

1 NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
3
4 PUBLIC MEETING
5
6 Barrow Alaska
7 September 7, 2006
8
9
10 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
11
12 Harry K. Brower, Jr., Chairman
13 Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak
14 Paul S. Bodfish, Sr.
15 David A. Gunderson
16 Baxter Hopson
17 Julius Rexford
18
19 Acting Regional Council Coordinator, Clifford Edenshaw
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (Barrow, Alaska - 9/7/2006)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning. This is
8 Harry Brower. Today's date is September 7. We don't
9 have a quorum for this meeting so we'll be listening to
10 informational items. Once we hear out these
11 informational items we'll be ending the meeting. So
12 we'll start, Cliff, we cannot adopt the agenda, we cannot
13 adopt the minutes, there's a couple of action items. So
14 going down what we have listed in terms of informational
15 items, I'll need a little bit of help from Cliff as to
16 which ones we're going to start with.
17
18 We have Fisheries Resource Monitoring
19 Program. Review of Federal proposals, call for
20 proposals, change Federal wildlife regulations; Agency
21 reports.
22
23 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. Council.
24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead Cliff.
26
27 MR. EDENSHAW: I think before we get with
28 the informational items, you know, when opened up with
29 your remarks before we went on record I think it would be
30 good for the Council for us to go ahead and just take
31 roll so that it's on record in terms of the individuals
32 who are not here. I was notified through Barb that there
33 was weather for two of the Council members, and as you
34 know from our discussions this morning, there's some that
35 didn't call Barb or notify her in time. So just for the
36 record I'd like for the Council to do roll so we could
37 get it on record.
38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's fine, Cliff.
40 Let's start with that.
41
42 MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
43 Council members. My name is Cliff Edenshaw. I am the
44 Council coordinator for -- I'm filling in for Barb
45 Armstrong. And as Mr. Brower has said today is September
46 7th, 2006. I'm going to go ahead and call roll for the
47 North Slope Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory
48 Council.
49
50 Harry Brower.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here.
2
3 MR. EDENSHAW: Ray Paneak.
4
5 (No comments)
6
7 MR. EDENSHAW: Absent. Mr. Chair. I
8 hadn't heard -- I believe Ray is -- that's one I hadn't
9 heard of from Barb in terms of whether his flight was
10 weathered in or not.
11
12 John Hopson.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 MR. EDENSHAW: I heard -- he called the
17 hotel last night and left a message with me and there was
18 weather in terms of being able to get over here.
19
20 Julius Rexford.
21
22 MR. REXFORD: Here.
23
24 MR. EDENSHAW: David Gunderson.
25
26 MR. GUNDERSON: Here.
27
28 MR. EDENSHAW: Paul Bodfish.
29
30 MR. BODFISH: Here.
31
32 MR. EDENSHAW: Ray Koonuk.
33
34 (No comments)
35
36 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, there was
37 weather over there in Point Hope, but Ray said he would
38 be available for teleconference this morning.
39
40 Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak.
41
42 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Here.
43
44 MR. EDENSHAW: Baxter Hopson.
45
46 (No comments)
47
48 MR. EDENSHAW: Absent. We've been trying
49 to get a hold of him this morning.
50

1 Gordon Brower.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair and Council.
6 He's in Anchorage. I hadn't heard anything from Barbara
7 in terms of his absence, whether it was.....
8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Cliff.
10
11 MR. EDENSHAW:and so Mr. Chair
12 there is five Council members present so there's not a
13 quorum.
14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. So as
16 indicated this morning we'll just proceed with our
17 informational items and we cannot take any action
18 regarding these issues.
19
20 I guess we have to start with number 9.
21
22 MS. CRAVER: Well, actually we need an
23 action on it.
24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we can't address
26 agenda number 9.
27
28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Harry, you could do
29 Chair's report and village concerns.
30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I don't have anything
32 to provide I was not at these meetings.
33
34 (Laughter)
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sorry, Helen. The
37 .805(c) letter and in terms of the Chair's report, I
38 don't have too much to report. I was not at the
39 meetings. I have not heard back in terms of what the
40 .805(c) letter indicated. And in terms of the annual
41 response, again I was not at the meetings this spring in
42 terms of the Federal Subsistence Board meeting so I have
43 not any information to provide in terms of the Chair's
44 report.
45
46 That's my report.
47
48 (Laughter)
49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So, you know, there was

1 a couple of proposals that we had adopted was the closure
2 of that small portion of land that was up above Umiat
3 that we had opened up again, and that's the only one I
4 could remember right off hand in terms of the moose
5 proposals that we addressed around the Colville.

6

7 Helen.

8

9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. Part of
10 the Chair's report was the 2005 annual report response on
11 Page 17, I just wanted to draw that to everybody's
12 attention so that you know it was there, and these were
13 responses to issues that the Council had raised to the
14 Secretary, the letter comes from the interim Chair. And
15 there were a few issues and, you know, these are just
16 informational but if people wanted to know what was going
17 on. There was a question about Unit 26 moose and there
18 was a response about the population of Unit 26(A) moose
19 -- no, Unit 26 moose.

20

21 And then there was a question about
22 concerns of Anaktuvuk Pass with the caribou migration.
23 And then something on fisheries monitoring for Nuiqsut.

24

25

26 So I don't know if people want more
27 information than that, but just to draw attention to that
28 letter that went in.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Helen. I
31 know this is informational item stuff that you guys could
32 read up a little more on if you want to. I don't think
33 we have any action items that we can take. I mean we
34 have an issue that we've been dealing with that's been --
35 it's been closed since the population of muskox went down
36 in 26(C), the Kaktovik area, that hunt's been closed.

37

38 Do we have any questions from the Council
39 in terms of the report on Page 17.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Questions or comments.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Cliff.

50

1 MR. EDENSHAW: Just as a follow up
2 question for the Council, there is some items here in
3 regards to the Southeast petition. Just as Amy said,
4 there is some action items regarding the FIS fish
5 proposals.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

8
9 MR. EDENSHAW: And there may be another
10 item, however, the Council sees this, but after this
11 afternoon, or whenever the Council chooses to adjourn we
12 need to determine how best that the Council wants to
13 address these concerns because the alternatives are for
14 after today, that the Council would likely have to get on
15 a teleconference with the Council members to make
16 recommendations because the FIS proposals -- Amy, perhaps
17 you could come up where and say when the Staff Committee
18 and the Board will address fish proposals and I believe
19 in January, is that when?

20
21 MS. CRAVER: Yeah.

22
23 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, in January. And then
24 the Southeast Council, with their petition to the
25 Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior wanted the
26 recommendations from the Councils four weeks after the
27 Council met.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

30
31 MR. EDENSHAW: So in terms of the action
32 items, the Council will have to determine if they would
33 like to and that will be scheduled with Barb after we're
34 done here today in terms of -- to me it seems like the
35 teleconference is probably the best way to deal with the
36 Council members so that they can go ahead and that would
37 be one method for them to make recommendations on these
38 items that we're unable to do anything this morning.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. I think I will
41 leave it up to the coordinator to make that call.

42
43 MR. EDENSHAW: Okay.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I mean Cliff you can be
46 working with her in terms of setting up the
47 teleconference.

48
49 MR. EDENSHAW: Okay.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You know, and getting
2 the members, inform us of the date and time of the
3 teleconference.
4
5 MR. EDENSHAW: Okay.
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And just a brief agenda
8 on the subject that we're going to be covering.
9
10 MR. EDENSHAW: Okay.
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments in
13 terms of the report, the Chair's report that we're
14 discussing.
15
16 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.
19
20 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I appreciate the
21 effort to put some response into the Fisheries
22 Monitoring. We don't have a fisheries proposal. I don't
23 know if it's well addressed. The concern I am feeling
24 these days is that the near coastal environment is having
25 a lot of gravel placement.....
26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
28
29 MS. AHTUANGARUAK:and there are
30 minimal efforts to put in culverts and things like that
31 for the waterways and assessing these activities to the
32 affects to the fisheries is important. And I don't see
33 that well addressed.
34
35 Also the near shore environment is having
36 a lot of increased activity on land, tract vehicles and
37 these may cause effects to erosion and block natural fish
38 migration routes and those types of issues. Traditional
39 knowledge is very strong that fish migrate from the lakes
40 and ponds into the creeks and streams and into the
41 rivers.....
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
44
45 MS. AHTUANGARUAK:and that is a
46 process that goes back and forth, but there's been
47 minimal assessments done with the gravel placement in the
48 various areas and the cumulative affects of these various
49 changes to the land need to be assessed.
50

1 Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
4 We'll have that noted in terms of our discussions here in
5 this.
6
7 Any other comments.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If there are none we
12 could move on. I'm not sure if you're all interested in
13 providing village concerns at the moment. You know, we
14 can't take any actions but if you're interested in
15 providing or moving on down to the next agenda item is
16 the village concerns.
17
18 MR. REXFORD: I will.
19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Julius.
21
22 MR. REXFORD: For the record, Julius
23 Rexford. My only concern is the timeframe of when we're
24 told when the meeting's going to be. Three weeks is not
25 long enough to notify us and the North Slope -- where I
26 work at the North Slope Borough, we're allowed to have
27 four weeks to do a leave request to come to these
28 meetings and I was denied to go to another meeting
29 because of the timeframe in which meetings were conducted
30 like the North Slope Borough Fish and Wildlife Committee
31 and this meeting. So they were so close together I
32 couldn't go to one of those so I chose to come to this
33 one because I didn't attend the last one. So I think six
34 week timeframe in contacting us, you know, between
35 scheduling of these meetings should be looked at.
36
37 Thank you.
38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Julius.
40 We'll note that. We'll try and get this worked out,
41 although we do make it well in advance, scheduling of our
42 meetings one year away, just that we need to be mindful
43 of how we're scheduling our meetings and probably working
44 with the coordinator to provide additional timeframe for
45 notifying the Council members, if that could be taken to
46 remedy the problem that you're being faced with Julius.
47 I know it's not only you, there are other employees
48 within the Borough that need to go through the process
49 that you have to go through, coming into meetings here
50 and within the Borough.

1 Did you have any other concerns that you
2 want to bring out while we're under -- I'm talking to
3 you, Julius.
4
5 MR. REXFORD: Oh.
6
7 (Laughter)
8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That you want to voice
10 this morning while you have the floor. Did you have any
11 more concerns you want to bring out besides that?
12
13 MR. REXFORD: That's all I had, thank
14 you.
15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. David, did
17 you have any village concerns you want to voice this
18 morning?
19
20 MR. GUNDERSON: Not at this time.
21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, David.
23 Paul.
24
25 MR. BODFISH: Just the timeframe of Fish
26 and Wildlife doing their surveys of the wildlife in our
27 area.
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
30
31 MR. BODFISH: They've been coming up in
32 our area during our hunting season like right now and
33 it's been having an affect on our hunters, especially the
34 ones that are traveling by boat. They're sneaking up on
35 caribou in aircraft or helicopter, happens to come by and
36 chase them away.
37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
39
40 MR. BODFISH: That's all I have.
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul.
43 Rosemary, you have any concerns you'd like to voice this
44 morning.
45
46 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I support his
47 concerns. In our area that has been a long-term issue.
48 Overflight activity related to industrial development or
49 research and monitoring or all the various aspects of
50 needs to bring overflight activity around our community

1 greatly impacts our harvesting, our number of hunts, the
2 distances we harvest our catch and bring them back into
3 the village. These are all compounded with the various
4 activities around us.

5
6 It changes how we interact in our
7 community. It changes how our community structures go.
8 It affects the health of the people and causes us lot of
9 problems.

10
11 We also are facing a lot of impacts
12 related to fly-in hunters. We've got a tremendous amount
13 of flights that occurring. Many of our hunters are
14 traveling Umiat in the summertime to try to harvest
15 caribou and moose and that's a great distance to travel.
16 It takes half of my son's paycheck just to go out there
17 for two days of hunting. It's a priority in his life to
18 try to continue to harvest and he makes that effort.
19 Other families can't put that kind of commitment to
20 harvesting and it's a real issue.

21
22 We also have a lot of inter-site traffic
23 that is not being monitored, and those have additional
24 impacts and issues related to their activities. They're
25 traveling various means, sometimes it's helicopters,
26 sometimes it's other modes of transportation. When it
27 starts to freeze you'll have tract vehicles and those
28 kinds of things, and those are also impacting to our
29 subsistence harvest efforts. Increased distances,
30 traveling increased, wear and tear to our vehicles, modes
31 of transport and also to our bodies. The physical
32 damages to our bodies are an issue. When you're having
33 to travel greater distances and the adverse elements that
34 we're facing, it's rough on our bodies, and we're having
35 younger people with serious back injuries occurring,
36 that's a reality of trying to subsist and harvest.

37
38 But this is an issue for longevity. When
39 our young people start having trouble with their backs at
40 a young age, they become disabled at an earlier age, and
41 longevity in the community is an issue. They require
42 younger people to assist them with hunting at an earlier
43 age.

44
45 So these are factors that our community
46 is facing.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary,

1 for your comments. As the Council member for Barrow I
2 share the same concerns as what's been voiced by Paul and
3 Rosemary in terms of research. When researchers out in
4 the field interfering with a lot of hunting activity.
5 Being situated with the North Slope Borough Wildlife
6 Management I do hear a lot of complaints about all these
7 interactions between the researchers, different research
8 companies and different researches so I hear a lot of the
9 complaints through our department. I see that's been on
10 the increase for the past couple years.

11
12 I'm not sure what steps we could take in
13 terms of minimizing that impact. You know there's a lot
14 of research being done out within the NPR-A, where all
15 the lease sales have occurred on different resources, on
16 migratory birds, in fish and caribou, and all that stuff
17 continues and, yet, we're trying to subsist out there and
18 there's all that interaction in different times of the
19 year, in the spring, throughout the summer and into the
20 fall. I think there needs to be better coordination
21 coming from these researchers coming into the communities
22 and indicating when they'll be out and for what duration.
23 I think that type of communication needs to be
24 established a little bit better in terms of trying to
25 minimize the interactions between researchers and hunters
26 out in the field. There's been, again, lots of
27 complaints about helicopters, low flying aircraft inland.

28
29 Just recently we seen a helicopter flying
30 out here out in the ocean, not knowing who's helicopter
31 it is and what they're doing out there. That was the
32 most recent one we had call in just last week.

33
34 So there's all that interaction going on
35 out there in terms of interference with hunting parties
36 out trying to do subsistence.

37
38 I know we're currently working with the
39 State in terms of the caribou monitoring up there in the
40 Anaktuvuk area, that's currently being addressed right
41 now. There's people out in the field monitoring and
42 observing flying aircraft into the site where they're
43 trying to get the caribou movement into the Anaktuvuk
44 area to minimize the impact of the caribou hunting -- on
45 the caribou. So that's something that's being worked on
46 right now. It's being monitored. We have a biologist
47 out in the field monitoring the activity. He's been
48 calling in on a daily basis and reporting numbers of
49 aircraft cited and that sort of stuff. He's been out in
50 the field since the caribou hunting season opened.

1 I know I had several calls from Fairbanks
2 about why we put in that regulation.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I told them, well, you
7 got to come up here and hear the concerns that are being
8 voiced by hunters and interactions that are being
9 monitored and observed out, you know, by hunters, so that
10 -- if you have a concern you want to voice, you can go
11 voice it to Alaska Department of Fish and Game. So
12 that's the only issue I'd bring up to them.

13
14 I don't have any other concerns.
15 Hunting's been pretty good here in Barrow, you know,
16 caribou, fishing going on, there's a little bit of
17 migratory bird hunting going on. There's been marine
18 mammal hunting happening. We're having our Barrow
19 Whaling Captain's meeting tonight, which will indicate
20 when our hunting for bowheads will open, probably the
21 next day, I hope, but I'm not sure. So that's being
22 discussed tonight.

23
24 We just had our North Slope Borough Fish
25 and Game Management Committee meeting just the beginning
26 of the week or was it last week, beginning of last week,
27 so there's quite a bit of discussion in terms of
28 interaction with other hunters and researchers from
29 different communities that are getting voiced -- concerns
30 on the research disturbance.

31
32 There's concern of oil industry actively
33 increasing, we're hearing more about that. But I'm not
34 sure how we're going to be interacting as Federal
35 Regional Advisory Council and the interactions with oil
36 industry. Maybe Dr. Yokel, or Staff could give us an
37 avenue as to how we're supposed to address that. I know
38 we've brought this up as a discussion topic before.
39 Maybe I could ask Dr. Yokel to give a little update or
40 briefing on that.

41
42 DR. YOKEL: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
43 Dave Yokel with BLM's Arctic Field Office in Fairbanks.
44 I think we talked about this at the meeting last spring.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

47
48 DR. YOKEL: And it's my understanding
49 that the mission of this Council is to deal with
50 primarily, if not solely, with the Federal Subsistence

1 Management Program. Certainly you can bring up concerns
2 about these land management issues at this meeting and if
3 agency representatives are here, we hear that and take
4 that back.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

7
8 DR. YOKEL: But as far as the management
9 of the NPR-A is concerned, the more appropriate place to
10 voice those concerns is in the BLM's NPR-A Subsistence
11 Advisory Panel meetings.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

14
15 DR. YOKEL: And then you're talking
16 directly to the manager who is in charge of making the
17 decisions about oil and gas activities out there on the
18 land.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dr. Yokel,
21 for your input. I think that helps clarify what we need
22 to address in terms of this Council.

23
24 I think that completes my village
25 concerns. Any other comments or questions from the
26 Council members.

27
28 Paul.

29
30 MR. BODFISH: One comment, we got a lot
31 of caribou up our area.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Um, I think I'm going
34 to Atqasuk for caribou hunting.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul.

39
40 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Cliff.

43
44 MR. EDENSHAW: For the Council.....

45
46 REPORTER: Cliff. Cliff.

47
48 MR. EDENSHAW:you know with the
49 comments that Rosemary and others had in regards to, you
50 know, whether it's research or else.....

1 REPORTER: Cliff.
2
3 MR. EDENSHAW:you know, we don't
4 know, those could be placed on the.....
5
6 REPORTER: Cliff.
7
8 MR. EDENSHAW:placed from the
9 Refuge or else with BLM doing surveys and stuff so the
10 Council may include that issue in their annual report
11 because with the land managing agencies, they would be
12 able to provide when pilots and biologists are out there
13 doing surveys and then the other -- or you would think
14 that whether it's from some of the other private
15 companies, that would just fall through the -- it would
16 sift through in terms of knowing who's out there and
17 conducting research, whether it's Federal or State or
18 else if it's private.
19
20 But an issue like that could be included
21 in the Council's annual report requesting information in
22 regards to when individuals are out there conducting
23 research because of the concerns from Council members in
24 the outlying communities when they're out there hunting
25 or doing other subsistence gathering in terms of the
26 disturbance when pilots and others are flying out there,
27 whether it's helicopter or else fixed-winged aircraft.
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Cliff. And
30 maybe that's something that we should add on to our next
31 annual report and discuss that with Barb a little bit
32 more once we can communicate with her on this issue. I
33 think that's what we've been missing.
34
35 You know we've had several comments, and
36 heard comments about that, the interactions between
37 hunters and researchers out in the field and it's not
38 reported -- I mean we do hear the reports and report them
39 to BLM and it just continues. It seems like it's a non-
40 stop issue and it's on an annual basis now that we're
41 seeing this increase interaction with hunters and
42 researchers out in the field.
43
44 So that's something that we'll probably
45 need to get noted in our annual report to bring to the
46 Federal Subsistence Board.
47
48 Rosemary.
49
50 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: One thing in our area

1 that I've seriously considered is to change how they're
2 doing some of these research. Right now they go on a
3 daily basis, flights in and out of the various areas
4 depending on which research project they're working on.
5 But if they can change how they're doing this research,
6 instead of going two weeks out into an area during the
7 week days, doing some of their research, but decreasing
8 what they're doing in our traditional hunting areas
9 Friday through Monday. We have increased activities
10 occurring within our communities on the weekends because
11 of the change in the lifestyle, the working days of the
12 week, more hunters are out Friday through Monday, and if
13 we can change how some of these activities are going,
14 decreasing the number of flights during these times, that
15 may help decrease some of the conflicts that are
16 occurring.

17

18 Also one thing I neglected to report was
19 that we are having an increased consistent run of silver
20 salmons in our area in July and August. We had
21 consistency in catches. It's a change. How are these
22 fish going to affect our traditional fishing stocks, so
23 that's a concern.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
28 I think that pretty much covers our village concerns,
29 unless we have any other comments from Council members.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank you
34 for your comments and your concerns voiced here this
35 morning.

36

37 I'm trying to figure out what other
38 informational items, Cliff, maybe you could help me with
39 this. The Fisheries Resource Monitoring is an action
40 item so we can't discuss that issue.

41

42 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Cliff.

45

46 MR. EDENSHAW: For Amy's sake and, you
47 know, if the Council's going to -- which will be
48 determined through Barb when we get back to Anchorage,
49 but I'd prefer if Amy came up here and provided the
50 Council with the proposals so that when the Council

1 members go back to their communities at least they would
2 have had the information provided to them in terms of the
3 proposals that are being recommended for funding and then
4 perhaps that will make, if the Council so chooses to do
5 a teleconference in the future, that at least they will
6 have had that information in front of them and perhaps
7 they wouldn't be spending so much time on the phone, if
8 that's how it's done in the future.

9

10 But I'd prefer if Amy provided the
11 Council with the proposals that were developed and
12 recommended by the TRC.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. What's the wish
15 of the Council, to hear them out?

16

17 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I think, yes.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, maybe we'll take
20 that, Amy, take Cliff's suggestion and hear you Amy on
21 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

22

23 MS. CRAVER: Good morning, Chairman
24 Brower and Council members. My name is Amy Craver, and
25 I will be presenting to you the 2007 Fisheries Monitoring
26 Program for the northern region. The materials I'll be
27 covering can be found in your Board books on Pages 20
28 through 38.

29

30 This report is organized into three
31 sections. The first beginning on Page 20 provides you
32 with a summary of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
33 Program statewide. An introduction discusses the
34 history, procedures that have been used to evaluate
35 projects, policy and funding guidelines are also
36 discussed. On Page 24, Table 1 provides you a breakdown
37 of the number of investigation plans received for funding
38 consideration in 2007.

39

40 You will note that the projects are
41 summarized by stock, status and trends projects, which
42 are biological studies like escapement weirs, towers,
43 tagging studies and harvest monitoring and traditional
44 ecological knowledge studies that deal with how
45 subsistence users interact with fish resources.

46

47 The last three columns reflect the
48 recommendations made by the InterAgency Technical Review
49 Committee.

50

1 The total funding for 2007 was \$3.9
2 million. The total cost of funding for all 37 projects
3 submitted was \$4 and the cost of the 35 projects
4 recommended would be about \$33.8 million.

5
6 On Page 25, Figure 1 shows a distribution
7 of the funds between Alaska Native, State and Federal
8 organizations.

9
10 The Draft Resource Monitoring Plan for
11 the northern region begins on Page 26 and discusses
12 issues and information needs that went out in the 2007
13 call in November of 2005.

14
15 It should be noted that within the
16 northern region that the North Slope Council identified
17 char, whitefish and Arctic grayling as being the most
18 important fisheries in the region. The request
19 specifically asks investigators to develop projects to
20 collect baseline information including harvest assessment
21 and traditional ecological knowledge for non-salmon
22 species.

23
24 On Table 1 found on Page 27 lists 24
25 projects that have been funded for the northern region
26 since 2000. One of these existing projects will continue
27 in your region, and this project addresses Dolly varden
28 monitoring on the North Slope in three rivers.

29
30 Fourteen projects were originally
31 submitted for the entire northern region in 2007. The
32 Technical Review Committee reviewed these original
33 proposals and suggested that six be fully developed into
34 investigation plans. Two of the proposals were combined
35 into one. And one harvest monitoring and traditional
36 ecological knowledge project from the North Slope was
37 recommended by the TRC, or Technical Review Committee for
38 an investigation plan, and this proposal dealt with the
39 harvest of broad whitefish and local knowledge in the
40 Nuiqsut area. However, unfortunately, we never received
41 an investigation plan by the proposer.

42
43 Table 1 found on Page 28 provides a
44 listing of the proposed funding by project. Table 3 on
45 the same page lists local hire and matching funding
46 proposed by each project.

47
48 The Technical Review Committee listed its
49 priorities for funding of the projects on the top of Page
50 29 from the highest at the top to the lowest on the

1 bottom of the list. However, the final recommendation
2 was to fund all four projects.

3

4 And just for more detailed information
5 about each one of these projects, it's provided on Pages
6 31 through 38. And there were four projects and then two
7 of those projects were in the North Slope region, and
8 that was the North Slope Dolly varden genetics baseline
9 completion and the Hulahula River enumeration of Dolly
10 varden and there's additional information in the book on
11 those projects.

12

13 And then just in terms of the planning
14 for our strategic plan for the northern region, we're in
15 the beginning phases of sort of planning out that
16 strategic plan. We're not certain exactly when the
17 workshop will be but we've held similar strategic
18 planning workshops, and completed the plans for Bristol
19 Bay, Southcentral, Kodiak -- well, we're finishing up the
20 plan for Kodiak/Aleutians, and so now we're just starting
21 to make plans for the northern region and I can't tell
22 you exactly when the dates are going to be.

23

24 And that's all I have. Are there any
25 questions.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions from the
28 Council.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Amy, I have a question
33 in terms of the broad whitefish research that was -- the
34 proposal that didn't get through for the North Slope, who
35 was the investigators for that?

36

37 MS. CRAVER: The lead investigator was
38 Sverre Pedersen.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sverre Pedersen.

41

42 MS. CRAVER: From the Alaska Department
43 of Fish and Game. And I think part of the problem is if
44 I recall is between the proposal stage and the IP stage,
45 I think that Sverre was in Scandina -- I can't remember
46 where but he was working on another project, I think it
47 was maybe in Finland, yeah, so that perhaps was part of
48 the problem why we never saw the investigation plan.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, thank you. Any

1 other comments or questions from the Council.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None. Thank you, Amy.
6 I just got word from Helen that Baxter will be in this
7 afternoon at 1:00 to form a quorum at that time and start
8 the meeting at that time again, is that something that --
9 do you want to recess until then, until 1:00, that way we
10 wouldn't have to go and repeat all this information that
11 we're going through right now. I think that would
12 alleviate the problem of going ahead and repeating
13 everything all over again in terms of taking action on
14 some of these issues.
15
16 MR. BODFISH: So moved.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on the
19 floor to recess.
20
21 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Motion to recess until
22 1:00 o'clock.
23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Recess. I don't think
25 we're supposed to take any actions, we don't have a
26 quorum.
27
28 (Laughter)
29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we'll just go on
31 recess until 1:00 so we don't have to repeat all this
32 information this afternoon and then we'll have a quorum
33 for this meeting.
34
35 Thank you.
36
37 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We can leave our stuff
38 here?
39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, I think that will
41 be fine. Okay, everybody.
42
43 (Off record)
44
45 (On record)
46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good afternoon
48 everyone, it looks like we have a quorum now that
49 Baxter's here. It looks like it's 1:05 in the afternoon.
50

1 I'm going to call the meeting of the
2 North Slope Borough Regional Advisory Council meeting --
3 North Slope Borough.
4
5 (Laughter)
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: North Slope Federal
8 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting, excuse me.
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm wearing two hats,
13 I got to slow down here, I guess. So we'll have the
14 meeting to order.
15
16 We have an agenda before us.
17
18 MR. BODFISH: I move to accept the
19 agenda.
20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe, Paul, could we
22 do a roll call and establish a quorum please.
23
24 MR. BODFISH: Okay.
25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Cliff.
27
28 MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
29 Council members. Again, for the record my name is
30 Clifford Edenshaw. I'm a Regional Coordinator for Office
31 of Subsistence Management filling in for Ms. Barbara
32 Armstrong.
33
34 Harry Brower.
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here.
37
38 MR. EDENSHAW: Raymond Paneak.
39
40 (No comments)
41
42 MR. EDENSHAW: Absent. John Hopson, Jr.
43
44 (No comments)
45
46 MR. EDENSHAW: Absent. Julius Rexford.
47
48 MR. REXFORD: Here.
49
50 MR. EDENSHAW: David Gunderson.

1 MR. GUNDERSON: Here.

2

3 MR. EDENSHAW: Paul Bodfish, Sr.

4

5 MR. BODFISH: Here.

6

7 MR. EDENSHAW: Ray Koonuk, Sr.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MR. EDENSHAW: Absent. Rosemary

12 Ahtuanguaruak.

13

14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Here.

15

16 MR. EDENSHAW: Baxter Hopson.

17

18 MR. HOPSON: Here.

19

20 MR. EDENSHAW: And Gordon Brower.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MR. EDENSHAW: Absent. Mr. Chair, there

25 is a quorum.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Cliff. And

28 thank you Council members for bearing with us this

29 morning until this afternoon. Anyway, I want to welcome

30 you all to Barrow and hopefully we have a productive

31 meeting this afternoon, sweet and short this afternoon,

32 I hope, but that remains to be seen, so we'll follow our

33 agenda.

34

35 Again, welcome all to Barrow and taking

36 time away from our families and your busy activities from

37 the fall season. I know I've been very busy ever since

38 I don't know when, I forget. I haven't stopped all

39 summer, I guess, it's still going. We're anticipating

40 some other meetings going on tonight so maybe I'll just

41 go around and do introductions.

42

43 We'll start with our guests from the back

44 there, Vernon.

45

46 MR. EDWARDSON: Vernon Edwardson, North

47 Slope Borough Wildlife.

48

49 MR. BACON: Josh Bacon, biologist for the

50 North Slope Borough, Wildlife Management.

1 DR. YOKEL: Dave Yokel, Bureau of Land
2 Management from Fairbanks.
3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Dr. Yokel.
5
6 MS. GREFFENIUS: My name is Laura
7 Greffenius and I'm a wildlife biologist from the Office
8 of Subsistence Management.
9
10 MR. HAYNES: Terry Haynes, Department of
11 Fish and Game in Fairbanks.
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Terry.
14
15 MR. ARDIZZONE: Chuck Ardizzone,
16 Subsistence Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management out of
17 Anchorage.
18
19 MR. HOWELL: Dave Howell with BLM out of
20 Anchorage.
21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dave.
23 Wennona.
24
25 MS. BROWN: Wennona Brown, subsistence
26 coordinator, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Fairbanks.
27
28 MS. CRAVER: Amy Craver, anthropologist
29 from Office of Subsistence Management.
30
31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong,
32 anthropologist, Office of Subsistence Management in
33 Anchorage, and I'm the anthropologist that supports this
34 Council.
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tina.
37
38 REPORTER: My name is Tina and I'm the
39 court reporter for the Council.
40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tina.
42
43 Maybe we'll start with the Council
44 members, David.
45
46 MR. GUNDERSON: Hi. David Gunderson
47 representing Wainwright. We've had a pretty good season
48 this year. Whaling.....
49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll just start and do

1 the introductions for right now, David.
2
3 MR. GUNDERSON: Okay.
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.
6
7 MR. GUNDERSON: David Gunderson,
8 Wainwright.
9
10 MR. REXFORD: Julius Rexford, Point Lay.
11
12 MR. BODFISH: Paul Bodfish representing
13 Atqasuk.
14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Harry Brower
16 representing Barrow.
17
18 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak,
19 Nuiqsut.
20
21 MR. HOPSON: Baxter Hopson from Barrow.
22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And last.
24
25 MR. EDENSHAW: I'm Cliff Edenshaw, again,
26 coordinator for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service OSM.
27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Cliff. Now,
29 that we're done with our introductions, we have our
30 review of agenda and adoption.
31
32 MR. BODFISH: Mr. Chairman.
33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Paul.
35
36 MR. BODFISH: Move to accept the agenda
37 as presented.
38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion to accept the
40 agenda as presented.
41
42 Any further discussion.
43
44 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.
45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Cliff.
47
48 MR. EDENSHAW: On Page 2 I was asked to
49 ADF&G, and if Terry would like to confirm that, that they
50 were omitted from the agenda, did ADF&G have some

1 information to provide to the Council? Would you like to
2 be added to the agenda?

3
4 MR. HAYNES: There are two places, Cliff,
5 where I would have things to say and that would be under
6 review of the Federal closure, No. 10, and then call for
7 proposals, No. 11.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ten and 11.

10
11 MR. HAYNES: Other than that unless there
12 were questions that the Council might have.

13
14 MR. EDENSHAW: Okay. Terry, it was my
15 understanding that with this Southeast petition that the
16 State was going to provide comments to the Council in
17 regards to that.

18
19 MR. HAYNES: I can.

20
21 MR. EDENSHAW: Okay.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So are you done with
24 your discussion there, Cliff?

25
26 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chairman. I was going
27 to point out to the Council that we would like to add the
28 Southeast petition, it's in your guy's booklet we
29 provided. It was a request from the Southeast
30 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council in regards to a
31 petition they submitted to the Secretaries of Interior
32 and Agriculture requesting that they no longer require
33 Federal subsistence users to purchase a State hunting
34 license.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do you have a
37 suggestion as to where we want to review this?

38
39 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Helen.

42
43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: You could put it, Mr.
44 Chair, under the Office of Subsistence Management under
45 E because I'm going to present that.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Could you repeat that.

48
49 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Under 12(A)(1)(E)
50 under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, OSM, on those

1 presentations, I'll do that. And also, Mr. Chair, Sandy
2 Rabinowitch was unable to come for Park Service and they
3 didn't have anything to present so that's taken off the
4 agenda.
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Which one is that?
7
8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That one's 12(D) as in
9 David.
10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: 12(D). Any further
12 discussions on the agenda.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just a reminder to each
17 of the Council members you need to turn on your mike's
18 when making comments, please, we're being recorded.
19
20 MR. BODFISH: Call for the question.
21
22 REPORTER: Wait.
23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further discussion
25 -- question has been called.
26
27 REPORTER: Wait, there was no second.
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, back up here
30 Paul, we needed a second on the motion.
31
32 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Second.
33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tina. Any
35 further discussions.
36
37 (No comments)
38
39 MR. BODFISH: Call for question.
40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question has been
42 called on the motion. All in favor signify by saying
43 aye.
44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.
46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any opposed, same sign.
48
49 (No opposing votes)
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have an agenda
2 before us with the modifications in 12.
3
4 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Motion to adopt the
5 minutes.
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor to
8 adopt the minutes of.....
9
10 MR. BODFISH: Second.
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER:and been seconded
13 of February 16th nd 17, 2006. It's been seconded, we'll
14 take a couple minutes to review the minutes for any
15 corrections or additions.
16
17 (Pause)
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anything worth noting
20 there, Cliff?
21
22 MR. EDENSHAW: Not to my knowledge, Mr.
23 Chair and Council.
24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.
26
27 (Pause)
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other discussions
30 coming from the Council.
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman.
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Terry Haynes.
37
38 MR. HAYNES: I attended that meeting.
39
40 REPORTER: Terry.
41
42 MR. HAYNES: Terry Haynes, Department of
43 Fish and Game. I attended your February meeting but I
44 didn't see my name on the attendance list, not that
45 that's a big deal for approving the minutes, but I was at
46 that meeting, I think?
47
48 REPORTER: I don't do the minutes.
49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we'll just add on

1 your name, Terry -- Tina?
2
3 MR. HAYNES: Well, I'm pretty sure I was
4 at that meeting.
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Add on Terry Haynes
11 with the State, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
12 Thank you, Terry. Maybe just for the record, if we could
13 have you spell your last name, please?
14
15 MR. HAYNES: H-A-Y-N-E-S.
16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Okay, Tina.
18
19 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)
20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further comments or
22 discussion regarding the February 16 and 17, 2006
23 minutes.
24
25 (No comments)
26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we had some
28 kind of discussion to the Council members, you know, when
29 you looked at the excused list again, there's Raymond,
30 John Hopson, Gordon Brower, those are the same three that
31 we have excused again for this meeting and we might need
32 some kind of policy about unexcused absences, that a
33 letter be forwarded to the Council members in terms of
34 their participation in the meetings, two unexcused
35 absences will lead to their.....
36
37 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Alternative
38 designation.
39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: They need to indicate
41 that they need to get their alternate to the meeting if
42 there are alternates for the villages.
43
44 Any further comments or discussion on the
45 minutes.
46
47 (No comments)
48
49 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Call for question.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question has been
2 called to adopt the minutes of February 16 and 17, 2006.
3 All in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.
4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed, same sign.
8
9 (No opposing votes)
10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted, thank you.
12
13 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.
14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Cliff.
16
17 MR. EDENSHAW: For the Council members,
18 on Page 52, and we can discuss that later on, there's the
19 Regional Council's charter and it discusses in there
20 membership, what you just mentioned, Mr. Chair, in
21 regards to members absences, so that's on Page 52 at the
22 bottom portion of the page there in terms of, it says,
23 removal of members.
24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just for the record,
26 removal of members indicated by Cliff, is if a Council
27 member appointed under paragraph nine has two consecutive
28 unexcused absences of regular scheduled meetings the
29 Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board may recommend that
30 the Secretary of Interior with the concurrence of the
31 Secretary of Agriculture remove that individual. The
32 member may also be removed due to misconduct.
33
34 That's what he's referring to.
35
36 I think we'll discuss that as an agenda
37 item under the charter under other business, agenda Item
38 13.
39
40 Continuing with our agenda Item No. 6, we
41 did discuss this just for informational items this
42 morning the Chair's report. The first one is in regard
43 to the .805(c) letter which is on Page 14 in your
44 booklet, maybe we'll start from that one and just review
45 the letter for the record.
46
47 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.
48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Cliff.
50

1 MR. EDENSHAW: As an informational item
2 for the other Council members, the Federal Subsistence
3 Board met in May, that this .805 letter is in conjunction
4 with that meeting held and they addressed wildlife
5 proposals. As you can see on there Proposal 1 was a
6 statewide proposal.
7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
9
10 MR. EDENSHAW: And the Board approved
11 that and I believe -- but I think Terry or Helen could
12 reaffirm that the State submitted an RFR for that Helen?
13
14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: For No. 1.
15
16 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, Mr. Chair, for the
17 .805, and then the North Slope didn't have any other
18 wildlife proposals.
19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
21
22 MR. EDENSHAW: And this was a statewide
23 that all 10 Councils made recommendations on.
24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Cliff. Any
26 other comments regarding the .805 letter.
27
28 (No comments)
29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The other agenda item
31 we have is 6(B), 2005 annual report responses, it's on
32 Page 17. We had discussion on this this morning and just
33 reviewing the content of the responses. The first issue
34 was on Unit 26 moose and so that's what we acted in terms
35 of changing regulations within the Colville.
36
37 On 26(A) the ban of aircraft use around
38 the Anaktuvuk area during the moose hunting season.
39
40 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.
43
44 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: In Nuiqsut we have had
45 a good fall season for moose hunting.
46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
48
49 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: In light of the recent
50 years of changes to lands south of us and east -- west of

1 us, we feel that we've had some recruitment from those
2 animals and monitoring the changes that will occur with
3 those successful harvest. It's easier to harvest on the
4 North Slope with the less density of the willows and what
5 not, they're easier to find, so it is important to watch
6 the changes that have happened in those areas in
7 reflecting recruitment from other areas on there.

8

9 We have seen an increase usage of
10 aircrafts into the area related to the permit activities.
11 It does add to the level of conflict that's coming into
12 the local community's hunting activities. It is causing
13 areas of concern from local residents, and maybe working
14 to get some communication out to the hunters with a
15 survey or some sort to help assess or monitoring the
16 impacts from those kinds of things, may be useful in
17 assessing the reactions that are occurring.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
22 It's good information to pass on that we see these
23 observations and monitoring the changes that occur within
24 the wildlife within the given area. So it's good to
25 share that type of information with others, it helps for
26 them to learn and address issues when it comes to a
27 specific region in learning from these types of comments.

28

29 Thank you, Rosemary.

30

31 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Also this morning's
32 discussions that were held are relevant and incorporated
33 into the information available for actual starting of the
34 meeting is important.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any further
39 comments in regards to 2005 annual report response on
40 Page 17, 18 and 19.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If there are none,
45 we'll continue on with our village concerns, next item,
46 7, village concerns.

47

48 We'll go ahead with you Dave to hear the
49 village concerns, again, thank you.

50

1 MR. GUNDERSON: David Gunderson from
2 Wainwright. I haven't heard any concerns from the
3 villagers or any hunters hunting in the area. They're
4 getting ready for whaling. Caribou hunting is good.
5 People have been bringing home game. Bird migration is
6 pretty good. Seeing the ice out there is a pretty good
7 feeling to see the ice breaking up and moving around and
8 bringing the animals closer and possibly a lot easier for
9 them to catch it or hunt it or shot.

10
11 Other than that everything is good in
12 Wainwright.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, David. If
15 you do think of any other concerns that need to get
16 voiced, just raise your hand and indicate that you
17 thought of something.

18
19 Julius.

20
21 MR. REXFORD: Julius Rexford, Native
22 Village of Point Lay. We had a good beluga harvest of 29
23 belugas and I think one was salvaged after a couple of
24 days after the hunt. And usually when a floater comes up
25 the seagulls has already picked away on the top surface
26 of that beluga when it floats back up after being sunk
27 and then we normally just turn them over and harvest the
28 good side of a beluga and noticed only one struck --
29 which was on the north Kasigelek Channel on the Barrier
30 Island.

31
32 Not very much caribou in our area right
33 now. You know people are going quite a ways by boat or
34 by four-wheelers to look for caribou but there's been a
35 few people that have been lucky to harvest caribou.

36
37 We had one incident during berry picking
38 time when a muskox had charged an individual while
39 picking berries and that person had to, you know, in self
40 defense shot down the muskox. I made a report to Geoff
41 Carroll, I just keep forgetting to send it to him, I get
42 so busy during the days with my work. I filled out a
43 report on that, but I forgot to hand-carry it. The
44 muskox was, you know, the individual had a small caliber
45 rifle and took him 13 shots to take it down but the meat
46 was all distributed out to the community. Nothing was
47 wasted. Everything was retrieved and brought into town
48 and shared with the community.

49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

1 MR. REXFORD: We've been having brown
2 bear interactions -- with brown bears while we're out
3 hunting. And there's quite a few bears out there, I
4 mean a lot of bears.

5
6 And like I said this morning, our main
7 concern is the window, you know, between six weeks
8 instead of three to two weeks of notice coming to these
9 meetings would be more appropriate, you know, have a
10 longer window so we can submit our leave request to
11 attend these meetings. That was, you know, whoever is
12 working, so that was my only concern.

13
14 Very few bearded seals was harvested in
15 the community. They were sinking really fast. I mean I
16 caught one bearded seal and the fat seems to be --
17 they're all skinny and they seem to sink faster this year
18 for probably that reason, they don't have enough fat in
19 them.

20
21 And no walruses were taken during this
22 summer, but last week on Thursday, two walruses came into
23 the lagoon through the Kuhlui Inlet (ph) and one walrus
24 was taken last week inside the lagoon.

25
26 And that's about all I have for now.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Julius. Any
29 questions or comments from the Council.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None. Paul, do you
34 have any village concerns you'd like to voice.

35
36 MR. BODFISH: Good afternoon. Caribou
37 hunting is pretty good right now, they're still hunting
38 them, they're all around the village, don't have to go
39 far to harvest caribou.

40
41 Fishing has been pretty poor this summer
42 due to high waters. Every time there's high waters
43 during the summers, we'll have poor fishing. Always have
44 some kind of -- I guess, push the fish down river or
45 something.

46
47 But this last week fresh water cisco has
48 been abundant and the grayling. But the broadhead
49 whitefish has slowed down quite a bit.

1 A couple of bears were harvested, one
2 griz, and one polar bear. Polar bear to go up inland.
3
4 That's about all I have.
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul. Any
7 questions or comments from Council members.
8
9 MR. REXFORD: Harry.
10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Julius.
12
13 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chair.
14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.
16
17 MR. REXFORD: I forgot to mention that
18 polar bear was also harvested about three weeks ago.
19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right near the
21 community?
22
23 MR. REXFORD: Yes. Right above the
24 airport. It went right through -- came in through the
25 beach on the north side and went along the bluff and
26 finally got taken at the other side of the airport. That
27 one ended up in the Arctic Sounder.
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Julius.
30 Paul.
31
32 MR. BODFISH: Mr. Chair. Yeah, I forgot
33 to add on to the village concerns was the different
34 entities that are coming in there with fixed aircraft or
35 helicopters that are coming in at our prime hunting time
36 within the month of September until the middle of October
37 when the caribous begin to rut, so we'd like to see the
38 people that are doing their research do it at an earlier
39 date and not during our hunting season so it don't
40 coincide with the hunters.
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul.
43 Rosemary, you have any concerns you'd like to voice.
44
45 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: No, go ahead, I know
46 you were going to get ready for yours.
47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No, I was just writing
49 down some of the concerns. Maybe you don't have any
50 concerns and maybe we'll just go ahead with Baxter, or

1 did you have some you wanted to voice.

2

3 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I wanted to reiterate
4 this morning's communications. I know they're recorded
5 and it's important to incorporate them as to our
6 concerns.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

9

10 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Nuiqsut had a good
11 hunting of moose this year. I know of seven that were
12 harvested.

13

14 Caribou have been harvested by some
15 individuals but that's been more difficult to harvest.

16

17 We had a pretty good whitefish
18 season this year. We did have a number of fish who their
19 eyes were bulging outward and that was a concern that was
20 brought to me, especially with the fish that were caught
21 in June.

22

23 There was a goose caught with an
24 abnormality on the beak in which it looked like it had an
25 additional beak formation near the corner of the mouth.
26 It was harvested and given to one of the elders and the
27 elder didn't notice it until it had already been hanging
28 for a few weeks and so it wasn't sent in for assessment.

29

30 There were concerns with some
31 other -- the little birds that always eat the meat, I
32 think they're chick-a-dees. There were a couple of them
33 seen with abnormal foot developments. The toes were not
34 formed on one and one didn't have any foot at all, just
35 a stub of a leg on one side.

36

37 Geese hunting season, there were
38 good harvesting that occurred, but there was a lot of
39 conflicted as they hunted near Fish Creek area with the
40 increased activity around that area. There was a lot of
41 conflict that occurred. There has been a lot of decrease
42 in efforts to hunt near the community, changes that are
43 happening near the community with all the industrial
44 development and things like that, roads and flights and
45 things like that, harvesting is more difficult in these
46 areas and people are traveling farther. Many hunted 30
47 miles towards Fish Creek. Others hunted along the coast,
48 and a lot traveled up near Umiat a lot this summer.
49 That's becoming the trend to try to avoid conflicts
50 around us, trying to go to areas that are less with

1 activities. But those that went out towards Umiat had a
2 lot of interaction with the fly-in hunters that are
3 coming around. It was more difficult for the moose
4 hunting, the moose were further from the river. Some
5 averaged about five miles away from the river trying to
6 go into areas where the moose were at.

7

8 We are out doing our fall whaling right
9 now. They've just started this last week and we'll see
10 how those harvest activities occur.

11

12 There were a few seals caught this
13 summer. I know of only one bearded seal that was caught.

14

15 There was one guy that was doing spring
16 seal hunting and I heard of five that he caught.

17

18 And that's what we've heard in the recent
19 times.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
24 Any questions or comments to Rosemary.

25

26 Julius.

27

28 MR. REXFORD: You said the whalers are
29 out at Cross Island already or.....

30

31 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah. Yes, the
32 whalers went up for about a week now.

33

34 MR. REXFORD: Okay, thank you.

35

36 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Most of the crews. We
37 have one crew yet to go out, he said he's going out on
38 Tuesday.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Julius,
41 Rosemary. Baxter, you have any village concerns you'd
42 like to voice.

43

44 MR. HOPSON: I've got no concerns to
45 voice. Hunting's been pretty good in Barrow. Everyone
46 catching lots of oogruks, gotchuks, tutus, I seen a lot
47 of caribou hunters coming in. A lot of good fish too.

48

49 I got no concerns. Haven't heard any.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Baxter.
2
3 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Harry, one thing I
4 forgot to add.
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Rosemary.
7
8 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I do have one hunter
9 who reported the caribou he got up near Umiat on the
10 right side of the river, it had two livers. One liver
11 was very small. When he saw the abnormality, he did not
12 keep the harvest but he did come in and talk to us.
13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
15 I think I haven't heard too many concerns. There's been
16 pretty good hunting activity just like what Baxter
17 indicated, pretty good hunting going on out of Barrow, a
18 lot of caribou being harvested, migratory birds being
19 harvested, marine mammals being harvested.
20
21 We're holding our community meeting for
22 the bowhead hunt tonight, which indicates -- we'll have
23 an indication as to when we'll start our hunt, whether it
24 will be earlier or later, that will be decided tonight.
25
26 We've had some interactions with
27 researchers and other aircraft coming in on the North
28 Slope flying very low, basically research helicopters and
29 interfering with hunting activity out in the countryside,
30 we've had numerous complaints throughout the summer.
31 We've tried to remedy the problems and communicating with
32 those researchers out in the field here near the Barrow
33 area.
34
35 We've also had other calls, you know,
36 from outlying villages about interference from other
37 research going on in the different communities; in
38 Kaktovik, Wainwright, Atkasuk, we've had a couple of them
39 come from Nuiqsut in terms of interference and how we
40 could remedy the problems and see if we could stop some
41 of the research from happening for a short period until
42 the subsistence harvest can be conducted. We've made
43 those requests and some were complied with and some went
44 elsewhere to conduct their research to move away from the
45 communities. I guess that seems to be the biggest
46 increase of problems that we're being faced with is the
47 interaction from all this research and activity from
48 different research, whether it be industry or just from
49 the Federal government's research on migratory birds or
50 whatever, or the oil industry conducting its own research

1 on resources near their lease tracts seems to be
2 increasing in numbers. And the interference, we see that
3 associated with all the subsistence activity that's going
4 on. I hear that more so than ever than before. And
5 that's beginning to be more of a problem and we need
6 somewhere -- in time to start coordinating with these
7 researchers, whether it be oil industry or Federal
8 government or State research projects going on out in the
9 field, that they at least come into the communities that
10 are going to be near or visiting to interact with the
11 community members to try and minimize the impacts on
12 subsistence hunting.

13

14 I think that needs to be considered at
15 some point in time. Although there are efforts by oil
16 industry folks and I know with the Subsistence Advisory
17 Panel and BLM, we try -- that continued, but there's
18 always problems that occur even though the meetings do
19 happen, interactions do occur regardless.

20

21 I just want to make that noted, and voice
22 it out, that's a concern that these are continuously
23 increasing here on the North Slope. I think it's not
24 going to stop whether we discuss it or not it's going to
25 increase.

26

27 I've heard from Arctic National Wildlife
28 Refuge folks and people from Kaktovik that there's a lot
29 more sport hunting activity going on for the different
30 resources when the subsistence portion is not being
31 addressed fairly -- well, I guess it's an access problem
32 and the resources are not as readily available in
33 different areas within the North Slope like in Barrow or
34 Nuiqsut or Wainwright, Kaktovik is having a different
35 situation. Muskox is one of the resources that they were
36 depending on pretty heavily for several years and now
37 that population is basically down to zero for the past
38 couple of years and that hunt's stopped. They've tried
39 to improve the moose hunt but that's somewhat limited and
40 quite a ways out of the community into traveling into
41 26(B). We tried to make recommendations or suggestions
42 for them to be able to harvest resources much closer to
43 the community but that continues to be a problem with the
44 managers.

45

46 So we need to be aware of these other
47 resources that are not so readily available anymore like
48 they used to be and see where we could help out Kaktovik,
49 for instance, their hunting activity has been minimized
50 because of the resource not being readily available and

1 having an access problem to the resource and could be
2 taken only in the winter season when it's not as good as
3 it is in the fall to take the resource, so access is a
4 problem.

5
6 I know we've had quite a bit of
7 interactions within the Haul Road, having complaints
8 about people driving in boats and using those, what are
9 they, the airboats, on the increase and they're using the
10 headwaters of those -- where they have the access to
11 launch their airboats, causing a problem for the
12 resources, getting access to the resource. That
13 competition is just increasing in that area and we hear
14 more about that within our North Slope Borough Wildlife
15 Department more so than we hear it here unless somebody
16 voices their issues.

17
18 So those are the issues that are we've
19 faced with within the North Slope and it's not going to
20 stop right away and we need to take some kind of action
21 sometime in the near future or try and meet with the
22 resource managers to see how we could alleviate some of
23 these problems that we're being faced with.

24
25 And we had a sheep hunt issue with
26 Anaktuvuk, I'm not sure how that hunt's turned out for
27 the last couple years, we haven't had our representatives
28 come from that community to voice their issues on the
29 sheep hunt. I think Kaktovik's had a problem with the
30 sheep hunt, too, because of all the competition with all
31 the other users on the Refuge.

32
33 So those are the issues that we keep
34 hearing within the North Slope Borough and I'm just
35 sharing them with you because they are part of our
36 community, we're just under a different program here and
37 we need to continue voicing these issues whether we like
38 to or not. I think that's something we need to address
39 somehow. We've asked to try to get membership from these
40 communities to these meetings and we continue to voice
41 that issue, and there's a lot of people that we're not
42 hearing from and they do have complaints about
43 subsistence issues in terms of fishing or availability of
44 the other resources around them.

45
46 We're working with the State in trying to
47 address the caribou issue for Anaktuvuk but it's
48 something, sometimes beyond the means of resource
49 managers, it's the animals, movement patterns, that
50 creates the problem on its own at times. So we try to

1 take measures to address the issues and we need to find
2 out how that's going to work. As of this fall, I know
3 there's been monitoring going on north of AKP. We heard
4 some concerns about some of the activity happening before
5 the hunt occurred -- or the hunting season opened. So
6 they continue to practice their practices, and try to
7 keep the hunters from hunting the first group of animals
8 migrating near the community and they just recently
9 started hunting after having several caribou going
10 through the pass, and there's a problem with the snow
11 fence in the area diverting the caribou to another
12 direction so they knocked down the snow fencing and the
13 caribou finally started coming near the village. So I
14 heard, just recently that they were taking a few animals
15 in Anaktuvuk Pass.

16

17 There was a concern voiced from Kaktovik
18 during our Fish and Game Management Committee was the
19 interaction with the sport hunting going on and
20 interfering with subsistence hunters from the village and
21 there seems to be more of an issue there than in previous
22 years. They said it's out of Anchorage and they see more
23 aircraft than they've ever seen before so that's
24 something that we need to look into at some point in time
25 and maybe start monitoring the activity of sport hunting.

26

27 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Uh-huh.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And try to address the
30 subsistence issues, I think there may be too much of a
31 conflict between the two and we need to hear more from
32 both sides to see how we could remedy the problem before
33 something happens. And I know we've had this similar
34 situation with Point Hope where hunters are in Game
35 Management 23 with the Northwest Arctic Borough where the
36 competition's out of Anchorage with the caribou hunt.
37 People traveling with aircraft or boats going up the
38 river to the migration routes and interfering with the
39 migration and diverting the caribou elsewhere. I think
40 they've tried to remedy that for the past couple of
41 years, I'm not sure how far along they are as of today.

42

43 There was a couple of meetings I was
44 invited to but I couldn't attend due to other
45 commitments, and go down to the Northwest Arctic region
46 to try help remedy the interactions with all that
47 competition going on. One of them I was supposed to have
48 gone but I was not able to do that.

49

50 Anyway, I think I'll stop there. These

1 are some of the concerns that I have to deal with within
2 the Wildlife Department and so I'm just passing them on
3 to you, and I know you've heard them before but we
4 continue to hear them and we need to continue voicing
5 them to see if we could resolve the situations at some
6 point in time.

7

8 Anyway, I'll stop here for now.

9

10 Rosemary.

11

12 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I recognize what
13 you're saying. In our community we face a lot of those
14 issues.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

17

18 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: It is important to
19 acknowledge that there is a lot of conflict occurring at
20 various levels. It affects us with our leadership being
21 spread thin and able to participate in all the various
22 realms that are necessary to address all the various
23 levels of interactions that we're having as well as
24 willingness to get community members to participate.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

27

28 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: There's a lot of
29 activity, interaction, request to participate and we
30 often have multiple tasks to attend to. Just coming here
31 for this meeting, we may have this meeting but as an
32 individual we may have multiple meetings that we need to
33 attend while we're here and interact with.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

36

37 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: There is a lot of
38 volunteering to participate that occurs and with the
39 changes to our community structures and then necessary to
40 having to live with the cash economies, the ability to
41 volunteer on the level that's necessary with all the
42 research and monitors, all the various levels of
43 administrative interaction, all of the community meetings
44 that you need to do, we're maxed out in many ways, and
45 that's very relevant as to issues in trying to recruit to
46 fill some of our positions here.

47

48 Key participants are very important to
49 get information that's necessary to educate individuals,
50 trying to research and interact and communicate about

1 what's going on. You're torn in many ways. So I
2 recognize what you're saying and really wanted to add
3 just a few words in that area.

4
5 Also I needed to say, in Nuiqsut we
6 closed out our muskox hunt. Wherever they were hiding
7 they came out of hiding, we've got over 100 animals at
8 Ocean Point and if there can be an assessment of that and
9 maybe a consideration for changes in the proposal is
10 something that could be considered, but they've been
11 there for about a week now at Ocean Point.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
16 Any other comments or questions or any other village
17 concerns to be voiced.

18
19 MR. BODFISH: Yeah, I've heard when we
20 were at Wainwright where I was at another meeting with
21 the NPR-A, conflict between hunting brant while they're
22 still migrating and I guess the Fish and Game Department
23 was telling them that they're not supposed to hunt there,
24 that the season was closed, and, yet, brant were still
25 migrating and they wanted to know what they could do
26 about that.

27
28 I've heard that from the Wainwright
29 hunters.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul. I
32 think with the North Slope Fish and Game Management
33 Committee have addressed that issue of -- addressed it to
34 the Migratory Bird Co-Management Council and law
35 enforcement to help remedy the situation. And there's
36 efforts underway to try to alleviate that problem to
37 accommodate the practice instead of placing a regulation
38 against the hunt, so that's in the works. Just for your
39 information, Paul.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MR. BODFISH: Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If we don't have any
46 further village concerns we'll move on. Baxter, did you
47 have a comment or something?

48
49 MR. HOPSON: (Shakes head negatively)
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Going down our agenda,
2 North Slope does not have any fisheries proposals.

3
4 No. 9 is Fisheries Resource Monitoring
5 Program. I think, Amy, you indicated this morning that
6 there is an action item that we need to take on this
7 subject, maybe if we could hear from you again while we
8 have a quorum, then we can consider what we need to
9 address.

10
11 Amy you have the floor.

12
13 MS. CRAVER: Thank you, Chairman Brower.
14 You don't want me to review everything that I just went
15 through before, just basically what we need is for the
16 Council to make a decision on whether or not they support
17 the Technical Review Committee's recommendation for the
18 four projects that they're recommending for funding. And
19 those projects, the descriptions are located in your
20 Board book on Pages 31 through 38. And I'll just give
21 you the titles, I mean the information is in the Board
22 book but if you've got questions I can try to answer
23 them.

24
25 The first one is from Northwest Alaska
26 and it's called Northwest Alaska subsistence fish harvest
27 and patterns and trends. The next one is the North Slope
28 Dolly varden genetics baseline completion project. And
29 then the third one is the Hulahula River enumeration of
30 Dolly varden. And finally the fourth one is the
31 Unalakleet River chinook salmon radiotelemetry project.
32 And all four of those were recommended for funding by the
33 Technical Review Committee. And so I guess the Council
34 needs to decide whether or not they want to support a
35 motion to go along with the TRC's recommendations.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of the
38 Council.

39
40 I guess we could take them all in one
41 group, Amy, or address them individually.

42
43 MS. CRAVER: If you want to -- I mean if
44 there's an issue you have with one of the particular
45 projects, but otherwise if you want to make a motion to
46 support the TRC's recommendation you can either do it as
47 a group or if you have a disagreement, maybe, with one of
48 the projects then we can take that up. But if you want
49 to make a motion as going along with the TRC's
50 recommendations as a group you can do that, too.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Amy.
2
3 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.
6
7 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Recognizing the
8 changes that occurring around our communities, across the
9 Slope these are relevant, if not specifically to our
10 community and understanding the fishery stocks around our
11 northern communities, I think these are important to
12 support and would like to do so.
13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Are you introducing a
15 motion?
16
17 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes.
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor to
20 support the Technical Review Committee's recommendation.
21
22 MR. BODFISH: Second.
23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Second the motion. Any
25 further discussion.
26
27 (No comments)
28
29 MR. GUNDERSON: Question.
30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question has been
32 called on the motion. All in favor of the motion signify
33 by saying aye.
34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.
36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed, same sign.
38
39 (No opposing votes)
40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank you,
42 Amy.
43
44 Review of Federal closures, WCR06-31.
45
46 Golly, I lost track of your name.
47
48 MS. GREFFENIUS: Laura.
49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Laura, thank you.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MS. GREFFENIUS: Good afternoon, Mr.
4 Chair.
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I knew it was going to
7 come out sooner or later.
8
9 (Laughter)
10
11 MS. GREFFENIUS: And member of the
12 Council, Laura Greffenius.
13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Laura.
15
16 MS. GREFFENIUS: I'm a wildlife biologist
17 with OSM. I see some of you looking through your book,
18 this one's not in the book, in your packets.
19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
21
22 MS. GREFFENIUS: It was printed on this
23 orange paper.
24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Orange paper.
26
27 MS. GREFFENIUS: In your packets. If
28 somebody doesn't have a copy, if there any of the Council
29 members or anybody sitting here, there's a pile of them
30 there on the table, so Helen can hand them out to you who
31 would like a copy.
32
33 (Pause)
34
35 MS. GREFFENIUS: And also, on this blue
36 sheet of paper, it just refers to the Draft Closure
37 Policy so I'm just -- Helen will be addressing that but
38 I was just going to mention that this is related to that
39 policy.
40
41 So does everybody have the orange copy in
42 front of them. Excuse me, go ahead.
43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was just going to
45 indicate could you identify what these abbreviations are?
46
47 MS. GREFFENIUS: On the blue -- right, on
48 the blue one, Helen will be covering at a later time.
49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

1 MS. GREFFENIUS: But at the very top it
2 just refers to the Draft Closure Policy, so this is one
3 of the reviews relating to that.
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.
6
7 MS. GREFFENIUS: And Helen will go
8 further into the other items.
9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.
11
12 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay.
13
14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think the confusion
15 is that there are a couple of orange ones.
16
17 (Laughter)
18
19 MS. GREFFENIUS: Yeah, the orange ones
20 are in the packet and.....
21
22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: But there was
23 something else in orange also.
24
25 MS. GREFFENIUS: Oh, I see, okay, all
26 right.
27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So what we're.....
29
30 MS. GREFFENIUS: So the orange one,
31 that's where it says Federal Wildlife Closure Review, the
32 date at the top is August 28th, there's also some copies
33 floating around where the date says September 6th, I
34 believe.
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The 6th.
37
38 MS. GREFFENIUS: There was actually just
39 one word change, it was very inconsequential, so both
40 copies are updated information.
41
42 Thank you, Helen, for passing those out.
43 So are we squared away.
44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Laura, before we get
46 started, do we have a map that -- okay, never mind I just
47 found it.
48
49 MS. GREFFENIUS: Yeah, your North Slope
50 map, I know all of you are familiar with the area but it

1 helps me out visually so if you want to pull your map out
2 because I'll be referring to 26(C).....

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

5

6 MS. GREFFENIUS:which is
7 essentially almost all Arctic National Wildlife Refuge,
8 and then I'll be referring to 26(B), which has Federal
9 public lands in the southern portion.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

12

13 MS. GREFFENIUS: Primarily Arctic
14 National Wildlife Refuge, and then some BLM and some
15 National Park Service lands in the southern part.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You could continue
18 Laura.

19

20 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay, this -- there is
21 a Draft Closure Policy and I just wanted everyone to know
22 that in the subsistence regulations there's closures
23 throughout the state for Alaska Federal public lands and
24 currently there's a closure policy that's going through
25 the Federal Subsistence Board to adopt that policy, it's
26 still in a draft form. So our Staff, the biologists are
27 still continuing to review the wildlife closures and so
28 this particular one is one of the ones that we've
29 reviewed. And so I just wanted to go over the
30 information with you that's in here, it's an
31 informational item and an opportunity for the Council to
32 comment on it.

33

34 So this one deals with moose in Units
35 26(B) and (C). The closure there is for Federal public
36 lands, are closed to the taking of moose, except by
37 Kaktovik residents. And this is a -- and in the italics
38 there it gives certain conditions that were placed on a
39 harvest quota of three moose for both 26(B) and (C).

40

41 This was adopted by the Federal
42 Subsistence Board in 2004 and just to note that there was
43 no Federal open season between 1996 and 2003.

44

45 The current State regulations, I just
46 wanted to point out, since this is changed for this
47 regulatory year, the current State regulations apply to
48 26(B) and exclude the Canning River drainage and for
49 residents only there's one bull by drawing permit. The
50 drawing permit pamphlet indicates that there will be 15

1 drawing permits for the season that's currently open
2 right now from September 1st to 14th, and possibly to be
3 announced a winter season that would be dependent on this
4 harvest in the fall. And I should note that this
5 excludes the Canning River drainage which is part of
6 26(B) there, is pretty much the boundary between (B) and
7 (C).

8
9 So the State regulations, as I mentioned
10 for 26(B) are new 2006/07 hunting season and for 26(B)
11 and (C) there has been no open season since the 1996/97
12 regulator year when the season was closed because of a
13 decline in moose numbers.

14
15 The justification for the original
16 closure, I'm at the bottom of Page 1 of the orange copy
17 that you're looking at. The justification for the
18 original closure was that the combination of low moose
19 number and low recruitment were direct indicators of a
20 continuing conservation concern. And with specific
21 ANILCA issues and requirements it was appropriate to
22 limit this hunt with a small quota to only the residents
23 of Kaktovik.

24
25 The North Slope Council at the time, the
26 recommendation for the original closure was to support
27 the proposal for this closure.

28
29 And continuing on to the top of Page 2 of
30 your copy, the Federal Subsistence Board adopted a
31 modified version of the closure and the modification
32 requested or allowed a quota of three moose with specific
33 conditions relating to the locations of the harvest and
34 based on conservation concerns. These specific
35 conditions are at the very beginning when I mentioned the
36 closure dates and that portion in italics, just the
37 numbers that can be taken in (B) and (C) and the sex of
38 the moose.

39
40 And the current resource abundance for
41 the moose in this area is on Page 2 of your copy and in
42 26(B) there has been an increase in trend i moose numbers
43 since 2003. And as I said in 26(B) excluding the Canning
44 River drainage, the Alaska Board of Game authorized a
45 limited hunting season on non-Federal lands for 15 moose
46 during the 2006/07 regulatory year. And for the Canning
47 River drainage the counts have not shown a significant
48 recovery in moose population numbers, so this area
49 continues to be closed under State regulations.

50

1 And Unit 26(C) low numbers of moose
2 continue and so Unit 26(C) is almost entirely Federal
3 public lands and there is no open season under the
4 regulations. And as far as in Unit 26(C) there's a
5 limited Federal harvest, while the State continues to
6 have no season in 26(C), there's the limited Federal
7 harvest for the Kaktovik residents with a quota of three.
8 And in April of 2007 another trend count in Unit 26(C) is
9 scheduled to be done by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
10 Service.

11
12 In the past two years with the
13 subsistence harvest information, one of the years had one
14 harvest and in another year there was three. And for
15 previous years since the moose season was closed, there
16 was no reported Federal or State harvest. So right now,
17 since 2004 Kaktovik is the only community in the area
18 eligible for Federal subsistence harvest.

19
20 On your copy on the bottom of Page 2,
21 this is a preliminary recommendation from OSM based on a
22 lot of comments that were received, and the regulation
23 would remain the same as far as the number of the quota
24 of moose and the gender of the moose as far as the
25 location, but in bold there, in that paragraph that's at
26 the top of Page 3, the bold portion is the modification
27 of the current regulation that it would apply, the
28 Federal public lands are closed in Unit 26(C) and within
29 the Canning River drainage of Unit 26(B).

30
31 So for right now the justification for
32 this recommendation for Unit 26(C), it's recommended to
33 maintain the closure of Federal public land to the taking
34 of moose except by Kaktovik residents as it is spelled
35 out right now. As stated in the justification for the
36 original closure, low moose numbers in Unit 26(C)
37 continue to be a conservation concern.

38
39 Currently in 26(B) a Federal regulation,
40 subsistence regulations allow Kaktovik residents to
41 harvest up to three moose and in Unit 26(B) there has
42 been an increasing trend in moose numbers since 2003 with
43 the exception of the Canning River drainage. And the
44 State authorizes, as I mentioned, the drawing permit hunt
45 for this year which is currently opened right now so we
46 should get those harvest numbers soon and, that, again,
47 excludes the Canning River drainage.

48
49 So in summary, just to summarize all this
50 information put before you, the recommendation is to

1 modify the existing closure of Federal public lands. And
2 if you want to refer to your map again it would be to
3 modify the existing closure of Federal public lands to
4 apply only to Unit 26(C) and the Canning River drainage
5 of Unit 26(B). So all that white area in 26(B) on your
6 map this season is open for hunting, and then the colored
7 areas; the pink and orange and purple for the National
8 Wildlife Refuge, BLM, and the Park Service, those Federal
9 public lands and the remainder of Unit 26(B) would be
10 open to non-Federally qualified subsistence users.

11
12 In 26(B) the population counts for the
13 unit and particularly in the Canning River drainage plus
14 harvest reports from the new State season, that's the
15 September 1 through 14 will need to be assessed for
16 future management decisions concerning Federal
17 subsistence regulations.

18
19 And as I said this closure review is
20 provided for your information, and we're seeking comments
21 on this issue, and this is the time period for call for
22 wildlife proposals so there's the opportunity for the
23 Council or others to submit proposals and we wanted to
24 insure that the Council was informed of this issue.

25
26 So thank you very much.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Laura. Any
29 other comments.

30
31 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

34
35 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: In Nuiqsut many of our
36 hunters are hunting up Itallik. Changes to the way the
37 meltdown occurs in the mountain has had affects to
38 variable levels on the water and there are times when we
39 access these areas quite extensively in hunting efforts.
40 Increased harvest difficulties around our community has
41 caused us to expand our hunting ranges. I think maybe
42 five moose were caught up Itallik River from our
43 community. I know for sure three, and I believe two more
44 were caught up almost 45 miles up Itallik River.

45
46 The community has come to hope to get
47 moose to replace losses of harvest to caribou. The
48 sharing of this moose harvest is common to have a
49 community feast with each of the harvests that occurs.
50 It's a community sharing that occurs within the

1 harvesting of these animals. It is something that is
2 becoming very important to us. We have a lot of conflict
3 as we're attempting to do our subsistence harvest. This
4 needs to be really assessed. I think that it's going to
5 cause extreme frustration within the community, adding
6 increasing pressures with outside people coming in and
7 trying to compete with our subsistence activities.

8

9 We've had extensive conflict with the
10 spring geese hunting. A lot of our conflict comes
11 related to monitoring and industrial activities around
12 us, and the level of conflict and frustration is very
13 high with those activities. Adding this type of
14 increased likelihood of conflict is going to cause some
15 severe interactions in the local community. Whether it
16 gets out to the various realms to make the comments
17 assist us in trying to address these I can't say but I
18 know we're going to feel them in our community with the
19 various leaderships that we have. We're going to hear
20 the anger and frustration, we're faced with so much.

21

22 So that portion of the proposal is very
23 concerning to us.

24

25 Thank you.

26

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

29

30 MS. GREFFENIUS: Thank you, Rosemary for
31 your input. And I want to make sure it's clear that at
32 this stage this is a review, there is no proposal at all
33 and so in the instance that any proposal comes forth then
34 it would go through the Staff analysis and it would be
35 much more. I mean these are kept pretty brief and so it
36 would be kept -- this one's pretty brief but it would be
37 looked at at much more depth as far as the biological
38 information on the subsistence harvest information on the
39 Federal public lands in 26(B) and that would definitely
40 be addressed. And also to be talking to the residents
41 and getting input from your village and from the other
42 villages that would be affected like Kaktovik. So that
43 would definitely be taken into consideration to get those
44 recommendations for any regulatory change.

45

46 So the cycle would be, you know,
47 presenting that information when the meeting comes in the
48 wintertime and no decision would be made on this until
49 the Federal Subsistence Board met, you know, if there's
50 a proposal on it.

1 So I just wanted to make sure that's
2 clear, but it's very good to get all the preliminary
3 concerns.
4
5 Thank you.
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Laura. Any
8 other comments, Rosemary.
9
10 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Under your
11 justifications for the OSM recommendations in the second
12 paragraph, it says in there that it is recommended to
13 modify the existing closure of Federal public lands to
14 apply only to Unit 26(C) and the Canning River drainage
15 of Unit 26(B) so Federal public lands and the remainder
16 of Unit 26(B) would be opened to non-Federally qualified
17 subsistence users. So that's why I was addressing that.
18
19 Thank you.
20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Dr. Yokel.
22
23 DR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Dave
24 Yokel with BLM. I just wanted to make sure there wasn't
25 some confusion here especially with Rosemary's comment.
26 Because the Itallik River drainage, except for the very,
27 very upper end of it is all in State lands and not
28 affected by this proposal.
29
30 And, in fact, the Federal public lands,
31 before and after this proposal are off limits to Nuiqsut
32 hunters one way or the other, they are off limits to
33 Nuiqsut hunters, only Kaktovik hunters, according to this
34 regulation, whether it's changed or not, would be allowed
35 to hunt on those Federally public lands in 26(B).
36
37 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Okay, I see what
38 you're saying there, okay.
39
40 DR. YOKEL: So it shouldn't affect
41 Nuiqsut one way or the other.
42
43 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah, okay. Thank
44 you.
45
46 DR. YOKEL: Thank you.
47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dr. Yokel.
49 Terry.
50

1 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, thank you.
2 Terry Haynes, Department of Fish and Game. I appreciate
3 David pointing that out.

4
5 The Department supports this
6 recommendation that the Office of Subsistence Management
7 is making because we did not think that there were rural
8 residents hunting on the Federal lands that would be
9 reopened under this recommended action. Because as was
10 pointed out, only Kaktovik residents are currently
11 eligible to hunt moose on the Federal lands in 26(B) and
12 (C).

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

15
16 MR. HAYNES: The new State regulations
17 cover Federal lands in 26(B) excluding the Canning River
18 drainage. So for the most part those Federal lands are
19 pretty far removed from Nuiqsut. And by lifting the
20 closure on the Federal public lands in 26(B) that would
21 open up those lands to Nuiqsut hunters if they wanted to
22 travel that far to go hunting. So, in effect, this could
23 provide additional opportunity to Nuiqsut hunters.

24
25 So we hope that the Office of Subsistence
26 Management will turn this into a proposal that you would
27 then see next winter as part of your proposal review
28 process at the winter meeting.

29
30 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Haynes.

33
34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

37
38 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you for the
39 clarification. Sometimes trying to look at the various
40 layers of information you forget those details that help
41 to clarify the picture so I appreciate that
42 communication.

43
44 There have not been a lot of hunters that
45 have considered traveling through the Dalton Highway but
46 that is something that is being strongly considered.
47 During the wintertime we have access with an ice road or
48 our traditional access means through snowmachine to
49 travel through to hunt along the corridor but it's not
50 something that's actively pursued. But there is a strong

1 increasing communication of desires and considerations.
2 With the pipeline it's very difficult to get through
3 those various areas. The layers of pipes make access
4 over that way difficult but going through the highway and
5 using a trailer to haul your snowmachine down, there has
6 been some strong considerations. I know of five
7 different hunters that have considered this over the last
8 three years. So it's probably not the first level of
9 desire to hunt that way but as alternatives it is
10 something that's being considered. So we'll probably get
11 increasing reports of efforts to try to harvest in that
12 area.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
17 Terry.

18

19 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman. David was
20 jogging my memory back there that if, in fact, this area
21 would be reopened, hunting under the State regulations in
22 that Dalton Highway Corridor.....

23

24 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Right.

25

26 MR. HAYNES:would require use of
27 bow and arrow.

28

29 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Right. Right.

30

31 MR. HAYNES: So if you got off the BLM
32 lands in the Corridor and on to the Park Preserve or Fish
33 and Wildlife Service lands then firearms could be used.
34 So there still would be another little limitation.

35

36 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes, we're
37 understanding that that is something that's understood
38 amongst the hunters in our area. We see the reactions
39 with efforts to hunt in that area with caribou that have
40 had arrows in them. But if they did they would use
41 snowmachines, they would probably throw it in the back of
42 their truck and transport it to the area and then pull it
43 off and then go to where they were going.

44

45 I know, wolf hunting season I've heard of
46 a couple people doing that but trying to get over there
47 with all the different activities is quite extensive.
48 The cost of gas, trying to do all that is a lot, so not
49 very many people have actively done it but it is
50 something that's been considered.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
2 Any other comments.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe I'll just ask if
7 you could reread what the recommendation was, I can see
8 the preliminary recommendation, initiate a proposal
9 modify or eliminate the closure.
10
11 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay, here this is on
12 Page -- the bottom of Page 2 on your copy, it's just a
13 preliminary recommendation on this particular one and
14 then the justification is on Page 3.
15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
17
18 MS. GREFFENIUS: And the reasoning being
19 is the Unit 26, it still would remain in effect, the
20 modification would apply to 26(B) and excluding the
21 Canning River drainage again, and that would be opening
22 up the Federal public lands to non-Federally qualified
23 subsistence users. And, you know, based on the
24 information just that there's been an increase in the
25 moose numbers and now the State has opened a season there
26 in 26(B). And so as I said there would need to be the
27 harvest information from the State, which we would be
28 getting that currently because it's in effect for the
29 first time right now, and then also getting more survey
30 information before -- and there would be some of that
31 happening this fall, as well, from having talked to the
32 State biologists, that they'd be conducting some survey
33 information this fall. And all of those factors would be
34 taken into account.....
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
37
38 MS. GREFFENIUS:in the course of an
39 analysis for any kind of proposal change. Does that help
40 answer your question?
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, thank you.
43
44 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay, thank you.
45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So what's the wish of
47 the Council -- do we need to take any action to support
48 or not support the proposals.
49
50 MS. GREFFENIUS: As I said this is an

1 informational item.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.
4
5 MS. GREFFENIUS: And so getting your
6 comments is what we wanted and for you to be aware of the
7 issue.
8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
10
11 MS. GREFFENIUS: And so an action item on
12 this would be if the Council chooses, this is just to
13 provide you the background information, and this is the
14 opportunity when the cycle is for accepting the wildlife
15 proposals.
16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So there's no action
18 item on this?
19
20 MS. GREFFENIUS: Not action as far as
21 voting a yea or nay, unless if you want to make a yes or
22 no vote that's entirely whatever you want to do and then
23 also just to let you know there's the opportunity for a
24 proposal that can come forth out of the information
25 provided here, depending on your discussions.
26
27 Yeah, if you want to take this up
28 again.....
29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.
31
32 MS. GREFFENIUS:either right now or
33 take it up again there's a -- I guess it's the next
34 agenda item when we get to that, for the call for
35 proposals.
36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe we'll listen to
38 the next agenda item, that may help what to decide.
39
40 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay.
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.
43
44 MS. GREFFENIUS: All right. Any other
45 questions I can answer if it comes up for discussion.
46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments or
48 questions to Laura.
49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted, thank you
2 Laura.
3
4 Agenda Item 11, call for proposals to
5 change wildlife regulations. Um, I got a change in the
6 name here.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's Helen Armstrong.
11
12 Go ahead, Helen, you have the floor.
13
14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: You know Barb gave me
15 an Inupiat name so maybe that would make it easier.
16
17 (Laughter)
18
19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: All of you who have
20 been on the Council, this is familiar to you, this is
21 where we can make some proposals to change wildlife
22 regulations. This is the point at which we're asking for
23 those. You can make some today right here at the
24 meeting, you could make a proposal later on. I think the
25 deadline is October 20th. And what Laura was alluding to
26 is that if the Council so chose and we're not putting any
27 pressure on you at all, if you wanted to make a proposal
28 to open the lands that have been closed that she was
29 talking about for moose hunting in Units 26(B) and (C).
30
31 MS. GREFFENIUS: (B).
32
33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Or (B), sorry, (B),
34 not (C), you could do that or maybe the State will make
35 a proposal, the State wants us to make a proposal,
36 somebody else might make a proposal to open those lands,
37 but if the Council wanted to do that that would be, of
38 course, possible, too.
39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. Okay.
41
42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I don't know if there
43 are any other places where you see some changes in
44 wildlife regulations that need to be changed.
45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I don't have any right
47 off the back. Other Council may. Terry, did you have
48 something you wanted to indicate?
49
50 MR. HAYNES: I wanted to pass out a chart

1 to folks.

2

3

(Pause)

4

5 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman. What I've
6 passed out -- because Geoff Carroll couldn't be here,
7 he's at Onion Portage counting caribou this week.

8

9

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

10

11 MR. HAYNES: Geoff wanted to make sure
12 that the Council was aware of some changes the Board of
13 Game has made to regulations in Unit 26(A) during the
14 past year. And there are two of these changes that he's
15 most interested in you being aware of.

16

17 On this chart, if you look at the --
18 let's see, where should we start, the brown bear
19 regulation, especially the third column, the one that
20 says brown bear, Unit 26(A) residents only. The Board of
21 Game changed, extended the brown bear seasons in Unit
22 26(A). The general season for all hunters now is August
23 1st to May 31st, but the Board of Game also provided a
24 special season that's really designed for rural
25 subsistence hunters and that's what this third column
26 has, is one bear by registration permit available in
27 Barrow and Unit 26(A) licensed vendors beginning July 1st
28 for a brown bear season that's July 1st to May 31st.

29

30 Now, if you look in the far right column
31 there, the current Federal subsistence regulations are
32 one bear by State registration permit, September 1 to May
33 31. Currently then the State season for brown bear
34 hunting in Unit 26(A) is two months longer than the
35 Federal subsistence season. This is something you may
36 want to submit a proposal to extend the Federal season by
37 two months. If you don't it's not a big deal because the
38 State regulations in this case apply on the Federal
39 public lands. So you can obtain -- you have to obtain a
40 State permit whether you participate in the hunt under
41 State regulations or Federal regulations. You can use
42 that State permit on Federal lands starting July 1st.
43 But if you'd like to have the regulations to be the same,
44 this is an opportunity to submit a proposal to have the
45 brown bear season in Unit 26(A) open on July 1st.

46

47 Again, that's just bringing that to your
48 attention.

49

50

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

1 MR. HAYNES: It's not a problem if you
2 don't do it in terms of having any affect on the hunters,
3 it's just by having the regulations consistent sometimes
4 it just creates less confusion for people.

5
6 I also wanted to point out the bottom
7 column where we have caribou, Unit 26(A), the State
8 regulation's now prohibit the use of aircraft for caribou
9 hunting in the Anaktuvuk River drainage from August 15 to
10 October 15. There are no similar aircraft restrictions
11 in place in the Federal regulations, and because there's
12 very little Federal land in that area, we don't believe
13 that's a necessary change. So we don't believe you need
14 to worry about lining up the State and Federal
15 regulations there.

16
17 The final one, which is what I could have
18 started with, is moose in Unit 26(A). If you look in the
19 State column, if you look at the third paragraph, you'll
20 see that in the remainder of Unit 26(A) the State season
21 is now one bull from August 1 to September 14. In the
22 corresponding area in the Federal regulations, which is
23 in the far right column, the third paragraph down, the
24 regulations for one bull from September 1 to September
25 14. So currently the State season in that area begins
26 August 1, a month earlier than the Federal season. This
27 is another case where if you want to submit a proposal to
28 recommend that the Federal season open August 1st to line
29 up with the State season you could do that. But if you
30 don't hunters can still hunt on Federal lands under the
31 State regulations. And that will not create any
32 problems.

33
34 So I'm pointing out those to you at this
35 meeting in case you want to submit proposals to address
36 those two areas where Federal seasons are now shorter
37 than the State seasons. If you don't, no problem.
38 Hunters won't notice any different on the ground. But in
39 many cases people like to see the regulations lined up so
40 that it's less confusing for people if they're looking at
41 two regulation books.

42
43 I'll be happy to try to answer any
44 questions the Council has.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Haynes.

49
50 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Helen.

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I also noticed one
4 other difference. The first paragraph under the moose
5 26(A) the State says a person may not take a calf or a
6 cow accompanied by a calf from July 1st to September
7 14th, whereas, under the Federal regulations it says, you
8 may not at any time take a calf or a cow accompanied by
9 a calf. So it's more restrictive under the Federal
10 subsistence regulations, too.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Helen.

13

14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: If the Council -- we
15 could do this a couple of ways. The Council could just
16 say we'd like them to be consistent with the State and we
17 can write those up and then send them to you Harry just
18 for final approval or we could take them point by point
19 and develop a proposal, if it's the wish of the Council.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any comments from the
22 Council. Recommendations. Rosemary.

23

24 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: For people that are
25 coming in, there are some that do try to follow the
26 regulations and making them easier to understand with
27 consistency allows them to do so.

28

29 Having them split, you're going to have
30 increased risk of people understanding one rule and not
31 understanding the other by getting their timelines mixed
32 up and possibly running into conflict with people out
33 there monitoring and giving citations if they're doing
34 wrong. So it is important for Nuiqsut, that area around
35 Anaktuvuk River and around Umiat is a high desired area
36 to be in. There's less activities occurring around our
37 community so it is something that is becoming extensively
38 used by hunters from Nuiqsut. But it is important that
39 they understand.

40

41 I know before coming to this meeting I
42 was having a lot of questions, when does the moose
43 hunting season end, is it the end of August, is it the
44 middle of September. So there is some confusion out
45 there. We do try to educate but when you have multiple
46 layers of regulations it can cause confusion, and when
47 they're trying to do what's necessary to help us monitor
48 our harvest regulations we need to make it conducive to
49 their doing so.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
2 Any other comments.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So Helen, I think to
7 follow up on Rosemary's comments, the first suggestion I
8 think we'd take that up for Staff to write up and make
9 them coincide.
10
11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay, so we'll do
12 that.
13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
15
16 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think you probably
17 need to put that in the form of a motion that you want
18 Staff to write up.....
19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
21
22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:some proposals to
23 make the State and Federal regulations consistent.
24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Need a motion from the
26 Council.
27
28 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Motion to make the
29 regulations consistent for this recommended change.
30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor.
32
33 MR. REXFORD: Second the motion.
34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Julius.
36 Any further discussion.
37
38 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. Here.
39
40 (Laughter)
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Cliff.
43
44 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. Rosemary may
45 want to stipulate for 26(A) or just preface her motion
46 with Terry Haynes' handout regarding that.
47
48 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: The motion is to make
49 some consistency with the State and Federal regulations
50 with the handout given from Terry Haynes.

1 Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Terry and
4 Cliff.
5
6 Further discussion.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 MR. GUNDERSON: Question.
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question's been called
13 on the motion. All in favor signify by saying aye.
14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.
16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any opposed.
18
19 (No opposing votes)
20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank you.
22 Any other issues that you need to bring out Helen on this
23 agenda item.
24
25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's it.
26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Agenda Item 12, agency
28 reports. The Committee want to take a few minute break
29 or just continue.
30
31 MR. BODFISH: Take five.
32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Take a five minute
34 recess at this time.
35
36 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes.
37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.
39
40 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: All right.
41
42 (Off record)
43
44 (On record)
45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'll call the meeting
47 back to order.
48
49 REPORTER: Harry.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have a few more
2 items to cover yet under our agenda.
3
4 REPORTER: Harry.
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Agency reports.....
7
8 REPORTER: Harry.
9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sorry.
11
12 REPORTER: Thank you.
13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'll call the meeting
15 back to order. We still have a few more agenda items to
16 cover under our agenda, and we're on agenda Item 12,
17 agency reports. 12(A) is U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
18
19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 Helen Armstrong. This one, the first one you have on the
21 agenda is call for comments on the Proposed Rule for
22 rural determinations. That's the comment period ending
23 October 27th, and that is on Page 39 in your book if you
24 want to turn to that.
25
26 Mr. Chair. I'm not sure if you would
27 like me to go through the whole thing about what the
28 Board has in their Proposed Rule recommended for changes
29 to rural determinations or just focus on the ones that
30 apply to the North Slope, the one that applies to the
31 North Slope.
32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let me ask the Council,
34 what's the wish of the Council the information provided.
35
36 (In Inupiat)
37
38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I could just do it
39 really quickly for all of it.
40
41 MR. BODFISH: (In Inupiat)
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think it would be
44 good information for the Council to hear because we're
45 not up to par on all the information that the Board acts
46 on so I think it would be good learning.
47
48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. The changes to
49 the rural determination, we've been working on for quite
50 awhile and you've had updates previously. We finally put

1 together a report that was presented then to the Board in
2 June and the Board created a Proposed Rule and made some
3 changes. The changes that are being proposed are on Page
4 40 and they're highlighted in bold.

5
6 The one that's the most relevant to the
7 North Slope is that right now in the existing regulations
8 Prudhoe Bay is considered a rural community and that
9 means that anybody who is a resident or claims residency
10 in Prudhoe Bay then would have rights for subsistence
11 hunting just like anybody else on the North Slope. And
12 this Council had made a recommendation to change the
13 status of Prudhoe Bay to non-rural. I worked on that
14 portion of the report and currently there are no people
15 living in Prudhoe Bay and as you all know, Prudhoe Bay is
16 an industrial enclave and that it's not a rural --
17 doesn't have characteristics of a rural community so the
18 Board has recommended that Prudhoe Bay be changed from
19 rural to non-rural.

20
21 In Southcentral Alaska Point MacKenzie is
22 being grouped with the non-rural Wasilla/Palmer area.

23
24 Fritz Creek which is down near Homer,
25 Fritz Creek east and the North Fork Road area also near
26 Homer are being proposed to being grouped with the non-
27 rural Homer area.

28
29 Sterling would be included in the non-
30 rural Kenai area.

31
32 And then in the Kodiak/Aleutians region,
33 Adak would change from non-rural to rural. They had a
34 change in population, change of 94 percent decrease and
35 now they're quite small and below the 2,500 population
36 threshold. And then the Kodiak area, it's being
37 recommended that Kodiak and then the areas surrounding
38 Kodiak, the Coast Guard station and some of the areas
39 outside of the Kodiak city proper, that those would be
40 grouped and that they would be changed from rural to non-
41 rural.

42
43 And in Southeast there's a proposal to
44 keep Ketchikan non-rural but expanding the area to
45 include larger boundaries. And then Saxman, which is a
46 Native community within Ketchikan, they did support
47 keeping that separate and rural, but that will also be up
48 for discussion at the Board meeting in December.

49
50 And then Sitka did not get put on to the

1 -- it had originally been on as a proposed community to
2 go from rural to non-rural but the vote last December of
3 the Board was to not analyze it.

4
5 So the Board is holding public hearings
6 to address these changes in Kodiak, Sitka and Ketchikan,
7 Saxman. They're not holding hearings in other places,
8 they decided they would only focus on those places that
9 were highly controversial. They also will be having a
10 meeting in Homer, the Council meeting in Homer where they
11 will take public comment then. But they're holding
12 specific meetings in the other places.

13
14 I've sort of gone through this backwards
15 but the Board looks at changes in rural determinations
16 every 10 years and the reason why we're doing it in the
17 mid part of the 10 year cycle instead of at the 2000
18 Census is a lot of the information we needed wasn't
19 available until last year. And the thresholds that they
20 look at is communities that are under 2,500 people are
21 automatically considered to be rural unless they don't
22 have characteristics of a rural place, like Prudhoe Bay.
23 And over 2,500 to 7,000 then we look at the
24 characteristics of the community. And then above 7,000,
25 unless it's a community that has a really strong rural
26 characteristics, then it would be presumed to be non-
27 rural. And Kodiak has increased in population, which is
28 the reason why it's been proposed to be non-rural, Kodiak
29 and the surrounding area.

30
31 What I would suggest is you can make
32 comments to the Board as to how you feel about what
33 they've proposed, and my suggestion would be that this
34 Council, since it did propose for Prudhoe Bay to be made
35 non-rural, that you take action on that part of the
36 Proposed Rule. The rest of it, it's up to you whether
37 you want to make any comment at all. I mean the Prudhoe
38 Bay is, too, but you might want to separate it out that
39 way.

40
41 Any questions. I kind of ran through
42 that quickly.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions or
45 comments from the Council.

46
47 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I would like to thank
48 the Staff that have worked on this proposal. It is a
49 concern that we presented and we appreciate the efforts
50 to try to address this concern. I support the changes

1 with making Prudhoe Bay non-rural, and I'd make that in
2 a motion.
3
4 Thank you.
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor.
7
8 MR. BODFISH: Second it.
9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Paul. Any
11 further discussion.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll continue to voice
16 that Prudhoe Bay be made non-rural, non-rural status in
17 the North Slope region.
18
19 MR. REXFORD: Question.
20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question on the motion.
22 All in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.
23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.
25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed, same sign.
27
28 (No opposing votes)
29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank you,
31 Rosemary. In terms of the rest of the communities.
32
33 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'd like to support
34 the changes as recommended by the various Boards that put
35 these recommendations forward, support the changes as
36 presented.
37
38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I might -- can I add
39 something.
40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Helen.
42
43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'd like to add that
44 probably the place that's of the -- there are a couple of
45 places that are of really strong concern to the
46 communities, Kodiak is one of them, because Kodiak if it
47 becomes non-rural will most likely -- well, the State has
48 also recommended -- put out an agenda that they are going
49 to look at their non-subsistence use areas so Kodiak
50 would become -- it's possible that Kodiak would have non-

1 rural status under Federal regulations and then could
2 become a non-subsistence use area there as well. So the
3 Native community in Kodiak is very concerned about losing
4 their subsistence -- their ability to hunt under
5 subsistence regulations.

6
7 The other -- Ketchikan people have been
8 pushing, especially the Ketchikan Indian Community, KIC,
9 has been pushing quite hard to become rural for a lot of
10 reasons. So it's quite controversial is what I'm saying.
11 And then Saxman, of course, is quite concerned because
12 they've been swallowed by Ketchikan. And right now the
13 proposal is to keep Ketchikan rural but there's quite a
14 strong push to keep Saxman rural -- oh, sorry, Saxman
15 rural but there's quite a strong push to make them non-
16 rural as well.

17
18 So I just -- it's a complicated issue, I
19 guess, is what I'm trying to say.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe.....

22
23 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER:if I could add on,
26 maybe it's better that we not take any action on the rest
27 of these communities and not knowing the controversial
28 issues involved.

29
30 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes, I need to
31 withdraw that, thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, thank you,
34 Rosemary. I think that'd be better for us in terms of if
35 they seek our support to support their issues, maybe
36 we'll need to hear them out in terms of which way.....

37
38 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Right.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER:either to support
41 or not to support the communities, we need to hear them
42 out before we make -- that would be my suggestion, not to
43 make any decisions.....

44
45 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Right.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER:on any of these
48 communities from our Council at this time.

49
50 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments.
2 Discussion. Cliff.

3
4 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. Perhaps
5 Rosemary or the Council collectively could -- on her
6 motion to have Prudhoe Bay as non-rural, perhaps she
7 could provide some justification because we have a new
8 Chair on the Board and I'm not sure if they're going to
9 go into any new process to review what was done
10 previously, but just for the Council's -- I'm not sure,
11 I wasn't at the previous meeting when they made a
12 recommendation to have Prudhoe Bay as non-rural, but it
13 would be good to have justification in terms of why the
14 Council would like Prudhoe Bay to be changed from rural
15 to non-rural because that's significant.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Helen.

18
19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think that's
20 probably a good suggestion, and there's language right
21 there on Page 40 you could use that says that Prudhoe Bay
22 is an industrial enclave built for the sole purpose of
23 extracting oil with no permanent residents and none of
24 the characteristics typical of a rural community.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

27
28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And if I could offer
29 that suggestion that could be your justification.

30
31 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes, I recognize the
32 effort to research and prepare this information. It does
33 support the community knowledge of Prudhoe Bay complex as
34 an industrial area.

35
36 We know there are no true residents of
37 the Prudhoe Bay area. There are no families living there
38 with children. There's no school system available.
39 There's no public utilities services provided except for
40 the industrial complexes. And all of the associations
41 associated with a community do not exist. And there are
42 no subsistence hunters living in the areas, hunting off
43 of traditional means and fishing off of traditional
44 means, it is not an area that is used by people for those
45 kinds of activities except for the industrial activities
46 that are occurring in those area.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

1 Did that cover it, Cliff.
2
3 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, Mr. Chair.
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Moving on
6 with our agenda, Helen, did you need to bring up anything
7 else under this agenda item?
8
9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Not under the rural
10 one.
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.
13
14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: But the next one is
15 the update on the court case regarding Council
16 composition.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That one's the yellow
21 in your folder, or that's been handed out. This one
22 doesn't have at the moment any significant effect on this
23 Council but you probably remember that in 2003, the
24 Council charters were changed to stipulate that members
25 had to have a goal, a goal is the key word here, of 30
26 percent commercial or sport users on their Council and
27 this was in response to the Safari Club lawsuit that we
28 had in December of 1998. They complained that we weren't
29 meeting FACA, the Federal Advisory Committee Act
30 requirements, that we needed to have wider
31 representation. So the Federal Subsistence Program then
32 created this 70/30 system, where 70 percent of the
33 Councils were subsistence users and 30 percent were non-
34 subsistence users, they were commercial or sport. But
35 there was -- the court came out in August saying that we
36 had not done adequate notice and we hadn't set up
37 administratively -- or an administrative record showing
38 the rationale for a 70/30 split so now we're publishing,
39 soon, and I'm not sure when it will be done but in the
40 near future, a 30 day notice in the Federal Register
41 explaining the situation and the rationale for the 70/30
42 rule and then that will go out for public comment and
43 then we will be soliciting comment after the Proposed
44 Rule goes out from the Councils and then the Board will
45 review suggestions, modifications, alternatives that may
46 come and then it would go -- the Board would develop a
47 recommendation. So you will be hearing more about this.
48
49 The reason I say it hasn't really
50 affected this Council is that although we have certainly

1 been open to anybody applying who might be a commercial
2 or a sport user, that we have never had any applicants on
3 this Council. So you may remember that for awhile we
4 were holding some of those seats vacant on the 10 -- it's
5 a Council of 10 people and eventually they said that we
6 could fill them with subsistence users because this area
7 is really unique in that there just aren't people who are
8 guided hunters who live up here. Most of the people who
9 guide don't live on the North Slope, and there just
10 aren't people who are sport users either, people are all
11 subsistence users.

12

13 So more to come on that, no action
14 needed, just an update on what's happening with that
15 lawsuit.

16

17 Okay.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

20

21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The next one is the
22 updates on closures, SUA's, customary and traditional use
23 policies, that's the blue one with the acronyms that
24 Harry wanted to know what those were, so that the closure
25 -- the title is Closure, SUA and C&T Policies. Which
26 means closure, subsistence use amounts and customary and
27 traditional use determination policies. And our
28 apologies for using acronyms in the title because it's
29 not clear.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

32

33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The first one is on
34 the draft closure policy which there was some reference
35 to that earlier from Laura. There was a policy that had
36 been brought to the Council, I believe at the last
37 meeting, is that right, Laura?

38

39 MS. GREFFENIUS: That's right.

40

41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, at the winter
42 meeting, but it's being relooked at by the lawyers and
43 it's on hold again. There's a subcommittee reviewing the
44 policy. It will probably come back to you at the winter
45 Council meetings. We are going forward with still
46 looking at reviewing wildlife closures, as you heard in
47 the one that Laura presented to you, but the policy
48 itself has not been fully developed yet.

49

50 More to come on that, no action needed on

1 that one.

2

3 The next one is on the subsistence use
4 amounts protocol. That also, there's been a subcommittee
5 working on that, it's been a State and Federal
6 subcommittee trying to coordinate that this protocol was
7 going to provide guidance to State and Federal managers
8 coordinating subsistence management. There was a draft
9 that was provided at the winter meetings as well but
10 there were lots of concerns raised by the Councils and as
11 a result of that it is now on hold as well and no further
12 work has been done since the winter meetings, and they
13 don't have a plan yet on how to approach the issue.

14

15 I wanted to emphasize that I think this
16 is a place where just to point out, I guess, where the
17 Councils, they do have a relevant and important role in
18 this program and when the Councils say we don't like this
19 the Board will listen and this is an example of when that
20 has happened.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Helen, I have a comment
23 in terms of the subsistence use amounts protocol.

24

25 What's occurred or is there any
26 consideration given to the comment that was provided by
27 the 10 Regional Council Chairs in terms of not to proceed
28 with this protocol until that fisheries issue gets
29 resolved and not moving on into wildlife use amounts
30 before clarifying that issue; that was the recommendation
31 from the 10 Regional Council Chairs at the time.

32

33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Terry's going to speak
34 to this, he's got more knowledge.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: This issue is coming
37 out that the folks on the protocol -- or the committee to
38 address this protocol figure out how the fisheries work
39 is going to be addressed before moving on to wildlife; is
40 that going to be resolved, that they shouldn't begin
41 addressing wildlife subsistence use amounts?

42

43 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman. Terry Haynes.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

46

47 MR. HAYNES: I've been involved with that
48 working group, as you know for quite a long time now.
49 The latest -- you know the latest information the
50 Councils received on this protocol did not address things

1 the way you're describing them. As you point out the
2 Council Chairs wanted to see how that protocol would work
3 for Yukon River salmon and maybe Kuskokwim River
4 salmon.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

7
8 MR. HAYNES:before throwing your
9 support behind expanding that to wildlife.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

12
13 MR. HAYNES: A couple problems came up.
14 One was the Department of Fish and Game and Tom Boyd,
15 when he was still with the Office of Subsistence
16 Management, wrote a letter, and there was an agreement
17 reached that -- largely because the State wanted to see
18 action on this protocol, and the State said until this
19 protocol is implemented we're not going to be involved in
20 any other protocols. And that's a problem.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

23
24 MR. HAYNES:for some of us who
25 believe that these other protocols are important too.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

28
29 MR. HAYNES: So when work continued on
30 the amounts necessary -- or the subsistence use amounts
31 protocol, the last thing you saw was not something that
32 was going to be limited to fisheries, but was here's an
33 approach for developing this protocol for fish and
34 wildlife.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

37
38 MR. HAYNES: Not all Councils spoke
39 specifically to that issue at their winter meetings, but
40 as Helen pointed out and as is in this summary, Councils
41 have some problems and some concerns about where this
42 protocol is headed. The working group has not met since
43 the last Council meetings to look at the Council concerns
44 and to see if there might be some way to address them.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

47
48 MR. HAYNES: So at this point I'm not
49 sure what's going to happen.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

2

3 MR. HAYNES: But from my perspective as
4 somebody from the State who's been involved with that for
5 a long time, we need to figure out a way to make this
6 happen. From our perspective it is important. Not
7 everyone agrees with that perspective. But my concern is
8 that if we stay wrapped up around this one we can't
9 really get to work on some others that are important for
10 the process as well.

11

12 So I've gone on a little farther than you
13 probably wanted, but in a nutshell the process right now
14 is not addressing what the approach the Regional Council
15 Chairs had recommended a number of years ago.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. I think that's
18 something that I could speak to a little bit on. We see
19 that there's a problem in terms of trying to address the
20 definitions between subsistence use amounts and amounts
21 necessary for subsistence in terms of definitions and the
22 ranges were not identified, were a problem so trying to
23 work with one resource was just something that the
24 Councils wanted addressed to be able to see if that could
25 be something that they could be able to work with and it
26 could be addressed in the right fashion. And if it
27 wasn't it's something that we would not support, if it
28 was not able to accommodate what was being requested by
29 the Council Chairs. If it didn't support what they were
30 trying to get the information on, then how would it be
31 able to work on the rest of the resources if you're not
32 able to address the fish issue in the Yukon/Kuskokwim.

33

34 So I'm kind of saddened that it hasn't
35 gone anywhere to date, you know, it's something I was
36 involved in as one of the Chairs of the two in the
37 original start, we were involved in and selected by the
38 10 Council Chairs to represent the 10 Regional Council
39 Chairs in this protocol and then we got pulled out by
40 some other issues that came about.

41

42 So much for that I guess and we'll
43 continue with the next subject.

44

45 Thank you, Terry, for your information.

46

47 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, just one
48 comment. I know all of us have been involved in this
49 process really appreciated the contributions that you
50 made and that Gerald Nicholia.....

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
2
3 MR. HAYNES:made as a
4 representative of the Eastern Interior Council because
5 you kept the group focused on the target.
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
8
9 MR. HAYNES: And Gerald especially,
10 because we were focusing on the Yukon River salmon
11 fishery and his in-depth knowledge of that fishery.....
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
14
15 MR. HAYNES:when we got a nod from
16 Gerald we knew we were headed in the right direction.
17 When he was shaking his head we knew we needed to go back
18 and take another look at something. And so between the
19 two of you, you really, I think helped us a lot and when
20 you were no longer able to participate in that process,
21 I think that hurt the process.
22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
24
25 MR. HAYNES: And hopefully we can find a
26 way to get it back on track.
27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You know, Gerald was
29 really getting close in submitting a proposal to see how
30 it would sway the Board of Fisheries and the Federal
31 Subsistence Board on the issue, it was getting that
32 close, but then we got pulled out and he took his
33 proposal with him.
34
35 So that's where we left it.
36
37 (Laughter)
38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anyway, thank you,
40 again, Terry. Helen, did you have more.
41
42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay, the last one on
43 the blue sheet is the Draft Customary and Traditional Use
44 Determination Policy, the C&T Policy. We've been working
45 on this for a little while. We have been criticized by
46 the State because we don't have a policy in place and
47 they've been -- the State's been concerned about C&T
48 findings and they're particular concerned about
49 restrictions that could happen to non-subsistence users.
50

1 And so we have been working on a C&T
2 policy, it's moving a little bit slowly because we've had
3 a lot of other things like the rural determinations and
4 some issues on the Kenai C&T, and lots of things going on
5 right now. Including, one of the things has been that
6 we've got a lawsuit that's been filed by the State of
7 Alaska concerning Unit 12 C&T determinations for
8 Chistochina and Mentasta, and we're not sure how that's
9 going to be tied into the C&T policy so we're working on
10 developing a policy. It may come forward by the winter
11 2007 meeting, but we'll see if it does, I'm not sure.

12
13 So that's the last one that is before you
14 on that.

15
16 The other one that's listed here is the
17 update on the Kenai Peninsula Resource Region and
18 Council, that's for information only. Just that there is
19 -- this doesn't apply to you, but, you know, just as
20 Harry said, just to hear some of what's being under
21 consideration in the program. But there is a proposal
22 that's before us, and we're not sure where it's going to,
23 to create an 11th Council for the Kenai Peninsula. There
24 are a lot of issues with the Kenai right now.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

27
28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:going on, and
29 another one that's not in the book because it's that
30 recent, is we have a request for reconsideration for
31 creating -- for allowing a harvest of fish, giving a C&T
32 for Ninilchik community on the Kenai River and the waters
33 north of there. So lots of issues going on with the
34 Kenai as well.

35
36 The last one's not in the book and that's
37 -- I think this one is your other orange one, and this is
38 the Southeast Alaska Regional Advisory Council, could be
39 white, could be orange, mine's white with a little
40 picture here on it from Dolly Garza. She's the acting
41 Chair right now since John Littlefield resigned for the
42 Southeast Council. And this is a really well put
43 together petition to the Secretaries of Interior and this
44 is being presented to all of the Councils because it's a
45 statewide issue and we would like action on this one in
46 the form of support or not support of the Southeast
47 petition.

48
49 What they're asking for in here is that
50 they are proposing that we change the current requirement

1 that subsistence hunters must obtain and carry a State
2 hunting license when hunting on Federal public lands
3 under Federal regulations. They have proposed that
4 instead of a State hunting license, at the very, very end
5 of the last page, they say that there would be a Federal
6 hunting license instead.

7

8 This would have to go to the Secretary of
9 Interior and Secretary of Agriculture in order to change
10 it; they're the ones who have the authority to change
11 that. So after this petition is received, the
12 Secretaries could request that we have to do an analysis
13 on it, I think it's likely we would and then it would
14 perhaps come back to the Councils but at this point we're
15 just asking do you support it in concept.

16

17 They also go through some discussion
18 about what that means if you don't have State hunting
19 licenses. Right now that money goes towards a variety of
20 things for State including -- let's see, the -- if the
21 State didn't get that money then they would have less
22 money from those fees and those fees are used to support
23 wildlife management activities and also they get some
24 Federal matching funds under that program. They support
25 things like maintenance of shooting ranges and boat ramps
26 and other facilities, hunter education, watchable
27 wildlife programs, and a decrease in those license fees
28 would decrease funding available for existing State of
29 Alaska activities.

30

31 These do have some benefits for
32 subsistence users but the Southeast Council points out in
33 their letter here of petition, they feel like the State
34 is doing a lot that's hurting the subsistence users and
35 they don't feel that we should be funding that anymore.

36

37 One question I had as I read this and
38 this is all very last minute in terms of coming to us, it
39 wasn't in the book originally, and it wasn't on the
40 agenda, but I'm assuming that a Federal license, they
41 wouldn't charge any money for, but I don't know that, if
42 there would be a fee. Right now the State license is
43 \$25. And I think this, part of where this came from is
44 when the State was -- now this letter says trying to
45 increase the amount for licenses, or did they increase it
46 Terry? I was unclear on that whether they did raise the
47 amount for State hunting licenses.

48

49 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Terry.

2

3 MR. HAYNES: There was an effort made,
4 legislation was being drafted last year to develop a new
5 fee structure for hunting licenses -- and hunting and
6 fishing licenses. The fishing license portion was
7 adopted and implemented, hunting license fee changes are
8 a work in progress so nothing has happened yet.

9

10 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. I think
11 according to what the letter says is when they started,
12 they proposed to increase them, I think they were
13 increasing them as much as to \$100, I think, is that what
14 it was, but I mean it was a proposal.

15

16 MR. HAYNES: It's not as simple as that.

17

18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Okay. They had
19 proposed to raise them, I think that's what generated
20 some of this question. And particularly in Southeast
21 where all of their hunting almost, you know, probably 99
22 percent of it is on Federal lands, they felt like why do
23 we need a State hunting license.

24

25 The history which is also covered in
26 their letter of that, is that when we first created this
27 program, everyone thought it would be around for a year,
28 the State would get their Constitution changed and we
29 would be out of business, the Federal program, well, it
30 didn't happen, so here we are, what 17 years later with
31 the Federal program still here and when we had thought
32 that it would not be around long, they were trying to
33 keep everything as similar to the State's program as
34 possible so that when it got handed back there wouldn't
35 be big changes. So that's one of the arguments they've
36 raised is that that hasn't happened. It's not in ANILCA
37 that you need a State hunting license.

38

39 So Mr. Chair, that, I've been fairly
40 brief, the letter is quite long, but I think that
41 summarizes what their points are, and the Southeast
42 Council would like to know if this Council would support
43 their efforts.

44

45 I should also add, I'm sorry, that if you
46 were hunting on an area where there was a mixture of
47 State and Federal lands, you would still have to have a
48 State hunting license in possession and that would apply
49 in some of the areas of this region where you would have
50 to have a State license.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was going to say, in
2 comparison to what we see on the North Slope we have
3 State and Federal lands, so if it was to be implemented
4 here we would have to carry both.....
5
6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's correct.
7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER:State and Federal
9 permits.
10
11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right.
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Or licenses. I think
14 that's the first thing I noted when we were discussing
15 this. But down in the Southeast it's all basically
16 Federal lands there they're.....
17
18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right.
19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER:hunting off of.
21 Terry.
22
23 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman. That is true.
24 But as you know in most rural areas of the state, in most
25 villages there are Native allotment village
26 corporation.....
27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
29
30 MR. HAYNES:lands that surround the
31 village and in many cases some of those lands are where
32 hunting activities take place and those are lands that
33 are managed by the State, they are private lands and so
34 they fall under State jurisdiction.
35
36 The Department has major concerns about
37 this petition as you might imagine. And we think that
38 there's a lot of potential for real loss to Alaskans if
39 a petition like this was approved by the Secretaries.
40 Number 1, it's unclear how many rural residents would not
41 need to get both a State and Federal license, and because
42 in many areas the mix of ownership is confusing and
43 complicated and you may not know if you're on Federal or
44 State managed lands. In some cases the line might be a
45 little more distinct.
46
47 But this money that the State receives
48 goes to wildlife management and research, that's been the
49 Department's responsibility from the day the Department
50 was established. It continues to be a primary function

1 of the Department even with Federal Subsistence
2 Management and Federal Subsistence Regulations in place,
3 the Department remains the primary manager of the
4 wildlife resources. Federal agencies have developed
5 programs and Staff activities that are directed to
6 wildlife management, wildlife research but the Department
7 is responsible, ultimately for all of that taking place
8 in Alaska, and we spend a lot of money doing that. We
9 believe that that work benefits all Alaska hunters, rural
10 and non-rural and without this funding that is provided
11 through license fees and then other matching funds that
12 might come from the Federal government, we would be very
13 concerned. We don't see any indication in this petition
14 of how this funding would be made up, who would takeover
15 the functions that would be lost if the license fees were
16 not available.

17
18 We also think that, you know, is that
19 making life simpler for most rural residents, require
20 them to get two hunting licenses? We don't think so. We
21 realize that many rural residents don't get one hunting
22 license now. We also realize and it's not pointed out in
23 the petition, if I'm not mistaken, but if you're a rural
24 resident and have low income you can purchase that \$25
25 license for \$5, and I might point out that even in the
26 legislation that was being developed to increase the
27 hunting fees, that the increase to that \$5 license would
28 not have been substantial. And I don't think anyone
29 could argue, even today, that paying \$25 for a hunting
30 license is out of line for a state resident, given
31 tremendous resources we have in this state.

32
33 So, Mr. Chairman, I don't want to take
34 any more of your time.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

37
38 MR. HAYNES:but I just -- certainly
39 the Council should discuss this and think it through
40 carefully, but the State has strong objections to this
41 proposal. We do not see how it can be supportive of good
42 wildlife management in the state. We don't see how it's
43 going to benefit the rural residents, other than reducing
44 the amount of money they might spend to get a license if
45 they feel that they aren't going to be hunting on State
46 or private lands. So we urge you to think carefully
47 about your recommendations and hope you'll give some
48 consideration to the Department's concerns.

49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

1 MR. HAYNES: Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Terry.
4
5 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any comments. Cliff.
8
9 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, I just wanted to pass
10 on to the Council that I think since I've worked for the
11 agency this is only the second petition I've seen, the
12 previous one that was submitted with the Kodiak/Aleutians
13 and that was for Area M fisheries. If you'll look on
14 Page 1, on number 3, the comments and recommendations
15 from the Council, so whatever you state or choose not to
16 or whatever, will be included in the Council -- the
17 Southeast Council's final petition which will be
18 submitted at the end of November as it states.
19
20 But getting back to my previous comment,
21 was that when there was a petition submitted to the
22 Secretary regarding Area M fisheries, we brought in all
23 10 Council Chairs because of the enormous public conflict
24 between Bristol Bay.....
25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
27
28 MR. EDENSHAW:and probably up in
29 the Seward Penn and the Kodiak/Aleutians. So I'm not
30 going to speculate on what the Board may do but depending
31 on what the other nine Councils -- at least eight,
32 because we know what Southeast is going on, but the other
33 eight, Mr. Chair, there's likely going to be a Board
34 meeting to address this issue.
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. Thank you,
37 Cliff. Any other comments from the Council.
38
39 Rosemary.
40
41 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: The efforts to
42 continue monitoring are important. In our area we do
43 have a lot of monitoring but it's related to oil and gas
44 industry and they also control the reports that come out.
45 Having Federal monitoring and studying going on, it adds
46 to the information that is available for us to review and
47 research and aid in our decision factors. Having
48 decreasing funds for many of our activities with the
49 state with changes that have occurred in other areas, it
50 does become an issue when we're trying to look at what we

1 have to do in our great state, all the various resources
2 that we have, all of the limited populations in various
3 areas, but the value of the natural resources in those
4 areas for this great state.

5
6 The issues for the customary and
7 traditional use, it's very difficult in some of these
8 rural areas to survive. Having activities that provide
9 a small avenue of income benefit these areas that don't
10 have any other resources to turn to for any source of
11 economies. So it is very important to look at these.
12 There are reactions, good and bad that will come
13 regardless of the decision that happens and getting
14 information available in a area wide manner sometimes is
15 very important to include in how you look at the big
16 picture of things.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
21 Any other comments.

22
23 Julius, do you have a comment.

24
25 MR. REXFORD: No.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

28
29 MR. REXFORD: I just forgot to turn that
30 off.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is there a suggestion
35 whether to support or not support the proposal is the
36 action we need to take.

37
38 What's the wish of the Council.

39
40 (Inupiat)

41
42 REPORTER: Harry.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (Inupiat)

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was just asking what
49 decision they want to make on this issue, just for
50 interpreting what I was indicating in Inupiat.

1 REPORTER: Okay, thank you, Harry.
2
3 (Laughter)
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Or we don't have to
6 take action at all, it's up to the Council. Maybe it's
7 premature, if you think it's premature to take action on
8 this we could defer not to take any action.
9
10 Helen.
11
12 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. I think
13 that would be certainly -- of course it's up to you to do
14 what you like but if this does go forward and it sounded
15 to me like there's a possibility that they would have an
16 analysis done and then the Council would be asked again
17 for their recommendation so.....
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
20
21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:that's not for
22 sure but it sort of appeared to me that that might be one
23 thing that would happen. You could say, we want to wait
24 until we have more information and see a full analysis,
25 that would be possible too.
26
27 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.
30
31 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I agree. We really
32 need to get additional information to be informed on the
33 action to take on this proposal. There is issues on both
34 sides. Understanding living in a rural environment and
35 struggling to make ends meet with limited employment,
36 it's a reality of many of our rural communities.....
37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.
39
40 MS. AHTUANGARUAK:and we need more
41 information to make an informed decision.
42
43 Thank you.
44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
46
47 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.
48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Cliff.
50

1 MR. EDENSHAW: With the concurrence of
2 the Council, inside our booklet it asks that we provide
3 the comments back to the SERAC back within four weeks.

4
5 So when Helen began providing the
6 information to you, Mr. Chair, you, yourself, and
7 Rosemary provided some comments in regards to Federal and
8 State, you know, when an individual is on State land
9 versus Federal he or she is still going to have a license
10 so when I go back to Anchorage and they ask for the
11 Council's comments, I just want to assure you that
12 Rosemary's and your comments will become, with your
13 concurrence, part of the record.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

16
17 MR. EDENSHAW:in terms of providing
18 those back to the Southeast Council so that they can sit
19 there and think through this, you know, what steps
20 they're going to take next, and they're going to do that
21 with all 10 Councils. So I just want to assure the
22 Council that when I go back to Anchorage after the
23 meeting is done with and they ask me for comments from
24 the Council regarding this issue, if you guys say it's
25 okay, then I'll go ahead and preface, you know, write the
26 comments that Rosemary provided in terms of monitoring is
27 a good thing, the comments that you brought up about
28 being on State and Federal lands, and the others didn't
29 have any comments.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

32
33 MR. EDENSHAW: But I just wanted to
34 reiterate with the Council that comments will be
35 forwarded to the Council.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Cliff, for
38 providing that information. I think that it's very
39 valuable that we share the comments, it's something that
40 we've experienced here and have a little knowledge about
41 and they're trying to go through something that they're
42 trying to address within their region, you know, I think
43 it's good for them that they hear that we have to deal
44 with both State and Federal lands within our region. And
45 setting up licenses for both may be a hinderance for us
46 but it might not be for them down in Southeast. That
47 remains to be seen so I'm kind of caught in the middle
48 here just for not making any decisions right at the
49 moment.

50

1 MR. EDENSHAW: And Mr. Chair, the
2 Council, just as Rosemary she provided I think a good
3 comment in regards to in some of the outlying
4 communities, you know, I'm certain if -- just as Helen
5 said that when we go back and if this issue gets pushed
6 forward and an analysis is written up, that the economics
7 in the surrounding communities, cost of living, will play
8 a significant factor.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

11

12 MR. EDENSHAW: So without being biased or
13 being against or for the proposal, you know, they can
14 submit comments stating that, yeah, perhaps you should
15 look at -- you know, because you said you wanted more
16 information.....

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

19

20 MR. EDENSHAW:you could be specific
21 in terms in what type of information would be more
22 pertinent for an analysis such as an individual out in
23 the surrounding communities, wages or other information
24 like that.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. Thank you.

27 Rosemary.

28

29 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: An assessment of
30 subsistence harvesting and cost of living factors,
31 efforts to harvesting attempts, information related to
32 how -- if they didn't have to be paying for these
33 licenses, how they would utilize those funds are
34 important to us.

35

36 I know for me, this summer I chose to do
37 a lot of subsistence and I had to make decisions at some
38 points whether I was going to get one more box of shells
39 or other things and the hopes to utilizing that shell and
40 adding to the subsistence harvest was a determining
41 factor. So I think adding an informed analysis to help
42 make some decisions would benefit that.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

47 Any other comments.

48

49 Helen.

50

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I have something after
2 we're done with this.
3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, thank you. Maybe
5 staying neutral at this time would be our best bet with
6 the Council. I think that we'll take that, not taking a
7 position on the petition at this time.
8
9 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: And sharing the
10 comments is open, it's good to do.
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Yes, I agree.
13 Thank you. Okay, Helen.
14
15 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I have one thing
16 that's not on the agenda that I should have earlier but
17 I'll just quickly state.
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.
20
21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: A couple of changes
22 that we've had in our program. We do have a new Federal
23 Subsistence Board Chair. Mitch Demientieff has left
24 after, I think, 10 years or something, maybe more, I'm
25 not sure. And the new Chair is Craig Fleagle.
26
27 MR. HAYNES: Mike.
28
29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I mean -- I did this
30 before, too, Mike Fleagle, sorry. Mike Fleagle. And he
31 lives in Anchorage. He is part Inupiat and he's married
32 to an Athabascan woman, I believe. I haven't actually
33 read this but I believe that's true.
34
35 MR. HAYNES: Yes.
36
37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It is true. And he
38 used to live in McGrath. He comes to us from the Board
39 of Game. He was Chair of the Board of Game, and he was
40 just appointed officially last week.
41
42 And then the other change we have is that
43 Tom Boyd has retired. He was our director of the
44 Subsistence Office and was a really good leader for us.
45 We all are -- at least I'm still missing him not being
46 there. He's been with -- in the subsistence program
47 since the beginning.
48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
50

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: He was in the very,
2 very beginning stages before they even did the EIS, at
3 BLM, and then came over to our office. So they're in the
4 process of looking for a new director, and Pete Probasco,
5 who has been our deputy has been the acting director.
6 And we've had a lot of other changes on our Staff.

7
8 Chuck Ardizzone who's here now with BLM,
9 he was our biologist for some of the other regions, and
10 he's gone to BLM so we're down one biologist and we have
11 -- our fisheries biologists have left for the regulatory
12 side. And then our budget person, I don't know if any of
13 you would have ever had to deal with Terry Wilde but he
14 recently passed away from lung cancer.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

17
18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So we've had a lot of
19 changes in the office, lots of new Staff, new faces.

20
21 That's it.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

24
25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think that's all for
26 my presentations.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Helen. Our
31 next agenda item is 12(2) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
32 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Wennona Brown.

33
34 You have the floor Wennona.

35
36 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
37 for the record my name is Wennona Brown for the Arctic
38 National Wildlife Refuge.

39
40 And I just wanted to comment I mailed to
41 each of you a copy of the report that the Arctic Refuge
42 prepared on their summer activities and I hope everyone
43 got it before the meeting and had a chance to look at it.
44 So from that I just wanted to see if there were any
45 questions or comments or things that I should take back
46 to the Refuge.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wennona, I'm not sure
49 if I've gotten my copy because I'm just going to indicate
50 I didn't receive one, I've been checking in my mail box

1 at work and at home so I haven't seen this. This is the
2 first time I've seen this. I'm just going to remind,
3 that we have bypass mail and it's really slow.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So if you're expecting
8 that we get mail real quick like the rest of the United
9 States it's not so.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have the slowest
14 mail coming to town so it takes probably a couple weeks
15 longer than normal routes. The air carriers take our
16 mail, bypass mail, so I just wanted to indicate that I
17 did not receive a copy. I'm not sure if the rest of the
18 Council members may have or not.

19
20 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I did get my report in
21 time, I don't know how but I got it just before we came,
22 it gave me a little bit of time to look through this. I
23 appreciate the effort to get us information.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

26
27 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: One comment that was
28 given to me was that we don't get caribou from the
29 Porcupine Caribou Herd. Some of our elders are very
30 adamant that there's a difference in the taste of the
31 caribou.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

34
35 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: And they can taste the
36 difference from ones that have been in the Porcupine
37 area.

38
39 It doesn't occur on a regular basis but
40 we do get some migration from that herd. They come in at
41 a different time than the other herds. And elders over
42 the age of 60 are very adamant in the variations of their
43 taste and so that was something that was encouraged for
44 me to share.

45
46 We do get all three of the herds into our
47 areas from the Western, the Central and the Porcupine,
48 and so we just wanted to share that. It is relevant for
49 us in the middle of the Arctic within the various areas
50 to assess information from various areas to help us

1 assess the health of the animals around us and I'm glad
2 that we get this information. The information is very
3 valuable for us as we look at the various amounts of
4 research that are occurring.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
9 Any other comments.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wennona I'm not sure if
14 this report indicates if there's any aggregation between
15 the two herds, the Central and the Porcupine at any given
16 time of the year, I mean has that been noted by Arctic
17 National Wildlife Refuge, you know, the aggregation
18 between Porcupine and the Central Arctic Caribou Herd?
19 I just recall some discussion I had with one of the
20 biologists that just in recent times there was one -- the
21 aggregation did occur at some point.

22
23 MS. BROWN: Yes, Mr. Chair, I think there
24 has been some documentation that -- it's particularly
25 over around Kaktovik.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right.

28
29 MS. BROWN:you know the Central
30 Herd's been going farther east at times.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

33
34 MS. BROWN: And then also at times during
35 the winter, down around Arctic Village they'll see mix --
36 you know, both Porcupine and Central Caribou Herd.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

39
40 MS. BROWN:in the wintertime around
41 Arctic Village.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I just recall having a
44 discussion with one of the biologists that they had just
45 indicated that there was an aggregation of the two herds
46 just recently, I think is what I -- Dr. Yokel.

47
48 MS. BROWN: Well, I was just comment, I
49 think that sometimes that some of the collared animals
50 where they've come together.....

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
2
3 MS. BROWN:and some of those herds
4 with the collars, when they've sort of split up, one that
5 had been collared in the Porcupine Herd went with the
6 Central Herd or vice versa, I don't remember, but they
7 did do some sort of cross-mixing.
8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, thank you. Dr.
10 Yokel.
11
12 DR. YOKEL: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this is
13 Dave Yokel with the Bureau of Land Management. You may
14 have been talking to Brian Pearson recently and he just
15 was the lead author on a paper that we submitted to
16 Arctic just a couple of months ago.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, that might have
19 been.
20
21 MR. YOKEL: Involving mostly our
22 satellite collar work with the Teshekpuk Herd. The one
23 part of that paper did discuss immigration among the four
24 caribou herds on the North Slope.
25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
27
28 DR. YOKEL: And I think we did, maybe,
29 for the first time, actually quantify to some level that
30 migration among herds and so we know from our satellite
31 collaring activity that a small percentage of females do
32 seem to switch herds at times. We also know that they
33 certainly overlap in distribution at times. And you will
34 recall, perhaps, that the Teshekpuk Herd, about a third
35 of them wintered over by Kaktovik just a few years ago
36 and they didn't all make it back to the Teshekpuk Herd.
37 So that may be where your thoughts are coming from.
38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dave. any
40 other comments.
41
42 (No comments)
43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wennona, did you have
45 any other you wanted to add on besides this report.
46
47 MS. BROWN: Yeah, the only one thing I
48 would note is the Arctic Village Sheep Management
49 discussion on Page 4.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
2
3 MS. BROWN: I think at the meeting last
4 February there was some discussion about additional
5 information regarding the Arctic Village Sheep Management
6 Sheep Herd and the population, and the Arctic Refuge did
7 do a survey over the northern part of the -- you know the
8 Red Sheep, Cane Creek area this summer.
9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have a quick
11 question, in terms of the sheep hunts that occur from
12 between Kaktovik and the hunt out of Arctic Village, is
13 there -- do they hunt from the same populations or is
14 there distinct populations around there that they're
15 hunting from? What is that river that I'm trying to
16 think of, the Canning River, is that -- is it the
17 Hulahula, I think?
18
19 MS. BROWN: Yeah, the Canning is north,
20 and I know residents of Kaktovik, you know, did have C&T
21 use for the Arctic Village Sheep Management area.....
22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
24
25 MS. BROWN:but I am not aware of
26 any actual hunting that they do. They usually do most of
27 their hunting on the north side.
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, thank you. Any
30 other comments from the Council.
31
32 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes.
33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.
35
36 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: One question I had is
37 interior area has seen a lot of increase in the
38 vegetation, the willows, the density in those areas
39 especially up around looking towards Umiat, is that also
40 being seen in the Refuge area?
41
42 MS. BROWN: In which Refuge?
43
44 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: In the Arctic.....
45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: In the Arctic National
47 Wildlife Refuge?
48
49 MS. BROWN: Some of the vegetation
50 changes have been resulting from all the fires, you know,

1 particularly, you know, Yukon Flats got -- and Kanuti,
2 both have had a lot of fires and, you know, seeing some
3 changes in vegetation and in some areas I think they've
4 been seeing a few more moose. Like the eastern part of
5 Yukon Flats Refuge has had a slight increase in moose,
6 you know, not significantly but they did see a few more
7 moose last year. I think they are planning to try to do
8 moose surveys again this fall. They've not been able to
9 do a fall survey for two years now just because they have
10 not been able to get weather conditions, you know, that
11 have permitted them to get out.

12
13 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We've just seen
14 changes that have occurred which makes it difficult for
15 the caribou to get through some of these vegetation
16 areas. The increased willows, the heights of the
17 willows, the density of the willows. We've actually seen
18 caribou trying to get away from the river and then get
19 into these willows and have to turn back out so that was
20 just one of the things I know it's something that may
21 become an issue in the future.

22
23 But I'm wondering if it's going to be
24 having effects with migration factors and such. That one
25 area, the willows are so dense it's very difficult to go
26 through those areas. And if we're having difficulties we
27 know the animals are having difficulties.

28
29 Thanks.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
32 Any other comments from the Council.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER:

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did you have any other
41 items you wanted to bring out Wennona.

42
43 MS. BROWN: No, Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Thank you
46 for your presentation.

47
48 The next agenda item is we have 12(C)
49 Bureau of Land Management, Dr. Yokel.

50

1 DR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 This is Dave Yokel with the Bureau of Land Management's
3 Arctic Field Office in Fairbanks. I'd like to cover
4 several different items with you briefly today.
5

6 As you know the Bureau of Land Management
7 has been working cooperatively for over two decades with
8 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the North
9 Slope Borough to monitor the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd.
10 Neither Geoff Carroll from Fish and Game nor Brian
11 Pearson from North Slope Borough could be with us today
12 so I will give you a brief update on what we know about
13 the Teshekpuk Herd.
14

15 Due to some concerns for potential oil
16 and gas development in the Teshekpuk Herd's calving and
17 insect relief areas we have continued to maintain a very
18 intensive program of collaring Teshekpuk animals. And we
19 just added 12 new global positioning system collars on
20 the Teshekpuk Herd this July and another 16 traditional
21 satellite collars, if you will. Both the old fashion
22 satellite collars and the GPS collars use satellites but
23 they use a different satellite system and they obtain
24 locations of the caribou in different ways. We now have
25 a total of I think 47 satellite collars and 12 of the old
26 traditional VHF radio collars on Teshekpuk animals so we
27 have a fairly intensive effort of looking at the
28 distribution of that herd.
29

30 Right now, if you're interested, that
31 herd's scattered pretty broadly between the Colville
32 River and all the way west to Atkasuk and beyond and we
33 don't have any collared animals as far west as Wainwright
34 but there could be some members of the herd over there.
35 But they're pretty widely scattered there and should be
36 available to at least the villages of Nuiqsut and Barrow
37 and Atkasuk right now, especially Atkasuk.
38

39 Last spring when Geoff did his short
40 yearling counts, which is an effort to look at winter
41 survival of caribou calves, he counted 19 short yearlings
42 per every 100 adults, which is a pretty good calf
43 survival so the calves did well over this last winter.
44

45 In June of 2006 he -- during calving
46 surveys he counted 88 out of 100 cows as being pregnant
47 and by the end of the calving period there were 82 calves
48 per 100 cows, so that's a pretty good calving success.
49 Some of the calves didn't survive for very long but
50 that's normal and to have 82 calves per 100 cows at the

1 end of the calving period is really great so we seem to
2 be in pretty good shape that way.

3
4 There was an intent to do a photo census
5 of the three eastern most herds, the Porcupine Caribou
6 Herd, the Central Arctic Herd and the Teshekpuk Herd this
7 summer. Unfortunately with the cool weather, the insect
8 harassment was at a pretty low level and the caribou did
9 not aggregate as normal and in the normal places and so
10 none of those three photo censuses was conducted. We do
11 think it's important to do them simultaneously because of
12 that immigration among herds that -- I mentioned earlier
13 if we get one one year and another one another year and
14 another one a third, we don't really know how many are
15 moving back and forth and the ones that really like their
16 pictures taken I guess might run over and get in the next
17 herd for the next year but anyway.....

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 DR. YOKEL:we'll continue to try to
22 do that effort next year.

23
24 The last photo census for the Teshekpuk
25 Herd I believe was in 2002 when there were about 45,000
26 animals. But in the following winter, like I said, about
27 a third of them moved over near Kaktovik in the winter
28 and there was a pretty large die-off as a result of that
29 move.

30
31 So that covers what I wanted to cover
32 with caribou. We talked -- because of that closure
33 proposal that came up earlier, you briefly discussed
34 moose in 26(A). We changed the moose regulations because
35 the moose were starting to come back on the North Slope
36 and they met the Fish and Game's population goals,
37 although they weren't back to the levels they were in
38 early 1990s. This spring Geoff conducted his trend count
39 of 26(A) moose and there were not quite as few as there
40 were the year previous, however, one year of data do not
41 make a trend so we cannot say with any confidence at this
42 point that the moose population is on the way back down.
43 I think we should be comfortable with where we are right
44 now with our hunting regulations based on the moose
45 numbers.

46
47 And then also there was some discussion
48 from Rosemary earlier today about fisheries around
49 Nuiqsut and the impacts on fisheries from oilfield
50 infrastructure creating barriers in streams through lack

1 of culverts or improperly placed culverts or whatever.
2 There's no doubt that the oil industry has made some
3 mistakes in the 30-plus years that it's been working on
4 the North Slope. There's been an effort to learn from
5 those mistakes. The Department of Natural -- State
6 Department of Natural Resources people who prior worked
7 for Department of Fish and Game in its Division of
8 Habitat have learned a lot. The oil industry has learned
9 a lot. And if we have development in the NPR-A, we
10 intend to benefit from what has been learned and try to
11 build roads in ways that do not create barriers to fish,
12 and we do also intend to monitor the effects of any
13 development on fish and we are in the early stages now of
14 developing a monitoring program for fisheries in the NPR-
15 A, or monitoring the impacts of oil and gas development
16 on fisheries in the NPR-A.

17
18 Okay, now I want to turn to -- and
19 interrupt me at any time if there are any questions on
20 any of this.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 DR. YOKEL: As far as our planning within
25 the NPR-A, you're aware that we are currently involved in
26 a plan for what we refer to as the South NPR-A. The
27 scoping for the South NPR-A plan was conducted from July
28 through September of 2005, over a year ago now. That
29 occurred in 14 villages, seven of the eight villages on
30 the North Slope were included and seven villages in the
31 Northwest Arctic and Seward Penn region, and also in
32 Fairbanks and Anchorage. We wrote the draft chapter of
33 the EIS this winter as far as describing the environment
34 in the area of the South NPR-A, the next step would be to
35 develop the alternatives for the plan. But the decision
36 was made to include the North Slope Borough as a
37 cooperating agency in this plan and cooperating agency
38 under the definition of the National Environmental Policy
39 Act, and the Borough is going to conduct scoping meetings
40 again with its own methodologies and those are coming up
41 just this month and it will be in the same villages
42 again. And then the Borough is going to develop a
43 community-based alternative or something similar, I'm not
44 sure how -- or in what form it will come to BLM or how
45 the BLM will use it, but that effort is underway with the
46 Borough as a cooperator on this plan.

47
48 Next bit of news is that we are holding
49 our next lease sale right now. The bids are scheduled to
50 be opened on the 27th of this month, so that will be the

1 second lease sale for the Northwest NPR-A and the third
2 sale for the Northeast NPR-A and, of course, the biggest
3 thing in the news about this one is now the areas north
4 and east of Teshekpuk Lake will be available for sale at
5 this time. The Secretary of the Interior, when he was
6 just up here last week stated his intent to go forward
7 with that sale. There will be over 8 million acres
8 offered. If you're interested you can go to the BLM
9 Alaska web site and you can find the links to information
10 about the sale and you can see where the areas are that
11 are available for sale. I printed these off of the
12 internet right before I came up the other day.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Dave, what color is
15 the.....

16

17 DR. YOKEL: The orange ones are the ones
18 that are available for lease, the green ones were sold in
19 previous lease sales, and the yellow is unavailable in
20 this sale.

21

22 You can look at these later. Somebody
23 can have them if they want, but they're available to
24 everybody on the internet.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just a quick question.
27 In terms of the conditions or stipulations that are
28 placed for the north and east lease sale of Teshekpuk,
29 how are they comparable to what was placed on the
30 previous lease sales?

31

32 DR. YOKEL: Well, of course we have
33 completed the Northeast, the amended Northeast plan,
34 completed in, I think, of December '04 or January of '05,
35 the final EIS came out and then the Record of Decision
36 for that came out this last January in 2006. So in the
37 Northeast, any stipulations on that -- that are part of
38 that lease sale will come from that Record of Decision.
39 So as you can see on this map, if you get up closer to
40 it, there are seven very large lease tracts that will be
41 offered for sale in that area north of Teshekpuk Lake,
42 and one of the stipulations is that any development
43 within one of these large lease tracts would have no more
44 than a total of 300 acre footprint, gravel footprint.
45 That doesn't include pipelines which nowadays don't have
46 a gravel access road next to them usually.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

49

50 DR. YOKEL: So there are several

1 stipulations included in that lease sale and generally
2 you should be familiar with them because they came out in
3 that Record of Decision and had been pretty well
4 discussed for a year before that.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Another question, Dave.
7 What about the lake itself?

8
9 DR. YOKEL: The lake itself is not
10 available for lease in this sale.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

13
14 DR. YOKEL: That was one of the decisions
15 in the Record of Decision. I think it was perhaps
16 deferred for 10 years.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

19
20 DR. YOKEL: And if the Federal government
21 chose to make the lease available for sale after that
22 deferral period, I couldn't tell you now whether or not
23 that would involve another environmental impact
24 statement.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. All right,
27 thank you.

28
29 DR. YOKEL: And as far as exploration
30 activity in the NPR-A this coming winter, both FEX, which
31 is a Canadian oil company and ConocoPhillips are doing
32 staking and summer studies in the NPR-A this summer in
33 preparation for drilling, however, we have not yet
34 received any applications for permit to drill. We know
35 of where their proposed locations are but those plans
36 often change right up to the last minute. We expect to
37 see some drilling in the NPR-A this winter and FEX, at
38 least, and probably ConocoPhillips have made their
39 intentions aware -- made the press aware of their
40 intentions so this stuff has been in the news.

41
42 As far as seismic exploration in the NPR-
43 A this winter, PGS onshore has come to us with the
44 information that they intend to have a seismic operation
45 in the NPR-A but they haven't sent their application into
46 us yet so we don't know where in the NPR-A it is. There
47 could be other proposals for seismic as well, we haven't
48 received any or heard of any from any other companies.
49 I just heard on the news this morning, I think, while I
50 was eating breakfast that there might be a merger between

1 Veritas, which is one of the companies that's active up
2 in the NPR-A and a French geophysical company, so I don't
3 know if that will happen or if it will have any effect.

4

5 But anyway that's what I had to say for
6 wildlife and planning and exploration activities in the
7 NPR-A.

8

9 If you have any other questions I'd be
10 happy to try to answer them.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

17

18 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: For Nuiqsut, we are
19 going to have changes continuing to occur into the areas
20 that we use for traditional and cultural use activities.
21 Understanding the full effects may take years to
22 understand from various developments. We've provided
23 comments and concerns about migratory routes that have
24 been altered. We're very concerned about the melt water
25 site and the effects that are continuing to occur with
26 our village and harvesting caribou that used to come
27 through that area and are diverted along the coast and
28 don't get back to us. Activities that are going to occur
29 around the Northeast area are concerning to us because
30 it's the last area in many perspective minds to harvest
31 during the summertime as the animals move further inland
32 then that's the area we tend to follow in attempting to
33 harvest.

34

35 Our distances for harvest have greatly
36 increased. The number of hunts have increased, the level
37 of harvest has been more difficult. So these are
38 cumulative effects that really need to be assessed as
39 these processes are continuing.

40

41 We've got so much land that's opened
42 already. There's current leases that are in existence.
43 We don't know what will happen from these existing leases
44 currently, we can't effectively plan. But when we first
45 started planning for Alpine, 14 acres turned into so many
46 more acres so fast within five years we could not
47 effectively plan the reaction our community would face.
48 Fully informed presentations need to occur. We need to
49 understand what are the full field development
50 possibilities that may occur in order to be fully

1 informed and these processes that are occurring.
2 Limiting those informations in the early process severely
3 impact us as we are looking at the full picture of
4 participation, communication, interaction and the
5 cumulative effects. The breakdown into the various areas
6 of the sales that have occurred have been very conducive
7 to the agencies in breaking them down. You can put Staff
8 towards one section, you can put Staff towards another
9 section. But the village has to deal with all of these
10 various people. We have to deal with all of the various
11 companies that are coming out to us. We have to deal
12 with all of the various people that are often new people
13 coming out and we are constantly reeducating of our
14 concerns that are occurring over decades and that's very
15 difficult for us and our times that have occurred. There
16 is so much area that was traditional use area that is no
17 longer being used. And for our community, the few areas
18 we have left and the successful areas that are not
19 impacted by outside activities are so little. The value
20 for our families in these traditional activities are
21 hindered. It's very difficult to work with the young
22 people.

23
24 I took 15 different kids out to my fish
25 camp. It's very important for them to learn traditional
26 means and methods of harvesting. I could teach them
27 about fishing but I couldn't teach them about caribou
28 because of the activities around us greatly hindered
29 harvesting to allow me to teach them how to cut, how to
30 prepare and preserve our foods. So all of these factors
31 are important. Continuing to communicate are very
32 important.

33
34 For me, on this Board, it's very
35 difficult for me to consider continuing because of the
36 changes and the effectiveness for our participation.
37 We're limited to just the pickdunes around us now for
38 Federal lands. That's not a large area for us to be
39 effective in submitting communications and comments and
40 concerns.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

43
44 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: So it affects our
45 value for participating on this Board. It's been very
46 difficult for us to recruit to get an alternate to take
47 on this role. It's a reality of what we're facing. We
48 may not get that participation. But if we can't get
49 representation, getting key commenting is still very
50 important. Because we are very divided out there in the

1 community. Our levels of participation are occurring in
2 many realms and the effectiveness of our participation
3 has to be assessed at this point and that's where we're
4 at in our community.

5
6 But it was important for us to take some
7 time to try to participate and communicate and present
8 some of these concerns, and participation will occur in
9 other avenues. But making sure on the various levels of
10 communicating concerns that are relevant, whether it be
11 NPR-A or whichever of these various areas, assimilating
12 the information is very important. And as you go through
13 your process look at ways to improve the facilitation of
14 getting the appropriate concerns to the right arena so
15 that it's effective and receiving the level of concern
16 that we're trying to perceive.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
21 Dr. Yokel, did you have anything else to bring out?

22
23 DR. YOKEL: No, Mr. Chair, I didn't hear
24 a question from Rosemary so I don't have any response.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments or
27 questions from Council. Paul.

28
29 MR. BODFISH: I was sad to see that
30 you're going to be selling the Northeast portion of the
31 Teshekpuk Lake which is a staging area, a natural staging
32 area for predator/prey animals and all the migratory
33 birds which are now at this moment staging at the
34 Teshekpuk area, all around it, before they head south.
35 I'm pretty unhappy to see that they're going to be doing
36 their exploration or drilling in that area.

37
38 And the other one was right in the Dease
39 Inlet area or Admiralty Bay there is an oil seepage on
40 one of the old test wells which is infringing on our
41 fisheries that enter into the Aliktak (ph), Chip River,
42 maybe Kikiakrorak River fisheries, all the fish that do
43 enter into that area are in jeopardy. And it's kind of
44 sad to see that industry does not really care, even
45 though we have said in the years before that these are
46 our critical hunting areas and, yet, they go directly to
47 where we don't want them to go even though they have all
48 this open country that they could explore before they --
49 and they could actually go there and use that as a last
50 resort to do their exploratory drilling or their what not.

1 That's my comment.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul. Any
4 other comments or questions from the Council.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have none. Thank
9 you, Dr. Yokel.
10
11 DR. YOKEL: Thank you.
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let's see what we have
14 next.
15
16 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Park Service is not
17 here.
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: National Park Service
20 is not here. Sandy didn't make it in.
21
22 Other business. Agenda Item 13 is
23 Council charter and it's on Page 51 in your booklets.
24
25 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair and Council
26 members.
27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Cliff.
29
30 MR. EDENSHAW: On Page 51 is the North
31 Slope's charter. And this charter can be renewed every
32 two years so this is 2006, and so if the Council so
33 desires they can look through on Page 51 and 52 and if
34 they would like something amended or changed in this
35 charter they may do so and the recommendations from the
36 Council would be forwarded, along with the other nine
37 Councils to the Secretary of Interior and Agriculture for
38 consideration. And if the Council has no recommended
39 suggested changes that language will be forwarded,
40 collectively with the other nine.
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: For several meetings we
43 addressed this charter issue and we've raised the issue
44 about stipends or compensation and I'm not sure where or
45 if those suggested changes have been addressed or not.
46 I know there was a request to increase the stipends, I
47 think that was something I may have brought up before and
48 I don't recall it being addressed or anything, whether it
49 was increased or not.
50

1 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. They weren't
2 increased.
3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: They were not?
5
6 MR. EDENSHAW: No.
7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, thank you. Any
9 comments or questions in terms of the Council charter.
10
11 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chair.
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Julius.
14
15 MR. REXFORD: Yeah. Are we allowed to
16 have an alternate from each village or is that not in the
17 charter?
18
19 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. Mr. Rexford.
20 A number of years ago individual Councils, I'm not sure
21 if this one had alternates in the past -- they had
22 alternates -- well, they phased that out after the 70/30
23 rule was implemented so that we eliminated alternates.
24 So the short answer is, no, today we don't have
25 alternates for any of the other -- this Council or the
26 other nine.
27
28 And, Mr. Rexford, if you were to submit
29 a recommendation that you would like alternates you could
30 do that and I could look into my crystal ball and tell
31 you where it would go but I just know that those were
32 phased out after the Council sizes were increased.
33
34 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Helen.
37
38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Perhaps I could just
39 add a little bit more to that. The reason why they
40 phased it out, too, is because the feeling is, is that
41 they want the Councils to be fully engaged and to really
42 understand the issues and to understand the program. And
43 having alternates wasn't always a successful idea because
44 people would then come to the meeting who don't normally
45 come and so they wanted to make sure that people were
46 engaged, wanted to be here, knew what was going on.
47
48 So it has made it more difficult for this
49 Council however to have a quorum because we used to use
50 the alternates as a way to have a quorum fulfilled.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Does that help answer
2 your question, Julius?
3
4 MR. REXFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair.
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any other
7 comments from the Council. Rosemary.
8
9 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: This Board has
10 definitely had difficulties in getting some of the
11 participants in for meetings. That makes it very
12 difficult for us to get a quorum. I really appreciate
13 those that have taken the effort to get here and
14 participate. The dedication to do so allows us to act
15 within the timeframe that allows us to deal with
16 information that's been received.
17
18 When we put things off we run into
19 difficulties of timelines and deadlines, and getting
20 effective commenting in within a period. We may not be
21 able to do so if we don't get to act. We have some
22 positions that have missed, we need to consider doing
23 what we need to do within those positions that have
24 missed. If they're not going to make it, getting people
25 in to allow us to progress is important.
26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.
28
29 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.
30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for your
32 comments, Rosemary.
33
34 Any other comments from the Council. Dr.
35 Yokel.
36
37 DR. YOKEL: I have a question, I guess
38 it's for the Fish and Wildlife Service Staff, but since
39 there's been so much discussion about a quorum today, I
40 don't think a quorum is mentioned in the charter and if
41 I'm correct, I'm wondering then where is the requirement
42 for and the definition of a quorum mentioned?
43
44 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.
45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Cliff.
47
48 MR. EDENSHAW: To answer Mr. Yokel's
49 question, that's implied in the Robert Rules of Order.
50 The charter establishes 10 members and in order for this

1 Council to conduct business they need a quorum and in
2 Robert Rules of Order that's six out of 10. And so the
3 short answer is it's implied in the Robert Rules of
4 Order. This Council and all other nine follow the Robert
5 Rules of Order so there's 10 members in this Council
6 so.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did that help answer
9 your question, Dr. Yokel?

10
11 DR. YOKEL: Well, yes, Mr. Chairman, that
12 is an answer to the question. But normally something
13 that goes so far as a cabinet member for approval and has
14 regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations imprinted
15 in the Federal Register usually is more explicit than
16 having it understood that Robert Rules of Orders are the
17 rules that apply to the group. So it's a little bit
18 surprising that it was left that loose.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further comments in
21 terms of the charter.

22
23 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair and Council
24 members.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Cliff.

27
28 MR. EDENSHAW: If the Council so has --
29 if they don't have any suggested recommendations for
30 language in there when we go back to Anchorage we'll just
31 go ahead and say no recommended changes and it will come
32 back to the Council in two years again.

33
34 It's almost just like a general record
35 keeping thing where these are reviewed every two years.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. What's the
38 wish of the Council.

39
40 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

43
44 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: On the North Slope we
45 are having a lot of difficulty in getting participation.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

48
49 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Compensation may be a
50 deciding factor. We have so few opportunities to receive

1 compensation for participation and when you're looking at
2 trying to just make ends meet, you know, taking your main
3 provider for your family out of the village is taking
4 them away from both subsistence and wage bearing. We're
5 volunteering to participate. It needs to be considered.
6 If there's a way to develop compensation to recognize
7 that this is something, we're giving up a lot in the
8 various realms of participation. We've maxed out on what
9 we can continue to give. It is hardship that some of us
10 face.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

13

14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I've been unemployed
15 (ph) most of the summer, it's hard for me to get here.
16 I came with no dollars in my pocket. It's so important
17 for me to participate. There's been many meetings where
18 I've come with no dollars in my pocket but it's a choice
19 I give to make sure we get some words in from Nuiqsut,
20 not everyone can give that. I have extended family that
21 take care of me until we get a compensation -- when we
22 actually start the meeting. So some people face serious
23 hardships to participate and it shouldn't be like that.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for your
28 comments Rosemary.

29

30 Any other comments from the Council.

31

32 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Cliff.

35

36 MR. EDENSHAW: In the past, you know,
37 this issue had came up and, you know, prior to the FACA
38 -- when we started adhering to the Federal Advisory
39 Committee Act, which is what FACA means.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

42

43 MR. EDENSHAW: And I'm sure the Chair has
44 been involved, there used to be -- and this is just a
45 little background for Rosemary, but a number of years ago
46 before we started adhering to FACA's regulations, the 10
47 Chairs used to meet regularly prior to the wildlife
48 meeting in May and this issue came up and the issue had
49 been pushed all the way to the Secretary and, of course,
50 they have strict, you know, whatever you want to call

1 them, just regulations in regards to volunteers and how
2 much they should be compensated, and certainly your issue
3 in regards to attracting individuals from the communities
4 to participate, at least submit their applications to be
5 considered for appointment to the Councils, we heard
6 numer -- certainly that issue and numerous other issues
7 that were brought up in terms of compensation for
8 volunteers and, of course, the Secretaries, you know, it
9 didn't get any support.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

12

13 MR. EDENSHAW:in terms of
14 increasing compensation.

15

16 And certainly this Council and any other
17 can certainly submit another request if they so desire
18 to. But I know that prior to the OSM adhering more to
19 FACA the issue had been discussed amongst all 10 Chairs
20 and the request had gone through to the Federal
21 Subsistence Board which was forwarded to the Secretary of
22 Interior and we knew the answer that they weren't going
23 to make any changes to compensation for volunteers.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Cliff.
26 What's the wish of the Council, I don't think we're
27 making any headway in trying to make changes to the
28 charter.

29

30 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The two issues are to
33 remain status quo or not to take any action.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think the first
38 suggestion might be the one we may want to continue, just
39 to remain status quo with the charter. I don't think we
40 have any big -- the problems that we bring out don't seem
41 to get anywhere in terms of compensation.

42

43 I think the other one I pointed out this
44 morning was in terms of the participation, removal of
45 memberships, and we've had several meetings and the same
46 people don't seem to come to the meetings and we need
47 representations from these communities to effectively
48 make decisions on the issues that we're dealing with in
49 terms of subsistence so I think that needs to be
50 considered by Federal agencies as to who are going

1 through the process of selecting the membership.
2
3 I think just to note that from me. It's
4 just getting harder and harder it seems like to try and
5 get a quorum together and our timeframe is being
6 shortened to a day meeting, it's not helping at all. And
7 then we have weather problems out here and it's something
8 beyond our control.
9
10 So my suggestion would be just to remain
11 status quo for the time being unless you have any other
12 recommendations or suggestions from the Council.
13
14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Status quo.
15
16 MR. BODFISH: Status quo.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do we need to take it
19 in the form of an action item, Cliff, in terms of whether
20 the changes to be noted -- I don't think we made any
21 changes, it's just that.....
22
23 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, no, I didn't
24 hear you or the Council make any suggestions and stuff
25 and so I could just forward -- if the Council, if they
26 collectively agree with you, that we'll just go ahead and
27 submit the charter, status quo, remain as is.
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any other
30 business.
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, one, thanks to
35 Cliff.
36
37 (Laughter)
38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: While we're under other
40 business, Rosemary, I got a little certification of
41 appreciation to present to you since you've indicated
42 that it's going to be your last meeting and we need to
43 present it while you're here.
44
45 (Laughter)
46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So I'll take this time
48 in presenting this plaque. We have a plaque for you and
49 it says:
50

1 Certificate of Appreciation presented to
2 Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak in recognition of
3 your contributions to the Federal
4 Subsistence Management Program as a
5 member of the North Slope Federal
6 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
7 2002 through 2006, and it's got the
8 Federal Subsistence Board.....
9
10 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, thank you for your
13 service, Rosemary, thank you very much.
14
15 It's one of the first certifications I've
16 given out since I've been here.
17
18 (Laughter)
19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been a long time,
21 so thank you Rosemary for all your services that you've
22 provided to this Council.
23
24 (Applause)
25
26 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: It's been a real
27 educating factor to participate on this Board. I've
28 learned a lot from the various presentations, working
29 with the various villages and the leadership that comes
30 from the participants on this Board has greatly enabled
31 me to be a more effective participant in our village. If
32 we had more Federal lands around Nuiqsut I would consider
33 more time on this Board. But time is of the essence in
34 this day and age, there's a lot going on, and choosing
35 the level of participation is important.
36
37 So I appreciate all the efforts to be
38 here, all the people that we interact with, all the
39 sharing that has come. I need to be out and do something
40 else, for myself at this point in my life, I've limited
41 what I'm choosing to participate in and it's good for me
42 to do this for myself and my family and I appreciate
43 everything I've gained from here.
44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Helen.
46
47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, if I could
48 just add a personal note that I really appreciated having
49 Rosemary on the Council, and I think she was a great
50 addition and we're really sorry to lose her and it also

1 should be noted that she is the first woman who's been on
2 this Council and she's done a very, very fine job, and I
3 think you all should be really proud.

4
5 I wish you well. I hope -- I expect that
6 you will be carrying the torch on other issues quite
7 well.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you. I will
12 definitely participate in the avenues I choose to
13 participate in, I'm just limiting various levels of
14 participation.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Again, thank you,
19 Rosemary. Anyone else.

20
21 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Cliff.

24
25 MR. EDENSHAW: I just wanted to also add
26 on to what Helen said, we'll all be sorry to see Rosemary
27 leave but perhaps you know other individuals because
28 proximity of Federal lands, even though you say that
29 that's the deciding factor for you, I'm sure there are
30 other individuals from your community -- you know we have
31 an individual on the Kodiak/Aleutians who lives in St.
32 Paul and there aren't any Federal -- you know he doesn't
33 have an opportunity to go on to Federal land to hunt
34 caribou, they harvest reindeer and birds and a lot of
35 ground fish and stuff out there but we would just
36 encourage you if you know other individuals who reside in
37 your community who are interested to apply for the
38 Council.

39
40 And I just wanted to add that, thank you.

41
42 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: All right. We are
43 actively encouraging for the last year and we will
44 continue to continue to encourage and if Harry keeps us
45 informed of the status we'll work diligently until we can
46 get this position filled.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

1 Thank you, Cliff.
2
3 MR. EDENSHAW: Time and place, Mr. Chair,
4 Page 55.
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I just want to
7 reminder, there's a reminder in the packet for the
8 Council members -- Council members of the North Slope, a
9 note from Barb, just a reminder your terms are up this
10 year for 2007, if you continue to be interested to serve
11 as a Council member please fill out the application and
12 fax it or mail it, mail it in this fall when nomination
13 period opens. And the members that are listed under the
14 North Slope are Julius Rexford, Paul Bodfish, Sr., Baxter
15 Hopson and Ray Koonuk, Sr., so you folks need to be aware
16 that your terms are going to be ending as of 2007 and
17 your applications, if you're still interested, please
18 submit them this fall.
19
20 Okay, we have our next agenda item is
21 next meeting, confirm March 1 and 2, 2007 in Barrow.
22
23 Confirmed.
24
25 (Laughter)
26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Establish date and
28 place of fall 2007 meeting, and the calendar's on Page
29 55.
30
31 I think we should make that decision with
32 our larger participants of our Council and that March 1
33 and 2, we'll still work with that calendar date, it seems
34 to be okay, uh, Paul.
35
36 MR. BODFISH: (Nods affirmatively)
37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: David.
39
40 MR. GUNDERSON: (Nods affirmatively)
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: March 1 and 2.
43 Establish date and place for fall 2007. 2007. We have
44 opening date from August 28th, the last date is October
45 18th, I think. September 3 is a holiday.
46
47 What's the wish of the Council.
48
49 MR. BODFISH: 28th, 29th August.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: 28th, 29th August.
2
3 Sold to the highest bidder.
4
5 (Laughter)
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiat) 28, 29
8 August okay.
9
10 (Council nods affirmatively)
11
12 MR. EDENSHAW: Here in Barrow, Mr. Chair?
13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.
15
16 MR. BODFISH: No, in Hawaii.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh.
19
20 (Laughter)
21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll hold that
23 tentatively, Cliff.
24
25 MR. EDENSHAW: All right.
26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: 28, 29 August 2007.
28 Since we have those identified, Item 15 is adjournment.
29
30 MR. BODFISH: So moved.
31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So moved.
33
34 MR. REXFORD: Second.
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Second. All in favor
37 signify by saying aye.
38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.
40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And thank you all for
42 being here and spending time with us today. Have a safe
43 trip home.
44
45 (Off record)
46
47 (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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Joseph P. Kolasinski
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