade -- I was vice chairman of the Board of Game. We
37 went through all this stuff before, so I know all this
38 stuff. I have history. There are other ways of
39 dealing with these kind of things. I'm not speaking as
40 a Federal agent, I'm speaking as a concerned individual
41 who happens to be working for the Federal government
42 when I see these things. I know I shouldn't be doing
43 that, but that's the way I feel.

44

45 I was instrumental in doing a lot of
46 this stuff, not only statewide, but nationwide and
47 internationally.

48

49 I just want you to be cautious, Mr.
50 Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for your
2 comments, Ben. I had raised my question in terms of
3 what I read earlier. Basically you've identified some
4 of the concerns that I was looking to raise in terms of
5 this discussion and this information. My first
6 question is in regard to the endangered species. We
7 know it is within the rest of the United States. It's
8 not so applicable here because of the population and
9 numbers of the brown bear are quite high within the
10 state.

11
12 The concerns Ben voiced in regard to
13 this is a Federal law, I was questioning myself when
14 did it become law if it did. It doesn't reference a
15 date and time.

16
17 MS. ARMSTRONG: It was an error.
18 Unfortunately, Cole has been gone. She's our expert in
19 the office on this and she's been helping with the oil
20 spill, so she didn't have the opportunity to review it.
21 But we will go back and correct it because Ben raises
22 some really good points and we'll explain it.

23
24 MS. BROWN: Yeah, it's an international
25 treaty. He's absolutely correct. It's not a Federal
26 law which we are participant in. I hope that doesn't
27 sideline -- I mean this is an unfortunate error where
28 it says this is a Federal law. It's not. It's an
29 international treaty. But the points behind it are
30 really what we're trying to convey as that with a
31 simple tag number is going to be able to protect the
32 subsistence user and also give value to that product
33 for an individual to take that back to their home
34 country legally.

35
36 So while brown bears are not endangered
37 in Alaska and we're very thankful for that, you can
38 look worldwide and see that that has not always been
39 the case with every country due to certain products of
40 whatever wildlife there is having a value to them.
41 Since this is a new development where this has become I
42 think in the last two years where they have now allowed
43 the sale of brown bear claws, we're just looking to
44 protect the subsistence user from not only protecting
45 their resource but also protecting their handicrafts
46 and their ability and right to do so.

47
48 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.

49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Helen.

1 MS. ARMSTRONG: A couple things. I
2 just wanted to point out the only place there would be
3 any difference in the North Slope would be in 26(A),
4 that it would remain -- and 24 for Anaktuvuk Pass, it
5 would remain the same. Already you have to seal a
6 brown bear if you're in 26(B) and (C). So this would
7 have no effect on anybody harvesting a bear in 26(B)
8 and (C). You don't have to get a CITES permit. That's
9 the person who buys the brown bear handicraft unless
10 you're going to export it, you have some kind of
11 business.

12
13 I did want to ask Ben if he had some
14 other ideas of what we could do. I thought with your
15 experience and background that if there's something
16 else you wanted to offer as a suggestion because we're
17 just in the proposal writing stage. This is in kind of
18 an infancy right here. So if you had other thoughts of
19 what could be done.

20
21 MR. NAGEAK: I just brought up two
22 examples of what we did, you know, with the polar bear
23 and also the caribou, is to work with the user groups.
24 Unfortunately, you know, there's brown bears in other
25 parts of the nation as well. It's like in Canada, you
26 know, the polar bears and that, also the agreement
27 between the Federal government and the Alaska Eskimo
28 Whaling Commission is a prime example of working with
29 the Federal government in managing a species.

30
31 I don't have to talk to Harry about it.
32 Harry is well-known advocate and he knows the laws on
33 bowhead whales, you know. We solved this problem of
34 trying to place whales -- there was a quota and we were
35 told by St. Lawrence Island people, you know, they're
36 only counting one species -- or not one species, but
37 one population of bowhead whales that go to the west
38 side. You're not counting the ones that are going to
39 the east side, you know.

40 So we heard that. In 1988 we had an
41 opportunity -- me, Dr. Albert, the late Matthew Iya, we
42 went to Chakotka, we made connections. We heard there
43 may be some whales going, you know, the other way, the
44 bowhead whales. Oh, yeah, they go on the east side,
45 and these are the people from Chakotka. So what we did
46 was in 1991 we signed an agreement between the Russians
47 and the Alaskans on North Slope Borough. We signed an
48 agreement to do a study to see if bowhead whales were
49 going to the Russian side. It was signed in 1991. Lo
50 and behold it was proven that there's two populations

1 of bowhead whales.

2

3 The same thing with beluga and
4 everything else. I could make all this stuff that's
5 happened between countries. The latest example is the
6 polar bear agreement between Russia and Alaska. It
7 took them a long time. They patterned that agreement
8 between the ones we made with Canada.

9

10 So there are ways to make agreements
11 between user groups and to make sure that the trade of
12 -- illegal trade is placed at a minimum by using both
13 organizations working hand in hand to make sure that it
14 is communicated to the users that we do not sell these.
15 This is illegal trade. So I had to protect that in
16 Federal court in the head-hunting. At that time I had
17 to testify that we are taught from birth that you use
18 animals and you do not take more than what you need and
19 you don't hunt just for like money and stuff. That was
20 what was happening with that head hunting. The Walrus
21 Commission agreed to that. We agree we don't do that
22 stuff.

23

24 When you work with the people who will
25 be impacted, you know, and they are the ones who have
26 to live with these things. So you work with a group
27 like this group here, the Subsistence Board, and other
28 groups to come up with something with their input and
29 with the villages involved it goes a long ways in
30 making sure it happens.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Ben.
33 Helen, I hope that helps with your question. Again,
34 looking through this and the charge for the working
35 group and the recommendation and the answer and
36 question segment in terms of a way forward in basically
37 a monitoring program on the sales of handicrafts of
38 brown bear claws is something that would be the focus
39 of this discussion.

40

41 What's catching my eye is what we just
42 talked about. The other segment is what illegal
43 activities occurs with brown bears and their parts.
44 That kind of goes out of the scope of what's happening
45 with the brown bear claws for trading already. When
46 you start discussing the other parts of the animal as
47 well, that opens up another larger dialogue of what's
48 legal and what's not legal. Things get confused when
49 you get into those segments. In this concern regarding
50 other illegal activities, that's poaching. In terms of

1 what we're discussing is subsistence.

2

3 In my opinion, I would rather take that
4 information out and leave it out and leave that problem
5 to the resource manager. They're the ones that need to
6 monitor what's being illegally harvested as resource
7 managers. We're trying to subsist and provide a means
8 to make ends meet in a way. Sometimes we take a hard
9 path and want other ways to make it easier for us, but
10 it's not always the right turn at times. What do you
11 call it, steering the progression on a way forward to
12 address the concern.

13

14 I just see these things that could
15 mislead to communications of different parts of a
16 resource even though there's other illegal activities
17 that occur with brown bears. That's kind of raising
18 the flag with me.

19

20 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

23

24 MS. ARMSTRONG: These questions were
25 actually generated by other Regional Councils, so
26 that's why they're here, for those Council members that
27 were interested in that. This is just a general
28 summary of that. They were concerned about placing a
29 market on claws where there was not any -- not
30 everybody is law abiding, so that they were concerned
31 with if there was going to be a market on brown bear
32 claws, how was that going to affect the illegal
33 activities separate from subsistence. So that's where
34 this came up with with trying to provide our protection
35 to the subsistence legal activity versus the people
36 that are out there poaching. If you don't have an
37 identifier for that legal claw, how are you going to
38 say this was a legal thing. So that was how we're
39 trying to come up with a way. Since this was already
40 in place and CITES is already internationally done and
41 endorsed by our country in terms of the treaty, we
42 thought that that was a natural fix.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's also
45 difference in the sporthunt, poaching and subsistence.

46

47 MS. ARMSTRONG: Absolutely.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's those
50 different three, but when you start combining them all,

1 it leads to misunderstandings of what their applicable
2 laws are for each of those three, subsistence, poaching
3 and sport hunting. So that's why I was making my
4 comments in regards to that. I understand this
5 generated from a working group that consists of
6 different membership throughout the 10 Regional
7 Councils.

8

9 These are comments and concerns that we
10 have to deal with locally as well. I know James is a
11 very knowledgeable person and has been involved in
12 hunting of different resources and was our
13 representative through this organization -- I mean the
14 working group. At times we get caught up in the
15 conversations that kinds of misleads us to having
16 misunderstandings or different vocal points that steer
17 us into different thoughts. That's why I'm sharing my
18 comments in terms of how we could differentiate and
19 probably use a different concept or take out some of
20 these concerns to have the resource manager itself
21 continue utilizing -- their process is already in
22 place.

23

24 I voice my concerns because I've been
25 in this dilemma for quite some time and having to deal
26 with this Federal subsistence. It's not just for what
27 we're dealing with here. Federal subsistence in all
28 the different areas under the jurisdiction of the
29 Federal government. Responsibility for marine mammals,
30 migratory birds, terrestrial animals, fisheries. But
31 then we're only focused here on terrestrial animal.
32 Again, this is my opinion. It could be all discussed
33 in one umbrella, which would save us a lot of concern
34 and heartache over some of these discussions.

35

36 If we didn't catch this, how far do you
37 think this would have gone if we didn't make our
38 comments known?

39

40 MS. ARMSTRONG: I think comments are
41 fantastic. I didn't mean to convey that. I was trying
42 to explain.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I understand that.
45 If we didn't catch this -- if Ben didn't catch it, i
46 didn't catch it, it could have been misinterpreted in a
47 way that it states it's Federal law. We see that and
48 have acknowledged it to where it could be corrected.
49 With that correction, you know, it could have a
50 different interpretation once we read it.

1 So that's why I'm voicing my concerns.
2 I've worked for Ben and with Ben for many years and
3 Lloyd and Rosemary and others, Gordon. That's why
4 we're very careful about how things are presented for
5 us because of what we've learned over time. It's not
6 you specifically, but it's our agencies and our Federal
7 government, even our State government, that we have to
8 confront in dealing with resource management
9 subsistence issues. These are very dear to our hearts.

10

11 It gets a bit frustrating at times, but
12 we still live day to day on what we need to survive on
13 in providing. When you see things that are being
14 undermined in a way, which could be prevented if people
15 would just take the time to re-evaluate what's being
16 considered. It could lead to better things. We're
17 progressing forward in a better state.

18

19 I was just thinking with this kind of
20 mischaracterization as identified by Ben, you know, it
21 -- in my view, it would be to set back and reassess
22 what's going on here. That's my opinion. Sit down and
23 re-read the whole contents of this to flag out and
24 identify areas to focus only on the title of what's
25 brown bear claw handicraft and how that came about.
26 It's an artisan, a person that makes arts and crafts,
27 looking for means to make ends meet and using resources
28 that are available to them have restrictions. Need to
29 be re-educated as to what can be done and what
30 shouldn't be done in interpreting the law
31 appropriately. I think we try to be law-abiding
32 citizens as best as we can to be able to conduct our
33 activities.

34

35 This type of interpretation, you know,
36 I'm not sure how the other communities or regions, if
37 they've seen this paper, has interpreted that for you
38 or if you've heard any other interpretations. I'm not
39 sure. I don't know.

40

41 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. This is the
42 first Council meeting we've had and this is the first
43 Council who's looked at this. We will change the
44 Federal law reference for the other Councils and
45 correct it.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for stating
48 it, Helen. I didn't know if it's been disseminated to
49 other areas.

50

1 MS. ARMSTRONG: No.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's what's been
4 mind-boggling for me. The Federal program is a very
5 large program. So those are questions in my mind. It
6 leads to these kind of discussions.
7
8 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.
9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.
11
12 MS. ARMSTRONG: Were you provided the
13 report from the first meetings that we had for the
14 first -- I guess it's been a year ago now where we had
15 the first report and then the supplemental stuff. Just
16 curious if you were given that information yet.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we have.
19 Again, I can't state that I remember everything on the
20 contents of the paper. I have so many things on a
21 daily activity to deal with, so I can't remember all
22 the contents of that report if it was. I can say that
23 we received the report, yes. In working with our
24 coordinator, she provides us and keeps an update on our
25 issues that are provided to her through her office as
26 coordinator for our region. James.
27
28 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah, we will be looking
29 at this proposal again in the fall of 2011. The
30 proposal will be coming to all of the Councils to be
31 considered. I told those guys why don't we just take
32 the DNA of the bear and keep track of the DNA wherever
33 it's going to go. Try to get rid of the illegal stuff.
34 So we have two different kinds of people there.
35 Whenever they find those illegal people, they can just
36 put them away and throw away the key or something.
37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I wish that was the
39 way, but it's not.
40
41 MR. NAGEAK: That would save the
42 problem. That was my first meeting. I'm glad that I'm
43 being educated again just so the next time I know what
44 to look for. So we'll have a chance to go over this
45 proposal again.
46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ben.
48
49 MR. NAGEAK: We can never get rid of
50 this problem, but we can always reduce the problem by

1 working together, the managing agencies and the user
2 groups. From user group to user group you can -- no
3 matter which country you belong to you can make
4 agreements between those individual countries. You can
5 do it with the assistance of the State department, but
6 without amending anything, any treaties or whatever.
7 You know, you can always have an agreement in hand. By
8 working with the user agencies and the user groups and
9 coming up with something and agreeing on it at the
10 final plan, the final paperwork or whatever, it goes a
11 long ways in making sure that everything -- you can do
12 everything to reduce the illegal harvest and illegal
13 trade of anything.

14
15 I've had experience, almost 30 years of
16 experience in dealing with agreements and user groups,
17 different user groups and different agencies. I'm not
18 the only one. Unfortunately those people I worked with
19 are now dead. So I have to remember what they taught
20 me is living within me and, you know, I can express all
21 that what they've taught me, Nolan Solomon. I always
22 thought he was the best advocate for our people and I
23 miss him. To this day I think of him all the time. He
24 was a mean SOB at times, but boy he knew how to fight
25 for his people. I learned a lot from him and Burton
26 and Matthew Iya.

27
28 I mean those guys I worked with, they
29 were really -- I learned a lot from them and I still
30 think of them a lot when these things happen because of
31 what they told me is still here. I can still see Nolan
32 pointing his finger at me and saying this is what
33 you're going to do. You're working for us. You want
34 to make sure you do this. And Burton the same way.

35
36 All those elders, we were in public
37 meetings, said you -- so I see that finger still
38 pointing. You've got to make sure, you know, that
39 finger still stays there because it reminds you of what
40 still needs to be done. They know yet. There's always
41 new obstacles, but that finger is still there. When
42 they point that finger at you, it stays pointed at you
43 for life and you've got to make sure that you pass on
44 that stuff, that knowledge that they gave you. As long
45 as I see that finger, that's what I'm going to do.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you Ben. I
48 have another comment in terms of just re-reading some
49 of this. The new proposal under that bold in the last
50 sentence. The CITES tag number must accompany the

1 handicraft. Is that -- what type of material are we
2 talking about. It's the tag number. If the claw is
3 likely the size of your finger. What's being proposed
4 to be put on the tag and how big is the tag in terms of
5 size?

6

7 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. We actually
8 haven't worked out that detail yet. The working group
9 -- I mean this was sort of at the 11th hour of the
10 meeting, about 4:00 o'clock and we got as far as
11 working out the language of the regulation, but we
12 would develop more details on that, whether there would
13 be -- what we had talked about the meeting was having a
14 certificate that would accompany the handicraft. That
15 might be what we do, but we haven't finalized that
16 detail. The number itself comes on the tag. When you
17 seal a brown bear, it comes with the tag and then it
18 would be that number that would be put onto some sort
19 of certificate. It might say something like this brown
20 bear handicraft was produced by a Federally qualified
21 subsistence user in Alaska or something.

22

23 The other thing that's actually not in
24 here but it was another detail we discussed was that
25 Alaska Department of Fish and Game has a form that gets
26 filled out when you seal a brown bear and that we would
27 work with them to add a little box saying that this
28 brown bear was harvested by a Federally qualified
29 subsistence user and then there might be a box you
30 check saying that the intent is to sell the brown bear,
31 incorporate the brown bear claw into a handicraft,
32 something like that. The CITES tag number is on that
33 form and that's where the official number is. I think
34 it's also on the tag that's put on the hide, is that
35 correct, Cole?

36

37 MS. BROWN: That's right.

38

39 MS. ARMSTRONG: This was all new to me.
40 I knew nothing about sealing brown bears.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Helen.
43 Lloyd.

44

45 MR. LEAVITT: When I read this
46 paragraph, I was assuming that the tags were already
47 made and you rip a piece of the number off that tag and
48 put it on your handicraft. That was my automatic
49 thought.

50

1 MS. ARMSTRONG: It can be something
2 like that. Yeah, we haven't worked that out. There
3 may be some kind of stickers. You'd get 20 claws, 20
4 stickers.
5
6 MS. BROWN: Right. Well, it depends.
7 Typically what you see coming out of Greenland for
8 claws or handicrafts that are made from their
9 resources, it just accompanies that handicraft.
10
11 MR. NAGEAK: You know, animals die in
12 the wilderness. We don't know how they die sometimes
13 or a lot of times. I know there were some
14 acknowledgements of that with the walrus and other
15 marine mammals, all those artifacts found on the beach
16 and that stuff. Would that be allowed under this
17 program? Because in State and Federal law I mean you
18 can't have them -- you can't keep them. You now, you
19 find claws or horns. You can't even pick up a horn in
20 Federal land. It does happen. I mean that's
21 something, whether that was looked into or not.
22 Invariably you're going to come up with something.
23 Somebody is going to say, well, I found it. How are
24 you going to go about that? I know it's in Federal
25 subsistence laws or whatever, but how are you going to
26 do that with this program if that happens?
27
28 MS. ARMSTRONG: That's a good question.
29
30 MS. BROWN: Yeah. I'm not sure what
31 the State regulations are in taking a bear like that
32 and having it sealed. I don't know if the State has
33 any comment about that.
34
35 MS. ARMSTRONG: There was another
36 situation that James brought up that he asked, well,
37 what if you had this brown bear hide, you've had it for
38 30 years hanging up and then you decided, hey, I think
39 I want to make some handicrafts, what would you do. I
40 think the Fish and Game biologist said that all you'd
41 have to do is just take it and get it sealed and say I
42 want to make handicrafts and then you'd have the
43 number. He said that would be perfectly okay, I think.
44
45 MS. BROWN: I know Park Service doesn't
46 allow it.
47
48 MS. ARMSTRONG: That's a good point to
49 look into.
50

1 MS. BROWN: Currently the Park Service
2 is the only land manager that I'm aware of that doesn't
3 allow salvaging like that. I know they're also talking
4 about changing that. That's been at the last meetings
5 about that being a proposal to change those things.
6 Horns, antlers, things like that. I know Sandy
7 Rabinowitch was looking into that. That's something
8 that they're discussing now, is to be able to utilize
9 salvaged parts off of National Park Service lands, so
10 maybe that's something that's going to be changed.

11
12 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: That was an issue
13 with musk ox for us with the permit promise. One year
14 we were not able to get a permit. We found a body in
15 one of the rivers and we harvested the head and brought
16 it home and they did stop and ask questions because
17 they could see and they didn't find the numbers with
18 the number of approved permits. We were able to talk
19 with the one person over the years, so they were able
20 to discuss it, but it was an issue that was brought up.
21 If we hadn't been involved in the process for a long
22 time, it would have been a bigger issue.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We can continue to
25 have a discussion on this in the proposed language.
26 For the next round of proposals coming out there will
27 probably be more discussions included from other
28 Regional Advisory Councils as well during the next
29 review. I think that's where I would be interested in
30 learning more of what the other regions are indicating
31 as well in regards to their concerns and review of the
32 working group's recommendations, report on their
33 findings.

34
35 I'd still like to learn more about how
36 CITES is going to be monitored and implemented in terms
37 of sales that occur. It's something new within our
38 area. It hasn't been fully explained as to the
39 monitoring of the resource and how it may impact the
40 resource's population. Jimmy.

41
42 MR. STOTTS: For the record, my name is
43 Jim Stotts and former chair of the Inuit Circumpolar
44 Council and chair of ICC Alaska. We just recently had
45 a general assembly in Greenland, which we have these
46 general assemblies every four years. The hoops that we
47 had to jump through to get ivory products, other
48 products for cultural exchanges to our people from
49 Canada and Chakotka and Greenland were so onerous as to
50 be -- I would say they were prohibitive.

1 We started that process probably 10
2 months, maybe a year before we were even leaving. We
3 went through one application, one form after another.
4 One point we had to say when was that walrus shot, what
5 was the day or when was that bear taken, what was the
6 day. The regulations, this was CITES, but it's also --
7 that's another complicating factor. There are other
8 Federal laws and international treaties that apply to
9 these animals. You almost have to be a lawyer to
10 figure out how to transport these things across the
11 borders.

12
13 From the ICC perspective, there needs
14 to be some easier way of accounting for these animals
15 and the products that are made from these animals. For
16 cultural exchange now. I'm not talking about selling
17 in the commercial market. Gifts. It also includes
18 foods. We took muktuk from Alaska all the way over to
19 Greenland as a gift and so on. But the rules and the
20 procedures in the regulations are just so bureaucratic
21 that it makes it prohibitive to have cultural exchange
22 among Inuit for these products.

23
24 I just would like to go on the record
25 as saying the government needs to go back -- I think
26 the government actually needs to sit down with the
27 people and work out something that's practical common
28 sense. I think these things are probably done back in
29 the halls of government and then here's your rules.
30 You know, it's just not working.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Jimmy.
35 Any other comments. James.

36
37 MR. NAGEAK: This Pribilof value is
38 proposing State funding for a subsistence resource
39 center to get started. They were asking for comments
40 from different people to make that happen even though
41 it's down there in St. George or someplace there. Just
42 for information.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, James.
45 I'd like to get back to this question in regards to the
46 last paragraph on Page 5 in which unit is sealing of
47 brown bear currently required. It identifies all those
48 units within the paragraph and list those units, 24 and
49 26 are identified, then we have our other subunits that
50 are not noted there. The discussion goes that if the

1 skin remains within the unit, there's no need for
2 sealing it or the skull. If there's a change over time
3 that the skin or the skull is going to be removed from
4 that unit, it needs to be sealed.

5
6 MS. ARMSTRONG: Correct.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I may know right off
9 the bat if I just start thinking about it. Where to go
10 to get these animals sealed. It doesn't give any
11 indication who the sealers are under the Federal
12 program or the State program. No numbers, no areas to
13 identify where to go get these seals or to get the hide
14 and the skull sealed. I think that needs to be
15 identified in the context.

16
17 MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, I think that's --
18 that was why we had so much discussion, I think, at the
19 working group meeting. It's in the -- this comes in
20 the reg booklet on Page 20 in this book, but it doesn't
21 say there either. It is ADF&G that's in charge of
22 sealing them. Oh, it does say that in the beginning of
23 the paragraph. It says that you have to have an ADF&G
24 representative. I'm not sure how it works in the North
25 Slope, whether it's Geoff Carroll. I would imagine
26 it's Geoff. What I understood from what Larry VanDale
27 was saying is that -- he's out in Kodiak and he said
28 that in his area somebody calls him up and says, hey,
29 I've got a bear to seal and then he says, okay, I'm not
30 going to be out there for another two months, but I'll
31 see you then. It's okay as long as he knows. You're
32 supposed to do it within 30 days, but it is something
33 ADF&G does. It's their form, the sealing form.

34
35 But I think that's a good point, Harry,
36 and we'll make sure in the analysis that that's
37 explained.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'd like to see that
40 get included. As hunters, we're not looking at
41 booklets or reading documents as we're hunting or
42 trying to subsist. We're looking to provide and when
43 rules and regulations start getting changed or new
44 things getting implemented, we're basically the last
45 ones to learn of these things. Only after an incident
46 occurs or a citing for an illegal act occurs that we
47 learn of these things. If it could just be identified
48 and flagged that here's an area that needs to be
49 reviewed by the users.

50

1 Yes, Helen.

2

3 MS. ARMSTRONG: The other question that
4 had come up on that in the meeting was why only those
5 units, why not everyone. You probably remember, Harry,
6 in the very beginning of this program when the Western
7 Brown Bear Management Area was created. In that area
8 they didn't require sealing and then that kind of
9 expanded from there. I know there were people at the
10 meeting who were surprised that there was this
11 differentiation between units. I believe that will
12 become an issue people will be asking questions about
13 as well. I don't know the answer to that. Do you
14 remember why (B) and (C) weren't included?

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's why I kind of
17 raised the question myself. I can't remember all the
18 discussions.

19

20 MS. ARMSTRONG: It was in the early
21 '90s. I do remember that. It was a long time ago.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ben.

24

25 MR. NAGEAK: You know, what's ironic is
26 working with the Canadians and stuff I've learned a lot
27 and with the people in Greenland. It's so much easier
28 for them to manage for both subsistence and sports and
29 it's so much easier for the people. A lot of the
30 customers, by the way, from Canada will go to hunt the
31 polar bears in the Northwest Territories and beyond.
32 They pay good money, huge money, for the opportunity to
33 get a polar bear.

34

35 It's easy for them to get that hide
36 into the United States and I don't know how the heck
37 they do it. If they can do it, I don't know why it's
38 so hard for us, you know, who don't even have a sports
39 hunting, why it's so hard for us to have cultural
40 exchanges, as James Stotts just mentioned earlier.
41 It's ridiculous. I think you should go ask them how do
42 you do that. I mean it's not allowed under Marine
43 Mammal Protection Act for one. The Marine Mammal
44 Protection Act makes it so much harder for us to do the
45 things that Canadians do. It's so hard to amend those
46 laws once they become entrenched in the Federal system.

47

48 I had friends that tried to get me
49 stuff from Russia, Canada, Greenland and I couldn't
50 take them back. I'd have to say no. They'd be

1 confiscated. I remember was it you bought some wolves?
2 Somebody bought a wolf hide and couldn't bring it into
3 the U.S. A wolf hide. A gift from Canada.

4
5 Mr. Stotts is right. I mean we have to
6 find a way to do these things that seem so simple for
7 other countries to do but we can't do them because of
8 the laws that we've generated, which hurt us, our
9 indigenous people.

10
11 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12
13 MR. NAGEAK: Here's a general provision
14 for all bear hunters. I said if I get a bear, if the
15 skin or the skull of a brown bear taken on Unit 26(A)
16 is removed from the area or sent for commercial tanning
17 within the management area, it must be first sealed by
18 an ADF&G representative in Barrow. Here I am at
19 Anaktuvuk Pass. The way to get something here is to go
20 up to Fairbanks because there's no direct flight and
21 it's a hardship for me. We talked about that at the
22 working group. Little things like that and it becomes
23 a hardship for me. If I want to sell a claw of a bear
24 that I got legally, subsistence hunter, then I have to
25 come to Barrow to get it sealed.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's why I made my
28 comments earlier to that similar concern. Identify in
29 the booklet where and who provides seals for brown
30 bears. If it has to be within the unit, we may want to
31 call the tagger and have them travel to Anaktuvuk. If
32 James takes it out and brings it down to a tannery, it
33 could be confiscated there and he could end up losing
34 that hide. These are little clarification points that
35 need to be shared with hunters and resource managers in
36 terms of what we've experienced in the past.

37
38 MS. ARMSTRONG: I think those are
39 really excellent points, Mr. Chair. I'm glad that,
40 James, you pointed that out that it said in Barrow
41 because you heard Larry VanDale and he very clearly
42 said you could have it sealed in Anaktuvuk Pass. He
43 told you that. So maybe this means from Barrow. But
44 we'll definitely check into all of that and in the
45 analysis we'll make sure there's information and we'll
46 work with ADF&G. Larry VanDale seemed very reassuring
47 that the sealing requirements would not be a big deal.
48 I can understand people having had problems in the past
49 that being a concern.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You know, we have the
2 post offices, which are Federal offices. May be one
3 option, just like the duck stamp. I think these are --
4 I think we've had some pretty good discussion on the
5 contents of this working group paper and update.

6
7 Thank you, Helen. I don't mean to get
8 you in the hot spot once in a while in terms of our
9 frustrations over things that change over time and try
10 to make improvements for constituents that conduct
11 their subsistence activities and trying to make ends
12 meet to provide a little bit of means of funds to
13 provide for other necessities that require to conduct
14 subsistence activities. I mean it's been a dilemma on
15 its own. It's not the first time we're being faced
16 with this situation. Going from polar bear to brown
17 bear. We haven't even started on the hybrid yet.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 MR. NAGEAK: That white one in Fort
22 Yukon? Yeah, it's a hybrid.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I don't know exactly
25 where it's at right now, but we're still missing one
26 little chapter here in the hybrid.

27
28 MR. NAGEAK: Atooey (ph) was a brown
29 bear but he was a hybrid and he was white.

30
31 MR. STOTTS: Half-breeds got no rights.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No, they have more
36 rights, Jimmy. Anyway, I thought I'd just bring that
37 up because these are the things that we have to deal
38 with and we learn of things as we travel
39 internationally, unknown things that occur elsewhere,
40 and we bring them back home and we start thinking
41 things. Boy, what's next.

42
43 MR. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, James.

46
47 MR. NAGEAK: The next step -- Ben,
48 you're talking about Canada where they have a
49 government called Nunavut and we don't have a
50 government called Arctic Slope. The people we have to

1 deal with in Washington, D.C. it becomes -- the same
2 thing with language. People like in Hawaii, the whole
3 state has a governor who backs up the language issue
4 there. Of course, Canada has that same thing that say
5 (indiscernible) is going to be our language in the way
6 that we deal with the government and we can't do that
7 here. Somebody said let's succeed from the Union, you
8 know. It's some kind of a statement that gets people's
9 hair to stand up because the North Slope oil and all of
10 that coal and stuff. What would happen if we did
11 succeed.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We do have our
14 government there, just not functioning in the proper
15 manner. We have our Native Village of Barrow. You
16 have your Native Village of Anaktuvuk. They just
17 haven't been recognized. So I've always stated that
18 the executive director, the president of the Council,
19 is as equal as the president of the United States. The
20 other thing that needs to go is the whole government
21 needs to be set aside so the tribal government can run
22 pretty much everything and shut that oil off and we get
23 our revenues, not the whole state of Alaska period.

24

25 MR. NAGEAK: I wish it was that easy.
26 Now you know what we've been through all these years.

27

28 MR. LEAVITT: Yes. We've been set up
29 to fail. The Federal government has assured that we
30 fail.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let's get back to our
33 agenda item. I'd like to ask the Council members if
34 they have any more comments in regard to the discussion
35 topic regarding brown bear claw handicraft.

36

37 MR. LEAVITT: Other than the
38 representation in the villages through the Alaska
39 Department of Fish and Game for the tags that are
40 required by the State and the Feds, the Feds or the
41 State need to think about a man in the villages to tag
42 and/or send their representative from Barrow to the
43 villages to do some tagging on a regular basis or an
44 annual basis, but knowing the Feds and the State,
45 they're pretty greedy with their funds. So that will
46 probably never happen, but I would encourage OSM to put
47 a push on this so that our people are able to ship
48 their hides and whatnot to other areas.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That would be Lloyd.

1 Thank you, Lloyd. Any other comments.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Helen, thank you for
6 the introduction on this update. I'm looking forward
7 to further discussions on the next go around on the new
8 proposal. Hopefully we'll have all this.....

9

10 MS. ARMSTRONG: We're going to fix
11 that. Promise. Don't worry. I'm glad we came here
12 first so we can fix it before it goes elsewhere.

13

14 MR. NAGEAK: Does the other countries
15 call their governments Federal too?

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Some.

18

19 MR. NAGEAK: Some do and some have
20 different names for them?

21

22 MS. ARMSTRONG: Maybe national.

23

24 MS. BROWN: Sovereignties.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If we don't have any
27 other discussion or comments to offer in regards to the
28 brown bear handicraft. I'd like to ask Helen did you
29 have any other comments you would like to make. Do you
30 have another item to bring up?

31

32 MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, I do. I just
33 wanted to thank everybody for all the comments and the
34 time spent on this. This is an important issue for
35 people. I really do appreciate it. It wasn't as hot
36 as being before the Federal Subsistence Board on Kenai
37 customary and traditional use determination. That's
38 the hot issue, let me tell you.

39

40 Okay. We have a couple more very --
41 these are just informational. They don't have too much
42 to do with the North Slope at all. One is a briefing
43 and I put these in front of you. The first one is a
44 briefing on the new Federal subsistence permit system.
45 I did look to see if you even had any Federal permits
46 and you do. Well, not all of you. But the only place
47 where Federal permits are required is Kaktovik on
48 moose.

49

50 DR. YOKEL: Also musk ox.

1 MS. ARMSTRONG: And musk ox, yeah.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What about the
4 community harvest for sheep?
5
6 MS. ARMSTRONG: Maybe that's under
7 there too. Anyway, this isn't a big deal. It's just
8 letting you know that we had some limitations in our
9 permit system, so in February we developed a new permit
10 system and it allows in-season tracking of harvest,
11 which makes it more responsive to in-season management
12 and conservation issues. We've standardized
13 terminology and improved accuracy of the issued
14 permits. It's allowing Federal managers to generate
15 reports to provide to biologists and anthropologists on
16 solid information on permits. This is just Federal
17 permits. It's not the State system at all. And
18 streamlined it as well. So they've trained other
19 Federal agency staff how to use the permit system and
20 we've issued 3,200 permits since then. So far we've
21 had really good response to what we've been doing. This
22 is for wildlife and they're developing a permit system
23 for fisheries as well. Then there will be eventually
24 web-based reporting. That's that one. Any questions
25 or comments on that?
26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Is this going
28 to consider the community harvest for sheep in the AKP,
29 I think. I'm trying to think of how we covered Point
30 Hope regarding permitting. We were informed about the
31 two populations. One was growing, one was declining. I
32 remember a community harvest for sheep for AKP. I
33 don't recall what it was for Point Hope.
34
35 MS. ARMSTRONG: There was one very
36 briefly and then they had a problem because -- I hope
37 my memory is right on this. They had a problem because
38 one person went and took all the sheep and didn't share
39 it with the community, so there was -- I don't think it
40 was in Point Hope, but they had that same system.
41 Anyway, it was in the DeLong Mountains, so I don't
42 think -- I think that was in Unit 23. Let me see.
43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Point Hope is right
45 on the borderline to Unit 23.
46
47 MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, right. It's a
48 designated hunter hunt. It's not a community hunt.
49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, Point Hope?

1 MS. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh. In the DeLong
2 Mountains, yeah.
3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I remember something
5 about the DeLong Mountains in the permitting that we
6 had before, but that may have changed.
7
8 MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, that's what it
9 was.
10
11 MR. NAGEAK: Is this 26(A)?
12
13 MS. ARMSTRONG: No, it's in 23.
14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Unit 23.
16
17 MR. NAGEAK: On 26(A) it says that
18 portion west of Howard Pass and the Givaluk River
19 (DeLong Mountain) one sheep by Federal registration
20 permit.
21
22 MS. ARMSTRONG: Right.
23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's individual
25 harvest.
26
27 MS. ARMSTRONG: Right. I think he was
28 asking about the community harvest. I don't think
29 there was ever a community harvest for Point Hope. I
30 think it was designated harvest.
31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But the one in AKP
33 for the community harvest still exists. I don't think
34 we've made any changes to that. I don't recall any
35 more concerns after we established the community
36 harvest for AKP. It's been working well for you since
37 that was in place.
38
39 I had a question in regards to Kaktovik
40 and I know musk ox is out of the picture, but I raised
41 the question about reintroduction because it was an
42 introduced species in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
43 When was that that we stopped the hunt there because
44 the population went to zero? I had to ask the question
45 is the Federal government willing to come back to
46 reintroduce another population of muskoxen to the area.
47
48 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Is it at zero?
49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's no musk ox.

1 All the ones that were remaining either transited into
2 Canada and the ones that stayed were eaten or taken
3 down by the brown bear. There was no animals left in
4 the United States unless they were transitting back
5 from Canada.

6

7 MR. NAGEAK: There was one at
8 Anaktuvuk. I asked them, can I shoot that sucker
9 before the bears do. I said that's good meat.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anyway, I've not
12 heard anything back. I believe that's something that's
13 being discussed within OSM or Arctic National Wildlife
14 Refuge.

15

16 MS. ARMSTRONG: It's Fish and Wildlife
17 Service. Mr. Chair, if we can take that question back
18 to Arctic Refuge Staff and ask them to report at the
19 next meeting on that.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You know, the
22 concerns being that Kaktovik has been very limited for
23 an alternate resource since the muskox hunt went down,
24 the caribou had not been coming back and forth into the
25 Kaktovik area. What are they calling that, 10-02
26 lands. Then moose harvest, they have to traverse quite
27 a distance to get into the area where they're being
28 zoned to harvest that resource. That's been a
29 difficulty for some of the hunters because of timing,
30 impacts from global climate change. In the winter
31 season, it's not freezing up. That's what we were
32 indicating earlier. Freeze-up is much later now than
33 what it's been in the past. That creates some access
34 problems too.

35

36 So I revoice these concerns in terms of
37 what I remember from Kaktovik on that moose hunt. I
38 think they're excited to take the moose when they're
39 able to, but the zones they've been given have been so
40 far from the community, yet there may be some much
41 closer resources available for them in a different zone
42 and they're transient animals. Even though they are
43 transient, the concern was that they specifically hunt
44 in the zone. That was the problem. I raise that
45 comment in regards to the -- if we had any more
46 questions or comments regarding this permitting system.
47 I'm not sure how that's been discussed within the
48 office, Helen, and if it's been a subject for
49 discussion.

50

1 MS. ARMSTRONG: I can take it back to
2 them and ask the question.
3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any other
5 questions or comments from the Council members.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Helen, I give you
10 back the floor if you have any other item to cover.
11
12 MS. ARMSTRONG: Just one more. This
13 does not apply directly to this Council, but just
14 because you may hear from people you know in the State.
15 This is on the OSM update on salmon bycatch in the
16 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands pollock fishery. It's been
17 a very big issue for people in that region. In 2010 we
18 had a request for letters to be sent on this issue.
19 There was a briefing provided to the Councils in the
20 winter of 2010 on the rulemaking process. The chinook
21 salmon bycatch issue in the spring of 2010 the bycatch
22 limits established for chinook salmon were 60,000 if
23 the fishery participants form one or more incentive
24 plan agreements or 47,591 if there is no incentive plan
25 agreement. This is a final decision. It was the
26 record of decision and the briefing gives a place for
27 you to go to to read about that.
28
29 Then on the chum salmon bycatch
30 management there's a series of dates in the briefing
31 where in June of 2010 the North Pacific Fisheries
32 Management Council finalized alternatives. The MPFMC
33 staff is preparing an analysis for review and then in
34 January 2011 there will be a preliminary view draft
35 available and so forth. This just sets out the
36 timeline for reviewing the chum salmon bycatch
37 management issue. You can read that. This was just
38 sort of for your information because it's been quite a
39 big issue that's been ongoing. It does not affect the
40 Council.
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions from
43 the Council to Helen on the update on the salmon
44 bycatch in the Bering Sea.
45
46 (No comments)
47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Thank
49 you, Helen.
50

1 MS. ARMSTRONG: That's it for me, Mr.
2 Chair.
3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for your
5 information and updates.
6
7 MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you very much. I
8 have agenda item 12(b) National Park Service.
9
10 MS. OKADA: For the record, my name is
11 Marcy Okata and I'm with the National Park Service,
12 Fairbanks office. I'm just going to go through the
13 handout pretty briefly. Most of this pertains to
14 Anaktuvuk Pass because it is a resident zoned community
15 within Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.
16
17 Gates of the Arctic National Park and
18 Preserve had a Subsistence Resource Commission meeting.
19 It was right here in Barrow April 28th at the Inupiak
20 Cultural Heritage Center. The SRC took the following
21 actions. The SRC endorsed in concept a draft petition
22 to the Board of Game to repeal all parts of Proposal
23 104(a), which was passed by the Board of Game in the
24 spring of 2010 and it liberalizes the resident caribou
25 season and bag limit in Game Management Unit 26(b).
26
27 The petition cites procedural errors in
28 the Board of Game's handling of the proposal as well as
29 broad opposition to its passage. The SRC also voted in
30 support of the Federal Wildlife Proposal WP10-67
31 establishing a 10-day winter hunt for antlered bull
32 moose in Game Management Unit 24(B).
33
34 The up and coming SRC meeting is
35 scheduled to be in Fairbanks tentatively for the week
36 of November 8th. An itinerary is going to be sent out
37 to the resident zoned communities representatives.
38
39 National Park Service is working in
40 cooperation with the State, BLM and Fish and Wildlife
41 Service and they've been deploying GPS collars on the
42 Western Arctic Caribou Herd at Onion Portage and that's
43 going to start September 7th, 2010.
44
45 In Units 24(a) and (b), National Park
46 Service is also working with the State, BLM and Fish
47 and Wildlife Service to put 20 collars in October on
48 moose as well. The animals are going to be tracked by
49 air monthly. With about 10 GPS collar movements being
50 tracked every eight hours.

1 In regards to Dall sheep abundance in
2 the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve,
3 there were surveys conducted in 2009 and 2010 and the
4 results from 2009 estimated the population to be about
5 8,500 sheep. Currently the 2010 data is being
6 analyzed.

7
8 In regards to what Cole had brought up,
9 the National Park Service has begun region wide scoping
10 efforts on traditional and customary uses of shed horns
11 and antlers and the collection of plant materials for
12 use in handicrafts. All of the Park SRCs will be
13 consulted on traditional uses of these materials and
14 handicrafts for personal use and sale.

15
16 I'm going to pretty much go down and go
17 through what's being done as it relates to this
18 Council. There's a demonstration project that's
19 related to local green energy production and it's been
20 installed in Anaktuvuk Pass. There's a ranger station
21 located in Anaktuvuk Pass. Right now this project has
22 been producing electricity for about one week.
23 National Park Service is currently exploring ways to
24 share this energy and the energy credits with the
25 community of Anaktuvuk Pass even though the station is
26 closed during the winter months.

27
28 I don't know if you've met Al Smith,
29 James. He's the ranger.

30
31 MR. NAGEAK: I can't hear.

32
33 MS. OKADA: Have you met Al Smith?

34
35 MR. NAGEAK: Oh, yeah, I know Al.

36
37 MS. OKADA: So he's the ranger that's
38 stationed in Anaktuvuk Pass. He's been working with
39 the National Park Service Lands Office and ASRC to
40 ensure that the National Park Service maps accurately
41 reflect the land exchange that was conducted between
42 the community and National Park Service.

43
44 Al Smith is also working with the
45 Nunamiut Corporation and an entity called the Rivers
46 and Trails Conservation Association about the potential
47 for ATV trail remediation on corporation land. This
48 program, Rivers and Trails Conservation Association,
49 does not provide funding, but it does assist with the
50 planning and installation efforts.

1 Currently the National Park Service is
2 also continuing to work -- is currently working on an
3 environmental assessment to analyze the potential
4 impacts of placing weather stations in arctic network
5 parks.

6
7 The public comment phase is now closed,
8 but based on the decisions from the EA they're going to
9 place about 17 weather stations in arctic network
10 parks, but installations will not begin until the end
11 of summer.

12
13 Relating to brown bear abundance, the
14 arctic network, which is an entity within the National
15 Park Service, has conducted aerial surveys in Gates of
16 the Arctic National Park to survey for brown bear
17 density and occupancy. Population estimates are now
18 being compiled for fall release. The entire purpose of
19 this project was to develop a population monitoring
20 protocol that looks at abundance density, occupancy of
21 brown bears. This work was done in the Ikilik
22 Preserve and the contacts with the National Park
23 Service Kyle Joly and Brad Schultz.

24
25 There's been a new multi-year National
26 Park Service project that's been funded looking at
27 local and traditional knowledge of caribou in Anaktuvuk
28 Pass. That's scheduled to start in mid September. The
29 first year of this project is scheduled to start. It's
30 a three-year project. The project has contracted out
31 Sverre Pedersen and Grant Spearman. They're hoping to
32 bring together a draft report on the local knowledge of
33 caribou working with people from Anaktuvuk Pass.

34
35 Lastly, National Park Service, Gates of
36 the Arctic specifically, has just started to begin
37 updating their 1986 general management plan. The plan
38 is about 23 years old, so now they're trying to
39 incorporate aspects of climate change, the land status
40 change that had gone on with Anaktuvuk Pass, the
41 opening of the Dalton Highway had happened post that
42 time and other technological changes. So there's been
43 public scoping with each of the resident zoned
44 communities. That occurred in the spring. The
45 National Park Service is hoping to finalize the
46 management plan by the end of this year.

47
48 I know I had gone through this pretty
49 quickly, but I don't know if you have any questions.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: 101. Any questions
2 from Council members. Lloyd.
3
4 MR. LEAVITT: I have a problem with
5 collars on caribous.
6
7 MS. OKADA: It was basically moose that
8 were collared in general.
9
10 MR. LEAVITT: I met with Geoff Carroll
11 a number of years ago to the caribous I've got, the
12 collars are very very tight. Even if I take the head
13 off, they're hard to come off. So what I told Geoff
14 was that you need to install the collars at their
15 prime, not when they're feeding, not when they're
16 starving. Do it during the fall time when they're nice
17 and fat. I've come across caribous. I've hit him with
18 the damn collar, saying how would you like me to fit
19 you with this collar and strangle you. This is exactly
20 what the caribou was living through. This caribou was
21 very skinny and she was still growing. It was a female
22 caribou. So what I'm asking is that you collar the
23 caribous at their prime time, not when they're thin.
24 Do it when they're prime. Do it while they're fat.
25 You guys make the caribou suffer. It's just like
26 putting a snug on a kid and leaving him on a chair.
27 That is wrong. I was taught to protect and respect our
28 animals and we're not doing it. The collars are very
29 tight. There is no sense installing collars.
30
31 Arnold Sr., Arnold Brower, Jr.
32 concurred with me. You can collar caribous. One
33 collared caribou will remain while the rest take off.
34 Here you say you monitor them. You don't. That's been
35 asked less than a year ago. Arnold Sr. asked where's
36 all the caribou. Said the caribou was at 13. There
37 was one caribou, one collared caribou, and the rest
38 were on the other side of the Brooks Range. In other
39 words, we're not really monitoring the collared
40 caribous other than putting collars on them and then
41 speaking of them. That's about the only thing that's
42 been happening with the collars. It's just show and
43 tell for the Federal government and the State of
44 Alaska. That's all it is to me.
45
46 We need to respect our critters out
47 there period.
48
49 MS. OKADA: Do you have any
50 recommendations of how many caribous.....

1 MR. LEAVITT: I came across two that I
2 shot and their collars were very snug on there and they
3 were both female caribou. I got one in January, one in
4 March. This is the prime that they're very thin. This
5 is the time they're supposed to be thin, starving,
6 looking for something to eat below the snow. This is
7 what I've experienced with collars and I totally
8 disagree with them. That's the only comment I have.

9
10 MS. OKADA: Who had you mentioned it to
11 again?

12
13 MR. LEAVITT: I brought it to Geoff
14 Carroll several years ago, a fluorescent green collar
15 and an orange one before that. I hunt year round. I
16 don't stay idle. These are just some of the things I
17 come across.

18
19 MS. OKADA: I'll mention it to the
20 caribou biologist.

21
22 MR. LEAVITT: They need to be collared
23 at their prime when they're nice and fat, not when
24 they're thin. Spring, summer, fall they eat a lot
25 until they fatten up in October.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

28
29 MR. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: James.

32
33 MR. NAGEAK: I read somewhere too that
34 they were putting collars on calves and they were
35 putting they say expandable collars.

36
37 MS. OKADA: As far as I'm aware, they
38 tend to put them on adults. So as far as I'm aware, no
39 calves are being collared.

40
41 DR. YOKEL: Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Dr. Yokel.

44
45 DR. YOKEL: I don't want to break up
46 the Park Service's time here, but I know Marcy is
47 pretty new, so I thought I would just step in here with
48 a little bit of hopefully help.

49
50 There has been a project with the

1 Central Arctic Caribou Herd putting collars on brand-
2 new calves and I think they've done it on the Forty
3 Mile Herd too. This was a project to look into
4 survival of new calves, survival over the summer. So,
5 yes, they were expandable collars because the calf grew
6 during the summer, but they also came back in the fall,
7 just three months later, and took those collars off of
8 the calves. They did not leave them on the calf
9 caribou forever. So there has been one project for
10 sure on the North Slope collaring calves. I think
11 there's been at least one other in the state on the
12 Forty Mile Herd.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Does that help,
15 James?

16

17 MR. NAGEAK: Yes. Another question or
18 comment. There was a group of people that went up to
19 Anaktuvuk Pass about plants that are foreign to the
20 area that are affecting the countryside.

21

22 MS. OKADA: Invasive species or exotic
23 plants, introduced plants that are not native.

24

25 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah, they're introduced
26 when the ground is like -- there's a gravel path and
27 they take some of the gravel and put it some place else
28 and in the process new plants are being cultivated by
29 the disturbance and it's affecting the animals that we
30 eat. It's getting to be a concern of some people that
31 are coming around to the villages and telling us, hey,
32 these plants are growing in your country and they're
33 going to overtake, especially on the Dalton Highway. I
34 guess there's about five miles. Now they're growing
35 out from the Dalton Highway and it's affecting the
36 grazing places for our caribou and our sheep and all of
37 the animals that we eat. I wanted this Council to be
38 aware of some of the things that are happening outside
39 of some of the things that are being done here. Not
40 just the animals, it's the plants too that are going to
41 affect how fat the animals are going to be for the next
42 summer.

43

44 MS. OKADA: So you had said there are
45 people that came to look at the invasive species or the
46 weeds or the -- were there people that came to survey?

47

48 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah, they went up to
49 Anaktuvuk Pass and gave us an update on what
50 foreign.....

1 MS. OKADA: Plants.
2
3 MR. NAGEAK:things are growing in
4 our area and they're getting concerned and how to
5 eliminate them, I guess.
6
7 MS. OKADA: I think they're trying to
8 contain the plants before they spread too far out.
9
10 MR. NAGEAK: And they came out with
11 these little booklets. If you see this thing, it's a
12 foreign plant in your area. It's not local.
13
14 MR. NAGEAK: They're called invasive
15 plants.
16
17 MR. NAGEAK: Invasive plants. That's
18 the term.
19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do you know who the
21 people were, James?
22
23 MR. NAGEAK: Somebody. I can't
24 remember my middle name sometimes.
25
26 (Laughter)
27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Darn. Excuse my
29 language there. I was just trying to learn who the
30 people might be that were in your community discussing
31 these issues.
32
33 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah. They went up to
34 Anaktuvuk Pass.
35
36 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.
37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.
39
40 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I appreciate the
41 response in support of the issue relating to repealing
42 that process on your first proposal. That took a lot
43 of discussion in our community and the reality is some
44 of the other discussions related to the Dalton Highway
45 lack of resources to adequately monitor that. One of
46 the elders come in on the Dalton right after those
47 discussions were being held and snowmachine trailers
48 were going up with hunters while that process was going
49 on and yet it was only in the discussion process. This
50 elder had come across three different trailers with

1 snowmachines and hunters passing them, Brooks Range, in
2 their efforts of taking increased activity in that
3 area.

4

5 The concern related to the plants is
6 also another area that we also have an increasing
7 concern there. There are some species that are being
8 noted to the vegetation around that area and increased
9 spread there.

10

11 We also want to express that we're glad
12 that we looked at the sheep and got some better numbers
13 there. That was another area that there was some
14 concerns and we wanted some assurance for those
15 numbers.

16

17 The other issue related further on
18 there related to the study with the off-road vehicle.
19 That, I think, is also very important. We know that
20 there are efforts to increase activities on the Dalton,
21 but we need some assessments first with what's
22 happening in these areas, putting in some plans for
23 controlling this process, reducing the cost to our
24 state with the increased search and rescue areas in our
25 area. All those things are very important to look at.
26 We know that there's areas where activities are being
27 staged at where it's common for vehicles to come in and
28 part their trailers and take off and do further
29 activities. Some of it's with snowmachines, some of
30 it's with four-wheelers. This assessment is not well
31 understood as well as being monitored as to how many
32 numbers this is occurring, so I appreciate those
33 comments that came out of this report.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
36 Like I said, 101 questions on my paper here. We're at
37 about 99 now. No. Anyway, I wrote down what life span
38 does the GPS collar have in terms of -- you identified
39 that you're going to be collaring with the ADF&G in the
40 Onion Portage starting September. That was one of the
41 questions I wrote right off the bat.

42

43 MS. OKADA: I personally can't answer
44 that question, but I can ask someone who is able to.

45

46 DR. YOKEL: I can address it. I can't
47 answer that question for their collars because it
48 depends. It's one of those it depends answers. It
49 depends on how frequently the collar is programmed to
50 collect a signal, a location from a satellite. So you

1 could have a collar -- the size that normally goes on
2 caribou would have batteries large enough to last three
3 years or longer, depending on how frequently you get
4 locations. If you want a location for the animal every
5 hour, it's not going to last maybe even one year, but
6 if you get a location -- well, it would probably last a
7 couple years. If you get locations every day, it might
8 last three or four years or more.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I guess it depends on
11 the type of program that's installed in the unit.

12

13 DR. YOKEL: When you purchase the
14 collars from the manufacturer, you specify the
15 frequency of locations you want and then they probe --
16 it's got a little microchip like a computer in it and
17 then the manufacturer programs it to collect locations
18 at that frequency and that has a direct impact on
19 battery life.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

22

23 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Marcy.

26

27 MS. OKADA: In regards to more specific
28 information, I've left handouts on the table by the
29 entrance. In looking at this, it says the caribou
30 collars track locations every eight hours, 365 days a
31 year. So, with that recording, I guess it only lasts
32 about a year.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Up to year? Thank
35 you, Marcy. Ben.

36

37 MR. NAGEAK: I was just going to ask
38 Dave, you know, there's all this new technology. How
39 fast is the battery technology and the transmitter
40 technology in terms of research on large animals like
41 caribou? Are there new smaller versions of those
42 collars or can they be made?

43

44 MR. NAGEAK: I've seen a movie where
45 James Bond was going to put this little thing and they
46 put it right on his ear and they know where he was all
47 the time.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're that well
2 advanced, Dr. Yokel.
3
4 DR. YOKEL: I don't know about the
5 answer for -- by the way, I'm Dave Yokel with BLM. I
6 don't know the answer to the part about how fast is
7 technology changing. Maybe Geoff wants to address
8 this. But collars have -- GPS collars are made that
9 birds can carry, gulls, falcons. They're in the 100
10 gram range or maybe a little bit less, but these
11 obviously have much smaller batteries than the collars
12 that one would put on a caribou. They're transmitters
13 that are implanted in ducks in the intestine because
14 you can't collar a duck very well and they're lighter
15 too. Again, as you reduce the size, you reduce the
16 weight, you reduce the batteries that go with it and,
17 thus, you reduce the life of the instrument. Different
18 animals can carry different amount of weight with
19 minimal impact to them. A caribou can carry more
20 weight than a gull, obviously.
21
22 MR. NAGEAK: So you've got to develop a
23 battery where the body heat can recharge that battery.
24
25 DR. YOKEL: There are some collars that
26 are solar powered. Those are not very beneficial for
27 tracking caribou on the North Slope because as you know
28 there's not a whole lot of sun during part of the year.
29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's solar. He was
31 talking about body heat.
32
33 DR. YOKEL: I know. They don't have
34 those yet, but they do have collars that measure the
35 temperature.
36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I need to ask Ben and
38 James, did that help with your questions?
39
40 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah.
41
42 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah.
43
44 MR. NAGEAK: Powered me up.
45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So in regard to the
47 continuing questioning in regards to -- I wrote down
48 who makes up the association. You were referring to it
49 as River and Trails Conservation Association and
50 something about Al Smith is communicating with the

1 Nunamiut Corporation and the community assistance arm
2 of the National Park Service called the River and
3 Trails Conservation Association. On the second page it
4 says, first bullet. I'm trying to learn who makes up
5 this association.

6

7 MS. OKADA: I can't personally answer
8 that question, but I can get back to Al and then get
9 back to you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. The next one
12 is in regard to a new multi-year NPS funded local and
13 terrestrial knowledge study focusing on Nunamiut
14 knowledge on use of caribou. Is that to work with the
15 community funded by National Park Service, exactly what
16 it's doing. It states focusing on Nunamiut knowledge
17 and use of caribou. I'm trying to figure out how much
18 more information is needed as the museum has been
19 funded by the National Park Service and the use of
20 caribou is pretty much documented. Is there a
21 different level of information that you're seeking
22 besides what's -- not you, but the agency itself,
23 wanting to learn more on the uses of caribou other than
24 what's already known.

25

26 MS. OKADA: I think it's a
27 documentation of the use of caribou, but it's also
28 slash harvest assessment. So it will be a dual purpose
29 so to speak. I guess Grant Spearman would know if
30 there is any more information that's needed regarding
31 Nunamiut knowledge since he was the director of the
32 museum for so long. If there's any data gaps or need
33 to document.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm just trying to
36 learn in terms of is this something to compare what was
37 known in the past and what's happening today or is
38 there a different purpose or objective that's being
39 addressed?

40

41 MS. OKADA: This project is with the
42 hopes of developing stronger relationships with the
43 community because it is a resident zoned community
44 within the Park. Documenting any more knowledge that
45 may go by the wayside as elders pass on. Like I said,
46 if there's any data gaps that are existing. So it
47 should be a collaborative effort with the community.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
50 or comments to Marcy from the Council members. James.

1 MR. NAGEAK: I got one. What do
2 weather stations consist of?
3
4 MS. OKADA: That's a good question.
5
6 MR. NAGEAK: Number 2 on the second
7 page there. NPS's continued work on environment
8 assessment to analyze potential impacts of placing
9 weather stations in ARCN Parks and there will be four
10 in GAAR.
11
12 MS. OKADA: So ARC stands for the
13 Arctic Network, so these are the National Parks that
14 are within the Arctic Network. I think what they're
15 trying to do is monitor. By setting up these weather
16 stations they're trying to monitor any changes over
17 time. So long term weather changes related to climate
18 change.
19
20 MR. NAGEAK: What does that weather
21 station consist of? I can't picture what -- is it the
22 kind of weather station that we have at Anaktuvuk Pass
23 near the terminal?
24
25 MS. OKADA: I think Dr. Yokel can
26 answer that.
27
28 DR. YOKEL: Mr. Chair.
29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Dave.
31
32 DR. YOKEL: James, I don't know
33 specifically what these will, but usually these are
34 pretty small. They'll be a single mast, maybe six to
35 ten feet high with a tripod base and they'll take
36 temperature, wind speed and wind direction. It may
37 have a precipitation collection. That's usually a lot
38 harder thing to measure. The usually transmit or
39 collect the data with electricity through solar power,
40 so it will have a little solar panel on it. It may or
41 may not transmit the data to a satellite so that you
42 can get real-time data from your office.
43
44 The idea is that there's just very
45 little -- if we want to try to -- let's talk about
46 caribou. If we want to talk about caribou movements
47 and want to understand why caribou move at the rates
48 they do, the directions they do, weather is one of the
49 factors that affects caribou movement, but there are
50 very few weather stations on the North Slope or in the

1 Brooks Range, so we don't have any weather information
2 to correlate with the caribou movement.

3

4 We've got a weather station in Barrow,
5 a weather station in Deadhorse and that's it. There's
6 a lot of country up there and most of it's not coastal.
7 Different researchers put weather stations out to try
8 to answer some of the research questions that they
9 have. That's what she's referring to here. They're a
10 very minimal presence out there on the land. Each one
11 is very small.

12

13 MR. STOTTS: They're called AMOS's,
14 automatic meteorological observing stations.

15

16 MR. NAGEAK: Are they famous?

17

18 MR. STOTTS: Famous Amos.

19

20 MR. LEAVITT: If my dog goes up to one
21 of them and raises his leg, will it conk out?

22

23 DR. YOKEL: No, but grizzly bears cause
24 a lot of trouble with them when they try to rub their
25 backs on them. They also often have guy wires so they
26 don't blow over and they try to build them stout enough
27 that the grizzly bears don't knock them over, but still
28 there's problems with maintaining them and keeping them
29 running.

30

31 MR. LEAVITT: There's one in Kaktovik
32 about 10 feet. I saw it this fall. It just sticks out
33 of the ground out in the boondocks. A couple of guy
34 wires. I've seen one in Kaktovik outside of town. All
35 it is is a pole sticking up. That's all it is. No
36 obstacle. Birds rest on it.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did that help, James?

39

40 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah. I got the picture.

41

42 MR. NAGEAK: In the old days we used to
43 look at the horizon to see what the weather would be.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments or
46 questions to Marcy regarding the update from the
47 National Park Service.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Marcy.
2
3 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Welcome to Barrow.
6
7 MS. OKADA: I've been here before.
8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Again, thank you for
10 your update for the National Park Service. Yes, James.
11
12 MR. NAGEAK: Before we get away from
13 NPS, Jack Reakoff is a good person to get some comments
14 about the activities that are going on on Dalton
15 Highway concerning the limits of caribou and all of
16 that other good stuff. He's on the.....
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Resource Commission.
19
20 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah, Federal Subsistence
21 Resource Commission.
22
23 MS. OKADA: A longtime resident of
24 Wiseman?
25
26 MR. NAGEAK: Uh-huh.
27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. James, we'll
29 continue to take information and updates with Jack's
30 input. We'll take a five minute recess.
31
32 (Off record)
33
34 (On record)
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll call the
37 meeting back to order of the North Slope Region
38 Advisory Council after a brief recess. We're down to
39 agenda item 12(c) BLM, Dave Yokel. Dave, you have the
40 floor. Better pick on James.
41
42 DR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 Council members. I'm Dave Yokel with the Bureau of
44 Land Management out of Fairbanks. The BLM, as you
45 know, manages the National Petroleum Reserve of Alaska
46 on the North Slope, the NPRA.
47
48 I don't have much to present to you at
49 this meeting. As far as wildlife and fish studies,
50 nothing has changed much since what I presented to you

1 in your February meeting, which there's a brief
2 synopsis in your minutes of that. The main new thing
3 since then is that we have begun yet another
4 environmental impact statement or for an oil and gas
5 leasing plan for the NPRA. This one will be for the
6 entire NPRA. In the past we've divided the NPRA up
7 into three different planning areas.

8

9 In this plan we're going to do one plan
10 to cover the entire area. We're now in what is called
11 the scoping phase, meaning that we're going to the
12 public and asking for what they think the scope of the
13 plan should be, you know, what should be covered in the
14 plan, and also what the public's issues and concerns
15 are. We're working with the North Slope Borough to
16 hold scoping meetings in I think it's four North Slope
17 villages. Of course, we accept scoping comments by
18 email or by letter.

19

20 This plan is not going to be completed
21 as quickly as some of our past plans. I think it's not
22 going to be completed until sometime in the first half
23 of 2012. If you have any specific questions about that
24 plan as it goes along, you can always talk to Ben here
25 in Barrow or call our office if Ben's not here. So I
26 just wanted to alert you if you didn't already know
27 that we've begun that planning effort. That's about
28 all I have to say unless you have some questions for
29 me.

30

31 MR. NAGEAK: What's your website
32 called?

33

34 DR. YOKEL: Well, I would guess if you
35 go to www.blm.gov, you could then get a link to.....

36

37 MR. NAGEAK: blm.gov?

38

39 DR. YOKEL: Yeah. You could get a link
40 to the BLM Alaska. Maybe ak.blm. I don't ever type it
41 in, so I don't have it memorized. If you just Google
42 Bureau of Land Management and Alaska, I think you'll
43 get a link to our state offices in Anchorage website
44 and it will probably have something on the very front
45 page about this planning effort.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sorry for the
48 interruption. Lloyd, did you have a question or
49 comment?

50

1 MR. LEAVITT: No. At this point, I'll
2 turn to you.
3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: James, did that help
5 with your question?
6
7 MR. NAGEAK: I've got another one if
8 you don't mind.
9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go right ahead.
11
12 MR. NAGEAK: The plans for the railroad
13 from Galbraith to Umiat, are there any preliminary
14 things that you guys are doing?
15
16 DR. YOKEL: That's not the BLM's plan.
17 That's the State Department of Transportation that is
18 planning that. The BLM is involved only in as much as
19 we have to permit the State DOT for what they do on BLM
20 managed lands.
21
22 MR. NAGEAK: What would happen if you
23 deny all of the permits for that?
24
25 DR. YOKEL: There would probably be a
26 big political battle and we'd get told to not deny
27 them. I guess I'm on record. I probably shouldn't say
28 that, but that's the bottom line truth to answer your
29 question. I mean the Bureau of Land Management lands
30 are referred to as multi-use lands, unlike say the Park
31 Service where they have specific limited uses under
32 their legal mandate. We can't just arbitrarily say,
33 no, you can't build a highway on these BLM lands.
34
35 We work with them, so this is a good
36 example. Over on the Dalton Highway where this
37 presumed road would originate, the BLM has designated
38 two special areas. One is the Galbraith Lake area of
39 critical environmental concern and one is the Tulik
40 Lake research natural area. They abut each other. So
41 we have special features in those areas we want to
42 protect, so we would like to encourage the DOT to
43 prefer routes or to choose routes that would avoid as
44 many of the critical specific features in those areas
45 as possible.
46
47 MR. NAGEAK: How about the crossing of
48 the major rivers, like Anaktuvuk?
49
50 DR. YOKEL: That's all on State land.

1 I believe that the DOT is choosing a route where they
2 have the easiest and least expensive crossings. I mean
3 if you're going to build a highway, you'd like to build
4 a useful road at the least cost and bridges are very
5 expensive compared to just gravel road. But I'm not
6 especially knowledgeable on that road. We have three
7 BLM offices in Fairbanks. I work the Arctic Field
8 Office, which manages NPRA. Central Yukon Field Office
9 manages that portion of the Dalton Highway corridor
10 that's on the North Slope between the Brooks Range
11 crest and about Slope Mountain. So I'm not directly
12 involved in permitting those DOT actions.

13

14 MR. NAGEAK: I just asked that question
15 to be aware. The DOT has been coming to Anaktuvuk Pass
16 for.....

17

18 DR. YOKEL: Yes.

19

20 MR. NAGEAK:community input. Do
21 you get into that EIS business though?

22

23 DR. YOKEL: Like I said, we are in the
24 very beginning stages of writing an EIS for the next
25 NPRA oil and gas leasing plan, but I won't be involved
26 in writing any EIS for Inumiat Highway.

27

28 MR. NAGEAK: Who would be?

29

30 DR. YOKEL: You know, don't know State
31 laws very well about a State law comparable to the
32 National Environmental Policy Act, which is the Federal
33 law that requires writing environmental assessments or
34 environmental impact statements for actions on Federal
35 lands. The Umiat Road, if it's built from where they
36 would prefer to build it, would cross Federal lands, so
37 there may or may not be a need for an EIS for that
38 reason. Usually you write an environmental assessment
39 first and that assessment would supposedly let you know
40 whether it would have a significant impact on the human
41 environment. If you decide it will, you have to write
42 an EIS. If you decide it won't have a significant
43 impact, then you don't have to write an EIS.

44

45 MR. NAGEAK: Would that involve the --
46 let's say the migration of the caribou would be
47 affected by the.....

48

49 DR. YOKEL: Certainly if a road is
50 built from the Dalton Highway to Umiat, it would bisect

1 migratory route of at least two herds, the Teshekpuk
2 and Central Arctic and sometimes in the past a lot more
3 Western Arctic Caribou used to move south through that
4 area. Now they're pretty much further west. Yeah, it
5 would bisect the migratory route of the caribou. What
6 the impacts on the caribou would be would probably --
7 there would probably be some varying opinions on that.
8 If.....

9

10 MR. NAGEAK: Continuous knowledge of
11 building the Dalton Highway.....

12

13 DR. YOKEL: The Dalton Highway, the
14 pipeline roads, the Red Dog Mine Road and other
15 highways in the state. There's a lot of other caribou
16 herds in the state that cross highways, so there would
17 be some information to use if an EIS was written for
18 that highway.

19

20 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have a comment in
23 regards to what was just being discussed. I'm not sure
24 if you'll be the right person to ask these questions
25 because this is, like you said, a State project and the
26 community that's being -- basically AKP and not so much
27 the remaining communities of the North Slope because of
28 their distance to that road, yet we're impacted in a
29 way that when resources get deflected in different
30 directions caused by this construction and development
31 of potential roads. It could be an impact to the
32 communities and the concerns are not being really heard
33 by the State folks. I think Department of
34 Transportation.

35

36 DR. YOKEL: It's formerly DOT&PF. The
37 State's Department of Transportation and Public
38 Facilities. The name of the man in their Fairbanks
39 office I think is in charge of the planning and
40 permitting for this project is Ryan Anderson, but I
41 don't know his contact information offhand.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ryan who?

44

45 DR. YOKEL: I'm pretty sure it's Ryan
46 Anderson.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There might be some
49 communications to officials at the Borough and other
50 regional government, like Arctic Slope Regional

1 Corporation, North Slope Borough. I'm not sure how
2 much weight is given to the individual subsistence
3 folks that conduct their subsistence activities in the
4 different areas. It seems to be that they're more
5 dependant on communicating to those two organizations
6 than as individual communities. That kind of raises
7 the concerns of what James is asking and the discussion
8 being generated here. I think that information needs
9 to be shared.

10

11 DR. YOKEL: Again, I'm not a State
12 employee, but the State government is, I think, legally
13 mandated by its own laws to conduct processes in the
14 open, so it should be public information.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think I'll stop my
17 questioning here. I was starting to raise some
18 concerns on that, but I'm going to stop here and try to
19 focus my questions in regard to what you just
20 indicated, that BLM is looking into this environmental
21 impact statement on the whole NPRA. That's including
22 Teshekpuk Lake.

23

24 DR. YOKEL: Yes.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Are there the
27 conditions that were imposed on the previous EIS that
28 would be applicable to this new process?

29

30 DR. YOKEL: Well, they certainly would
31 be a part of the EIS process because under the National
32 Environmental Policy Act every EIS has to have -- I'm
33 trying to think of the word. It has to have a
34 reasonable range of alternatives. There's one
35 alternative that's mandated by law and that's the no
36 action alternative. In this case, the no action
37 alternative would mean leave the management the way it
38 is, so all of the administrative decisions that the BLM
39 has made for the Teshekpuk Lake area would move forward
40 unchanged if the no action alternative was chosen.
41 They are administrative decisions, so if the BLM chose
42 to do so, it could change all of those in a new
43 administrative decision through record of decision.

44

45 My personal opinion, I suspect that's
46 not going to be the case here. The area around
47 Teshekpuk Lake was just deferred from leasing for 10
48 years in 2008, so that would run through 2018. Maybe
49 I'm stepping out on a limb going on public record, but
50 I suspect that in this new plan it would remain

1 deferred from leasing at least through that original
2 10-year period. The same for the area around Peard
3 Bay, which in 2004 was deferred from oil and gas
4 leasing for 10 years.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I just didn't hear
7 anything about how the process is going in terms of
8 deferral of those areas and how it compares to what the
9 previous lease sale excluding Teshekpuk, northeast
10 Teshekpuk and then there's this other segment of the
11 southwest segment of NPRA lands.

12
13 DR. YOKEL: As you know, we did start a
14 plan for the south NPRA back in 2006, I believe it was.
15 We had just written an amendment to our plan for
16 northeast NPRA and all of our plans have been -- we've
17 been sued on all of our plans. We prevailed in court
18 on all of those lawsuits except for the one on the
19 northeast amendment. The government decided that,
20 well, we'll just stop working on the south NPRA plan
21 and write a supplement to the amendment to the
22 northeast plan and that one stood up in court. So we
23 never did complete the plan for the south. This one
24 though will get rid of the bits and pieces planning for
25 the NPRA and do it for the whole area.

26
27 MR. NAGEAK: As a whole.

28
29 DR. YOKEL: Yes. But we're very early
30 in the planning stage. We're in the scoping part of
31 the planning. Scoping phase of the planning stage. So
32 the public's comments as to what we ought to do in this
33 plan and what we ought to cover in this plan area very
34 important now. That's why I say I'm going out on a
35 limb to guess what's going to happen to those deferred
36 areas because we haven't even heard from the public yet
37 on what their issues and concerns are.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions or
40 comments to Dr. Yokel on BLM.

41
42 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Is there going to be
43 more meetings with the panel that was set up for the
44 subsistence?

45
46 DR. YOKEL: Do you want to address
47 that, Ben?

48
49 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah. Well, we are
50 discussing those things with Lon and Stacy. We are

1 interested in keeping information alive to affect the
2 communities, but we have to find a way to try and get
3 everybody to the meetings. Historically it's hard, but
4 we are really committed to keeping that dialogue
5 between the affected villages because we think it's
6 still a very viable alternative to doing nothing at
7 all. We're going to be here and you guys are going to
8 be here forever too, but we need to find a better way
9 of getting together. We are still discussing what
10 we're going to do. You know, it's hard when you don't
11 compensate people. It's hard to do that. We're coming
12 in to keep communications alive somehow.

13

14 Lon and I are still planning to go to
15 the villages to talk to people about those. Lon has
16 been busy with this new plan on NPRA that we're working
17 on. He's been really busy working on that and then
18 he's in meeting with Fairbanks manager and their State
19 manager. He's bound to have a free day here sometime
20 soon, so we're going to try and do that. We're still
21 going to the villages.

22

23 DR. YOKEL: I'd just add that we are
24 going to have these scoping meetings. I'm pretty sure
25 there's going to be one in Barrow and one in Nuiqsut.
26 You can go to those scoping meetings and say, hey, this
27 NPRA Subsistence Advisory Panel needs to be in this
28 plan if you believe that's the case. I think we're
29 committed to it. We just haven't figured out a way to
30 make it work. It was going pretty well for a while and
31 then it became very difficult to get panel members to
32 attend.

33

34 MR. NAGEAK: Plus it's a Federal
35 requirement that any -- the industry has to report to
36 the people within the affected communities. So that
37 was an avenue for industry to come and report to the
38 people directly.

39

40 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I think there is a
41 process that is important to do this process whether or
42 not that's the best process, the reality is within our
43 region we have many issues that are not being addressed
44 because of the narrow perimeter of what's included in
45 this panel, and yet there are a lot of issues that are
46 being unaddressed especially with the tribal entities.
47 So I think there's more discussion that needs to be
48 had. That is something that is important to get some
49 of these issues in without waiting for long times to go
50 on when we're identifying issues related to some of

1 these projects that are affecting subsistence usage.
2 But I'm very concerned because there's been so many
3 times that issues have not been addressed that all of
4 our barrels are being put into this process and yet the
5 big issues for the region are not being addressed.

6

7 MR. NAGEAK: We're committed -- we were
8 doing quarterly meetings, you know, so it was very hard
9 to get sometimes a quorum when we did travel. When Mr.
10 Brower was there, we didn't have too much of a problem
11 because he somehow got everybody together.
12 Unfortunately he's been reassigned.

13

14 DR. YOKEL: If there's a hot button
15 issue that comes up and it can't wait for the next
16 meeting, we have an 800 number. Call Lon Kelly up and
17 tell him your concerns. If you want, I think I have
18 that number in my pocket.

19

20 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: There's efforts to
21 look at the ways that some of these things that are
22 being brought into these various meetings and not being
23 addressed. There's so many different layers of our
24 process, but yet the key heart is more projects, more
25 permits and issues left aside. So we've got to look at
26 the whole process. I know our region has to do a
27 better discussion on this process. There is some
28 efforts within the tribal entities to do a better
29 discussion on this process. I don't know what the
30 answer is yet, but these issues still need to be
31 addressed and look at ways that we can look at
32 decreasing the reactions that our subsistence reactions
33 that are occurring.

34

35 MR. NAGEAK: I think ICAS had a seat on
36 the table too.

37

38 DR. YOKEL: There's an ICAS
39 representative and a North Slope Borough representative
40 and a Native village of each village representative.
41 That was our original intention anyway. It's hard to
42 get some Native villages to nominate panel members. If
43 you have any ideas on how to improve the process, then
44 let us know. I think we're open to those ideas. We
45 have other stakeholders in the process obviously. Oil
46 and gas companies for some. Other U.S. citizens. So
47 we have to try to balance those things, but certainly
48 the local residents are very important in our
49 management.

50

1 MR. NAGEAK: We're still talking about
2 it. You can be sure Lon is going to hear about it
3 tomorrow.

4
5 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We've got some
6 process where we put some communications together into
7 this process. It's going through our various channels,
8 but it has been discussed extensively. There are
9 issues that have been identified. There have been some
10 things that we've been able to discuss in this process,
11 but there's others that have been left at the wayside.
12 There is still room for improvement and room for
13 further communications.

14
15 MR. NAGEAK: I can guarantee that Lon
16 will hear it tomorrow.

17
18 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: In regards to some of
21 the activity that BLM had in cleaning an old site. I'm
22 not sure where you are. I remember some of these sites
23 were mentioned during subsistence advisory panel
24 meetings. I think Lonely was one, Teshekpuk area was
25 one of those sites that were being proposed for
26 cleanup. I'm not sure how far along the contractors
27 have followed through in their proposed activities in
28 cleaning up these sites. Are you able to report on any
29 of those?

30
31 DR. YOKEL: I can give you a brief
32 synopsis. To back up, we're talking about legacy
33 drilling sites. We call them legacy. We inherited
34 these sites. As you know, the NPRA was first Naval
35 Petroleum Resource Number 4. It was established by
36 President Harding in 1923. There was a couple decades
37 in which the U.S. Navy was doing exploratory drilling
38 for oil. They left unplugged and abandoned oil wells
39 out there on the land.

40
41 In 1976, when Congress passed the Naval
42 Petroleum Reserves Production Act, they took Pet 4 from
43 the Navy and gave it to the Department of Interior and
44 then it went to -- Department of Interior gave it to
45 the BLM to manage. At the same time Congress also
46 called for -- told DOI to do some more oil exploration,
47 so there was another almost 30 wells drilled under the
48 Department of Interior Program. All of these wells,
49 over 100 of them I think, were drilled in the '50s,
50 '60s, '70s, up to very early '80s, 1980, '81, that were

1 left out there. Most of them were never plugged. Most
2 of them weren't a program in terms that oil was coming
3 out of them, but as ice extent has been reduced in the
4 last few decades, shoreline erosion on Arctic Ocean has
5 increased and some of those wells have been in danger
6 of disappearing into the ocean still unplugged.

7

8 We started with the JW Dalton well up
9 east of Lonely. It's been about five years ago now.
10 By the time we got the okay and the money from Congress
11 to go out and plug that well, the well casing was
12 sticking up out of the ocean floor just a few feet
13 offshore and that was plugged a few winters ago and
14 then the next summer, you know, the coastline removed
15 the rest of the old pad and reserve pit. Fortunately
16 we had just cleaned all the muds out of the reserve
17 pit.

18

19 We went on to Atigaru, completed that.
20 One at east Teshekpuk, which there was some concern
21 about the wave action on the lake eroding that well and
22 then just this last winter we plugged the Drew Point
23 well site, which was getting very close to the coast
24 and also cleaned up that reserve pit.

25

26 There's also some efforts at Umiat,
27 those Navy wells there. There was some work done up on
28 some of those wells on Cape Simpson that were old Navy
29 wells. Right now I think we're to the point where we
30 got most of the ones in the highest danger of erosion
31 into the ocean taken care of. I'm not sure where we're
32 going to do. The President's budget for fiscal 2011 our
33 oil and gas funds in Alaska are cut about \$12 million,
34 12, 13 million dollars, which is a very large cut to
35 our budget. Legacy well cleanup was the biggest
36 expense in our oil and gas budget. Now that's the
37 President's budget. Congress hasn't passed the budget
38 for us yet. We don't know what we're going to have for
39 a budget next fiscal year, but our Legacy well cleanup
40 program may slow down.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I ask these questions
43 because in terms of this Regional Advisory Council to
44 discuss subsistence resources and with all the
45 different agencies that represent our Federal
46 government, yet we're not supposed to address anything
47 regarding offshore oil and gas or oil and gas
48 development, yet we have an impact generated from all
49 this to the resources and to the users. Yet we have our
50 limitations in terms of what we're to address and what

1 not to address in terms of this process. So there's
2 some issues that probably need some legal attention in
3 a way that we're able to discuss these issues
4 meaningfully to address the concerns.

5
6 I've been part of this Subsistence
7 Advisory Panel, I've been part of the Restoration
8 Advisory Board some time ago. These were different --
9 again, through the different Federal agencies that we
10 were able to address some of the concerns. The full
11 circle comes back around. It somehow has to be
12 inclusive of all this activity. I'm not addressing
13 subsistence resources at the time. It was all because
14 of military services and probably due to wars at the
15 time, yet we have concerns that are generated because
16 of the Legacy wells that you've explained. What the
17 situations are is the contaminants that seeped out,
18 leached out from the ground and how they were handled
19 in the time without proper consideration of what
20 erosion would occur and how fast the erosion would
21 encroach onto these sites.

22
23 Dave, I don't put you in the hot spot.
24 Just how the processes are set up. Do we need to also
25 be reflective on the process that we end up addressing?
26 We're the users. We're still utilizing the resources
27 and there's identified concerns of contaminants in
28 resources. The question comes back to the table, where
29 did that contaminant originate from. So it comes back
30 full circle to where we need to be addressing these
31 issues regardless of our charters and our charge of
32 this Council.

33
34 That's why I'm stating that at some
35 point it needs to be revisited in terms of how we can
36 discuss these matters in this setting as the North
37 Slope Regional Advisory Council on OSM. The impacts
38 that are generated because of issues that were
39 originated before our formation, yet we still deal with
40 the Federal -- because of Federal lands, military
41 services.

42
43 I'm not sure if I'm making any headway
44 or sense about what I'm discussing here because it's
45 something that's outside our perimeter in terms of our
46 charter. We have our different agencies that we have
47 representation to and communicate to on some of these
48 issues that come about. We address the issues
49 specifically for BLM. That's one area we can touch
50 upon, but I'm not sure how much weight it will be given

1 to the concerns.

2

3 DR. YOKEL: Well, I think you make
4 sense. You have a good question and say I'm not sure
5 how much headway I'm making. That's a tough one. I
6 mean it's not always easy to make headway on some
7 things. Obviously this Council is specifically
8 chartered to provide advice to the Federal Subsistence
9 Board on Federal subsistence regulations, but we're
10 here, we're listening to you. We take comments back to
11 BLM management. Like I said, BLM cares about your
12 comments, but we have to -- when they are in conflict
13 with other stakeholders, then we have to try to balance
14 those things and we have to do it all within whatever
15 budget Congress appropriates to us.

16

17 So, yeah, we care about your concerns.
18 We can't satisfy you all the time.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm not one to be
21 satisfied, Dave. I just need to voice my constituents
22 concern that deal with these impacts that are generated
23 beyond our control.

24

25 DR. YOKEL: I think it's proper that
26 you should be concerned about what chemicals might be
27 in the food you eat, just like all Americans are
28 concerned about that. Those foods that are sold in
29 stores are presumably regulated by the Food and Drug
30 Administration and they're presumably safe, but
31 obviously they aren't. People are dying or getting
32 sick pretty regularly from the food they buy in stores.
33 There may be some chemicals in some of the wildlife
34 species that you eat that you don't know about.

35

36 I mean there's been a lot of work done,
37 but not enough to know everything that's out there.
38 There are chemicals that are falling out of the
39 atmosphere onto the land up here that come from way far
40 away from here in the states or from another continent.
41 It's important to try to stay on top of what those
42 things are and in what concentrations they are in your
43 foods.

44

45 I agree with you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dave.

48 Ben.

49

50 MR. NAGEAK: You know, BLM was one of

1 the first Federal agencies to open an office here in
2 Barrow to show that they're committed to working with
3 the local communities here in NPRA. You know, we're
4 going to be discussing the new plan and scoping
5 meetings. That will be an avenue for people to hear
6 what concerns are in the meetings. It's just a matter
7 of presenting yourself to whenever BLM is here to talk
8 to people. We can readvertise them as best as we can.
9 I don't know what else we can do besides inviting
10 people to come.

11
12 When we do talk about things, we make
13 sure that we listen and a lot of times we make things
14 happen too. Now it's time to work with everybody here.
15 We heard about the subsistence stuff, but there's a
16 whole lot of other stuff Jimmy was talking about, the
17 Arctic as a whole and those other organizations that
18 are out there that each community can get the input on.

19
20 We hear what you guys are saying today.
21 Like I said, tomorrow Lon will hear from me. I'm sure
22 he'll hear from Dave.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Ben. Did
25 you have any other comments to share with us, Dave?

26
27 DR. YOKEL: No, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The Council as well.
30 Any other comments or concerns to be voiced at this
31 time to BLM.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dave, for
36 your update.

37
38 DR. YOKEL: Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're down to item
41 12(d) Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Lisa
42 Slayton, subsistence resources specialist.

43
44 MR. LEAVITT: I'm going to ask to be
45 excused so I can run to the city before 5:00. I need
46 to make it up there before 5:00 and do some paperwork.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for
49 spending your time with us today, Lloyd. Lisa, you
50 have the floor.

1 MS. SLAYTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 I realize everybody is getting a little tired, so I
3 appreciate that, so I'll try to be brief. Nikki Bream
4 from Fairbanks Fish and Game had to go to Emmonak, I
5 believe. She was supposed to be here to present this,
6 so she gave me something to read for you guys. Nikki
7 will be up here working with me in the future. So she
8 wanted me to read this for you guys.

9
10 We have three projects going on right
11 now in the North Slope. The Teshekpuk Lake Caribou
12 Herd monitoring project, the UAF and MMS project with
13 Jim Magdanz out of Kotzebue and then the arctic salmon
14 project, which I'll be working on and Brittany
15 Rutherford will be working on from Fairbanks. This was
16 a project that was one of Sverre Pedersen's projects.

17
18 Some of you may know, some of you may
19 not know. Sverre left us in March and his position has
20 not been filled. However his projects, one of which is
21 the arctic salmon, have fallen on other folks, so we'll
22 be taking up where Sverre left off.

23
24 The first part is Nikki wanted me to
25 read this for you folks. Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd
26 monitoring project funded by the BLM and conducted in
27 cooperation between ICAS and Subsistence Division
28 concluded data collection in 2007. The project, which
29 documented subsistence caribou harvest in the
30 communities of Atkasuk, Barrow and Nuiqsut, between
31 2003 and 2007 is currently in its final phase of data
32 review.

33
34 The lead Subsistence Division, Sverre
35 Pedersen, left the Subsistence Department in March
36 2010. Many of those present knew Sverre very well.
37 His 30-plus years of experience on the North Slope will
38 be sorely missed in bringing this project to
39 completion. In order to finalize data and get a draft
40 report to ICAS, BLM and the study communities, the
41 Subsistence Division has assigned Nikki Bream to
42 complete Sverre's work. Nikki has been working
43 primarily in the Bering Strait and Kotzebue areas for
44 the last few years. One of her projects is a study of
45 subsistence caribou harvests of the Western Arctic
46 Caribou Herd. She was unable to attend this meeting
47 due to a scheduling conflict, but she hopes to make the
48 next meeting or meetings of the Borough Wildlife
49 Management Board and provide materials for review.
50

1 The second project is UAF MMS project.
2 Jim Magdanz is involved in a project that the
3 University of Alaska is conducting for the U.S.
4 Minerals Management Service in Wainwright and Kaktovik.
5 It's entitled the Study of Sharing Networks to assess
6 the vulnerabilities of local communities to oil and gas
7 development impacts in arctic Alaska. The principle
8 investigators there are Gary Kofinas, Shauna Burnsilver
9 and Craig Gerlach at UAF.

10
11 The project relies on household surveys
12 to collect harvest, demographic, economic and social
13 network information. The survey includes some pages
14 from the ADF&G Subsistence Division standard harvest
15 survey and includes many other pages we developed
16 specifically for this project. The survey has been
17 tested in the study communities and is now in its final
18 stages of OMG approval.

19
20 UAF has community approval and has
21 tentatively identified the following survey windows.
22 Wainwright, Kaktovik and Venetie. Their dates are
23 there.

24
25 If you have any questions on these, I
26 can get you contact information for Nikki and four Jim.
27 Oh, there's some phone numbers on the back there.
28 Good.

29
30 The last project is the arctic salmon
31 project. The purpose of this study is to document over
32 a three-year period existing subsistence salmon fishing
33 practices in Point Hope, Point Lay and Wainwright.
34 It's also to better understand the development of
35 subsistence salmon fisheries in these communities as
36 well as to understand local residents' observations of
37 changing salmon abundance through time. Additionally,
38 to develop a baseline of subsistence salmon harvest by
39 species and harvest location information. The goal of
40 this project is to update our assessment of salmon
41 resources in the Alaskan arctic.

42
43 Brittany just finished up in Wainwright
44 and Point Lay in July and it was received very well
45 there. She did about 10 interviews in each community
46 and we got a lot of good information. As soon as this
47 meeting is over I'll be going to Point Hope with Rich
48 Driscoll, who is our biology guy and he will be doing
49 the biology information after I'm finished here.
50

1 This project initially consisted of two
2 phases spanning two years of research and field work
3 2008-2009. The project was developed and implemented
4 by Mr. Sverre Pedersen. In light of this project being
5 transferred to other staff following his departure, a
6 third phase was added and that is to include data
7 gathered and reviewed after March or since March 2010.
8 As I said, to that end Brittany has already visited
9 Wainwright and Point Lay and I'll be finishing up in
10 Point Hope after this meeting.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions from
13 Council members. So this is still in its infancy in
14 terms of the investigators collecting your information.
15 You've not made any findings or.....

16
17 MS. SLAYTON: No, we haven't.
18 Essentially what we're doing right now, what I'm doing,
19 what Brittany just finished doing in Point Lay and
20 Wainwright was going back and reassessing what Sverre
21 has already done because he's already been to all three
22 of those communities and he did some interviewing as
23 well. So we're going back, we're reviewing what he's
24 already completed and we're adding some interviews to
25 that. Once we get all that information together, then
26 we'll be making a -- gathering our data and making a
27 report and then making that known to the communities.

28
29 As far as Barrow is concerned, I know
30 that Barrow has been talked about, but at this point
31 what I think they're working on is getting funding and
32 personnel in order to be able to do that because Barrow
33 is so large.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: My follow-up
36 question, what timeline are you looking at to conclude
37 your findings?

38
39 MS. SLAYTON: This second phase right
40 now will be finished as soon as I get done with Point
41 Hope. I'll go back and we'll assemble our information.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe I need to
44 restate my question. When do you expect to have your
45 preliminary findings to report back to the communities?

46
47 MS. SLAYTON: I don't know at this
48 point because, as I said, it's still up in the air.
49 We're still discussing Barrow, so I'm not sure.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So you're thinking of
2 expanding from the three communities, adding a fourth
3 one and then making your assessment from there.

4
5 MS. SLAYTON: That's a possibility,
6 right. We're in the third phase right now, which is
7 an added phase, and we added that phase due to Sverre's
8 departure.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just an open thought
11 on my part in terms of salmon being in the arctic.
12 It's been around for many years and it's not a new
13 species, it's just being recognized by others outside
14 of our coastal communities. It's been used for dog
15 food for many years and it's been taken in different
16 areas at different times. It's not something new.
17 It's just something that's being addressed as a
18 research project.

19
20 MS. SLAYTON: And we're looking into
21 whether or not there's an increasing amount of salmon,
22 the abundance of salmon, and as a consequence an
23 increasing amount of use.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm not sure about
26 increasing amount of use, but it's in terms of the
27 species that I've been -- specifically the chum salmon,
28 dog salmon, that's been utilized and taken for dog food
29 and the increase in take by subsistence fishermen of
30 the other species, which were not so -- how do you say
31 that.

32
33 MR. NAGEAK: Robust.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: High in numbers,
36 yeah. In earlier years. Now that we see that global
37 climate change is occurring and numbers are increasing
38 in different areas. I can state that just from my
39 observations over time and learning the different
40 salmon species.

41
42 MS. SLAYTON: Right. That's the
43 questions we're going to try to get at. Are people
44 seeing an increase. Are you seeing salmon in different
45 places. That type of thing.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So just my
48 observation on the fishery in different areas, in
49 Kuparuk, in Chipp River, and Aluktuk and up near
50 Teshekpuk, there's these runs that do come in at

1 certain time of the year. As soon as the fish spawn
2 out and either they die off or run back down the river,
3 we have our species that we prefer start coming in. I
4 seen that and there's a bit of lag time in terms of the
5 numbers increasing in terms of what's available in
6 different areas because of the amount of fish that are
7 in there. I don't even set my nets until after I start
8 noticing that the salmon are gone. Just looking at the
9 river because of the clarity in the water that I can
10 see what kind of fish are running in there.

11
12 That's just my observations I share
13 with you in terms of how I conduct my fishing in
14 different areas. There's a couple of the rivers are
15 real murky, can't even see through the first two feet
16 of the water. At other times it's not so murky and
17 you're able to see into the river and four or five feet
18 right off the top and you're able to tell what kind of
19 fish are running in there just from looking down from
20 the bank.

21
22 I guess the numbers are on the
23 increase. I guess I'm not making my observations on a
24 daily basis because of my different level of activities
25 in terms of my subsistence gathering of different
26 resources.

27
28 Gordon and Lloyd have mentioned early
29 on that we try to get to our fishing sites but these
30 different times at specific time of the year to try and
31 get the fish before they spawn out and take some of
32 those fish as they're coming back our -- either coming
33 from the ocean or coming from the lack that they're
34 getting back into the deep eddies in the river system.
35 We try to take some of those fish for subsistence use
36 and sharing with others at times, but then the climate
37 changes that we're confronted with, it's a bit
38 difficult at times, especially when we're thinking of
39 doing fishing under the ice and the ice is not even
40 formed yet and that time is elapsing and the fish start
41 spawning out, which creates a problem for us.

42
43 I've started to fish just to take
44 enough home. I don't have the means of freezing the
45 fish without the cold weather or having a presence,
46 which makes it difficult to try and fish a lot and
47 taking fish in large numbers. It's very difficult or
48 your fish just start aging right away. It's more like
49 -- a lot of the elders would you like the age fish more
50 than the freshly caught fish. That's the changes that

1 we're going through now. I just share these
2 observations with you in terms of the fish species.

3
4 MS. SLAYTON: I appreciate that
5 information. This is the first time that I had heard of
6 the ice cellars flooding out. I appreciate the
7 information.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's several of
10 them in the community here that aren't using it anymore
11 because of the flooding. They're repeatedly cleaning
12 them out year after year, even in the midst of winter.
13 By springtime they're flooded because the thawing
14 occurring and the seepage from the cracks that have
15 been generated from the thawing and refreezing. Then
16 it just ends up leaking. They're looking for new sites
17 to build their ice cellar. Some of them have been
18 abandoned because of the permafrost thawing. The
19 permafrost is gone. It's not there anymore. It's just
20 soil.

21
22 MS. SLAYTON: You were speaking about
23 the building of the lean-tos. Is that a new thing
24 then? Was that you?

25
26 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: That was Gordon.
27 Gordon had made some lean-tos to offer shade for the
28 harvest to increase his salvageability of the harvest.
29 It's definitely different than what we're used to.
30 Usually we can take the fish out and they'll be already
31 freezing when we're done with the nets. Now it's not
32 the same process. We've made alternative ways of
33 trying to preserve our harvest.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm not sure if any
36 of the Council members might have other questions or
37 comments to share with Lisa.

38
39 MR. NAGEAK: I don't know if this is
40 maybe a long-term project maybe.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Three years.

43
44 MR. NAGEAK: Did I hear that there are
45 crabs out there in the ocean?

46
47 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Oh, yeah.

48
49 MR. NAGEAK: Will there be any Deadly
50 Catch boats out there? Is it a possibility?

1 MS. SLAYTON: I really can't speak to
2 that and I really wouldn't want to speak to that.
3
4 MR. NAGEAK: They get them in Nome. In
5 Kotzebue. And they get halibut in St. Lawrence.
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Geoff, come up to the
8 mike, please.
9
10 MR. CARROLL: I was just saying opelio
11 crabs.
12
13 MR. NAGEAK: Opelio crabs, the same
14 ones they hunt down in Bering Straits. Opelio.
15 Ophelia -- oh, that's Shakespeare. I'm sorry. Wrong
16 play.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, Ben. Let's not
19 get carried away too far. Do you have any other items
20 you want to present, Lisa?
21
22 MS. SLAYTON: No, that's pretty much.
23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for your
25 update on this.
26
27 MS. SLAYTON: Thank you.
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Arctic National
30 Wildlife Refuge. Vince Mathews. Vince is not here.
31 Excuse me? Could you come down to the mike and state
32 your name, please. Did we add you on the agenda? I
33 think we did.
34
35 MR. DRISCOLL: My name is Richard
36 Driscoll. I'm also with State of Alaska Department of
37 Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Division. I just
38 wanted to add to some of the data that we've collected
39 from the project so far in addition to what Lisa has
40 just stated. We're working on documenting some of the
41 species in some of the rivers that drain into the
42 Chukchi and Beaufort Seas and collect genetic samples
43 on those fish to eventually try to capture an idea if
44 these fish are their own specific populations or if
45 they're moving in from other areas.
46
47 The first part of the handout here is
48 slides of three different species of salmon that we do
49 have in these rivers between Point Hope and Wainwright.
50 Mostly the pink salmon have been updated at this point,

1 so those are the two detailed slides you see. We're
2 continuing to collect samples in these rivers and from
3 the communities and the subsistence caught fish in
4 those communities.

5
6 MR. NAGEAK: The 2009, 2010 are the
7 same dates that these were taken? They were all green
8 in 2009 and now they're all red in 2010?

9
10 MR. DRISCOLL: Yes. The 2009 date map
11 shows pinks being present in those rivers, so all we
12 knew was there were fish there. We didn't know if they
13 were spawning or migrating through. In 2010 we had
14 better data to be able to update those points to say,
15 yes, those fish were actually spawning in those
16 locations. So that's why those colors have changed.
17 The main increase there was in the Kuk River and that's
18 the main addition as far as the whole system added to
19 the maps.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The river you're
22 talking about is located where?

23
24 MR. DRISCOLL: Just outside of
25 Wainwright. Kuk.

26
27 MR. NAGEAK: So all that salmon is
28 having an effect on the smelt in Wainwright? Is that a
29 possibility or are they eating the smelt?

30
31 MR. DRISCOLL: When they move into the
32 fresh water, they shouldn't be feeding anymore, so they
33 shouldn't be competing.

34
35 MR. NAGEAK: They don't eat anymore?

36
37 MR. DRISCOLL: When they're in spawn --
38 once they get to the spawning stage they stop eating.
39 Actually they use all their fat and their built-up
40 energy in their bodies to complete their spawning
41 cycle, and then they die off.

42
43 MR. NAGEAK: And they die after
44 spawning.

45
46 MR. DRISCOLL: Actually add nutrients
47 and everything back to the river. So, generally, if
48 these fish are spawning in these locations, grayling
49 and things should be keying in on that and coming in
50 and eating eggs and possibly even eating the carcasses

1 themselves.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I can make some
4 comments in regards to what you're stating. I see that
5 in the rivers and seen the dead salmon in the shallow
6 waters and in the different areas that I do -- like I
7 said, I do a lot of fishing in the different river
8 systems than we have up here and see the dead spawned
9 out fish. The seagulls are feeding on or pulling up on
10 shore and eating just partials of them. We look
11 through them and make our own observations, they're the
12 spawned out salmon dead, already dead, and we find them
13 in large groups in shallow waters and the stink from
14 them come around and attract bears. It's been growing
15 more so than what I've seen early on.

16

17 MR. DRISCOLL: That's part of what
18 we're trying to start to get a baseline documentation
19 of. If we have a certain size population in one of
20 these rivers and then we start seeing it double or
21 triple or move to new areas.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So in terms of the
24 genetic sampling what areas are you comparing them
25 with?

26

27 MR. DRISCOLL: Well, we're taking
28 samples from subsistence caught fish, which are
29 generally off the beach, say in Point Hope. People are
30 generally fishing off the beach in the ocean. Point
31 Lay generally fishing in the lagoon there. The Kuk
32 River, people do go up later on in the season for berry
33 picking and caribou hunting. It's generally a little
34 later than the salmon are usually spawned out by then
35 and probably not very good for food if at all.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What area are you
38 comparing your genetics with? Fish that are down in
39 Anchorage or some other place?

40

41 MR. DRISCOLL: We're going to get
42 samples from spawning fish in all these rivers. The
43 idea is to get 200 of each species in each river and
44 then compare that to -- that will be the baseline we
45 compare additional samples or the beach caught, ocean
46 caught samples to to see if they're the same.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Plug in for different
49 areas, like pink salmon out in the ocean.

50

1 MR. DRISCOLL: Yeah, we have baseline
2 samples for some species in Russia and of course the
3 Yukon River and different areas. We're going to add to
4 that also. We would be comparing them to see if those
5 were Yukon Salmon somehow swimming around. But as far
6 as the individual rivers, we're going to try to get a
7 baseline for each one just to make sure. If we know
8 those are individual stocks, then we'll be looking at
9 those also and add to the baseline.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: James.

12

13 MR. NAGEAK: Are these 2009 and 2010 --
14 the image of the area -- I'm looking at Wainwright.
15 There's a difference. In 2009, it's a real narrow
16 person that has fallen backwards in that lagoon and
17 then in 2010 there seems to be more water.

18

19 MR. DRISCOLL: So the legs of the
20 person you're talking about?

21

22 MR. NAGEAK: The shape of the lagoon
23 and the rivers.

24

25 MR. DRISCOLL: As we get species up
26 that river, that line thickens to show that there
27 are.....

28

29 MR. NAGEAK: Oh, the green is the
30 species?

31

32 MR. DRISCOLL: Yeah. The blue line
33 would be thicker, so it would make the river look a
34 little thicker.

35

36 MR. NAGEAK: Oh, it's a blue line.
37 There's no adverse change in that.

38

39 MR. DRISCOLL: No, not as far as the
40 water conditions or anything in the river, no. If the
41 fish are a certain distance up the river, we show that
42 line to show that's how far up the river we have them
43 documented.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was hoping James'
46 comment would be true, the water is getting deeper with
47 all that fish movement.

48

49 MR. NAGEAK: Now that's getting deep.

50

1 MR. NAGEAK: All those eggs being
2 spewed out into the river displaces the water and makes
3 it bigger, right? Displacement. What I learned in
4 high school.

5
6 (Laughter)

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any more information,
9 Richard?

10
11 MR. DRISCOLL: Just the other two are
12 showing the samples we've already got for 2009, showing
13 our sampling procedures in the pictures here. We
14 measure the length, we clip a small axillary fin,
15 that's the genetic sample, and then we take a scale
16 sample for age identification. Then the last slide is
17 just our last aerial survey we conducted August 10th.
18 It has different rivers listed and species that we saw.
19 Mostly pink salmon. We didn't see any chum salmon, but
20 the conditions were fairly poor for the survey. We're
21 going to conduct another aerial survey in early
22 September here. Same rivers and continue to survey.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So in regards to your
25 surveys, are you looking at the fish out of the
26 airplane or do you have other instruments that you're
27 using to identify the fish are having a presence there?
28

29 MR. DRISCOLL: Yeah, we're using visual
30 survey out of an airplane right now. Once we get some
31 -- now that we have some of these locations we'll
32 probably come in with a helicopter into specific points
33 where the fish are spawning to get those genetic
34 samples from those individual fish. Right now we've
35 just been flying a fixed wing and try to fly at least
36 two surveys a year.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You're not able to
39 sex the fish while you're flying.

40
41 MR. DRISCOLL: Not too well, no.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It says age, sex,
44 length and genetic samples taken from salmon, but when
45 you add on the discussion of aerial surveys and start
46 wondering, well, maybe it all happens just from the
47 aerial.

48
49 MR. DRISCOLL: Maybe someday when we
50 have the James Bond technology we can do that.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any more questions
2 for Richard.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for your
7 update on your research.
8
9 MR. DRISCOLL: Thank you.
10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're just getting
12 into Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
13
14 MS. ATORUK: The person who is supposed
15 to report on that, Vince Mathews, got deployed down to
16 New Mexico. There's just a short, three paragraph
17 blurb on the ICC plan -- not ICC, CCP plan and they're
18 still working on their plan. That's the only thing
19 that Vince wrote. On the announcement of appointments
20 to the International Porcupine Caribou Board, those
21 haven't been appointed yet. They told me that the
22 appointments would be sometime during this winter. So
23 no appointments have been made yet to the Porcupine
24 Board.
25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: In regard to the
27 comprehensive plan, do you think we have a copy of that
28 here.
29
30 MS. ATORUK: No. It's not even
31 developed yet. They're just starting on it. They said
32 it will probably be released to the public around March
33 1, 2011. So it will be just before your next meeting
34 in March. It should be out for your review.
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: In regard to the
37 appointments to the International Porcupine Caribou
38 Board.....
39
40 MS. ATORUK: Those haven't been made
41 yet.
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did we have any
44 identified representation for consideration or
45 applicants?
46
47 MS. ATORUK: They didn't say. Jimmy
48 Fox just told me that no one has been appointed yet and
49 then I didn't get any names even if I asked.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm trying to think
2 of -- we had people from Kaktovik that we had.....
3
4 MS. ATORUK: Submitted names.
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER:submitted names.
7 This was in the earlier time, but I'm not sure. It was
8 Isaac first and then.....
9
10 MS. ATORUK: Lee?
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Was it Lee Kayotuk?
13
14 MS. ATORUK: Probably.
15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That took over
17 Isaac's? How are we going to be interacting as the
18 North Slope Regional Advisory Council to this
19 International Porcupine and Caribou Board?
20
21 MS. ATORUK: You would have to ask them
22 at your next meeting. I'll ask them to bring that up
23 to you at your next meeting.
24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Under new business.
26 Barb.
27
28 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, that's me. You
29 don't have a quorum now to make a decision on that
30 Arctic Regional Council's meeting. But then you still
31 have that decision to make at your winter meeting. I
32 will talk to Seward Pen and Northwest Arctic and ask
33 them to see if they'll stick with August 23 and 24 for
34 their meeting dates next fall of 2011.
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hopefully we'll have
37 our other constituents here as well.
38
39 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, at your winter
40 meeting and then you can decide then whether you want
41 it at your fall 2011 dates or not, but then that's
42 going to be kind of hard to do without having the
43 decision. We should have came up with this right after
44 lunch.
45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we were all
47 for it.
48
49 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah, we were.
50

1 MS. ATORUK: I think you guys were for
2 it.
3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We were all for it.
5 We just didn't take action.
6
7 MS. ATORUK: Lloyd was for it. He was
8 the one -- he was the motioner and he did want it at
9 that time. Rosemary was the seconder.
10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I thought we followed
12 up on restating the motion.
13
14 MS. ATORUK: You did restate it. That
15 was another one that Gordon got involved in.
16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon seconded the
18 motion the first time around, so we're still interested
19 in having this go forward. So we did act on it.
20
21 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, you did act on it.
22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Your concern is on
24 what segment though?
25
26 MS. ATORUK: My concern is where you
27 want to have the joint meeting. It's either here in
28 Barrow or you want to go Central, down in Kotzebue, the
29 Northwest Arctic area. If we do have it here, we need
30 the space because the three councils would have to
31 separate, divide the second day, to have your own
32 separate meetings. The first day will be joint meeting
33 and then the second day we'd have to separate into
34 three areas. Then that way I'd have to find two other
35 different spaces for the other Councils to meet with
36 their own agenda.
37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have other Federal
39 complexes. The post office, the hospital.
40
41 MS. ATORUK: If we had it in Kotzebue,
42 we would have the space. We have the multipurpose
43 room, we have the Selawik Refuge and then we have the
44 tech center, the borough.
45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we have the
47 space. We've just got to make them available. Request
48 for use, like the Selawik conference room, the city
49 chambers, we have this place, we have SRC.
50

1 MR. NAGEAK: Heritage Center.
2
3 MS. ATORUK: The Heritage Center we'd
4 probably have to start with everybody being here.
5 Separating out wouldn't be no problem. It's just the
6 finding and reserving the space. SRC, we cannot meet
7 at SRC. They requested nobody else to meet there
8 except their board, so SRC is out. So if you still
9 want to have it in Barrow or.....
10
11 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah.
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Barrow.
14
15 MS. ATORUK: Kotzebue, that's your
16 choice.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: He said something
19 about Barrow. We need to hold it in Barrow and then if
20 that don't work out, then we'll have to move to another
21 location. Barrow is our first choice.
22
23 MS. ATORUK: So Barrow first choice and
24 Kotzebue second choice.
25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No, Browerville.
27
28 (Laughter)
29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have Barrow area
31 and then we have the Browerville area. Second choice
32 is in Browerville.
33
34 DR. YOKEL: Third choice is Naro.
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Third choice is Naro.
37
38 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, we can have it.
39 Okay, Barrow and Kotzebue. Thanks.
40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do we have anything
42 else under new business?
43
44 MS. ATORUK: No, I don't have anything
45 under.
46
47 MR. NAGEAK: Who's the person that did
48 this?
49
50 MS. ATORUK: Driscoll.

1 MR. NAGEAK: You need to change the
2 acronym. We already have an AWC, Alaska Whaling
3 Commission, right?
4
5 MR. NAGEAK: AEW. C.
6
7 MS. ATORUK: AEW. C.
8
9 MR. NAGEAK: Alaska Eskimo Whaling
10 Commission.
11
12 MR. DRISCOLL: That was sportfish
13 anyway.
14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Alaska Walrus
16 Commission.
17
18 MR. NAGEAK: All Women are Cute.
19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: James, be careful
21 now.
22
23 MS. ATORUK: Somebody call for
24 adjournment.
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What did we have
26 under new business? We added something else. Arctic
27 Council. Office of Subsistence Management. Submit
28 proposal to change wolf harvest under new business.
29
30 MS. ARMSTRONG: I think you were
31 thinking, if I remember correctly, to do that at the
32 winter meeting.
33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We wanted to generate
35 the proposal, right? This is a fisheries meeting. Why
36 are we discussing minutes of our winter meeting under
37 fisheries?
38
39 MS. ARMSTRONG: Well, it was the last
40 meeting you had, so we always discuss the minutes to
41 approve them at the next meeting.
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We didn't have any
44 fisheries issues during our fisheries meeting from our
45 last fisheries meeting?
46
47 MS. ARMSTRONG: There were no proposals
48 that were from this region for fisheries.
49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think that's why I

1 was getting a bit confused this morning when we were
2 talking about wolf proposals and discussing wolves
3 and.....
4
5 MS. ARMSTRONG: Brown bears.
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We had to have our
8 fisheries issues so that we identify from our previous
9 fisheries meeting.
10
11 MR. NAGEAK: The wolf ate them.
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The wolf ate them?
14 Thanks, Ben. So we'll address the wolf proposal during
15 our winter meeting.....
16
17 MS. ARMSTRONG: That's correct.
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER:and generate a
20 proposal to address the -- not the harvest, but the
21 season. Thank you.
22
23 MS. ARMSTRONG: Harry, if you'd like to
24 do any pre-work on that at all before the next meeting,
25 you can contact Cole Brown.
26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was trying to
28 recall something that we need to.....
29
30 MS. ATORUK: I think he requested that,
31 that pre-work be done in it so it would be ready for
32 his next meeting.
33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There was something
35 else and then -- I'm trying to think. Fisheries.
36 Submit a fisheries research proposal. We acted on a
37 motion.
38
39 MS. ARMSTRONG: Well, actually what we
40 were looking for was not a research proposal, but
41 something going into the request for proposals.
42 Because this Council doesn't actually create the
43 proposals. You just create the ideas for the proposals
44 and that's what you created and we did that already.
45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So leave it at status
47 quo.
48
49 MS. ARMSTRONG: Right. We did that.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I just had some notes
2 here I'm reflecting back on. Here's another one.
3 We're talking about fisheries. Fisheries meeting
4 materials. We have bear claw under that discussion.
5 We're going to start taking DNA from the bear claw to
6 see what kind of fish they've been eating.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So I just catch these
11 things as we're going through our agenda. Last agenda
12 item. Motion to adjourn.

13
14 MR. NAGEAK: Second.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All in favor signify
17 by saying aye.

18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'd like to take the
22 opportunity to thank you all for being here and taking
23 time away from your precious schedule to be with us
24 today.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 Meeting adjourned.

29
30 (Off record)

31
32 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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