

NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
September 9, 1998
9:00 a.m.
Arctic Slope Regional Corporation Building
Barrow, Alaska

VOLUME I

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Fenton Rexford, Chair
Benjamin Hopson, Vice Chair
Harry Brower, Jr., Secretary
Terry L. Tagarook
Gordon Upicksoun
Paul Bodfish
Mike Patkotak
Gordon R. Brower, Sr.
Charles F. Hopson

Barbara Armstrong, Coordinator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2
3 (On record - 9:12 a.m.)

4
5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Good morning, everyone. I'll call
6 the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Meeting
7 to order at 9:12. I want to welcome everyone here.

8
9 Before we get started, we just want to review who's
10 here, have a roll call and establish a quorum to commence
11 business. Harry, do you want to call the roll, please?

12
13 MR. H. BROWER: Fenton Rexford?

14
15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Here.

16
17 MR. H. BROWER: Terry Tagarook?

18
19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Terry will be in later this morning
20 on the morning flight, so he'll be here.

21
22 MR. H. BROWER: Gordon Upicksoun?

23
24 MR. UPICKSOUN: Here.

25
26 MR. H. BROWER: Ben Hopson?

27
28 MR. B. HOPSON: Here.

29
30 MR. H. BROWER: Paul Bodfish?

31
32 MR. BODFISH: Here.

33
34 MR. H. BROWER: Ray Koonuk?

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ray called, and will not be
37 attending.

38
39 MR. H. BROWER: Okay.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Excused absence.

42
43 MR. H. BROWER: Leonard Tukle?

44
45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Leonard was -- he left a message
46 that he was weathered in at Cross Island, so his attempt to get
47 here did not go, so he has an excused absence.

48
49 MR. H. BROWER: Mike Patkotak?

50

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1 MR. PATKOTAK: Here.

2

3 MR. H. BROWER: Charlie Hopson's here as an alternate,
4 Mr. Chairman. We have a quorum. I'm here. Harry Brower is
5 here.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

8

9 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, is Ray excused? Did he
10 call?

11

12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, Ray is excused, there was a
13 medical.....

14

15 MR. UPICKSOUN: He's not absent, he's excused?

16

17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah. Medical reason.

18

19 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: For his immediate family, so he has
22 an excused absence.

23

24 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: And that's no problem with the rest
27 of the Council? We'll excuse Leonard and Ray. Is there any
28 objection to excusing them?

29

30 MR. UPICKSOUN: No objection, Mr. Chairman.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: No objection, okay. Thank you.

33

34 There is a quorum as Harry stated. We have seven
35 members out of nine at this time. We have alternates. This
36 year we're -- we want to take advantage of having alternates,
37 and Gordon Brower, Sr., was selected to be first our first
38 alternate from Brower, as well as Charlie Hopson. So they'll
39 have the voting. They'll be able to vote along with us, so you
40 have the voting capability as a member as an alternate.

41

42 Before I get started, my name is Fenton Rexford for
43 those that don't know me. I'm from Kaktovik. And we'll maybe
44 start introducing ourselves. We have a new member that's with
45 us, seat number 6, Paul Bodfish. He's from Atqasuk. We have
46 Mike Patkotak, our new member. And maybe we'll just go around
47 the table here. We have Gordon Upicksoun.

48

49 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, I was glad to see the
50 alternate, Charles and Mike and Gordon -- Gordon and Charles as

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1 alternates. I was glad to see their names on the -- as
2 alternates, and I welcome you, Mike, as a member, and Paul.
3 I'm from Point Lay. Good morning.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Gordon. Harry Brower?

6

7 MR. H. BROWER: Morning. My name is Harry Brower, I'm
8 representing Barrow. And I also welcome all the new members
9 and alternate members to the Regional Advisory Council. Thank
10 you.

11

12 MR. B. HOPSON: And my name's Ben Hopson, Jr., from
13 Anaktuvuk Pass. And I'd like to welcome the new members and
14 new alternate members also.

15

16 MR. BODFISH: My name is Paul Bodfish. I'm a new
17 member from Atqasuk to this council.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: The gentleman in the back there,
20 Ken?

21

22 MR. ADKISON: Ken Adkison with the National Park
23 Service in Nome and Kotzebue.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Good morning, Ken.

26

27 MR. ADKISON: Good morning.

28

29 MS. DOWNING: Meredith Downing with R & R Court
30 Reporters in Anchorage.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: She'll let us know if we're not
33 speaking loud enough or something. So she's our court
34 reporter.

35

36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong, anthropologist for
37 Subsistence at Fish and Wildlife.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: She's in the Anchorage office,
40 Subsistence Management Office down there. Again, she's the
41 anthropologist. Rosa?

42

43 MS. MEEHAN: Rosa Meehan. I'm in the Subsistence
44 Office, and I work with the anthropologists and biologists.
45 And this empty seat here is Donna Dewhurst, and she had a
46 family issue she had to deal with last night, but she'll be in
47 on the plane this morning. And she apologizes in abstencia for
48 not being here at the start of the meeting.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

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1 MS. MEEHAN: But she'll make it here.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. Thank you, Rosa. Go in
4 the back there? Oh, I'm sorry, Mike.
5
6 MR. GOODWIN: Willie Goodwin, Chair for Northwest
7 Arctic.
8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Nice to meet you. Nice to see you.
10
11 MR. BEVINGTON: Dan Bevington with the North Slope
12 Borough GIS, the mapping office.
13
14 MR. YOKEL: Good morning. I'm Dave Yokel with the
15 Bureau of Land Management in Fairbanks.
16
17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: And, Mike?
18
19 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah, I'm Mike Patkotak, a new appointed
20 member. I took Edward Itta's seat. I'm here to be with you.
21 Willing to go. I'm excited at the opportunity to serve the
22 Arctic Slope Community, and willing to learn the ropes. I'm
23 excited to be part of this subsistence board that's so
24 important to our livelihood.
25
26 MR. C. HOPSON: I'm Charles Hopson from Barrow. I'm an
27 alternate. I'm an alternate for Barrow or to.....
28
29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: No, for the whole region.
30
31 MR. C. HOPSON: For the whole region, okay.
32
33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: For the region. One of the missing,
34 either Ray or Leonard, so -- thank you, Charlie. Barbara?
35
36 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I'm Barbara Armstrong, coordinator
37 for North Slope Regional Advisory Council, and also Northwest
38 Arctic.
39
40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you. And I'll just have
41 Willie explain again what -- we'll be keeping our ears open.
42 We usually have a chance for people to say things about issues
43 that affect North Slope neighbors, and feel free to jump in
44 there when we get to certain topics. We ask for anyone to make
45 comments. This council provides an opportunity for any issue
46 along the agenda they want to make comments on those certain
47 issues, whatever they may be. So I want to welcome Willie
48 Goodwin. Again, he's the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional
49 Advisory Council chairman. Region 9 is that, I guess that's --
50 what region is that, Barbara? We're Region 10.

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1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Region 8.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Region 8. So, Willie, do you want
4 to say something?

5

6 MR. GOODWIN: No, I just came up to see how yours
7 operates. I know how we operate.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. All right. Thank you. All
10 right. Did I miss anyone or -- again, there will be some more
11 folks coming in on the morning flight that will join us.

12

13 Okay. Mr. Hopson was asking who he was substituting
14 for. Leonard will probably be trying to make it in from
15 Nuiqsut, so Ray cannot make it. Ray Koonuk from Point Hope, so
16 you'll be filling his seat, or voting in his place, so we'll
17 keep that Leonard Tukle option open in case he gets here. So
18 you'll be sitting in for Ray, okay?

19

20 MR. C. HOPSON: Okay.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. If nothing else, we'll
23 move along to Number 4, review and adopt the agenda. Do we
24 have any new items we need to delete, or make any changes to
25 the yellow sheet? There's two -- either two pages or one page
26 that might be in your packet there. Do you want to take a
27 minute to review the agenda, and the Chair will entertain a
28 motion to adopt.

29

30 MR. H. BROWER: So move, Mr. Chairman.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Harry moved to adopt the
33 minutes.....

34

35 MR. UPICKSOUN: Second.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:I mean the agenda. And
38 seconded by Gordon. Discussion on the agenda? Any of the
39 staff or.....

40

41 MS. MEEHAN: Mr. Chairman, one minor change, and under
42 new business, Sue Detwiler is listed as giving reports, and I
43 will be giving those.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. So in her place, agency 1.B,
46 C, and D?

47

48 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Will be Rosa Meehan.

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1 MS. MEEHAN: And F. F for fisheries.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.
4
5 MR. UPICKSOUN: B, C, and D and F?
6
7 MR. H. BROWER: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)
8
9 MS. MEEHAN: Yes, sir.
10
11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Rosa Meehan will be in place of
12 that, so cross Sue Detwiler's name off and put in Rosa. Okay.
13 Anything else? Any staff?
14
15 MR. B. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman?
16
17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Hopson?
18
19 MR. B. HOPSON: Yes. On number, let's see, number 8,
20 I'm going to be submitting a proposal, and can -- let's see,
21 what's -- under item 10, new business, 5.C., Craig Gardner.
22 Can he speak after me on my proposal?
23
24 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: On wolf relocation program?
25
26 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)
27
28 MR. UPICKSOUN: Don't those new proposal have to come
29 under new business?
30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I think they coincide, so that will
32 be okay.
33
34 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum.
35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: If that's all right with the Council
37 members?
38
39 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?
40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: It would be an issue -- is that the
42 wolf relocation proposal?
43
44 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)
45
46 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.
47
48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.
49
50 MR. B. HOPSON: And he can provide some biological

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1 information.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, we could -- we have room for
4 agencies there under 8.

5

6 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum. Okay.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: 8.2.

9

10 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, what was the first -- the
11 question made, Ben?

12

13 MR. B. HOPSON: To have Craig Gardner speak after me,
14 after my proposal.

15

16 MR. UPICKSOUN: And that would be number four under
17 eight?

18

19 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

20

21 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

22

23 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay.

24

25 MR. B. HOPSON: Or number 3.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: He's with the State?

28

29 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: State of Alaska?

32

33 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

34

35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

36

37 MR. UPICKSOUN: And under 10.5.E, what was that,
38 Mr. Chairman, that Ben requested?

39

40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Oh, to probably just move 5.C,
41 10.5.C to 8.4. Or 8.3. Number 8.3 or four.

42

43 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay.

44

45 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That makes them 8.3.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Make them both 8.3.

48

49 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay.

50

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1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: 8.3.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. Anything else?
4 Everybody understand we've made some -- a couple of minor
5 changes with name, for Sue Detwiler's place will be Rosa. Mr.
6 Hopson wants to move under new business, there's 10.5.C, Craig
7 Gardner's name up to the proposal area. Anything else?

8

9 MR. H. BROWER: Call for the question, Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Question called. All in favor of
12 the adoption of hoe agenda as amended, say aye.

13

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Those opposed, same sign?

17

18 (No opposing votes.)

19

20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Koyanuk. We have -- to item number
21 5, we have before us the review and the adoption of hoe minutes
22 of March 3 and 4, and they're under tab C. I've had an
23 opportunity to review them on hoe way over, and nights before.
24 What is the wish of the Council on reviewing the minutes at
25 this time before we adopt? Do you want to have several moments
26 to review before the adoption, or have you had the opportunity
27 to review them?

28

29 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, our coordinator sent us
30 all this information several weeks ago, and I move to adopt the
31 minutes of hoe March 3 and 4 meeting.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Gordon.

34

35 MR. C. HOPSON: Second.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Seconded by Charlie Hopson.
38 Discussion, changes or corrections that you've noted or seen?
39 I didn't see any. Any comment or question from the Council on
40 the minutes? If you have any questions on any of those issues?

41

42 MR. B. HOPSON: None.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: None? Hearing none?

45

46 MR. H. BROWER: Call for the question.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: The question's called. All in favor
49 of adopting the March 3 and 4, 1998 meeting minutes do so by
50 saying aye?

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1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Those opposed, same sign?

4

5 (No opposing votes.)

6

7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. The minutes of March 3 and 4
8 are adopted. Thank you.

9

10 Brings us to the item number 6, election of officers.
11 It's under tab D, and I'll turn the floor over to Barbara, our
12 coordinator.

13

14 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. You know that every year you
15 have elections, and you understand the procedure pretty much,
16 so I'll get right into it. The floor is open now for
17 nominations for your Chair.

18

19 MR. B. HOPSON: Barbara, I have a question.

20

21 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-hum.

22

23 MR. B. HOPSON: What's the difference between A and B?
24 Chair Coordinator. Is that you?

25

26 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That's me.

27

28 MR. B. HOPSON: Okay.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: She'll be.....

31

32 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: For the Chair,.....

33

34 MR. B. HOPSON: Okay.

35

36 MS. B. ARMSTRONG:just for the.....

37

38 MR. B. HOPSON: Election rules.

39

40 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Just for the election.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Presiding.

43

44 MR. B. HOPSON: Okay.

45

46 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And then as soon as you guys elect
47 the Chair, then you -- then the Chair will take over and get
48 the vice chair and secretary.

49

50 MR. B. HOPSON: Okay. All right.

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1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Harry?

2

3 MR. H. BROWER: Barbara, I'd like to elect Fenton for
4 Chair seat.

5

6 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Fenton has been nominated.
7 Any other nominations?

8

9 MR. UPICKSOUN: Barbara, I ask for unanimous consent
10 for Harry's nomination for Fenton to be our chairman. I ask
11 for unanimous consent.

12

13 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Unanimous consent has been made by
14 Gordon Upicksoun for Fenton. Is there any objection? If not,
15 Fenton, you may take over.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you. Thank you, Gordon. And
18 I'll try my best. I've got one more year on the Council, but
19 I'll be happy to preside as chairman, and I appreciate the
20 confidence of the Council. Quyanak. And I will look forward
21 to working with the rest of you folks.

22

23 Gordon Brower just walked in. Good morning, Gordon.
24 You'll be voting this morning as our council member. Leonard,
25 he left a message, Leonard Tukle was the person that called in
26 saying that he was weathered. Gordon Brower, maybe you can
27 introduce yourself, and do you have anything to say to us this
28 morning before we proceed?

29

30 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Well, thank you very much. I'm
31 honored to be here, and want to participate in things like
32 this. I've been interested in wildlife and things that go
33 around in our newness around here. And I'm very happy just to
34 be here and to be a part of this, and hope I can make use of
35 myself. And I just got excused from jury duty. That's how
36 come I'm late.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. Okay. Thank you,
39 Gordon, welcome.

40

41 MR. UPICKSOUN: Welcome aboard.

42

43 MR. H. BROWER: Welcome, Gordon.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. I'll have to watch
46 myself this morning calling which Gordon, so.....

47

48 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Just call this one Gookie (ph).

49

50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. U or Mr. B. All right. We'll

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1 proceed then on electing the vice chairman. Nominations are
2 open for vice chair.

3

4 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, for the information of
5 new members, Edward Itta was our vice chair. He resigned, so
6 we've gone without a vice chair since his resignation. That's
7 for new members information. Edward Itta was our vice chair
8 right from the start.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah. Ray filled in. Or we
11 nominated Ray to be the vice chair at the spring meeting until
12 we.....

13

14 MR. UPICKSOUN: Until this election.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Until this day, yeah. So the
17 floor's open.

18

19 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman?

20

21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Brower?

22

23 MR. H. BROWER: To elect Gordon Upicksoun for the vice
24 chair's seat.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Gordon Upicksoun nominated. Any
27 other nomination?

28

29 MR. PATKOTAK: Nominate Ben Hopson.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ben Hopson is nominated. Okay. Ask
32 for one more nomin- -- or any more nominations?

33

34 MR. B. HOPSON: Mr. Chair, I make a motion that we
35 close the nominations.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Nomination is closed. Hearing no
38 other nominations for the office of vice chair, I declare them
39 closed. So we have two options: We can either vote by voice
40 or by ballot. What is the wish of hoe Council?

41

42 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, by ballot. Clinton (ph)
43 is my.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

46

47 MR. UPICKSOUN:relative. It would be
48 embarrassing.

49

50 (Laughter)

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. We'll go by ballot. Secret
2 ballot at this time.

3
4 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You guys have the green tags.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: We have the green stick-ems. Vote
7 for either Ben Hopson or Gordon.

8
9 MR. UPICKSOUN: Everyone here, Mr. Chairman, is voting.
10 He's voting for Leonard.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, he's voting.

13
14 MR. UPICKSOUN:and you're voting for Ray?

15
16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Leonard -- yeah. If Leonard comes
17 in, I just want to advise you, Gordon, Mr. Brower, that when
18 Leonard comes in.....

19
20 MR. G. BROWER: I'm back to alternate.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah.

23
24 (Off record conversation)

25
26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. The votes have been
27 submitted. We have the results.

28
29 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That's how you see this, right?

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah.

32
33 (Pause - ballots being counted)

34
35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Four to three. We have
36 Gordon Upicksoun -- oh, no, we have a tie, I'm sorry. We have
37 a tie.

38
39 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: So what do you do?

40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Maybe.....

42
43 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Did you vote?

44
45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah.

46
47 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Terry Tagarook will be -- did -- I
50 just noticed there's some new passengers or new folks -- new

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1 strangers that just walked in. Did you see Terry Tagarook? Do
2 you know Mr. Tagarook?

3
4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I didn't see him, but there were
5 -- some people were coming by cab. So.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Oh, okay.

8
9 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: So we can just hold this off until
10 he gets here then.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah.

13
14 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: We can table it until he gets here.
15 We can wait.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah. I don't know how we'd -- we
18 can now provide an opportunity for these two gentlemen here to
19 make a speech until we can vote again, or wait for Terry
20 Tagarook to come in.

21
22 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

23
24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Gordon? Or, Mr. Upicksoun?

25
26 MR. UPICKSOUN: There's a lot of issues that have been
27 addressed by this subsistence board, and the fact that
28 Anaktuvuk is surrounded by preserves, parks, there's many
29 issues that -- Anaktuvuk is surrounded by -- they've got no
30 land. They have a lot of issues that this board address. I
31 withdraw my name as vice chair and -- withdraw my name from the
32 vice chair. Like I say, we have many issues that this Board
33 addresses, and Ben Hopson has been very much involved with many
34 of the issues that we address, and so I withdraw my name
35 and.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

38
39 MR. UPICKSOUN:have been.....

40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Nominator concur?

42
43 MR. H. BROWER: Yes.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. Is there any objection
46 to that? Do I hear any objection to Gordon Upicksoun
47 withdrawing his name for the office of -- or the seat of vice
48 chairman? Hearing none, I think we'll go with your.....

49
50 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay. Anaktuvuk is surrounding by

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1 everything. They can't hunt, they can't travel, and Ben Hopson
2 has been at the center of many issues, and he would serve very
3 well as our vice chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Gordon.

6

7 MR. B. HOPSON: I'd like to thank Gordon's generosity,
8 and I look forward to working with the Council as vice chair.
9 Thanks.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you.

12

13 MR. H. BROWER: Congratulations, Ben.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. We'll go ahead and
16 proceed to the office of secretary. Serves one-year term.

17

18 MR. C. HOPSON: Nominate Harry Brower.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Nominate Harry Brower by Charlie
21 Hopson. Harry Brower is nominated.

22

23 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, I ask for unanimous
24 consent. Harry Brower has been our secretary since the start
25 of the Regional Subsistence Council. He's been very diligent
26 in his position, and I ask for unanimous consent for Harry
27 Brower as our secretary.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Any objection to unanimous
30 consent for Harry Brower, Jr. for secretary?

31

32 MR. PATKOTAK: No.

33

34 MR. B. HOPSON: No.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Hearing none, so ordered.
37 Congratulations, Harry, you've been voted unanimously as our
38 secretary.

39

40 MR. H. BROWER: Thank you all.

41

42 MR. UPICKSOUN: Congratulations to all of our new
43 officers. Or same officers except for Edward Itta -- we've got
44 a new vice chair, Ben. Congratulations to our new officers.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Upicksoun.
47 That concludes our election of officers. We'll move on down to
48 item number 7.

49

50 (Whispered conversation)

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1 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman?

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Patkotak?

4

5 MR. PATKOTAK: I noticed that Mr. Rossman Peetook from
6 Wainwright is not here today. I know this is probably not an
7 issue addressed by this board, being that polar bears are
8 usually handled by the Polar Bear Commission, but I would like
9 to bring -- I would like to propose that this board send a
10 letter to whoever is a commissioner from this area on the polar
11 bears to make a formal letter from this board to address
12 Mr. Rossman Peetook's concerns about not being able to sell
13 polar bear hides and/or artifact to non-natives into a formal
14 form of making whoever is the Polar Bear Commission
15 representative to bring it forth that we'd like a proposal made
16 by them to bring this before the Federal Subsistence Board or
17 whoever that -- whoever has this concern, to bring it forth to
18 the Board. Because I for one, I know Mr. Rossman Peetook is
19 not the only person to address that issue. There's a lot other
20 people with that same concern. And.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Patkotak, as you recall at our
23 March 3 and 4 meeting, and Rossman is a member of the North
24 Slope Borough Fish and Game Committee, and he did pose a
25 question on proposing discussions at a later date about selling
26 polar bear hide skins in the future as an alternative source of
27 income. There were a couple of answers, or a couple of
28 questions. The other one being from Ray Koonuk, who is the
29 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council member from Point Hope,
30 asked if polar bear hides can be sold to non-locals or whites
31 who are -- non-native who are married to natives. Charlie
32 Brower, D.N. Brower, the Director of Fish and Wildlife Service
33 said that we cannot sell to non-natives even if they are
34 married to a native.

35

36 Mr. Patkotak, your wish to send in a letter to those
37 that are in charge of polar bear hides and sales of polar bear
38 hide, perhaps we can either discuss this now or.....

39

40 MR. UPICKSOUN: We're under -- Mr. Chairman, are we
41 under 7.A., village.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: 7.A., yeah.

44

45 MR. UPICKSOUN:village concerns from all members?
46 I think he's got a valid concern. And, Mr. Chairman, this
47 issue was addressed at the Circumpolar Conference in Greenland.
48 You and Harry may recall, and Barbara, our coordinator, when
49 this issue was brought up regarding the Marine Mammal
50 Protection Act in regard to polar bear. This is an

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1 international issue, and they had concerns in Canada and
2 Greenland in regards to that also. The over-all concern at the
3 meeting in Greenland was the fact that nobody like hoe way our
4 limitations of how we -- what we do with polar bear skins was
5 addressed. And it's all because of the Marine Mammal
6 Protection Act. I don't recall the particulars. Maybe you can
7 recall more than I can what they said about it, especially
8 Canada.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes, there were proposals anyway,
11 and what Gordon was talking about was the Inuit Circumpolar
12 Conference body from Canada and Greenland were wanting to pass
13 a resolution to sell not only polar bear hides but also seal
14 skin on a commercial basis. I think the Alaska delegation from
15 what I heard from them was that we would open up a can of worms
16 if we tried to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act. That's
17 where we got stuck, where we -- where Alaskans I think killed
18 the resolution, or the resolution didn't go before the body.
19 Is that -- it goes up to as far as amending this certain act of
20 Congress. So.....

21
22 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, it's a tough issue. You
23 may recall what happened in Canada, how they used to kill off a
24 whole bunch of seals, especially baby seals because of their
25 fur on Labrador, you know, and it became an international
26 issue. So that is kind of a touchy issue.

27
28 The bottom line in regards to that issue at the Inuit
29 Circumpolar conference was let's not hurt our ability to
30 subsistence hunt. The commercial value of -- we don't go into
31 commercial stuff as subsistence hunters. We would like to
32 address the issue of being able to sell polar bear skins and
33 seal skin products from subsistence hunts, but not -- you know,
34 it's hard to separate commercial and products made from
35 subsistence hunting. It's hard to separate those two issues.

36
37 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chair?

38
39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Patkotak?

40
41 MR. PATKOTAK: I still think it's an issue that should
42 be discussed at an open forum. I know, I've kept up with the
43 polar bear issue for a number of years, and it is a can of
44 worms, but I still think it should be an on-going issue
45 addressed by this body.

46
47 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, we appreciated it when
48 Rossman brought it out, and I'm glad you brought it out again.
49 it is an issue that should somehow be clarified, you know.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, it.....

2

3 MR. UPICKSOUN: How do we do it though. Any
4 suggestions that.....

5

6 MR. PATKOTAK: Well, the -- my only concern here is the
7 fact that it should be an open discussion, because if you don't
8 discuss it, it won't go anywhere.

9

10 MR. UPICKSOUN: Yeah, that's why I appreciate you
11 bringing.....

12

13 MR. PATKOTAK: No alternative to be addressed without
14 discussion.

15

16 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay. I was glad when Rossman brought
17 it up last time, because, you know, nobody ever brought that up
18 before Rossman brought it out in the open -- openly last time.
19 And it's very interesting the way he presented his views. You
20 were probably here last time. It was interesting the way, his
21 views.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah. Before I get to Mr. Brower,
24 Gordon Brower, I just want to remind the Council members that
25 this program -- I just want to repeat that for the program that
26 the Federal Subsistence Program makes regulations for the land
27 mammals, land, terrestrial and fur animals, and to -- we're
28 limited to that effect to make a proposal, and that is what our
29 body, our Council's responsibilities are, but we can possibly
30 write -- or ask a question in a letter like you stated, to see
31 whether there is a proper forum, and to work with that Council
32 or Commission, whatever it may be that deals with polar bear
33 hide and the revenue opportunities. I know the MMPA probably
34 have a polar bear commission like they have a Walrus Commission
35 or those kind of bodies. I think that we can ask -- see what
36 -- I'm just leading on the discussion here. As with our
37 authority as Council to deal with terrestrial and other fur
38 animals, land animals. And we can pose a question as a Council
39 to see where residents or those concerned can address a certain
40 forum I think.

41

42 Mr. -- I'm sorry, Mr. Gordon and then Harry.

43

44 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. If a letter is being proposed to
45 be sent from this body, I would really make sure that everybody
46 is fully behind it, because I wouldn't -- to me, I wouldn't
47 back something like that from my own point of view, because I'm
48 a subsistence hunter, and I know there's revenue to be made,
49 you know, if you want to survive of subsistence, but
50 traditional ways, you make something out of that stuff, you

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1 know. You just don't tunaki (ph) pelts of that kind,
2 especially if it's a protected animal. And I believe if a
3 letter's going to be formed from here as a recommen- -- not a
4 recommendation, but as some kind of a thought to another
5 commission, that it better be fully supported by everybody
6 around here.

7
8 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman?

9
10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, Mr. Patkotak,.....

11
12 MR. PATKOTAK: A comment.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:yeah, Mr. Brower, and then
15 Mr. Patkotak.

16
17 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I'd just like
18 to state that it's -- it was brought up during our joint
19 meeting with our other council -- or North Slope Borough Fish
20 and Game Management Committee, this dealing with the North
21 Slope Fish and Wildlife -- I mean Fish and Game Management
22 Committee, they're able to deal with all the resources, and
23 we're limited to land terrestrial animals as the Chairman
24 stated, so I think it would be a good thing just to get a copy
25 of our minutes and send -- and have the staff send this -- a
26 copy of the minutes to the Nanook Commission to have them
27 address the concern and respond to Mr. Patkotak's concern,
28 valid concern on this issue of polar bear sales. Rawhide sales
29 of polar bear hides.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Patkotak, and then Mr.
32 Upicksoun.

33
34 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah. Yeah, just for the record, before
35 1972 when the Marine Mammal Protection Act came into being,
36 currently you've been hearing this customary and traditional
37 aspect of polar bears. I think dialogue in this direction by
38 this body right here is a valid consideration to define what is
39 subsistence handicrafts. It's well known that we sew these
40 products into artifacts, clothing, hunting equipment, and to
41 define what is traditional native handicrafts as
42 commercialization is ludicrous to me. And I would support
43 clarification on what is commercial sales of polar bear
44 products versus commercialization. I think those are two
45 different completely topics. I'm not talking
46 commercialization. I'm talking clarification of what are valid
47 native handicrafts, polar bear products.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

50

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1 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

2
3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Upicksoun?

4
5 MR. UPICKSOUN: There's several commissions regarding
6 polar bears. What's that agreement we have with Canada, and
7 what's the function of hoe Nanook Commission? There's a
8 difference. We have an agreement with Canada in regards to
9 polar bear, and also we have the Nanook Commission. That's two
10 -- the agreement that we have with Canada, and there's also the
11 Nanook Commission. Maybe Harry Brower can clarify that issue,
12 our agreement with Canada, and also the function of hoe Nanook
13 Commission.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Upicksoun. We
16 have two -- well, we have some folks in here that may be able
17 to answer some of our concern or valid questions.
18 Mr. Upicksoun, then I have Mr. Charlie Brower who's the
19 director of the North Slope Borough Fish and Game -- or Fish
20 and.....

21
22 MR. H. BROWER: Wildlife.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:Wildlife Department, and then
25 we can move on. We have a question from the back there,
26 Mr. Willie Goodwin. Charlie, can you enlighten us on.....

27
28 MR. UPICKSOUN: I didn't see him, yeah, otherwise I
29 would have addressed the question to him.

30
31 MR. C. BROWER: Meeting adjourned.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MR. UPICKSOUN: I doubt. I didn't see him.

36
37 MR. C. BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the
38 record, Charles Brower. I'm the Director of Wildlife, also the
39 Chairman of the Alaska Nanook Commission, and also the leading
40 party for the Polar Bear Agreement with Canada, and also with
41 the Alaska Nanook Commission.

42
43 The function of hoe polar bear agreement with Canada is
44 the management of the Beaufort Sea stock which overlaps Alaska
45 and Canada on the Beaufort Sea. We share the same population,
46 so in order to maintain a healthy population, we went out and
47 tallied (ph) ourselves to manage this shared population of the
48 two countries as uses both sides.

49
50 The only problem we have on the United States is that

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1 we cannot sell, we cannot guide or any selling of the hide to
2 non-natives. That's federal law. It has to come through the
3 legislation. In Canada, they're able to sell and take and also
4 guide people only traditional way, dog team. And that's the
5 only way they can do that. But just recently legislation
6 passed where people that have been hunting, taking trophies out
7 of Canada can bring in their hides with about \$1,000 fee for
8 tax purposes, and now that's legal. That's through the
9 Congress.

10
11 The Alaska Nanook Commission was formulated about five
12 years ago with the introduction of polar bear hunting in
13 Russia, and that created a problem. They themselves have not
14 hunted polar bears within 50-some years, and their economy is
15 down, and they're out trying to survive subsistently, and we
16 don't have management of these resources. And not knowing the
17 population status of these animals, you can deplete a stock
18 without even blinking your eye, so that's why we formed the
19 Alaska Nanook Commission, to maintain a management regime. And
20 we have worked with the State Department on these agreement,
21 and it's a government-to-government, native-to-native agreement
22 which is still in the process, so.....

23
24 And with this, you guys were talking about selling some
25 stuff, or handicraft maybe or regular hides, you can sell or
26 give to native-to-native, but you cannot do anything from
27 native to non-native. That's the only problem. Handicrafts
28 are kumiks (ph) and sauta (ph), undugak (ph), kulukshaks (ph),
29 esetivik (ph), but you have to be real precise, because in some
30 areas when you sell a hide like a ruff, it's taken for granted
31 that they'll make a -- what's those fly tackles?

32
33 MR. UPICKSOUN: Fly ties.

34
35 MR. C. BROWER: Fly ties, so it's pretty risky
36 business. You just can't come up and say we're going to do
37 this, or whatever. And the Federal Government has an eye on
38 you, on us, if anything happens. Thank you.

39
40 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman?

41
42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah. Thank you. Mr. Patkotak's
43 question on defining the sale of polar bear hides was I think
44 the main question. In follow up of Mr. Patkotak's question,
45 Harry Brower also brought up that, and Mr. Gordon Brower also I
46 think, we need to come up with a vote or further discussion on
47 some action that Mr. Patkotak is leading to.

48
49 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman?

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mike?

2

3 MR. PATKOTAK: I'd like to expand on that. It's an on-
4 going discussion, and like you said, it's very touchy. As you
5 know, this recent publicity about this situation has some on-
6 going black market trade, and some people have been charged
7 with criminal crimes for this. And, you know, to make
8 criminals out of subsistence hunters is not my cookie. If
9 there -- if it's an on-going thing, it ought to be expanded to
10 sell to not even non-natives, to open an already existing
11 market, and make it legal instead of making criminals out of
12 our own people. Because if they're charged with a federal
13 crime, they can no longer vote, and some liberal activist
14 seeing that as a scheme by the Federal Government to make
15 nonvoters out of natives. I just want to see on-going dialogue
16 and expansion of native handicraft products as an open market.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

19

20 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

21

22 MR. GOODWIN: Mr. Chairman?

23

24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mister -- just a minute. We had
25 Mr. Goodwin in the back that raised his hand.

26

27 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay.

28

29 MR. GOODWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Brower, you
30 very eloquently talked about the topic, the thing that I have
31 or knowledge, my limited knowledge of it. He's good at it.
32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Willie.
35 Mr. Upicksoun and then Mr. Hopson.

36

37 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, the ability to make
38 handicraft products out of our subsistence hunt is not limited.
39 You can -- when you subsistence hunt, when you get a polar
40 bear, there's no limitation really on making handicraft
41 products from the hides.

42

43 I have seen the commercialization of polar bear, and
44 Willie has been -- you have seen what happened in Kotzebue in
45 the spring time when there is polar bear hunt. Every Piper Cub
46 in the State of Alaska comes to Kotzebue to go hunt polar bear.
47 That's not the way to hunt. They're hunting for sport. We
48 should -- they should -- there shouldn't be any sport hunting
49 in my book. Everybody should be able to hunt subsistence, not
50 for sport. Willie, you have seen -- Mr. Goodwin, you have seen

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1 every Piper Cub in hoe State of Alaska land in front of
2 Kotzebue. You know how bad it used to be, that's
3 commercialization. And I sure don't want to see
4 commercialization of polar bear again like that.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Upicksoun.
7 Mr. Hopson?

8

9 MR. C. HOPSON: Yeah. I would be kind of concerned on
10 the polar bear issue, if you open it up to, you know, selling
11 the pelt of the polar bear. You're going to have people
12 running down the coast every time they sight a polar bear.
13 They're going to see -- they're not going to see a polar bear
14 out there, they're going to see a dollar sign, you know. And I
15 think the way it is right now, I have an Eskimo shop, and I
16 make mukluk, you know, whatever from people that sell, from
17 natives that I guy polar bear skins from. And it's working
18 good. But once you get that -- open it up to selling the hide
19 to non-natives, you will never have -- some of that stuff is
20 going to disappear, you know, 'cause -- you know, you're going
21 to sell the hide to a non-native, and, you know, some craft
22 that the women make are going to disappear, you know. Besides
23 that, you know, we have a lot of young kids here that, hey,
24 there's a polar bear over there, everybody will take off with
25 snow machines just looking at a dollar sign there, not a polar
26 bear, you know. Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Mr. Upicksoun? Thank you,
29 Mr. Hopson.

30

31 MR. UPICKSOUN: Good to see our Wainwright
32 representative, Mr. Chairman.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Yeah, I want to
35 recognize.....

36

37 MR. UPICKSOUN: Maybe you can update him on our
38 election?

39

40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Upicksoun. We
41 just want to break our discussion up this minute to welcome
42 Terry Tagarook. Good morning, Terry.

43

44 MR. TAGAROOK: Good to be here.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Just for your information, we have
47 new -- two alternates sitting in for Ray and Leonard Tukle, Ray
48 Koonuk. We have Charlie Hopson, has a two-year seat, expires
49 in 2001.

50

0024

1 MR. C. HOPSON: 2000.

2
3 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: 2000.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: 2000?

6
7 MR. C. HOPSON: Yeah, 2000.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: And Mr. Gordon Brower, the other
10 alternate. He has a three-year seat. And Mr. Paul Bodfish is
11 our new member.

12
13 MR. TAGAROOK: Welcome.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: As well as Mike Patkotak is the
16 other new member. And we were in the middle of an election,
17 but Mr. Ben Hopson with the graces of Mr. Upicksoun broke a
18 tie. We were four and four. Ben Hopson and Gordon Upicksoun
19 for the vice chair. Mr. Upicksoun gave the seat to Mr. Hopson
20 then. Harry's our secretary and I'm also the Chairman for a
21 year. So for your information.

22
23 MR. TAGAROOK: Congratulations.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you.

26
27 MR. TAGAROOK: You picked a good one.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: What I'm hearing from the Council is
30 that this is a touchy issue that will open up a can of worms,
31 and the sale of hide would present problems, but we have an on-
32 going discussion that is not answered. I think we can work
33 with our staff to find answers to your question of what avenues
34 and what the possibilities are of sale.

35
36 And I just want to clarify, Mr. Patkotak, the question
37 that we need to have our staff work on in finding the proper
38 answers and resolving the concerns. So before we get to that
39 point, you followed up on Rossman Peetook's question, that he
40 would like to see some discussion at a later date about selling
41 polar bear skins in the future, and we can work with
42 Mr. Peetook with the North Slope Borough Fish and Game
43 Committee council member or representative. And their next
44 meeting I believe will be in December. Maybe the North Slope
45 Borough Fish and Wildlife Department can follow up on his side.
46 As for our Council here, I just want to get clarification as to
47 what question or concern we can try and answer. Mr. Upicksoun?

48
49 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, is our agenda open for
50 amendment?

0025

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, we can.....

2

3 MR. UPICKSOUN: If so, I'd like to later on towards
4 this meeting, maybe tomorrow, we'll discuss further Mr.
5 Patkotak's concern under 10.B.1. Maybe tomorrow we'll have --
6 we'll be able to address Mr. Patkotak's concern further, under
7 10.B.1.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

10

11 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: 10.B.1., polar bear.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Is that all right?

14

15 MR. PATKOTAK: That's just fine.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

18

19 MR. PATKOTAK: On-going dialogue, and that type of
20 thing.

21

22 MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes. Yes.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

25

26 MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes, we will be able to think about it
27 another day before we discuss it further, Mr. Patkotak.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Upicksoun.
30 Again I'll just summarize. Rossman wanted to hear from the
31 North Slope Borough Fish and Game Committee, and he would like
32 to see on-going dialogue or in the next meeting further
33 discussion. And that will be in the December meeting of the
34 Fish and -- North Slope Borough Fish and Game Committee. And
35 for this body, keep your concern, and maybe we can put that in
36 writing or try to get a clarifi- -- answers to your concern or
37 question, Mr. Patkotak. Okay. Is that fine with you?

38

39 MR. PATKOTAK: Yes, thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. Thank you. I failed to
42 describe what we're on, number we're on. Seven. We're -- on
43 the agenda as you can see is the opportunity for public
44 comments on the Federal Subsistence Management Program.

45

46 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

47

48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Upicksoun?

49

50 MR. UPICKSOUN: Terry brought some other members of the

0026

1 staff in with him.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Oh, okay. Yeah, maybe before we
4 proceed,.....

5

6 MR. UPICKSOUN: I see Donna over there.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah. Donna, can you -- would you
9 please introduce yourself or any other staff?

10

11 MS. DEWHURST: I'm Donna Dewhurst, I'm a wildlife
12 biologist on staff. I work with Helen and Barb for the team
13 that supports your council. And then I believe there's.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, folks are late.

16

17 MS. MORKILL: My name's Anne Morkill. I've had the
18 privilege of working with some of you when I was with BLM. But
19 as of last week I've transferred to the Arctic Refuge as
20 assistant manager for North Slope issues, so I look forward to
21 working with you.

22

23 MR. UPICKSOUN: Where is that at?

24

25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Fairbanks.....

26

27 MS. MORKILL: Yes. Uh-hum.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:office with Mr. Kurth? Where
30 is Mr. Kurth, is he going to be able to join us, or you'll be
31 in his.....

32

33 MS. MORKILL: No, he won't be up here today.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: So you'll be in his place? We have
36 something in our agenda, maybe you can just note that for the
37 Council and for the public. Can you say your name again?

38

39 MS. MORKILL: Anne and the last name is Morkill, M-o-r-
40 k-i-l-l.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

43

44 MS. MORKILL: And Patricia Reynolds is here. She's got
45 a staff report for you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. All right. Patricia, can you
48 introduce yourself, please?

49

50 DR. REYNOLDS: I'm Patricia Reynolds. I'm an ecologist

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1 for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge staff, and because Jim
2 Kurth isn't here, I'll present a brief report about the refuge.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. So under 10.A.2, we'll have
5 Patricia Reynolds from the Arctic Refuge. So please note that
6 on your agenda. The gentleman in the corner back there?

7
8 MR. HUNTER: Mr. Chairman, my name is Paul Hunter, I'm
9 with the National Park Service, and I'll be filling in for
10 Steve Ulvi.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Say your name again?

13
14 MR. HUNTER: Paul Hunter.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Paul Hunter? A very appropriate
17 name for this Council, Mr. Hunter.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you.

22
23 MR. HUNTER: And I'll be filling in on hoe agenda item
24 10.A.3.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. 10.A.3. Okay. Mr.
27 Hunter. A good name.

28
29 MR. UPICKSOUN: Anne Morkill was filling in -- are you
30 filling in for someone, Anne?

31
32 MS. MORKILL: No, Patricia is filling in for Jim Kurth.

33
34 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay. Okay.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I swear it's Sverre.

37
38 MR. PEDERSON: I'm Sverre Pederson, I'm with the State
39 of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence.
40 I'm here to address you later on when you get to the agenda
41 item concerning the State of Alaska.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Sverre. A good
44 friend of mine. The last two, introduce yourself just formally
45 for the record, please?

46
47 MR. C. BROWER: Charlie Brower, I'm the Director of
48 Wildlife for the North Slope. Also the Chairman of the Alaska
49 Nanook Commission, Chairman of Alaska Native Migratory Bird
50 Council, Vice Chair of the Walrus Commission. What else?

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1 Commission for Gates of the Arctic. I can go on and on and on
2 and on, but we'd be here the whole day.

3
4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Do you hunt?

5
6 (Laughter)

7
8 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Doesn't sound like you have time
9 to hunt.

10
11 MR. OLEMAUN: Tommy Olemaun, Wildlife Department.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Tommy Olemaun, Wildlife -- North
14 Slope Borough Wildlife Department. Thank you, Tommy. Did I
15 miss anyone? I think that's it.

16
17 MR. GOODWIN: Mr. Chairman?

18
19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Goodwin?

20
21 MR. GOODWIN: We've had a couple of proposals that
22 would affect Point Hope on one and Point Lay in another, and
23 I'm not sure when you would want to hear from our region on the
24 two proposals, one with muskox and one with sheep. And I'm not
25 sure exactly when you want to -- when I can present our
26 concerns.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Oh, yeah. We'll be happy to do that
29 under eight.

30
31 MR. GOODWIN: Okay.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: It should be 8.A, from the public.
34 We provide an opportunity to.....

35
36 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And the regional councils.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:continue -- I mean, this
39 opportunity for the public comments, again, I wanted to state
40 the floor is open to public comments on this Federal
41 Subsistence Management Program. It continues throughout the
42 meeting. If you need to testify, we have some forms, but we
43 have it noted, I have it noted again, the folks in the room
44 here, the opportunity is open to continue with any issue
45 throughout the meeting. But for the record, you want to mark
46 down in the blue -- that's more like in the Anchorage office I
47 think, but we'll -- there's a testifier's form so we can
48 properly name, recorded -- for the recorder's sake.

49
50 COURT REPORTER: And I have a microphone right here for

0029

1 them.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

4

5 MR. H. BROWER: You said what?

6

7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Pardon?

8

9 MR. H. BROWER: What was the other resource, sheep and?

10

11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Sheep and muskox.

12

13 MR. H. BROWER: Muskox.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you.

16

17 MR. UPICKSOUN: Under what will that be?

18

19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: 8.1, or 8.A.

20

21 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay. From the public. Okay.

22

23 (Whispered conversation)

24

25 MR. UPICKSOUN: We're under 7.A, Mr. Chairman?

26

27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes. The Chair would entertain a
28 motion for five-minute or ten-minute break before we proceed?

29

30 MR. UPICKSOUN: So move.

31

32 (Off record)

33

34 (On record)

35

36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Good morning. Make your way to your
37 seats, please. I'll call the meeting back to order after a
38 brief recess. We were under item number 7, hearing from
39 village concerns, so I'll start from our left to hear our
40 village concerns from our members. This is also open a time
41 for those in hoe public that want to make some comments on the
42 Federal Subsistence Management Program, and this again, just as
43 a reminder, if any issues that we talk about in any part of our
44 agenda, I'll have -- I'll always provide opportunity for anyone
45 to speak upon on certain issues. So at this time, Mr. Gordon
46 Brower? Or maybe for the sake of hoe new members, maybe I'll
47 ask the existing members to start the procedure so you -- by
48 the time we get to you, you'll know what we do hearing from the
49 village at this time, so Mr. Tagarook, and then we'll go with
50 Gordon, Harry and Mr. Hopson. Terry, we'd like to hear any

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1 concerns?

2

3 MR. TAGAROOK: I really don't have any, but the people
4 are out hunting caribou. And recently in the paper there was
5 something about caribou had -- were dying off some place, some
6 other place.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Some what?

9

10 MR. TAGAROOK: Caribou.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Caribou?

13

14 MR. TAGAROOK: Yeah. Foot disease it was called in
15 the.....

16

17 MS. DEWHURST: Mulchatna.

18

19 MR. TAGAROOK: I read that article, and they were
20 saying if you shoot a sick animal, or just an animal that is
21 limping, a caribou is limping, don't shoot it. Just ignore it,
22 and sometimes it's -- they're swollen at the joints there.
23 That's what the article was saying. And I'm concerned that --
24 I hope that it doesn't come to our herds up here.

25

26 MS. DEWHURST: That was Mulchatna herd.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Pardon?

29

30 MS. DEWHURST: The Mulchatna herd down around
31 Dillingham area is where that's occurring.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Yeah, occasionally we do see
34 some other types of caribou on the Slope. Anything else,
35 Mr. Tagarook?

36

37 MR. TAGAROOK: No.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Quyanak. Mr. Upicksoun?

40

41 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, fellow members, I would
42 like to address our village concerns under 10.5.D, along with
43 Geoff Carroll from the State.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: ADF&G?

46

47 MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes, along with his written report, I
48 would like to make comments in regards to muskox and the
49 permitting process, the time it takes to put the permitting
50 process in place, and the interaction between caribou and

0031

1 muskox as it relates to our hunting at Point Lay. I would like
2 to discuss further interaction between the muskox and the
3 caribou at Point Lay, and defer further comment to 10.5.B,
4 comment further on that when Geoff presents his report, or
5 presents his report.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

8
9 MR. UPICKSOUN: That's all we have from Point Lay. We
10 had a good beluga hunt this year, and other than the muskox and
11 caribou, I'll defer any further comments until Geoff presents
12 his report under 10.5.B.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Upicksoun. I
15 received a phone call late last week that Mr. Carroll may not
16 be here to make a report verbally. He's doing some research
17 along the Kobuk area, caribou.

18
19 MR. UPICKSOUN: Uh-hum.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Collaring and tagging or something
22 down there. So, Sverre, did he pass the baton to any other
23 state folks or.....

24
25 MR. PEDERSON: It depends on what it is he called
26 about. I'm not sure what his.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, he had a written report.
29 Maybe we can discuss those, if you know any of those matters
30 that are in his written report, or if you can further enlighten
31 us on.....

32
33 MR. PEDERSON: I can address some of it, because.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Were you within -- well, there were
36 issue, further background of the Point Lay issue on muskox, of
37 taking permit over there, the State Board of Game this spring
38 passed regulations for an incidental take of muskox in 26(A),
39 and we supported that proposal. We had a proposal, 108, which
40 I'll discuss later, which dealt with muskox in Unit 26(A) and
41 Anaktuvuk Pass. We'll have an opportunity to discuss that
42 proposal that's still hanging out there after we passed a
43 motion to submit that proposal, and I'll provide some
44 background on that.

45
46 So your issue, what should we do there, Mr. Pederson,
47 any -- can you enlighten us, help us with that muskox issue of
48 getting the per-.....

49
50 MR. PEDERSON: Yes, that discussion's going to come up

0032

1 later on.....

2
3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

4
5 MR. PEDERSON:if that's -- I will help the best
6 as I can.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Anything else, Mr. Upicksoun?

9
10 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, if Mr. Pederson will
11 discuss the issue later, then I'll have -- I was going to
12 discuss the muskox and caribou issue now, but if he's going to
13 address that later, then I'll bring up some points or concerns
14 our village has in regard to that, the permitting process.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

17
18 MR. UPICKSOUN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you. Harry? Or, Mr. Brower?

21
22 MR. H. BROWER: I don't really have any concerns,
23 Mr. Chairman. I just want to say that there's been a lot of
24 good hunting happening here around the Barrow area. We're
25 pretty fortunate to have all these resources around us.
26 Migratory birds, sea animals, caribou. Otherwise we've had
27 good hunting all the way around here in Barrow. And I just
28 came back from a boat trip up the Ikpikpuk River, and seen a
29 little herd of five muskox up there. I was trying to get my
30 companions to shoot one down, but, no. Anyway it was a pretty
31 good trip, and we got to harvest some caribou, see some muskox,
32 see some birds, a variety of birds, got a few fish, and it was
33 a pretty good trip. Otherwise, I don't have any real lot of
34 concerns in the Barrow area. I'd like to hear a little bit
35 more on the -- later on in this issue on the wolves,.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Is Craig here?

38
39 MR. H. BROWER:wolf relocation program.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Craig will not be here?

42
43 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: He's not here yet.

44
45 MR. B. HOPSON: He's supposed to be here I think.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Maybe tonight?

48
49 MR. B. HOPSON: I can -- maybe I can do.....

50

0033
1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Maybe be here tomorrow.
2
3 MR. B. HOPSON:a presentation and wait for
4 discussion.
5
6 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.
7
8 MR. B. HOPSON: If you want to hear the report from
9 Craig.
10
11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: We can keep it over if he doesn't
12 show up, on your proposal, we can move it around.
13
14 MR. H. BROWER: Otherwise, I don't have any real valid
15 concerns, Mr. Chairman. I'd just like to say again that we've
16 had a good hunting season here in Barrow. Thank you.
17
18 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chairman?
19
20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, Mr. Tagarook?
21
22 MR. TAGAROOK: Just one question for Harry. Are you
23 seeing more muskox in your area now?
24
25 MR. H. BROWER: Yeah, they're coming down from the
26 foothills, they're coming down lower to the lower plains around
27 here, up -- they're just up in the 50 mile.....
28
29 MR. TAGAROOK: Did you see any reaction between the
30 caribou and the muskox?
31
32 MR. H. BROWER: No, you don't see -- I didn't see any
33 caribou, maybe about a mile and a half away from the muskox.
34 Them guys that were -- that folks that they were near the
35 muskox with Chipsix (ph) and they had to go out on the four-
36 wheeler about a mile, a mile and a half to get their caribou,
37 and they were getting a little concerned about the muskox
38 hanging around near their cabin. But I told them just to leave
39 them alone. I couldn't shoot them, so if I can't, they can't.
40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, the proposal that was just
42 passed by the Board of Game will allow, if there's sufficient
43 evidence that it's near your subsistence camp, and destructing
44 the subsistence, there's a way to get that, and Gordon will
45 help us out on the process, how long it took, what it requires,
46 what it takes to get a permit for incidental take under the new
47 State regulation. It's all in Unit 26(A), including National
48 Park Service lands in Anaktuvuk area.
49
50 MR. H. BROWER: Another thing, Mr. Chairman?

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes.

2

3 MR. H. BROWER: Berry picking was real good around the
4 villages, and up even closer to Barrow. Good salmon berries,
5 they were pretty ear- -- a little bit earlier than last year,
6 picking, but otherwise it was pretty good, too, even though
7 with the plants, berry picking and picking greens was really
8 good this year.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. Is that it, Mr. Brower?

11

12 MR. H. BROWER: Yes.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Hopson, any
15 concerns?

16

17 MR. B. HOPSON: In Anaktuvuk we're having a pretty good
18 hunting season. We've got caribou migrating from the south to
19 the north, and everybody's getting their share of the winter
20 supply, but we're still kind of waiting around for the
21 migration to happen from north to south next.

22

23 MR. TAGAROOK: We'll keep them up here for a while.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MR. B. HOPSON: Yeah, this is like four or five years
28 in a row now we've had migration coming from the timberline,
29 and they're headed north. It's just something new.

30

31 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, a question for Ben. Is
32 there any consensus on which herd is the one that's coming? I
33 know that it's unusual for them to come from the south. You
34 usually get the migration in the fall time when they're heading
35 south. You say they're coming from the south. Is there any
36 consensus on which herd is coming through from the south?

37

38 MR. B. HOPSON: We had heard earlier reports that there
39 was caribou like in the Kilik area earlier this summer, quite
40 numerous. And they had been slowly moving east. And were
41 possibly -- they're possibly swinging back up north now. But
42 reports say there's quite a bid of caribou in the mountains
43 coming from the north.

44

45 MR. UPICKSOUN: Are they adult?

46

47 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum. (Affirmative) Yeah.

48

49 MR. UPICKSOUN: (Indiscernible) adults.

50

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1 MR. B. HOPSON: Yeah. And we had quite a bit of cows
2 come through now, we're getting a pretty good run of bulls now.

3
4 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman?

5
6 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Brower?

7
8 MR. B. HOPSON: There is one more issue. It's more of
9 a statewide issue that affects all villages and towns. There's
10 an initiative that's going to be coming up in hoe November
11 general election, and it's an initiative sponsored by Alaskans
12 against snaring wolves, and the ballot title will be
13 prohibiting trapping wolves with snares, and the ballot
14 language reads this bill would prohibit a person from using a
15 snare with the intent of trapping a wolf. It would also
16 prohibit a person from possessing, buying, selling or offering
17 to sell the skin of a wolf known by the person to have been
18 caught with a snare. Breaking the law would be a Class A
19 misdemeanor. Then the question asked to the voter is should
20 this initiative become law.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. I would urge you to make
23 copies of that issue, then we can talk about it more. And
24 remind the Council members under 10.A.8, any other reports or
25 -- we'd like to catch up on that initiative if we could.

26
27 MR. B. HOPSON: And can -- should I talk a little more
28 on it?

29
30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Uh-hum.

31
32 MR. B. HOPSON: Okay. The organizations that are the
33 opponents of Alaskans against Snaring Wolves are North Slope
34 Borough, the Alaska Outdoor Council, Alaska Trappers
35 Association, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Alaska Village Council
36 Presidents, and then we've had quite a few mailings from
37 outlying villages throughout the State sending in resolutions
38 in support of our efforts to keep, you know, the use of the
39 snare for harvesting wolves. Okay. We -- as you probably
40 know, natives and Alaska Outdoor Council don't see eye-to-eye
41 on hoe subsistence issue, but we made an agreement at the start
42 of our formation of the coalition that we'd set our differences
43 aside to work on this issue.

44
45 And just to give you an example, if I have a wolf parka
46 that I made from snared wolves, and I had caught the wolves
47 like a year ago, I would -- my parka would be confiscated by
48 the State, or if you had ruffs from snared wolves.

49
50 And then it's quite a issue that's going to really hit

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1 Alaskans if this initiative were ever to pass, and Alaskans
2 against Snaring Wolves is funded by the notorious animal rights
3 group, Friends of Animals, is where they're getting their
4 funding.

5
6 And we're actively fund raising right now, and we have
7 Ballot Issues Coalition based out of Washington, D.C.
8 supporting us with the initial funding to put our campaign
9 through. They've allotted 130 to \$180,000 to our campaign, and
10 we're needing to come up with another \$100,000 plus to run TV
11 ads. Being an election year, we're going to have compete for
12 prime time slots, and I guess they're spendy. We did get two
13 donations, one from ASRC in the amount of \$5,000. Also ASNAC
14 donated another \$5,000. And then Tanana Chiefs has thrown in
15 some money as well. And there's numerous groups like Alaska
16 Outdoor Council, Alaska Trappers Association, the Caribou Cow
17 (ph) Protection Plan that are ready to throw in all their money
18 on our efforts.

19
20 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Just a minute, Mr. Upicksoun. We
23 have Mr. Brower, and then we'll go to you.

24
25 MR. G. BROWER: I had a question for Ben concerning
26 that caribou. In the past there was some concern about their
27 migration going through different passes or.....

28
29 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum.

30
31 MR. G. BROWER: And if that's changing again where
32 everybody's much more happy, or if it's a result from lower
33 range for the sport hunters to hunt? I think I remember a few
34 years back we had proposed a buffer zone with some other -- I
35 think Fish and -- North Slope Borough Fish and Game -- Wildlife
36 Committee for those sport hunters to be a certain distance?

37
38 MR. B. HOPSON: (Witness nods affirmative)

39
40 MR. G. BROWER: And if that was maybe helping in that
41 manner?

42
43 MR. B. HOPSON: You know, the North Slope Borough
44 Wildlife Management had been working with Anaktuvuk to come up
45 with a controlled use area. Maybe -- I wonder if Charlie could
46 give us an update on that issue when he returns.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, okay. Let me write that down
49 here on the.....

50

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1 MR. B. HOPSON: But we've noticed the central core of
2 the migration has shifted way to the west of us, and we're
3 getting whatever stragglers that are rooming through the
4 central portion of the Brooks.

5
6 MR. G. BROWER: Right. That was just my concern on it.

7
8 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum. Yeah.

9
10 MR. G. BROWER: And I looked on that part.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: We can make that addressed under new
13 business, Mr. Hopson.

14
15 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: On the controlled use area and
18 hearing from the North Slope Borough's Department of Wildlife
19 Management.

20
21 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Taquliq Hepa.

24
25 MR. H. BROWER: She's not in, Mr. Chairman. You're
26 going to have to direct it to Charlie.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

29
30 MR. B. HOPSON: And one more.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. Anything else, Mr.
33 Hopson?

34
35 MR. B. HOPSON: One more thing,.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Oh, I'm sorry. Gordon, go ahead.

38
39 MR. UPICKSOUN: In regards to the snare issue, Ben
40 Hopson has been keeping us updated, both the -- this Council,
41 he's kept us updated on the snare issue. I think the bottom
42 line is that they're eroding every which way our subsistence
43 lifestyle. That's another way they're trying to do it. If
44 they succeed in doing this, they'll take up another issue and
45 make it harder for our subsistence way of living. They're
46 hacking away at it a little at a time, and if we don't defeat
47 this snare ban that they've got on the ballot, that's one way
48 of -- there will be one more way that they're eroding our
49 subsistence way of living. It's an issue that I hope the
50 voters vote our way, because we're having trouble with the

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1 Legislature already regarding subsistence, and that's the --
2 another way of, in my way of thinking, the urban community
3 imposing their lifestyle on us. They've got cheap Carr's and
4 Safeway, and we've got to -- you know, we don't have their
5 prices. it's just their way of eroding our lifestyle,
6 subsistence lifestyle. Ben Hopson has kept us updated on this
7 issue for the past two years. And that's -- it's a good issue
8 you brought up, Ben, regarding who's supporting us in regard
9 for funding and who's opposing. Very informative, Ben.
10 Quyanak.

11
12 MR. B. HOPSON: And then our coalition filed a lawsuit
13 in the Superior Court this summer, and Judge Ralph Beistline of
14 Fairbanks ruled in our favor to stop this initiative to appear
15 on the ballot. We won on the reasoning by challenging the
16 constitutionality of managing fish and game resources through
17 the initiative process. And then we were the clear winners of
18 that, and the issue would have been dead, but Governor Knowles
19 on the same day Beistline ruled in our favor, he immediately
20 filed an appeal, and then in mid August the Supreme Court ruled
21 in Governor Knowles' favor that this ballot should appear on
22 the -- or this initiative should appear on the ballot. We've
23 yet to hear the reasoning why the Supreme Court changed that.
24 We did ask for -- we did get transcripts of the Supreme Court.
25 All they stated was this initiative will be on the ballot and
26 arguments and reasoning behind this will come at a later date,
27 which we've yet to receive yet.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Anything else, Mr. Hopson?

30
31 MR. B. HOPSON: I think that's it.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Before we move on,.....

34
35 MR. B. HOPSON: Or I could expand a little bit on
36 Gordon's talk on the animal rights chipping away on our
37 subsistence way of life. There's another front coming from the
38 European Union where we're in jeopardy of losing the use of the
39 leg hold trap as well for trapping North American fur bearers.
40 So there's several fronts where we can have a real devastating
41 loss to trapping from both Alaskan side for this snare issue
42 and then nationwide we're kind of in jeopardy of losing hoe leg
43 hold trap right now. The -- Europe has leverage on U.S. where
44 three-quarters of all -- three-fourths of all furs harvested in
45 North America end up in Europe, and they're saying don't use
46 leg holds to harvest your fur bearers. We want something more
47 humane. And we've talked and argued with them what's a humane
48 trap, and we've even went as far as coming up with standards as
49 to how a trap should perform, and then we found out it was
50 acceptable according to the standards we agreed on by trappers

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1 and animals rights group, and then they came up with another
2 argument, totally just left us dumbfounded.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Hopson, this definitely is an
5 impact to the subsistence user and it is a subsistence issue.

6

7 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: However, this is also a political
10 issue and an initiative, and I'll have to ask or find out later
11 about the requirements or our standards that we follow in terms
12 of initiative and referendums.

13

14 MR. B. HOPSON: One thing.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Let me just ask that we're -- our
17 responsibility is to work on proposals, submitting proposals to
18 provide for the take of fur bearers. The election perhaps we
19 as the Council can be a link. I don't know as a Council that
20 we can make formal vote or anything like that, but we can be a
21 liaison to our communities about initiatives, but as a Council,
22 I'm not sure whether we can take any action as a body, as.....

23

24 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:required under the -- probably
27 limited by the FACA, or the Federal Advisory Council Act. But,
28 again, just as a reminder, we are liaisons to all the
29 residents, and if there's certain issues like initiatives or
30 referendums that we can be an avenue to our communities,
31 providing this type of information is why I wanted.....

32

33 MR. B. HOPSON: Yeah.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:a copy of the -- your packet or
36 the information that you have on this initiative before the
37 November vote. I want to thank you for the information.
38 Formally I want to thank you, that this is -- and it affects
39 the subsistence lifestyle, and that's what we're charged with
40 as far as proposal as to providing regulation, and a vote or
41 referendum, I do not know what power that is or in providing
42 hunting and trapping regulations, whether the vote will
43 override the proposal format, or the avenue to continue.....

44

45 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

46

47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Upicksoun?

48

49 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, you're trying to say how
50 can we make a c&t determination regarding snare and override

0040

1 the initiative if it's passed.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Exactly.

4

5 MR. UPICKSOUN: That's something we have -- we must
6 think about. We've got to make a c&t determination in regards
7 to snaring and.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Methods and means.

10

11 MR. UPICKSOUN:I see Patricia smiling. I think
12 in that regard, Federal management of fish and game is not all
13 that bad, because of the way the State is handling the
14 subsistence issue.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: It's a methods and means issue,
17 subsistence issue, and we can probably take up on that kind of
18 thing, but this is an initiative, a referendum. Perhaps I'd
19 like to know what the legalities is as far as an election, or a
20 statewide election to ban hunting and trapping, whether -- how
21 this impacts the ways and means and methods of providing fur,
22 or using that subsistence. Rosa?

23

24 MS. MEEHAN: Mr. Chairman, I'd make the observation
25 that I believe on federal lands, the federal regulations will
26 take precedence over state regulations, and since under the
27 methods and means sections trapping is defined to specifically
28 include snaring, that the federal regulations do accommodate
29 this practice. Now, I will go back to the office and check on
30 that, and make sure that that's the case, but it's my
31 understanding that we do have it in our regulations. It does
32 take precedence over state regulations, and therefore an
33 initiative, if it's passed as written, would not affect our
34 federal regulations.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: That's what I wanted to hear. Go
37 find out.

38

39 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. But I will check on that,.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Please.

42

43 MS. MEEHAN:and make sure you get a written
44 response back. Okay.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes, please. Yeah. Thank you,
47 Ms. Meehan.

48

49 MS. MEEHAN: And again, it would only be on federal
50 lands, but we will check on that and get a written response

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1 back.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Before I proceed again, we
4 are liaisons or we represent everybody as residents in our
5 area. We can provide or send this information back that there
6 is an initiative, that for your information is happening, and I
7 don't think as a body here, as a Council we can deal with that
8 right now, but that's what I wanted to find out, whether the
9 state initiative, or the election will affect our program is
10 what we would like to find out. Mr. Yokel?

11

12 MR. YOKEL: Yeah, I think what Rosa needs to find
13 out also though is the way I understand the state initiative,
14 it also affects the sale of those furs, and that may not be
15 protected under ANILCA Title VIII, even if they're taken
16 legally on federal lands with a snare, that the sale of them
17 may be restricted under this state initiative if it passes.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. The more information.....

20

21 MS. MEEHAN: That's why we need to check.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:before we leave, the better.

24 Mr. Hopson?

25

26 MR. B. HOPSON: Yeah, there's another touchy site with
27 -- take, for example, somebody from -- is NPRA federal public
28 lands?

29

30 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.

31

32 MR. B. HOPSON: If someone, let's say a hunter snared a
33 wolf, and at some point he decided to sell his wolf to a buyer
34 in Canada or maybe in hoe State of Washington, then he would
35 violate the federal Lacy Act, which is a federal crime with
36 something like ten years imprisonment and \$50,000 fine. This
37 is according to our legal analysis we had done by our
38 coalition.

39

40 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

41

42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, Mr. Upicksoun, and then
43 Ms. Dewhurst.

44

45 MR. UPICKSOUN: For our alternates and new members, we
46 have several federal agencies here. They're staff. They're
47 here to assist us in our deliberations. The different federal
48 agencies that are here, they're called staff. They're here to
49 assist us. And can someone give us more information on the
50 last statement that Ben Hopson made in regards to the fines, a

0042

1 \$50,000 fine? This issue is very interesting. Ben's report is
2 very interesting. Can someone expand on that from the staff?

3

4 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes, Mr. Upicksoun.

5

6 MR. UPICKSOUN: Donna?

7

8 MR. B. HOPSON: I've got the quotation of this. If you
9 want, I can read it.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, just a minute, Ben.

12

13 MR. B. HOPSON: Okay.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ms. Dewhurst?

16

17 MS. DEWHURST: The interstate commerce, or the Lacy
18 Act, and just for background, I was federal law enforcement
19 once for eight years, so I was pretty heavily trained in it.
20 I'm not any more, but I was. That applies to federal law that
21 is in existence. So if that initiative occurs, that would be a
22 state law. It wouldn't necessarily be a federal law. it's a
23 state initiative. The Lacy Act only applies to federal laws.
24 Now, if game was taken breaking a state law, it doesn't
25 necessarily apply -- it would only be illegal to sell that game
26 instate, because then it would be -- if it's passed, it would a
27 state law to sell a snared animal. But that doesn't
28 necessarily mean it's illegal to sell it in Washington, if
29 Washington didn't pass a similar law. If Washington State
30 didn't pass a similar law, it might be perfectly legal to sell
31 it, so then your federal law always supersedes state law, so
32 it's interstate then. It's interstate commerce.

33

34 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, in regards to your
35 statement, Ben brought up the issue about a wolf that was
36 caught in NPRA on federal lands.

37

38 MS. DEWHURST: Right. It wouldn't matter. It wouldn't
39 matter. That aspect doesn't matter. It's just the idea that
40 as soon as you trade across state boundaries. It depends on if
41 it's legal in that state. So if Washington -- if it's illegal
42 to buy them in Washington, then you're still -- you're breaking
43 federal law, because it's interstate commerce. But if it's
44 legal in Washington, then just because it's illegal to sell it
45 in Alaska, you wouldn't necessarily be violating a federal law,
46 because it goes by the pertinent state laws. So it depends on
47 what the other states do. If this becomes a national
48 initiative and it gets passed broadly across the whole Lower
49 48, then you're kind of stuck, but if -- but basically the
50 Alaska state law only applies in Alaska. So the Lacy Act is

0043

1 when you're -- like you say, you're trading across state
2 boundaries, so it would have to be against the law in whatever
3 state you were trading in also. It doesn't necessarily apply.
4 So that wouldn't necessarily apply as far as -- even if this
5 Alaska initiative kicks in, I think you'd still be able to
6 trade or sell it to Washington. The federal law would actually
7 protect that right. It wouldn't go against you on that. It's
8 only if you try to sell it in the state, then you're breaking
9 local state law.

10
11 MR. B. HOPSON: Our attorneys are saying the exact
12 opposite of you.

13
14 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

15
16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Upicksoun.

17
18 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah. That's my understanding of the
19 way I was trained on what the Lacy Act says.

20
21 MR. UPICKSOUN: Ben, you said you had an opinion, a
22 written opinion regarding that. Could you read that written
23 opinion regarding that issue that you guys are discussing?

24
25 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum.

26
27 MR. UPICKSOUN: You said you had a written opinion on
28 it?

29
30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, I want to have copies
31 provided, if.....

32
33 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:you can be gracious to allow
36 that.

37
38 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: And I want to discuss that further
41 under 10, under new business, under any other reports. That
42 can issue a likely discussion, and we can provide an
43 opportunity to make copies, and also bring that up again.....

44
45 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum.

46
47 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:further down the road. before
50 the end of the meeting, we can have it fresh to bring this

0044

1 information to our representative villages or to our region,
2 throughout our region. I know this is a very touchy issue, and
3 it does affect our subsistence way of lifestyle, to hear this
4 kind of, and we need to be updated on what decision to make or
5 bring back to the villages. I think we -- will that be okay,
6 to further discuss that under new business?

7

8 MR. B. HOPSON: Further -- yes. Uh-hum.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Anything else from.....

11

12 MR. B. HOPSON: No.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:your area? Okay. With that I
15 will proceed, and.....

16

17 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman?

18

19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Patkotak?

20

21 MR. PATKOTAK: One brief point on comments on federal
22 subsistence, I'd like to bring out the point that on moose, the
23 development of vaccines for brucellosis. I'd like to recommend
24 that this body here, this Council, recommend to North Slope
25 Borough that it be prioritized as a number one issue. I
26 realize that hoe recruitment in terms of calf survival rate
27 have been improving, but that this be further addressed, that
28 this be an on-going issue.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Yeah, that will be good under
31 -- we do have staff available from Wildlife Department that you
32 can.....

33

34 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, you said that Mike's
35 issue should be addressed under 10.A.6?

36

37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Six, yes.

38

39 MR. UPICKSOUN: 10.A.6, North Slope Borough Department
40 of Wildlife Management report?

41

42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes.

43

44 MR. UPICKSOUN: Have that issue addressed.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes.

47

48 MR. UPICKSOUN: 10.A.6.

49

50 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah, that's good. Great.

0045

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Mike. For our
2 area, we've been fortunate, too, this summer as Harry stated.
3 Many, many summers, we finally have some caribou that hung
4 around our area west of us. We believe that may be part of the
5 Central Arctic herd, because the Porcupine herd did not stay
6 there very long this summer. They were in and out pretty
7 early. Do not know the reason for that. And we're concerned.
8 The refuge used days, or man used days from recreationists, the
9 hikers and the floaters or the folks that go down Aichilik and
10 Kongakut River and having base camps right near the pass where
11 they come from the east may have any effect to the migration,
12 or those that stick around our area, whether the sightseers or
13 the recreationists have an impact when they're right close to
14 the migration path. We further -- need to further check on
15 that.

16
17 But we were fortunate to have caribou this summer.
18 Early breakup this year, way before June. June 19 was our
19 first day of boating. We usually don't boat until after July
20 4. So we've been fortunate. A lot of fish, sea run fish.
21 Caribou. The ice went out early. They got a few ugluks (ph).
22 They were going after belugas. So a very good summer for
23 Kaktovik.

24
25 And the 15 muskoxen that this body approved last spring
26 to allow the take of 12 bull muskox and three cows, we're very
27 happy to have that continue at that number. We had to make
28 amendments. It was recommended by staff committee to go seven,
29 three. Seven bulls and three cows, and I want to thank the
30 Council for supporting 12 and three rather than the seven/three
31 take of muskoxen.

32
33 So on the issue of muskoxen, Nuiqsut also got a
34 proposal in, it's in the report, our annual report, a state
35 hunt. We'll discuss Proposal 108 on the -- that didn't go
36 before the Federal Board, they tabled that. They want to see
37 how the state regulation proceeds on on the take of muskox in
38 26(A), in the areas of Anaktuvuk Pass. It continues to be an
39 issue, the take of muskox, and I'm looking forward to hearing
40 how the Point Lay hunt, or the take of muskox will be with the
41 process. We want to learn more about that, see whether we can
42 expedite it or make it easier, simpler to incidentally take
43 muskox within our region. So we'll try -- we're going to try
44 it out for a couple of years. If that doesn't seem to work we
45 have that option under the federal program for incidental take
46 or some type of permit hunt through our program, federal
47 program. So we're trying out the state regulation now, even
48 though we can do Proposal 108 to a federal program or a federal
49 hunt. So we're under state regulations in federal lands.
50 That's private land -- no, state lands and private lands is

0046

1 what we're dealing with in that. So we'll see how it works in
2 federal NPRA. We'd like to try and exercise that state
3 regulation, whether that will work.

4

5 So anyway that's pretty much it from my end. So I'll
6 start off with our new member from Atqasuk, see if he's heard
7 any concerns or -- from there. Mr. Bodfish?

8

9 MR. BODFISH: Yeah. Well, I really don't have any
10 concerns, but the Western herd has been coming through our
11 village, part of it, so they've been hanging around. And from
12 the stories I've heard from the old people, you know, the
13 Western herd comes through the mountains, you know, they get
14 into them -- they have these cysts that grow on them. We see
15 that yearly, but other than that, that herd is pretty healthy.
16 And everybody's been harvesting caribou, fish, and bears have
17 been coming around quite a bit. Other than that, I don't
18 really have much.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Paul.

21

22 MR. BODFISH: Uh-hum.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: We're glad to have you from Atqasuk.

25

26 MR. BODFISH: Yeah, and I'll be looking forward to
27 working with this board and our region, yes.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Start from Mr. Hopson, Patkotak, and
30 then Mr. Brower.

31

32 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I don't have any
33 report. I want to thank Harry for our report.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Mike?

36

37 MR. PATKOTAK: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Peard
38 Bay, I usually do -- our family does a lot of subsistence
39 hunting in Peard Bay area. This year was considerably
40 different. We had thick ice close to the shore. Barrow -- we
41 usually open up at Peard Bay ahead of time, and two or three
42 weeks of wolk (ph) and walrus hunting (indiscernible, coughing)
43 even before Barrow, but it opened up in Barrow first. And
44 another noticeable difference was that it was thinner ice
45 further out from Franklin Point, and that way, and it opened up
46 out and didn't open up until way late, and on the inside --
47 inside of the bay. We had to pull up all our gear and move --
48 go back here and do our subsistence hunt here. Walrus hunting
49 at Peard Bay was nonexistence, and wolk (ph) hunting very
50 minimal until late. Although there was an increase in the run,

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1 early runs of salmon, there were some dogs, silvers, kings,
2 humpies. There's been an increase in fish, rainbow trout in
3 that area. I don't know whether it's because of the warmer
4 temperatures, but like that's basically what it was, was early
5 erosion further out of ice, and even some of hoe pekoniuk (ph)
6 that usually remain pretty thick eroded quite a bit this year
7 to where they were -- you couldn't get on them. You know, just
8 where a lot of times in Peard Bay we go out and get out water
9 from that area, from ice, but this year we couldn't do that
10 because of early erosion of that fresh water ice. But other
11 than that, it was noticeably different, and way, way warmer
12 real early. And then as summer drew on, it -- the temperatures
13 went down, increase of fog, more rain, and quite a bit -- quite
14 a bit of thunderstorm activity, more than in previous years.
15 So we were forced to move back up north to do our hunting.

16
17 Other than that, like Harry said earlier, although the
18 hunting was late for walrus and stuff, we were pretty
19 successful. Although some of the other hunters that did a lot
20 of hunting that teach (ph) them, well, it's going to improve,
21 it's going to improve, then it turns out that it didn't.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Mike.

24
25 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Upicksoun?

28
29 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, Mike brought out an
30 interesting point. In May we usually go inland to go geese
31 hunting, but this year we made the same observation as you made
32 about the ice conditions. We noticed that the shore fast ice
33 was less than a quarter mile out. We had no ice. This was
34 early. It was only about that thick, and that's the shore fast
35 ice. That's unusual. The shore fast ice is only about that
36 thick. That's very unusual. And the ice went out early.
37 There was no topok (ph) -- I mean, no shore fast ice, no ice
38 bergs, you know, that make the ice shore fast. There was none.
39 It was real thin ice when -- where I did -- where there was no
40 ice bergs, you know, it was thin ice. And that was true all
41 the way to the beach. That's the only time ever to my
42 knowledge that we've ever seen that in Point Lay. That was
43 good points that Michael brought out in regards to the ice.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you.

46
47 MR. UPICKSOUN: The hunting was good, but hoe ice
48 conditions were very different.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Anything else.

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1 MR. PATKOTAK: That's basically it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Mike. Gordon?

4

5 MR. G. BROWER: Well, I had some real good king salmon
6 this fall from Piernek (ph). That was pretty neat. Usually
7 get some this time of hoe year when they're here, getting like
8 numerous. People even been casting and getting a few salmon
9 here and there.

10

11 A little bit about muskox, we've seen them up there,
12 Tripnine (ph). Well, I guess we could talk about that between
13 interaction of caribou and muskox, because they hang around too
14 long, and my old man had to scare them off with a Honda. They
15 couldn't go, so he made a rattler out of his trailer, put cans
16 and stuff, and go back and forth and scare them aware, because
17 he couldn't get any tutuk (ph) for a while. That was one thing
18 that he brought out while I was up there boating.

19

20 I noticed like everybody noticed, too, that freeze up
21 is different. Last year we went out fall fishing, and we
22 didn't get our run of sulik (ph) fish. We just got very little
23 fish. The run already took place, most of it through open
24 water, but you couldn't put your nets, because there was slush
25 ice flowing all around and tearing up your net so much. Just
26 temperature is something else. Usually getting around
27 September 25 you're able to put nets under the ice. You were
28 still able to matok (ph) in that river. October 6, it was
29 still flowing. So we miss all our sulik fish just about.
30 Probably made only 15 sacks. There's usually 50 sacks or more.

31

32

33 But -- other things that I thought about that I wanted
34 to have concerns is that if the State can't get it together
35 with their federal -- with their state management, and federal
36 management becomes precedent around here, that we look into the
37 health of populations of each animal like caribou and moose,
38 and those are the things that I look at for subsistence
39 purposes only, that revitalizing six species that are -- the
40 ones that are sick. I know moose has been really devastated
41 around here, and other means, instead of just trying to prepare
42 some kind of a vaccine to fix them up. I think importing from
43 other regions to try and get a subsistence herd back into its
44 proper numbers would be beneficial, the same as relocating like
45 moose -- wolf issues and stuff like that. I think you can do
46 that with moose.

47

48 Those are the only concerns I had. Not very much. Did
49 lots of boating and had fun this fall, and a lot of good
50 caribou hunting. That's all I've got.

0049

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Gordon, you did
2 very well. Did I miss any of hoe Council members? I think we
3 got pretty much everybody. Again, there will be an opportunity
4 for the public to make comments on any of the proposals or
5 issues. So this number seven was to hear from the village --
6 or hear concerns from the other areas or all over our region,
7 and I'm glad to have new representatives for each of hoe
8 villages represented within our Council, although we not only
9 are representatives from our village, we are liaison throughout
10 the whole region. We do not want to say that I only represent
11 Kaktovik. I represent pretty much every -- all the residents
12 in our region. But we're fortunate to have Council members
13 from each of the vill- -- outlying villages.

14
15 So at this time perhaps we can break an hour and a half
16 and come back at one. I think this would be a good time to
17 break for lunch early, and then get back at 1:00 o'clock.
18 Would that be all right with the Council members?

19
20 MR. UPICKSOUN: So move.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Moved for a lunch break. Be back at
23 1:00 o'clock.

24
25 (Off record - 11:30 a.m.)

26
27 (On record - 1:10 p.m.)

28
29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Good afternoon everyone. Hope
30 everyone had a good lunch. I did have a little bit more than
31 what I should have, so if I fall asleep, let me know. I'll try
32 not to fall asleep this afternoon.

33
34 MR. UPICKSOUN: (Indiscernible)

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Anyway, we got done with item number
37 seven, hearing from hoe various representatives or Council
38 members, which is pretty much area wide. We'll move on down to
39 item number eight in our agenda for proposals from anyone. If
40 anyone has completed proposals to change the subsistence
41 regulations, this is the time to work on them or submit them to
42 any one of our Council members here, and pass it through
43 Barbara, Helen or Donna. We'll work us on -- will help us with
44 our proposals. So at this time the floor is open for proposals
45 from the public. First we'll hear from hoe public if there's
46 anyone in the audience, and then we'll follow through with our
47 agenda there, any agencies, whether they're federal or state.
48 And then we'll hear from our Regional Council, if any one of
49 the Council members have any proposals that we need to look at
50 as far as changing the current federal regulations. The time

0050

1 line for the regulations I believe -- I think October 23 or 26
2 or somewhere.

3

4 MS. MEEHAN: 23.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: October 23 is the deadline to submit
7 them. We can address proposals at this time. Again, the staff
8 can work on the details as far as properly filling out the
9 form, and then they will go before the Federal Subsistence
10 Board in either the March through May time frame. Before that,
11 the Staff Committee will review or analyze all of hoe proposals
12 through the Staff Committee from the various federal agencies
13 and state agencies, will review the proposals. We'll have an
14 opportunity again in our winter meeting, which will be February
15 or March before they go to the Federal Subsistence Board, so we
16 have one last opportunity for us to review any proposals that
17 affect our region or our neighbors, like NANA may have, or the
18 Northwest Regional Advisory Council may have some proposals
19 will affect us, and Mr. Goodwin has stated earlier that he has
20 a couple of proposals for us to talk with him about that.

21

22 So at this time, the floor is open or any questions on
23 the proposals or the process from the Council? We had a very
24 good training session last night for the new members. I think
25 we got done about 9:00 o'clock or so, so it was a good turn out
26 and good review for me and Harry to talk to the new council
27 members on how proposals are processed.

28

29 So at this time the floor is open for proposals.
30 Again, if anyone has a proposal to present, the floor is open
31 from the public. Anyone from the floor? Want to talk about
32 any proposals? All right. Hearing.....

33

34 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

35

36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Upicksoun?

37

38 MR. UPICKSOUN: Were you going to discuss 108? Or is
39 this.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, we'll probably that on the
42 bottom there, number three. Or we'll probably go with the
43 agencies on that part, too. Or one of our staff members can
44 bring that up. Our staff can bring it up on number two,.....

45

46 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:the next -- hearing none from
49 the public, this is the last chance for the public to talk
50 about any proposals for our area. At this time, Gordon, I'll

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1 ask the federal, state, or federal agencies that have any
2 proposals that pertain to our area?

3
4 I know one in particular, Gordon, was 108. There is in
5 our minutes for your review, for the new members and for
6 reminder for the veterans, I think it's on page 13 in the
7 minutes. I'll give you.....

8
9 MR. UPICKSOUN: Under what tab?

10
11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Tab C.

12
13 MR. UPICKSOUN: Tab C.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Page 13 sort of gives a summary of
16 where we left off last spring. Donna helped prepare or talked
17 about this proposal. This proposal, 108, was to create an
18 incidental hunt of muskoxen in Unit 26(A). It talks about
19 they're stable in Unit 26(C) at about 320 animals. There's
20 been ex- -- they've been expanding east into Canada, and also
21 moving west. And we've heard testimony that they're seeing
22 some along the Chipp River and west of -- or east of Point Lay.
23 About 280 muskox are now in Unit 26(B), that's the Canning
24 River to Colville River, that corridor for the pipeline
25 corridor unit. Again, they're moving into this area in Unit
26 26(A). However, in Unit 26(A) they don't have an accurate
27 count of how many there are. There's also a small herd there
28 at the very tip of hoe Alaska Maritime Refuge in Unit 26(A).
29 NPRA which comprise mostly of 26(A) is managed by BLM. This
30 proposal was to allow incidental harvest of muskoxen as stated
31 earlier in Unit 26(A). There's no harvest limit or season was
32 part of this proposal.

33
34 I mentioned earlier that the State Board of Game had
35 their spring meeting and did pass a similar proposal; however,
36 that sort of covers mainly the state and federal -- or state
37 and private lands. From what I've heard from the Parks people,
38 that there are going to be hunts allowed in the parks, Gates of
39 hoe Arctic, it would probably be on that corridor of private
40 lands.

41
42 Geoff reviewed the state proposal which is now in
43 effect. Point Lay did go through the process of trying out
44 that new state regulation dealing with incidental take in Unit
45 26(A). This is not a subsistence hunt that's going on around
46 Point Lay at this time. It's a hunt controlling the
47 population. Although it states that if the proposal went
48 through, there would be no need for a federal hunt, since the
49 state hunt would be all inclusive. The feds should have a
50 back-up proposal in case the state does not support the

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1 proposal, so we'll be discussing with Donna that we want to
2 talk about this back-up proposal. We wanted to try two years
3 on the state proposal which is similar to this 108, to give
4 that a try before we go forth on this proposal.

5
6 Real briefly, Ray Koonuk was disturbed that Point Hope
7 would not be included in this proposal. I think they're in
8 Unit 23, if I'm.....

9
10 MS. DEWHURST: We'll be addressing that here, Fenton.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: And I think Willie will enlighten us
13 on that part there, so -- or Donna will.

14
15 Ben Hopson asked if the residents around Anaktuvuk
16 could be included in the proposal to take the muskox in the
17 Gates of the Arctic. And we've researched that. And at that
18 time the -- the proposal right now as it was written could not
19 allow Anaktuvuk Pass, but we did make amendments to that at the
20 March meeting. Geoff briefly talked about the state proposal
21 did not include AKP, but we've again amended the proposal to
22 allow a limited hunt around Anaktuvuk Pass.

23
24 Mr. Ulvi, Steve Ulvi, who is the coordinator for the
25 National Park Service, they could not allow a permit harvest to
26 control muskox on park lands. At this time it is against the
27 National Park Service policy, and we've yet to see in black and
28 white their policy, which we've requested. It's sort of like
29 the conservation plan or some management plan for subsistence
30 take of all animals in hoe parks.

31
32 Taquliq Hepa, who's the deputy director of North Slope
33 Borough Wildlife Department, briefly talked about Unit 23 near
34 Point Hope. That's in the mill right now. They are working on
35 some sort of plan for that narrow area in the northwest part of
36 our state.

37
38 We talked about deferring the Proposal 108. We'd wait
39 for the March 21st meeting of hoe Alaska Board of Game. We
40 talked back and forth to -- I think I telephoned a few folks of
41 our Council members whether we should hold off on Proposal and
42 wait to see how the state proposal went. It's on page 15 talks
43 about that, on hoe bottom of page 14 and 15.

44
45 Attached with the Proposal 108 was the Elders Youth
46 Conference Resolution, which is on the back of the -- back of
47 these minutes here. The last page there provides a copy of hoe
48 resolution, 97-05 from the Inupiat History, Language and
49 Culture Commission meeting of the elders and youth conference.

50

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1 And this is a very -- an issue that we talk about at
2 every meeting, so I'll turn the floor over to Donna. Again,
3 the main motion was amended to allow Gates of the Arctic
4 National Park to allow some hunt in Unit 26(A) and Gates of the
5 Arctic area. Donna?

6
7 MS. DEWHURST: Well, as Mr. Chairman has just said, the
8 whole issue has been deferred until this year. Now, it can be
9 deferred basically however long. As Fenton said, if you wanted
10 to defer it for two years, to wait and give the State a chance
11 -- the system a chance to work, that's not a problem. We can
12 hold it in books for as long as you want. Or if you desire to
13 take it up in this coming cycle, we can do that.

14
15 What you would be basically looking at, or what we
16 could provide, just to review that, potentially would be --
17 We'd probably be looking at, if you look on your maps, would be
18 a hunt on BLM lands, orange. NPRA. We don't have any
19 authority to go off of federal lands, so we don't have any
20 authority to go into the white. And the pink on the far west
21 over by Point Hope we'll be discussing here later. That would
22 be part of a different hunt. So this hunt would only apply
23 primarily for NPRA.

24
25 At this time the Park Service is opposing including
26 Gates of the Arctic. And that was basically the stalemate that
27 the Federal Board ran up against last spring. Everybody was
28 pretty much going forward with this proposal, and then the
29 stalemate was Anaktuvuk Pass wanted to hunt in Gates, and the
30 Park Service gave an emphatic no. And that was kind of where
31 we left off and why the proposal got deferred was the stalemate
32 right there. That's -- we're still in that position. The Park
33 -- that's still my understanding the Park Service's position.
34 So that hasn't changed. Of course, additional discussions
35 could occur between the Council and the National Park Service,
36 but that's still at least what just last week when I talked
37 with some folks, that was basically what I was told.

38
39 So what you could get potentially would be a hunt in
40 NPRA, the orange lands. It would be -- they -- we would issue
41 permits in advance, but it would only be for -- I think the way
42 we had it was one permit per hunter, and a hunter could get two
43 muskox I believe was how we'd initially set it up. The hunter
44 would have to have a current state hunting license to even be
45 able to get a permit, so they would have to have proof of a
46 hunting license to get one of the federal permits. The permit
47 would be good probably for one year, and would be good for two
48 muskox. So they would have it in hand. So the problem I know
49 Gordon and Point Lay folks were running into with the state
50 hunt was the advanced -- trying to get the advanced permission

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1 kind of thing. This would -- you would already have
2 permission, because you would have that permit in hand if this
3 federal hunt went through. But the catch is, it would only be
4 good on federal lands, and so if you have muskox right by Point
5 Lay, the federal hunt wouldn't do you any good. You know, this
6 federal hunt would only be good on NPRA basically.

7
8 So that's the trade offs, and that's where we're at.
9 We're -- it's up to the Council whether or not they want to
10 consider it this year, or if you want to just defer it again
11 until next year like Fenton mentioned and let the state system
12 have another year to see if they can work it out.

13
14 Geoff did have a long discussion with Gordon at the
15 North Slope Fish and Game Management Committee, and the point
16 of the length of time it was taking to get an emergency order
17 through was brought up, and he said that, well, that was a
18 first case scenario, and that he was going to work on that. I
19 assume he's worked with you, Gordon to try to solve some of
20 those problems. So as far as I know, Geoff is working hard to
21 try to speed the process up and make it run smoother. I wish
22 he were here to talk for himself, but that was my
23 understanding.

24
25 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay. You've got the floor?

26
27 MS. DEWHURST: Well, you can -- I'll turn it over to
28 you at that point.

29
30 MR. UPICKSOUN: We did have a problem, Mr. Chairman,
31 with the permitting.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes, Mr. Upicksoun.

34
35 MR. UPICKSOUN:process. Over a week -- well,
36 when we first came before Geoff to say we need the permits,
37 well, he had to take the Boy Scouts out, and then when he came
38 back, some more time expired. I believe two more weeks. And
39 he flew down there with permits. It states there, Mr.
40 Chairman, that Donna, you stated that at our meeting that we
41 deferred this proposal until the Board of Game votes on this
42 proposal, and -- on March 21st.

43
44 MS. DEWHURST: Well, it was also deferred after that.
45 When the Federal Board met in May?

46
47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

48
49 MS. DEWHURST: They decided to defer it until this
50 cycle on the federal side.

0055

1 MR. UPICKSOUN: Uh-hum.

2

3 MS. DEWHURST: So the federal proposal was basically in
4 an inactive status right now. You could activate it this year,
5 or you could hold off and wait another year. It's up to the
6 Council's wishes at that point. You have the two options.

7

8 MR. UPICKSOUN: Well, I have another question. Where
9 does the State stand on this -- on muskox? It's not in the
10 regs.

11

12 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, we were wondering that. I think
13 because -- and somebody from the state can -- yeah, let.....

14

15 MS. MEEHAN: Let someone.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Sverre Pederson.

18

19 MR. PEDERSON: Thank you very much.

20

21 MR. UPICKSOUN: They gave us -- the state regulations,
22 Donna, they issued us one permit per person. That's through
23 the state regs, but it's not -- there's nothing in the state
24 regs, the new ones.

25

26 MS. DEWHURST: We wonder the same thing.

27

28 MR. PEDERSON: Mr. Chairman, this is Sverre. The
29 reason there is nothing about that particular opportunity in
30 the state regs is that it is not a hunt as such. Those hunts
31 are arranged by emergency order only. And so there's no reason
32 to have them in a reg book.

33

34 MR. UPICKSOUN: In that case, then why wasn't the
35 public notified, and in Gordon Brower's case where his dad
36 attached some noise makers to his four-wheeler and tried to get
37 the caribou -- I mean, the muskox away when in fact he could
38 have hunted muskox instead of trying to scare them. You could
39 have got an incidental take. But it's not written in the state
40 regs.

41

42 MR. PEDERSON: Yeah. Mr. Chairman?

43

44 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes, Mr. Pederson?

45

46 MR. PEDERSON: Geoff and other staff have worked to try
47 to streamline additional requests that may come in for the take
48 of muskox on unteray (ph). It was anticipated potentially
49 someone on the Tip River might ask for an opportunity to take a
50 muskox that's in a location where they may be disturbing

0056

1 movements of caribou. And those permits are probably ready to
2 go at just about any time that you apply for them.

3
4 So in your particular case, Mr. Upicksoun, it took a
5 little while to get the permits or the emergency order issued,
6 and it was an unfortunate circumstance. The request came in at
7 a time when the person on staff who had been assigned to do
8 this work was basically on his way out the door to do something
9 else. And so, you know, we recognize that that's a weakness
10 here, but, you know, that's probably not going to happen very
11 often to again have that kind of coincidence. But in the
12 future we hope to be able to have those permits pretty much
13 maybe available when people apply for them. And so there's not
14 going to be that delay.

15
16 But let me also ask this though: The -- we haven't
17 heard back from Point Lay whether or not those permits that
18 went to Point Lay in fact were used that were sent down?

19
20 MR. UPICKSOUN: One was used last week, Mr. Pederson.
21 And the scenario that Gordon Brower presented when his dad was
22 attaching noise makers to his four wheeler, trying to chase
23 them away from their normal caribou hunting area, did he in
24 fact had the right to hunt the muskox instead of trying to
25 chase them?

26
27 MR. PEDERSON: If he had requested a permit from.....

28
29 MR. UPICKSOUN: See, that part was not made clear to
30 the public, this permitting process in the area where they were
31 trying to chase the muskox away. There's no -- the State is
32 clear on that. There's no -- they should -- if they -- and if
33 it's not a reg, then there should be a public notice for people
34 affected by the muskox. There should be.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Public notice.

37
38 MR. UPICKSOUN:a public notice where there's no
39 question, where they don't go wasting time trying to chase them
40 away when in fact they could have hunted them.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Public notices, we'll mark that
43 down. They just need to.....

44
45 MR. UPICKSOUN: They did use one permit in Point Lay
46 last week.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Or public relations or public
49 information.

50

0057

1 MR. UPICKSOUN: We've been kicking around this muskox
2 issue, just like Clinton and Monica. It never goes away.

3
4 MR. B. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman?

5
6 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Hopson?

7
8 MR. B. HOPSON: Yeah. Anaktuvuk residents are still of
9 the -- like concern or opinion that they'd still like to
10 harvest muskox on the incidental catch basis. And then, you
11 know, muskox have been around a long time on the Slope. It may
12 not be long, but it's taken a lot of time for -- it actually
13 hasn't taken that long time to populate to a fairly good sized
14 numbers and we're just not seeing muskox moving into our area
15 at all. You know, it's a park for everyone to enjoy. I don't
16 know if it's possible to have everything in that park, although
17 there is a quite wide array of animals to see for hikers, U.S.
18 residents. Other federal agencies that own land on the North
19 Slope, they're enjoying high muskox numbers in ANWR, NPRA.

20
21 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, Donna, could you give us
22 the history behind the flat no for AKP for incidental take of
23 muskox? Why was there a flat no?

24
25 MS. DEWHURST: You mean for Gates? I'm sorry. I'm
26 trying to remember the statement. It was against -- you might
27 be able to help me with -- the park policies were -- well, we
28 have a Park Service person, let him answer.

29
30 MS. MEEHAN: Paul.

31
32 MS. DEWHURST: I forgot Paul was here.

33
34 MR. HUNTER: Mr. Chairman, Council members, I'm Paul
35 Hunter.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Hunter.

38
39 MR. HUNTER: And I'm speaking for Gates of the Arctic
40 Park today, and also for the Park Service generally in the
41 state. The policy that we're talking about, Park Service
42 policy, is I could analogize it or compare it to the wolf
43 policy when we've been requested to do predator control for
44 wolves. And the Park Service policy is not to do predator
45 control, but we're not -- but we don't oppose regular hunting
46 seasons and trapping seasons for wolves. It's just the idea of
47 controlling nuisance animals so to speak. And the same applies
48 for other species, such as muskox. And that's what the flat no
49 refers to is the idea of controlling a nuisance animal, just
50 for that reason. And that applies in the area that is the

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1 park.

2

3 The Park Service supports the incidental take program
4 that has been established with the State, and that would apply
5 around Anaktuvuk Pass on the corporation lands and other
6 private lands around Anaktuvuk Pass. And it would also apply
7 in the preserve, that small portion of preserve that is east of
8 Anaktuvuk Pass. Where it wouldn't apply is in the Park, and
9 that is because the only taking of wildlife that is allowed in
10 the Park is under the Federal Subsistence Program. So taking
11 under state law doesn't apply in the Park. And the Park
12 Service would support a season for muskox in the park when
13 there are enough animals, enough to support a regular
14 subsistence harvest, that the flat no that is being referred to
15 now simply means that the position of hoe Park Service at this
16 point is that there aren't enough in the Park to support a
17 subsistence take, and the -- and the Park Service doesn't
18 support predator control or nuisance control of species, of any
19 kind of species in the Park. If it was an exotic species, that
20 is, a species that wasn't native to the Park, there are
21 provisions for controlling that kind of a situation, but when
22 it's a species that's native to the area, the Park Service
23 policy nationwide is to not removal of that species. So that's
24 pretty much in a summary the position of the Park Service.

25

26 MR. UPICKSOUN: So that -- you don't in fact address
27 the fact that these were introduced species, and I still can't
28 understand why you can support the incidental take of muskox
29 dispersed from other herds into your area. How can you support
30 half of it, and some -- do I detect apples and oranges some
31 place?

32

33 MR. HUNTER: It is sort of apples and oranges in the
34 sense that the Park Service is more restrictive in what we can
35 allow in the terms of taking wildlife in the Park than BLM is
36 or.....

37

38 MR. UPICKSOUN: I mean, how do you address introduced
39 species that were introduced in the area?

40

41 MR. HUNTER: If it was a species that just wasn't
42 natural in the Park.....

43

44 MR. UPICKSOUN: They're not natural. We've been
45 saying.....

46

47 MR. HUNTER: That's.....

48

49 MR. UPICKSOUN:that for years.

50

0059

1 MR. HUNTER: Yeah. The -- I guess the position of the
2 National Park Service right now is that they are a species that
3 used to be there, and were eliminated for whatever reason,
4 hunting, commercial meat hunting, whatever, and now they're
5 being re-introduced, but they were historically in that -- in
6 the area. And that's why it's not considered an exotic,
7 unnatural animal to be in the Park. I mean, if it was a lion
8 or a tiger that were coming into the Park, that would be an
9 unnatural species if it somehow got in there, and the Park
10 Service would support eliminating that kind of an animal from
11 the Park.

12
13 The Park Service would -- I'm speaking for myself I
14 guess now, but my understanding of what the Park Service would
15 like is that a natural population of muskoxen would be
16 established in the Park, and that a regular subsistence harvest
17 would occur by the subsistence users in the Park, and at the
18 point at which there are enough animals to do that, the Park
19 Service will be the first to support a regular harvest.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other question, Mr. Hopson?

22
23 MR. B. HOPSON: No.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Let me -- any questions for
26 Mr. Hunter before we move on?

27
28 MR. G. BROWER: I have a question, I just.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Brower?

31
32 MR. G. BROWER: I just didn't get it clear. Is it that
33 Park Service is supporting an incidental take around Anaktuvuk
34 Pass, including this purple area? If an incident took place,
35 an encounter between like a hunting camp and it just became
36 necessary to kill that animal?

37
38 MR. HUNTER: The Park Service supports the incidental
39 take program that has just been established by the State, but
40 it only applies on the corporation land, and other private land
41 around Anaktuvuk Pass. None of the state hunting regulations
42 apply in the Park. That's because the Park is closed to
43 hunting under state law. Congress, United States Congress did
44 that. So the only kind of hunting that can occur in the park
45 is hunting under the Federal Subsistence Program. And
46 it's.....

47
48 MR. G. BROWER: Okay. I just got mixed up for a little
49 bit if you were supporting their program in their own lands.

50

0060
1 MR. HUNTER: Yes, yes.
2
3 MR. G. BROWER: That's what you're saying then?
4
5 MR. HUNTER: That's correct.
6
7 MR. G. BROWER: Okay.
8
9 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?
10
11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Upicksoun?
12
13 MR. UPICKSOUN: You asked for further comments so we
14 can go on. Are you going to be discussing 108 some more
15 or.....
16
17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I think we're discussing 108 right
18 now.
19
20 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay. Mr. Chairman, I want the State
21 to clarify what they'll be doing to make the hunters aware of
22 what they're able to do as far as muskox is concerned. Like in
23 Gordon Brower's dad's case where they didn't know that they
24 have in fact taken that moose -- muskox instead of trying to
25 chase -- wasting time trying to chase it away.
26
27 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Pederson?
28
29 MR. PEDERSON: I will identify myself, I didn't do it
30 last time. I'm Sverre Pederson. I'm with the State of Alaska,
31 Department of Fish and Game,.....
32
33 COURT REPORTER: Could you come over to the microphone,
34 please?
35
36 MR. PEDERSON:Division of Subsistence. First --
37 okay. I'm Sverre Pederson, Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
38 Division of Subsistence.
39
40 Mr. Chairman, Mr. Upicksoun, the -- we've already gone
41 through the first part of your question which has to do with
42 this -- you know, the State not being -- not providing enough
43 information to hunters, and we've taken note of that, and we'll
44 consider that comment and see what we can do to insure that
45 more information is broadcast, and so that people understand
46 this new regulation, or this -- yeah, this regulation more
47 fully.
48
49 The second part of your question has to do with when
50 can people harvest under the emergency order these -- you know,

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1 these muskox. And the intent was that we would harvest muskox
2 that were in -- and this was based on recommendations from the
3 Fish and Game Management Committee, and the communities most
4 intimately involved in this, which were basically Point Lay and
5 Nuiqsut and Kaktovik, that the incidental take would occur by
6 request when muskox were estab- -- beginning to become
7 established, small groups of muskox were beginning to become
8 established in important migration corridors for caribou. The
9 intent wasn't, you know, whenever you see a muskox, and it --
10 you know, at the individual level annoys you, that you then
11 immediately be given a permit to go out and harvest the muskox.
12 The Board of Game said that, you know, specifically that when
13 muskox were in important migration corridors for caribou, that
14 the public then should be given an opportunity to reduce the
15 number of muskox so that caribou could pass through these
16 areas, and so that's sort of the -- that was the intent.

17
18 Now, how that is -- how it's put into effect is a
19 different, you know, matter. There's some discretion allowed
20 there, and the dialogue between people who request a permit,
21 and in this case Geoff who issues the permit, how -- that the
22 threshold there is, you know, how many people have to agree
23 that this is a problem. There's some latitude there.

24
25 So, you know, this instance that you mention up on the
26 Chipp River that one person felt that, you know, within a mile
27 of his cabin he needed to chase muskox away because they were
28 impeding, you know, caribou movement through there, I'm not
29 sure how that would be evaluated. You know, Geoff would have
30 to make that value judgment.

31
32 But the intent was that, you know, let's take Anaktuvuk
33 as an example, that north of Anaktuvuk is an area where caribou
34 stream in and out of the valley, and if muskox became
35 established in the migration corridor there, that those would
36 be then removed so that caribou could travel freely in and out.
37 That was the -- that's the main intent for this.

38
39 I've got to also add this, that, you know, we were --
40 the State right now does not have a very good tool kit when it
41 comes to addressing concerns such as the ones that are being
42 raised here. We're pretty limited in what we can do, because
43 of the, you know, legal constraints. So in this incidental
44 take regulation, we've gone, you know, I think about as far as
45 we can go to accommodate a concern that people have expressed
46 with regards to muskox being in sensitive areas. And I'm
47 hoping -- we're hoping that this regulation will work, you
48 know, that this will in fact be a good mechanism for resolving
49 conflicts between muskox and caribou for subsistence hunters.
50 And, you know, we just started into this now, and I'm not sure

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1 that we have very much information to go on quite yet.

2

3 Point Lay is going to be an important place for us to
4 see how well, you know, does the removal of muskox work.

5

6 MR. UPICKSOUN: And not only removal, but the time it
7 takes to get a permit. Mr. Chairman?

8

9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Upicksoun.

10

11 MR. UPICKSOUN: In June during our beluga hunt, we set
12 up camp south of Point Lay, between Point Lay and Point Hope.
13 Observation camp so we can notify the village when the belugas
14 come by. During the time that they were setting up the two
15 camps, about 20 miles south of Point Lay, they noticed that
16 there were some muskox in that area. By the time we got ahold
17 of Geoff, they were at a river, mouth of a river five miles
18 south of Point Lay. Last week I was at Unak (ph) -- Utukok,
19 almost 30 miles this side of Point Lay. Now, that's 50 miles
20 that they have gone toward Wainwright.

21

22 And when you binocular from Utukok looking towards
23 Point Lay, you see a bunch of muskox out there. And the first
24 five miles into Utukok you don't see no caribou. That's
25 unusual. Nobody got caribou south of Point Lay, our prime
26 caribou hunting area. Nobody got a single caribou this summer
27 in that area. That's a muskox problem. Now we have to go five
28 miles into our major river before we started seeing caribou,
29 because when you come up and start binocularing around, all you
30 see is muskox out in the flats. We have to go away from that,
31 and that is affecting the migratory pattern. Or not
32 necessarily migratory pattern, but the area where the caribou
33 normally feed, where we usually harvest our caribou meat this
34 part of the year while they're fat. The muskox are in fact
35 affecting the way we hunt in Point Lay, more so -- it's more so
36 -- it's more noticeable this year than any other year, because
37 of the area that they're affecting, all the way to Utukok.
38 That's 30 miles this way, this side of Point Lay. That's --
39 our problem has been right from the village south. Now it's
40 affecting us 30 miles this side, and that -- as the muskox
41 population disperses more into our area, it will affect a lot
42 more.

43

44 MR. PEDERSON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Upicksoun,.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Pederson.

47

48 MR. PEDERSON:between the time -- you know, Geoff
49 isn't here, so I don't have the chronol- -- you know, the time
50 line here. It seemed to me that it took maybe two and a half

0063

1 weeks between when you first applied for that -- for
2 permits.....

3

4 MR. UPICKSOUN: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

5

6 MR. HUNTER:to harvest muskox until you.....

7

8 MR. UPICKSOUN: Maybe a little longer. We had our
9 regular Wildlife Committee meeting, North Slope Borough, and it
10 was right after that meeting.

11

12 MR. PEDERSON: And had the muskox moved quite a
13 distance then between when you first saw them?

14

15 MR. UPICKSOUN: Oh, yeah.

16

17 MR. HUNTER: Yeah.

18

19 MR. UPICKSOUN: That's -- we're talking about 50 miles
20 plus.

21

22 MR. PEDERSON: And how many muskox were there?

23

24 MR. UPICKSOUN: Well, initially they saw four, first
25 observation, south of Point Lay was four along the Arctic
26 Coast, along the beach. Now they've moved 50 miles north along
27 the coast.

28

29 MR. PEDERSON: There's still four?

30

31 MR. UPICKSOUN: They're out in the tundra, you can't
32 count them. Somebody's got to document this by counting or
33 something, because the next area they'll affect is your hunting
34 area, Terry, and they're.....

35

36 MR. TAGAROOK: We depend on the.....

37

38 MR. UPICKSOUN:no good when you can't hunt
39 caribou, and the doggone muskox are there, and it's.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah. Thank you, Mister.....

42

43 MR. UPICKSOUN: All the elders have the same opinion:
44 get rid of those son of a guns.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah. Mr. Upicksoun and Mr.
47 Pederson, I'd like to include Mr. Hunter in on this
48 conversation. We have a mandate requested by the Elders and
49 Youth Conference. I think that's a pretty strong message to
50 this council where any other state or federal agencies are

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1 urged -- let me just review that with you at this time to
2 resolve or continue the dialogue with National Park Service,
3 the Department of Fish and Game in this particular -- in
4 particular Proposal 108.

5
6 Resolution 97-05, and you can find this in tab D at the
7 very end of -- next to the minutes there. The Elders and Youth
8 Conference requested clarification for the public of the
9 changes in any regulations governing the harvest of muskox and
10 urging public involvement in decisions regarding the management
11 of the species. That's the title of the resolution, and I urge
12 the federal and state agencies to review this resolution, and
13 we want to follow through, and perhaps continue the controversy
14 we have with muskox.

15
16 Whereas the muskox population on the North Slope are
17 increasing; and whereas North Slope muskox population are the
18 product of successful reintroduction programs implemented
19 decades after the elimination of the species from this region;
20 and whereas many North Slope residents believe that muskoxen
21 compete with caribou, which are a critical subsistence
22 resource, for limited preferred ranges and food; and whereas
23 given a traditional low permitted harvest of muskox, these
24 residents see little value in the continued expansion of muskox
25 numbers and their ranges; and whereas many North Slope
26 residents are unaware that the Alaska Board of Game -- this
27 talks about the increased harvest around Nuiqsut -- for a quota
28 of muskox in North Slope Game Management 26(B) near Nuiqsut,
29 and five -- from five to up to 40 animals; now therefore be it
30 be resolved that the agencies -- where they -- I'm reading this
31 as federal or state, and any institutions concerned with muskox
32 management and harvest on the North Slope, including the
33 Department of Wildlife Management under the Borough, the State
34 Department of Fish and Game, North Slope Borough Fish and Game
35 Management Committee, are urged to take steps to clarify for
36 the public existing regulations governing the harvest of
37 muskox; be it further resolved that such regulations be
38 discussed at a workshop with each of the communities; that
39 information on muskox population in the vicinity of each
40 community be provided; the possibility of expanding harvest
41 areas to include all of Game Management Unit 26 be discussed;
42 and that the Department of Wildlife Management be requested to
43 explore a system eliminating requirements for subsistence
44 permits when muskoxens are harvested for nutritional purposes;
45 be it further resolved that the responsible agencies are urged
46 to continue to involve the North Slope public in research and
47 management decisions concerning the muskox.

48
49 And I know that we've heard from the Park Service that
50 they are against having a controlled -- controlling of any

0065

1 animals, whether they be wolf or muskoxen. We need to work
2 with the Park Service to eliminate or make it easier or to
3 evaporate or get rid of that limitation that we're under and
4 where legal constraints that prohibit the impact of the
5 muskoxen. So if we're going to do that, I urge that the
6 Council here look at Proposal 108, to continue that dialogue
7 with all of the federal and state agencies. I think that's a
8 serious matter that we need to look at Proposal 108, keep it
9 alive for purposes of discussion and further dialogue with the
10 state and federal agencies and bring it up with the Federal
11 Board again.

12
13 Because we're coming up with obstacles and time delays,
14 impacts. What are the numbers? What is the National Park
15 Service comfortable with? When is enough to take a hunt? Is
16 it going to be too late by the time there's enough numbers for
17 the residents of Anaktuvuk Pass? When there's too many
18 muskoxen now. What is that magic number? What is enough for
19 the National Park Service to allow some sort of hunt? I think
20 the only way we're going to make -- get answers for those is to
21 continue with Proposal 108 and find out just exactly what is
22 the numbers that state or federal agencies are comfortable with
23 to have a take. They must have a magic number that allows them
24 to state what is the number? X times Y?

25
26 I know you, you have these graphs that you could work
27 on. The economy in Montana or something, timber resource
28 harvest, allows the number of elk to be taken. You know, they
29 put an X and a Y formula in there for the number of linear feet
30 taken of timber, that leaves you so many elk to take. So we
31 can put some sort of economy or some base impact to put into
32 that formula. I think the numbers that they want to see
33 increases for the -- maybe a mandate from Lower 48 of the 230
34 million residents that are very interested in limiting.

35
36 And we're living up here. I stated that before. That
37 we've heard residents not only from this area through the
38 Elders Youth Conference, and also the residence of AKP have
39 testified that they do not want to see the population grow and
40 interfere with the migration of the caribou that they mostly
41 depend on. So we have a conflict again. I'm going to repeat
42 these. We have a conflict with the policy of the Park Service.
43 We have a conflict in other areas or other federal agencies.
44 We know that there is some sort of master plan or some kind of
45 conservation plan that allow or we're butting heads or National
46 Park Service is saying, no, we don't allow control. Or we
47 won't allow any hunt.

48
49 So we need to work on these kind of issues.

50

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1 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

2
3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Upicksoun?

4
5 MR. UPICKSOUN: There have been many different agencies
6 involved in the discussion regarding muskox for several years,
7 and you put it quite clearly, Mr. Chairman, when you said
8 there's conflict. There still are. This issue has been
9 addressed by this Council, been discussed by the North Slope
10 Borough Fish and Game Management Committee extensively. Our
11 elders have been involved and you've heard the resolution
12 passed by the elders and the youth, and they capsulize
13 everything we've talked about for years. And like our
14 chairman, Fenton Rexford, stated there are still conflicts
15 within your agencies. How do we resolve this problem? What
16 does it take to resolve the concerns of the residents of this
17 area? What do we -- who do we hang? What do we do? What does
18 it take to resolve all these issues? Is it an issue that can't
19 be resolved? There's no way it can be resolved? We've
20 addressed this issue for years, Mr. Chairman.

21
22 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman?

23
24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Gordon Brower.

25
26 MR. G. BROWER: I remember years ago when there was a
27 problem with tutuk (ph), with caribou, when the hunts were
28 stopped and I don't know who was doing it, but I was a
29 youngster at the time. But they were -- whoever was doing the
30 control at that time was giving out families beef, say this is
31 -- you can't hunt any more tutuk, but we'll give you this. And
32 that's what happened in the past that I remember. I think the
33 same kind of principle is going on when you're preventing the
34 hunt of caribou by introducing muskox. You're directly
35 interfering. And if they can't hunt the caribou, with the
36 muskox are in the way, and you're protecting the muskox, then
37 you're just taking away from that family's nutritional value
38 for that year. I think ways to find out problems to -- for
39 these issues are urgent, maybe including substituting the
40 muskox, because it's right there, and it's nutritional value in
41 itself. I think those kind of trade-offs have to be looked at
42 in order for people to get their meat. I think muskox is a
43 good source of meat. It's a pretty good meat. And I think
44 those kind of issues have to be looked at. I think it's come
45 -- directly taking away from families for their needs when it's
46 affecting that way.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you very much, Mr. Brower, you
49 have stated it very well, the impact of the muskoxen versus the
50 management principles. The residents are part of the

0067

1 ecosystem, and it's upset with the management principles and
2 policies of the federal agencies. It's not right. We need to
3 correct that wrong.

4
5 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chairman?

6
7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Pederson first and then
8 Mr. Tagarook.

9
10 MR. PEDERSON: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, this is Sverre
11 Pederson again. You're expressing an interest in finding --
12 you know, a way to maintain a dialogue about, you know, this
13 problem with the muskoxen on the North Slope. And I just want
14 -- would like to call to your attention that there is a
15 technical committee that composed of all of the federal
16 agencies, the North Slope Borough, and the -- you know, we've
17 had representatives from the communities most directly
18 involved.

19
20 We've met, and through the work of that committee, we
21 came up with the proposals on how to deal constructively with
22 the problem. Well, first we created a management plan, and
23 then a harvest plan for the North Slope. And through the
24 harvest plan, we then derived proposals. We came up with
25 proposals that then were put before the Board of Game. And,
26 you know, that process has worked really well, and I would just
27 like to encourage this group to consider that, you know,
28 procedure, of that way of resolving this, and using that as
29 maybe the tool to look at how to further improve opportunities
30 for North Slope residence to harvest muskoxen.

31
32 Another -- there are other ways to do this, but, you
33 know, that mechanism has worked well. We've gotten together,
34 we've all sat down and talked about how to resolve the problem.
35 We've discussed our differences, and to me it looks like that
36 has worked fairly well.

37
38 I'm very sensitive to Mr. Upicksoun's problem. And I'm
39 -- and I know that the tool that we have right now is not
40 perfect, but it's -- we're making progress, you know. We're
41 moving in the right direction here, and there may be more that
42 we can do. And, you know, using the technical committee might
43 be a good mechanism to consider here. Thank you.

44
45 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman? Is that.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Tagarook,.....

48
49 MR. UPICKSOUN: Oh, okay.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:and then Mr. Upicksoun, then
2 Harry.

3
4 MR. TAGAROOK: We have been talking about the muskox
5 for quite a number of years as Gordon as been saying, and I
6 know there are some villages that are, you know, like in
7 Nuiqsut now, Point Hope, Point Lay, whenever there's muskoxen
8 there, the caribous are -- nobody's hardly see the caribous any
9 more near where they used to be before the muskoxes came. It
10 seems that the simple solution would be to remove all the
11 muskox, and there will be no conflict.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Mr. Tagarook. Gordon,
14 and then Harry.

15
16 MR. UPICKSOUN: Yeah. Mr. Pederson, you heard comments
17 during our meeting in Nuiqsut regarding muskox. Now, that's
18 just one village. If you were to go to Point Lay, you could
19 really get an earful. My question to you, Fenton, is that
20 working group or technical group still in existence, the one
21 that Mr. Pederson referred to, and if it's comprised of all
22 these different agencies, why wasn't -- why do, Mr. Hunter,
23 your agency still have a problem in resolving the situation
24 around Anaktuvuk Pass, if in fact like Mr. Pederson said, the
25 working group, the technical committee, technical working group
26 tried to resolve these problems. And he can tell you exactly
27 -- just about exactly who is in that working group, and your
28 agencies are involved also. What more -- how many more
29 committees do you want so we can resolve those issues that make
30 you say a flat no? Do we need more committees?

31
32 MR. HUNTER: Mr. Chairman, this is Paul Hunter again.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Hunter.

35
36 MR. HUNTER: I don't think we need more committees,
37 that's for sure. We've got plenty of committees. Steve Ulvi
38 is working with that group I believe, and he's -- he did tell
39 me before I came up that he's committed to continuing with the
40 group and in trying to go as far as he can with, you know, our
41 agency's policies.

42
43 As I mentioned before, we support the incidental take
44 regulation where it is established now. We're limited in what
45 we can do for the national park because of the specific
46 Congressional legislation that established the park, and limits
47 the taking of wildlife there to only subsistence uses. And
48 we're fully committed to a subsistence harvest of muskox if
49 they move into the park and there's a sufficient resident
50 population of muskox for a regular subsistence hunt. We're

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1 fully committee to that.

2

3 It's only on the technical issue of removing nuisance
4 animals in the park when there aren't enough animals in the
5 park for a regular subsistence harvest. And there isn't really
6 a magic number. The way we refer to it is when there's a
7 natural and healthy population in the park, then we would fully
8 support a subsistence harvest of those animals.

9

10 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

11

12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Just a minute, Gordon. I think --
13 were you following up on.....

14

15 MR. HUNTER: Yes.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:I mean, Mr. Pederson, you're
18 following up with Gordon's inquiry?

19

20 MR. PEDERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

23

24 MR. PEDERSON: This is Sverre Pederson again. In
25 direct answer to Mr. Upicksoun, in the committee meetings that
26 I have participated in regarding North Slope muskoxen, this
27 specific issue that you're referring to has not come up,
28 because the discussion was focused on the area north of
29 Anaktuvuk. When we talked to people from Anaktuvuk, they --
30 you know, they focused on the area to the north of them,
31 because that is the critical area for movement of caribou. And
32 so we've only discussed that area. There are lots of other
33 issues concerning muskox management on the North Slope that
34 still need to be talked about, and so we've never -- we never
35 explored this -- you know, what you call the magic number in a
36 discussion with the Park Service. That topic hasn't really
37 been up for discussion yet.

38

39 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay. Mr. Pederson, now this is an
40 issue we thought we resolved at the Board of Game meeting in
41 Nome. We thought we had all the problems solved. That's how
42 complex this issue is. When we got done with that meeting in
43 Nome, we thought, wow, we've got it. We don't. It's too
44 complex, the muskox issue is too complex. There's -- we've --
45 we just keep digging ourselves deeper and deeper.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: It's a management principle.

48

49 MR. UPICKSOUN: I thought we had all the issues
50 resolved when we got done with the Board of -- we attended the

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1 State Board of Game meeting in Nome last fall. I really
2 thought we had everything, muskox taken care of. That wasn't
3 the case. It just got worse since then. And we referred to
4 our meetings, referring to what our Council members said, at --
5 quoting our minutes, where it says that if we wait until the
6 scientists can prove that muskox are affecting the migration of
7 caribou, if we wait until the scientists can prove that muskox
8 are affecting the migration of caribou, it will be too late.
9 How much more testimony you want from the public? Then you
10 have to sit down and prove that it is affecting the migratory
11 habits of the caribou. By the time that you prove that it is
12 affecting especially our hunting area, it will be too late.
13 I'm talking to Mr. Hunter, you're with the state. Obviously
14 you're with the State. I'm talking.....

15
16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Very well said.

17
18 MR. UPICKSOUN:to Mr. Hunter.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: In fact that's what I was trying to
21 allude to earlier, that two, three years ago maybe I wanted the
22 federal agencies to prove it, prove it that we're wrong. And
23 we haven't heard from the scientists or the biologists, and we
24 haven't been proven wrong yet, so what are we waiting or? I
25 think by our action from this committee or this Council to urge
26 the scientific proof before it's too late, and to start.....

27
28 MR. UPICKSOUN: And, Mr. Chairman, when you referred to
29 the resolution passed by the elders and youth in March of this
30 year, they capsulized everything that we're discussing here.
31 And for the elders to have foresight and capsulize what we've
32 been discussing in different groups for years, for them to be
33 able to do it in one meeting and state very clearly what the
34 problem is, and put it in the form of a resolution, that piece
35 of document is -- the more you read it, the more sense it
36 makes, that resolution, what is it, 97-05.

37
38 MR. H. BROWER: Yeah.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Upicksoun. I
41 think we have two matters before us to continue the dialogue:
42 revitalize Proposal 108, to have the working group continue to
43 address our concerns here. If we could -- if I can try and
44 summarize the discussions, we can move on to other proposals.
45 I think keeping 108 is my -- I'm going to just summarize it for
46 your consideration.

47
48 Proposal 108 is still alive. We can present that back
49 to the Federal Subsistence Board with amendments or new
50 verbiage or more proof or more testimonies. We should pursue

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1 and keep Proposal 108 alive. That what Gordon just stated as
2 far as it proves -- that what the residents are saying verbally
3 to be proven by scientists and biologists and anthropologists.
4 By the time their proof is written, it's already getting too
5 late for Point Lay, west -- or east of them 50 miles.

6
7 MR. UPICKSOUN: Both sides.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: There's some muskox that are
10 populating there and preventing sort of like a fence, and
11 diverting the caribou. Is it too late already? Probably. And
12 at Park Service, for them to feel comfortable at enough
13 numbers, whatever that may -- there's no magic number, but to
14 be proven, that caribou will be diverted or stopped, maybe
15 that's the reason why they're not coming from the south --
16 north, which Gordon -- I mean, Mr. Hopson has stated that it's
17 unusual for a migration to come from the south. They're still
18 waiting for the migration from the north. Maybe there is some
19 muskox implantation north of the pass there that's preventing
20 caribou to come from the north.

21
22 So we can urge this -- the technical committee to urge
23 or delegate, or how would you say that as far as administrative
24 order or something sort of that -- for the biologists,
25 anthropologists, and whatever scientists need to prove to us
26 that caribou -- all along the residents have been stating that,
27 yep, they're right. By the time we come up with that written
28 statement, it's going to be too late.

29
30 So we have Proposal 108 before us. We can open that up
31 to insert some more testimony and get on, get on with this. I
32 think that's the only way we'll continue with this. We'll just
33 keep talking all afternoon.....

34
35 MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes, and.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:on the problems.

38
39 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, maybe that technical
40 committee or working group can hold their next meeting in our
41 affected communities, like, for instance, Point Lay, where
42 you'll get testimony that will sink any ship. If you want --
43 in order to help you get testimony from the affected community,
44 if it would help you make decisions, I ask that a next meeting
45 be held for the working group at Point Lay, if they have the
46 funding available to do so.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Request by Councilman Upicksoun for
49 the technical or working group to meet in the affected
50 communities, and especially Point Lay. And we also have

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1 Anaktuvuk Pass. Maybe by teleconference we can hear more
2 testimony when we do make meetings here.

3
4 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman?

5
6 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Brower?

7
8 MR. H. BROWER: As was stated earlier, Sverre, you
9 brought up the issue on the technical committee, and how far
10 they've gone in doing -- trying to get this harvest of muskox.
11 It was a management plan for the harvest of muskox, and it's --
12 I think it's come to a stalemate to where we're just sitting
13 and waiting, trying to hear back from the different agencies to
14 sign off on that harvest of muskox plan. And as Mr. Hunter
15 stated, that they've got a mandate that they have to go by, and
16 that's one of our biggest drawbacks in -- on this stalemate of
17 getting signatures for this -- from the technical committee.
18 We've got all, like you said, the agencies that are involved in
19 the management of the resources in their different areas on the
20 North Slope, but it's not going anywhere without -- I mean,
21 there's still -- it's just become a stalemate and sitting
22 there. We're trying to get signatures from each of the
23 directors of -- like the director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife
24 Service, BLM, and Gates of the Arctic, and we haven't had any
25 response to my knowledge, and that's created a stalemate for
26 us, and I don't think we've had any other meetings besides the
27 last one we had in Anchorage. And I don't think we have gotten
28 one scheduled in the near future either, so I'm not sure what
29 -- that's the only thing that I know of that's creating the
30 stalemate, there's no sign-off on that -- on the management
31 plan. And we were urged to go forward by the Chairman of the
32 Federal Subsistence Board to go and make more progress on it,
33 and we've tried and we've come to a stalemate and we haven't
34 gone any further from that.

35
36 MR. PEDERSON: Mr. Chairman?

37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Pederson?

39
40 MR. PEDERSON: I'm not going to make -- you know, I'm
41 not going to make this discussion continue on for very much
42 longer hopefully with my comments, but I'd like to just respond
43 to that. I think, Mr. Brower, if you look at what happened at
44 the last Board of Game meeting, they basically accepted all of
45 the recommendations that the technical committee had made. As
46 -- you know, through the proposals that were presented to them.
47 And, in fact, the issue concerning, you know, traditional
48 knowledge and regarding the effect of muskox on caribou was
49 acknowledged in this regulation that was passed allowing for
50 the emergency order harvest or the incidental harvest

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1 opportunity.

2

3 MR. H. BROWER: Uh-hum.

4

5 MR. PEDERSON: So that was acknowledged. You're right
6 that not all of the agencies have signed off on the agreement,
7 but that's -- it's a matter of timing I think. My
8 understanding is that, you know, the Park Service may -- that's
9 about the only agency I know of that isn't going to sign off on
10 the agreement that I know of. The others have expressed a
11 willingness to sign off on the agreement as it's put together.
12 And I think the -- you know, I'm not going to second guess the
13 Park Service, but I think what the problem with the Park
14 Service was that the reason they didn't want to sign off on it
15 was that the area was too large that the technical committee
16 recommended as being open to harvest. And we've never had this
17 discussion as I mentioned a little while ago regarding the park
18 lands, and the number of muskox that would be necessary there
19 before a subsistence hunt would be allowed in the park.

20

21 So, you know, I think we've made -- I think we've made
22 a lot of progress. I think that's been a real good, you know,
23 medium, because everybody's had an opportunity to speak freely
24 in that medium, and we've good compromises back and forth, and,
25 you know, I -- so I think from an agency point of view, I think
26 we've made considerable progress.

27

28 I understand, you know, the frustration here, because I
29 know what it is you would like to have, and that is basically
30 no, you know, restrictions on you in terms of harvesting
31 muskox. And, you know, if conditions -- legal conditions were
32 different for the State, you know, it might be possible, but
33 that's not the legal environment we are in right now, so we're
34 using the few tools that we have available to try to
35 accommodate residents here. And I understand that you're
36 frustrated. I can understand that.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. So, fellow Councilmen, we
39 have Proposal 108 before us again. Summarize to us in a couple
40 of sentences, Donna, if you can, in reviewing Proposal 108 the
41 main -- do we have a copy of that proposal that we submitted to
42 the.....

43

44 MS. DEWHURST: No.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:Federal Board?

47

48 MS. DEWHURST: It was to institute an incidental muskox
49 take in Unit 26(A) federal lands. I think we settled on
50 potentially unlimited number of permits, no season -- well, the

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1 season will be one year, but that's just for annual permits.
2 But there's no season basically. And it was good for one
3 permit per hunter. Each permit will be good for two muskoxen.
4 And then at that point it deviated, because there was the
5 recommendation from the Council was different than the Staff
6 recommendation, but the actual proposal was just for incidental
7 take in Unit 26(A). That was the original proposal.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: What is -- we've heard the
10 testimonies here, I will not try and summarize them. I think
11 I'd leave that up to the staff, hearing all the testimonies
12 here this afternoon, to revitalize Proposal 108 for
13 consideration.

14

15 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

16

17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Upicksoun?

18

19 MR. UPICKSOUN: How can staff recommendations and the
20 Council wishes be a hold-up in this case, Donna?

21

22 MS. DEWHURST: Well, it's just that we have to do our
23 recommendations based on the land management agency, and --
24 which is the National Park Service, so our recommendations are
25 guided by the current land manager of the agency that we are --
26 lands we're dealing with, and the Park Service said they didn't
27 want a hunt in the Park, so that had to be the staff
28 recommendation. And the Council said to open the Park, so
29 that's where the main difference is.

30

31 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay. I understand your point.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I think, yeah, the working group and
34 the technical group should take this on at the direction of the
35 Council is what I'm -- I think which way the residents want to
36 go, or the Council wants to go is what I -- unless I'm stating
37 it wrong.

38

39 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman?

40

41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Patkotak?

42

43 MR. PATKOTAK: My understanding is, just in simple
44 words, National Park Service doesn't agree with the Council,
45 and the Council doesn't agree with the Park Service, but only
46 on one common ground, and that's incidental catch. Now, you --
47 for that simple reason, we capitalize on that incidental catch.
48 So now if National Park Service doesn't want to comply with the
49 Council, I say we have workshops and put it in writing in
50 English and Eskimo, and make it clear to hunters that it is

0075

1 good for incidental catch. I, for one, if the caribou which
2 come through Peard Bay start getting displaced by muskox, I'm
3 definitely going to get rid of those animals as incidental,
4 because that's my livelihood. So my suggestion would be is
5 that, National Park Service, you don't agree with the Council,
6 so this is what we're going to do.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, what we're faced up against,
9 real quickly, is the care or the responsibility of the federal
10 agencies that are not subsistence, who are recreation users or
11 seasonal, that are up here for three months out of the year
12 that would like to see wildlife, would like the opportunity to
13 see muskoxen, and here we're -- I've stated this, that we're
14 living up here 365 days a year, and they're here for 90 days,
15 however many -- 2,000 man days at Arctic National Wildlife
16 Refuge, I don't know what the use, or the outside
17 recreationists are at the parks. That's what we're heading
18 butts against right now. Is that their policy want to allow
19 outside residents who are nonresidents to have an opportunity
20 to see a muskox. Am I -- can I state that -- is that -- am I
21 wrong in that, or your management policies and principles want
22 to allow outsiders to see muskoxen?

23
24 MR. HUNTER: Mr. Chairman, Paul Hunter again. That
25 certainly is one of the ways that we manage the park is for
26 wildlife viewing by visitors. That certainly is a concern,
27 yeah.

28
29 But I do want to repeat that at the point at which
30 there's a natural and healthy population of muskox in the Park,
31 the Park Service supports a harvest of muskox.

32
33 And in terms of the proposal 108, it may be more
34 theoretical than real, the importance of the Park Service lands
35 to that entire proposal, because it may be that no muskox
36 hardly ever get to the Park if they're generally taken before
37 they get there. So it may be that we're getting hung up on a
38 theoretical issue more than really a practical issue. I mean,
39 that.....

40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, scientific proof, rather than
42 make it theoretical, prove it.

43
44 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

45
46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Upicksoun, let's.....

47
48 MR. UPICKSOUN: Paul,.....

49
50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:get going on this.

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1 MR. UPICKSOUN:you say there's a healthy muskox
2 population, so healthy enough so it can be harvested. By the
3 time you get that many muskox in -- north of Anaktuvuk Pass,
4 they're -- the migratory pattern of the caribou would have been
5 destroyed. Their livelihood, their source of meat. By that
6 time, by the time the way you think that the muskox population
7 has grown to a point, now we've got 1,000 muskox, let's hunt
8 muskox. By the time that happens, the caribou will not be
9 migrating through Anaktuvuk Pass. It will be too late. A
10 sustainable harvest based on 1,000 after the muskox herd
11 increases to a point where you can hunt it, you will have in
12 fact destroyed the livelihood of the community, Anaktuvuk Pass.
13 They will no longer migrate through that area if you only
14 provide a hunt when the population of the muskox has gone up to
15 a point where after you shoot a few there's still 1,000 left.
16 You will have -- by that time you use that theory of thinking,
17 by the time that you -- it will be too late. You will have --
18 something is backwards some place.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Mr. Upicksoun. I think
21 we've pretty well exhausted Proposal 108. We know that it's
22 been tabled. The Chair will entertain a motion from the
23 Counsel to bring it back on the table. A motion and second
24 or.....

25
26 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, I move that Proposal 108,
27 subject of muskox, be kept alive. Put that in the form of a
28 motion for the Council to keep this proposal alive.

29
30 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chairman, I'll second it.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Seconded by Terry Tagarook.
33 Discussion?

34
35 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, discussion.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Brower?

38
39 MR. G. BROWER: I wanted to add that maybe it include
40 that maybe a c&t determination be put on this, because it was
41 an animal that was here maybe some hundreds of years ago, and
42 it was a traditional hunted animal in the past. And if that's
43 going to help in determining for our subsistence use, that a
44 customary and -- determination be put on this animal, because
45 it's been reintroduced, and it's been controlled as a
46 introduced animal, not -- you know, some view it as it's not a
47 normal species here, but I think it's something that was a
48 normally hunted animal in the past, and a c&t determination be
49 done on that species.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Brower, this has been done I
2 think in '89 and '90, '91, that time frame. That's one of the
3 first things we did for the North Slope. All of North Slope
4 has a c&t determin- -- all the villages.....

5
6 MR. G. BROWER: Uh-hum.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:in Region 10 already have that
9 c&t determination for muskox, and now we're working on
10 proposals for seasons and bag limits. It's already been.....

11
12 MR. G. BROWER: All right.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:already been done.

15
16 MR. G. BROWER: (In Inupiat)

17
18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah. Good.

19
20 MR. G. BROWER: I just want to make sure.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: That's all we.....

23
24 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman?

25
26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Patkotak?

27
28 MR. PATKOTAK: I propose that the wording include the
29 National Park Service concedes a customary and -- well,
30 incidental catch, and that be included in there that if this --
31 that they concede that if the muskox start displacing caribou,
32 that's considered incidental, and therefore legal. That's my
33 understanding. That opens the door for -- to disperse the
34 displacement.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I think we'll come up with staff
37 recommendations regarding that, but I don't know whether you
38 guys want to discuss that?

39
40 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

41
42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Upicksoun?

43
44 MR. UPICKSOUN: I know Mike was specific in having
45 different issues addressed by Paul Hunter's agency, being
46 specific. The purpose of incidental take was to get the muskox
47 before it affects the migratory pattern of caribou in our area.
48 That was the intent, not to make a healthy muskox herds, so
49 when we get the muskox it will -- they will still be 1,000
50 muskox left. That wasn't the intent of the incidental take.

0078

1 The intent of incidental take was to keep the muskox away.
2 That was the talk behind it, the unwritten law behind it.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Gordon. Rosa?

5

6 MS. MEEHAN: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make sure I'm
7 clear on the motion that you have on the table, and as I
8 understand it, the motion is it was as it was submitted last
9 year was to request incidental take of muskoxen on federal
10 public lands in Unit 26(A), and so that that's the proposal,
11 that's the request. And so as stated, it would include Park
12 Service lands. And so last year when we went through the
13 analysis, we did discuss Park Service lands, so by
14 reinstating the proposal this year, it means we'll have to
15 look at the whole picture again this year, and address all the
16 concerns that have been brought around the table. And so I
17 just want to clarify with you and the rest of the Council that
18 that's the intention that you're talking about.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Including the amendments, right.

21

22 MS. MEEHAN: Including the amendments.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: As amended last spring.

25

26 MS. MEEHAN: Yes. That's -- that kind of clarification
27 is in the report.

28

29 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman?

30

31 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Plus the additional comments or
32 testimonies here today. Those will be very important.

33

34 MS. MEEHAN: Okay.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Those will be very important
37 comments for me to pass on to the Federal Board next spring.
38 Mr. Hopson?

39

40 MR. B. HOPSON: Yes.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ben.

43

44 MR. B. HOPSON: Following Rosa's comments regarding the
45 Gates of the Arctic National Park, would then we include Unit
46 24 then? Because that's where we hunt also, which makes up the
47 Park.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I don't know. I don't know what
50 that will do. We can pass on the concerns about that, and I

0079

1 don't think there will be any objection from the rest of the
2 Council members here if that's where the residents of Anaktuvuk
3 Pass go.

4

5 MR. B. HOPSON: And I liked Mike's comments earlier
6 regarding the Park Service conceding to the Council that we do
7 an incidental catch.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Two in favor of that.

10

11 MR. PATKOTAK: Yes, that's exactly the way I understood
12 it from Ben and Gordon, and from other folks that are
13 discussing the muskox, and the original intent and summary of
14 what Gordon said is to not displace the caribou. I for one
15 tried muskox and I thoroughly enjoyed it, but definitely higher
16 in content of cholesterol-inducing marble fat. I prefer the
17 much leaner caribou and would not want to have my herd
18 displaced by muskox.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you. Again as a reminder,
21 that when we submit proposals that we'll revisit this in March
22 and we can have further discussion, hours and hours of
23 discussion on this problem. And I'm happy to again revisit
24 Proposal 108 and hear additional and new concerns from the
25 Council. I think we need to move on away from this. We'll
26 revisit it again in March after another staff committee
27 recommendation and review.

28

29 Helen Armstrong and then Gordon?

30

31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I just wanted to clarify for my
32 notes. So you are amending the motion to include that portion
33 of Unit 24 where Anaktuvuk Pass hunts in Gates? Is that the --
34 or did you.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: That.....

37

38 MR. H. BROWER: I would stay north.

39

40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:or did you not want to do that?

41

42 MR. H. BROWER: We want to stay north. If we get down
43 to Unit 24, it's going to get even worse I think. They --
44 everybody wants to keep the muskox from going up north where
45 the migration of caribou come in heading south.
46 (Indiscernible) get carried away from that migratory path in
47 the south through Anaktuvuk.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, we.....

50

0080

1 MR. B. HOPSON: So we could keep it just 26.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, then again we'll have an
4 opportunity in February or March meeting for amendments. We
5 can amend it then. It's just to bring this back on the table
6 with further testimony. We learn new information, then we can
7 make amendments in the February meeting. Mr. Upicksoun?

8

9 MR. UPICKSOUN: For our new members' information, this
10 issue has been before this committee going on ten years.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Exactly. You're right.

13

14 MR. UPICKSOUN: And the more we talk about it, the
15 madder we get. We've been mad for almost ten years. That was
16 for your information.

17

18 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chairman?

19

20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. I want to thank the Council
21 members to.....

22

23 MR. TAGAROOK: We're still on.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Tagarook?

26

27 MR. TAGAROOK:discussion?

28

29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Pardon?

30

31 MR. TAGAROOK: Are we still on discussion?

32

33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes.

34

35 MR. TAGAROOK: There was a motion made.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yes. Do you have something more to
38 discuss on muskox, Terry?

39

40 MR. TAGAROOK: No.

41

42 MR. UPICKSOUN: Call the question.

43

44 MR. H. BROWER: Call for the question.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: The question is called on bringing
47 back on the table Proposal 108. Signify by saying ee-ee?

48

49 IN UNISON: Ee-ee.

50

0081
1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All those opposed, same sign?
2
3 (No opposing votes.)
4
5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Motion passed. Okay.
6
7 MS. DEWHURST: Mr. Chairman?
8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ms. Dewhurst?
10
11 MS. DEWHURST: We still have Point Hope issue to
12 discuss, but I think it's fairly short and fairly positive, but
13 I do move that we have a short break before we tackle it?
14
15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Well, I'll have to deny your
16 request, that motions are allowed, to be one of the Council
17 members, Donna.
18
19 MS. DEWHURST: Oh, sorry.
20
21 MR. UPICKSOUN: You know, the.....
22
23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Is there a motion for a ten-minute
24 break?
25
26 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman? I think the Point Hope
27 issue was addressed at the Board of Game meeting in Nome last
28 year whereby on the downhill slope of Noatak drainage going
29 towards Point Hope, that's Unit what, 24 or 23?
30
31 MS. DEWHURST: Twenty-three.
32
33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, and Willie will.....
34
35 MR. UPICKSOUN: They will be permitted.....
36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:be talking about that here in a
38 minute.
39
40 MR. UPICKSOUN: They will be permitted to hunt muskox
41 in that area.
42
43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Willie Goodwin talk on that subject
44 after our break.
45
46 MR. UPICKSOUN: I'd so move.
47
48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Upicksoun, thank you. A ten-
49 minute break.
50

0082

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Good afternoon, we'll call the --
6 I'll call the meeting back to order after a brief recess. I
7 want to thank the Council members for their input in talking
8 about muskoxen. We'll -- probably before the end of the day
9 tomorrow, we'll have a look at that proposal that was worked on
10 last spring with our -- that we will submit as a proposal from
11 this Council, and we brought it back on the table.

12

13 So any other state or federal agencies on proposal that
14 affect the North Slope, Region 10? Ms. Dewhurst?

15

16 MS. DEWHURST: We still have two issues, yeah.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

19

20 MS. DEWHURST: The other one -- the next one is still
21 muskox. I passed out a trip report. You should all have a
22 copy of it. We've been trying to follow up there. As Fenton
23 mentioned, Proposal 108 also, if you look on your map, and it
24 gets a little tricky because the RAC boundary and the unit
25 boundaries aren't the same, and we're right in that grey area
26 where they aren't the same. If you look way over by Point
27 Hope, you see there's a couple little pink areas. Part of the
28 pink area up at Cape Lisburne, it's all Alaska Maritime
29 National Wildlife Refuge. Part of that pink area is in Unit
30 26(A). What was decided as part of the amendments to Proposal
31 108 was that area be excluded under the idea that there would
32 be a hunt in 23 that would also include that little portion of
33 26(A) being talked about down the road, and that that portion
34 of 26(A), that little pink portion should really be included in
35 that 23, because that's all one muskox population that extends
36 from Cape Krusenstern up to Cape Lisburne. So that's what was
37 decided as part of the amendments of 108.

38

39 Now, to follow up on that, Barb and I -- Barbara
40 Armstrong and I got with the National Park Service and Fish and
41 Game, and we went out to Point Hope and Kivalina and Kotzebue
42 in August. Just this past August. That's what this trip
43 report's about. And we wanted to get out and actually talk to
44 the affected communities and find out what the feeling was out
45 there. Do they want a hunt? Do they not want a hunt? What
46 type of a hunt? You know, do they want a state hunt, do they
47 want a federal hunt? And we wanted to get out there and hear
48 it in person and actually talk to the folks. We had a great
49 turn out at Point Hope. We had 27 people. We had a roomful.
50 It was pretty impressive. In Kivalina, it was smaller. Of

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1 course, Kivalina's a smaller community.

2
3 What I tried to do in the trip report was summarize the
4 main comments we were hearing at the different meetings in the
5 different communities. Probably the biggest comment from both
6 communities is there's still a lot of concern, at least
7 Kivalina and Point Hope, about radioactive contamination of
8 muskox in the Cape Thompson area. That is an underlying thing,
9 that even though there have already been a lot of testing, the
10 local people still are very concerned about that. They don't
11 know if the meat is safe to eat. And until we can get past
12 that, the bottom line is they really don't want to institute a
13 hunt until we can get past that. That's one of the first
14 stumbling blocks that we're going to have to deal. And we do
15 have the capability. I've talked to the Fish and Game, and
16 we're going to start working on trying to come up with,
17 probably getting the North Slope Borough, too, and come up with
18 some testing so we can hopefully resolve that in the next year.
19 But that was the first stumbling block.

20
21 Some of the other comments you can see are similar.
22 Gordon, you might note they said muskox scaring caribou away
23 from the local area. Well, gee, where have we heard that
24 before? You know, it's nothing new. We were getting a lot of
25 the same comments. Conflicts between muskox and berry pickers.
26 No experience hunting muskox. Well, that isn't surprising,
27 because there hasn't been a hunt in the area.

28
29 The bottom line between those two communities though is
30 at this time they didn't -- they weren't eager to jump right
31 into a harvest. They didn't want to go right in and say we
32 want to hunt next year. What everybody was talking about was
33 let's get some of this stuff figured out, like this
34 contamination issue, and in the meantime, and this was also
35 with the meetings at Kotzebue, and Willie can chime in as soon
36 as I finish, that to get together and have a cooperative group,
37 and not necessarily work on a management plan or a harvest
38 plan, because we learned from the North Slope how that can bog
39 us down. That we really -- you guys are really trying, but,
40 you know, you found out the hard way how long that process can
41 take. So we're talking about our goal for Unit 23 is to submit
42 proposals to both the State Game Board and the Federal
43 Subsistence Board in fall of '99. So they're going to --
44 they're talking about having a meeting I think now in early
45 December, is that the latest, Barb?

46
47 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, December 8 and 9.

48
49 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah. The dates bounced around a lot.
50 But that's going to be the first meeting of the local agencies,

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1 and the village folks to try to have a cooperative group
2 similar to -- following the model of Seward Peninsula and the
3 North Slope, and develop a cooperative group to start
4 developing proposals for hunts, but that our goal will be to
5 not submit these until the fall of '99 which is when the Game
6 Board next takes up this area, and submit it to both the State
7 and the feds at the same time with the same proposal, like we
8 did in Seward Pen, and it worked real well in Seward Peninsula.
9 That was the final thing.

10
11 Now, there's one thing hanging out though. I draw your
12 attention under Point Hope.....

13
14 (Whispered conversation)

15
16 MS. DEWHURST: Oh, okay. Never mind. Okay. I guess
17 we just realized there was a mistake there, and we don't need
18 -- there was a concern about c&t, but I guess we don't need a
19 proposal. We do -- Point Hope does have c&t for 23. Do they
20 have it for 26(A) though? There was.....

21
22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

23
24 MS. DEWHURST: Okay. So they do have it for both.
25 Okay. Then we're okay for Point Hope with c&t. We were --
26 there was a concern about c&t, but it sounds like it was our
27 mistake. They do have it.

28
29 So that's -- anyway, that's where we're at is that we
30 did go to the communities, that was -- and then we had also a
31 meeting in Kotzebue afterwards. The Kotzebue folks are more
32 interested in a hunt, or at least expressed more active
33 interest in hunting than we heard in Point Hope or Kivalina.
34 But the bottom line was everybody was willing to wait to try to
35 do it right, to try to get the State and the feds together, try
36 to get a cooperative hunt.

37
38 If you look at that area between Krusenstern and Cape
39 Lisburne, you can see there's an awful lot of white there. The
40 white would be state land. So we're dealing with a real
41 patchwork of state and federal lands, so the bottom line would
42 be a sole federal hunt wouldn't work very well, and a sole
43 state hunt wouldn't. So we've got to get together on this one
44 and try to do it right. And that's what we're going to try to
45 do. And we're hoping that we'll solve the needs of the Point
46 Hope, Kivalina, Noatak, that whole region for that muskox
47 population. There is a harvestable surplus. We're looking at
48 a three percent harvest rate, which is very conservative, but
49 that's what they're looking at right now at least as a starting
50 ground for discussion, which would be about ten animals for the

0085

1 whole area. So that -- and that should sound familiar, that's
2 about where Kaktovik started, you know, and that's what we're
3 probably looking at for that area. And that's what we're --
4 that's where we're at right now.

5
6 There's no action needed from this Council. This was
7 kind of more information. If this Council wanted to make
8 action, you could, but I -- and Willie can jump in behind me
9 and let him talk about it, too. There he is. But that's where
10 we're at right now with this one. And Mr. Goodwin's here
11 representing the Northwest Arctic Council and -- on that.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Before we get with Gordon and
14 Harry, I want to have the opportunity to hear from Willie on
15 this issue. Mr. Goodwin?

16
17 MR. GOODWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I intend
18 to do in our meeting next month is -- I mean, later on this
19 month, is to ask the Council for concurrence on having a
20 working group put together like she said, and to develop
21 management guidelines. I'd rather we stayed away from a
22 management plan, because I can see that we're going to have the
23 problem of having all the agencies in the state agreeing to a
24 plan, because it takes into a lot of other considerations which
25 we're not concerned about when we say shoot them, you know. I
26 mean, what we're mainly concerned about are seasons and bag
27 limits.

28
29 I did ask them about what they thought was a good
30 population, and like the guy said, he doesn't even know, you
31 know. So I said, is there a problem with 300, and they said,
32 no. I said, okay. Fine, we'll just shoot at 300 then. But --
33 and I hope that's the case. That way we can keep the numbers
34 down.

35
36 But I see the problem that you're having with the
37 management plan here, so we'd rather not go that route, but to
38 develop guidelines for submitting the proposals both to the
39 State and Federal Government. Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Thank you. We'll keep a
42 close eye on your work with muskox in your area, because we
43 also look at Seward Peninsula on how they work with the harvest
44 and seasons of muskox, and then we'll look at it very closely
45 on how you do with yours, and maybe we'll revisit that again as
46 council members. As a council body here.

47
48 Any questions for Donna and Willie? I'll start with
49 Gordon and then Harry.

50

0086

1 MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes, I have a question, Mr. Chairman,
2 for Donna. Donna, you have scoping meetings in Northwest
3 Arctic. Do you have any plans for scoping meetings on muskox
4 in the North Slope?

5
6 MS. DEWHURST: Not at this time. That would probably
7 be more under the purview of this planning technical group.
8 We're trying to do this to answer the part of where your
9 Council took that one little chunk out of 108, and we're trying
10 to deal with that and address it. And that's how we dealt with
11 it was to have some meetings.

12
13 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, earlier I asked that the
14 working group be -- have their next meeting, if they have
15 funding, the muskox working group be -- have their meeting in
16 affected community. If I could put it in the form of a motion,
17 I would move that the working group have their next meeting at
18 Point Lay so they can get input from an affected community
19 regarding muskox. That's in the form of a motion.

20
21 MR. TAGAROOK: Second.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: A motion is on the floor to request
24 that the working group go to Point Lay for their working group
25 meeting, seconded by Terry. Discussion?

26
27 MR. H. BROWER: I have a question.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Harry?

30
31 MR. H. BROWER: That the muskox working group --
32 muskox.....

33
34 MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes. Yes, the technical.....

35
36 MR. H. BROWER:working group (Indiscernible --
37 simultaneous speech).

38
39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Right.

40
41 MR. UPICKSOUN:committee, the working group,
42 whatever. What's the legal term for that group for the North
43 Slope Borough, the different federal agencies and state are
44 involved in the -- that group that came up with the muskox
45 harvest plan, that's a work- -- technical group, the working
46 group. What's the proper nomenclature for that group?

47
48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Call it anything. It's a working
49 group. A committee comprised of various federal agencies.....

50

0087
1 MR. UPICKSOUN: What's the legal name for that group?
2
3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I don't think there is a legal name
4 here.
5
6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: The hairy group.
7
8 MR. UPICKSOUN: The hairy group.
9
10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: You better keep it open so you can
11 name them anything. But again just -- a motion's on the floor
12 to request that the working group go to the affected
13 communities and meet and hear from the residents.
14
15 MR. H. BROWER: Call for the question.
16
17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: The question is called. All in
18 favor of the motion say aye?
19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.
21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Those opposed, same sign?
23
24 (No opposing votes.)
25
26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Motion passed. Thank you. Harry?
27
28 MR. H. BROWER: All right. I don't know exact- -- I've
29 just got a couple of questions, and I'm not sure if I should
30 direct it to you or Mr. Hunter. It's on this National -- Gates
31 of Arctic National Park, and then you have a National Preserve.
32 do they go by the same mandate?
33
34 MS. DEWHURST: No.
35
36 (Whispered conversation)
37
38 MR. H. BROWER: The differences between the park and
39 the preserve?
40
41 MR. HUNTER: Mr. Chairman, Paul Hunter. The primary
42 difference is that the preserve is open to hunting under state
43 law. The park is open to hunting only under federal
44 subsistence law.
45
46 MR. H. BROWER: And the other question I had is how
47 many agencies are involved in your discussions for this muskox
48 working group you have formulated down there?
49
50 MS. DEWHURST: Oh, for the new one?

0088

1 MR. H. BROWER: Yes.

2

3 MS. DEWHURST: The agencies would be ADF&G, the U.S.
4 Fish and Wildlife Service, because they're dealing with Alaska
5 Maritime lands, and the National Park Service. Those are the
6 three land management agencies. And then, of course, we're
7 going to pull in all of the villages that are affected.

8

9 MR. H. BROWER: So basically there's three.....

10

11 MS. DEWHURST: Three agencies, yes.

12

13 MR. H. BROWER: Three agencies.

14

15 MS. DEWHURST: So it's a little bit simpler.

16

17 MR. H. BROWER: Yeah.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other Council members -- or,
20 Harry, are you.....

21

22 MR. H. BROWER: Yes, I'm through. Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Your question's answered?

25

26 MR. H. BROWER: Yes.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any questions for Donna or Willie
29 while they're up on the.....

30

31 MS. DEWHURST: Mr. Chairman, we do have one other short
32 issue to.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

35

36 MS. DEWHURST:bring to your information after
37 this.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Anything else on the topic, Donna or
40 Willie?

41

42 MR. GOODWIN: No, except that if we can get somebody
43 appointed (ph) to our meetings, it would really help.

44

45 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, that was the attention. I think
46 we're planning on trying to get some of the North -- a couple
47 of the North Slope, this RAC members going to that meeting,
48 too.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Is that administrative, or can that

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1 be taken care of by the administration or the staff?

2

3 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, that's no problem.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. You've heard that, Gordon?

6

7 MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes, I heard the request.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. So be ready to find somebody,
10 or a willing person. I don't think the Council will object to
11 you or any one of your residents that may be interested. Okay?

12

13 MR. UPICKSOUN: Whatever they can accommodate in
14 regards to people from Point Lay, they'd.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

17

18 MR. UPICKSOUN:they'll be willing to travel for
19 that, for various meetings.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. So noted. Anything else?
22 Not -- Donna, anything?

23

24 MS. DEWHURST: That's it on muskox, thank goodness.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Pardon?

27

28 MS. DEWHURST: That's.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, that's it on the muskox.
31 Thank goodness.

32

33 MS. DEWHURST: We have a sheep issue. There was a
34 special action this summer, and those of you that were at the
35 North Slope Fish and Game Management Committee have already
36 heard this, but for those of you that weren't, we'll go over it
37 real quick. This was a special action. Special actions are
38 taken up by the Federal Subsistence Board when they're out of
39 cycle. There's a normal cycle to submit proposals, which is
40 what we're in right now. If something comes up and we -- and
41 the Board needs to deal it, and it's out of cycle, not at the
42 normal time, then it's called a special action.

43

44 This was a special action called on a sheep hunt in
45 Northwest Arctic, but it also includes part of 26, and that's
46 why I'm bringing it to your attention. If you look on your
47 maps again where it says the De Long Mountains. It's right --
48 if you look to the -- to this side, it's about the same area we
49 were just looking at, north -- or south of NPRA. The De Long
50 Mountains also cover -- there's no boundary around it, but

0090

1 basically it also goes up into 26, up north of the border.
2 This special action dealt with the De Long Mountains and the
3 Baird Mountains. Now, the Baird Mountains aren't on here, but
4 the Baird Mountains are about where it says the Noatak
5 Controlled Use area. That's about the area where the Bairds
6 are. These two mountain ranges. And there was a special
7 action request to initiate a federal hunt, a federal sheep
8 hunt. This was kind of in response to a hunt the State did,
9 and Mr. Goodwin will give you a little more detail there, but
10 the bottom line is the special action was passed, we do have a
11 hunt. It is in place.

12
13 I just had -- you all have had the information passed
14 on, so make sure if your villages don't know this yet, make
15 sure they do. They should have received some flyers already,
16 but just in case, we want to make sure they do know this hunt
17 is open right now. It goes from August 10th to April 1st.

18
19 It will be closed when ten sheep have been taken out of
20 the Bairds, and ten sheep have been taken out of the De Longs.
21 It is a joint quota. And that there is a state hunt also open
22 in the Willek (ph) Peaks area, and those animals count against
23 the 20 animals.

24
25 If anybody from your villages wants to get permits,
26 number one, I have permits with me, so if anybody wants a sheep
27 permit, I do have permits with me. But if anybody from your
28 village wants to get one, there's this number, and it was kind
29 of comical when we went over it at the last meeting. It's the
30 1-877-RAMHUNT. It's a toll-free number. It's on the sheet,
31 and they can -- anybody from the village can call that number
32 and give the information, and they can get a permit to hunt
33 sheet if they want to go clear over in the De Longs.

34
35 So Point Lay and Point Hope people have c&t to hunt
36 both the Bairds and the De Longs. The rest of Unit 26 and
37 Anaktuvuk Pass can hunt in the De Longs' portion of Unit 26, so
38 that northern portion of the De Longs that's in 26 is open to
39 basically all residents of Unit 26. So it -- plus Anaktuvuk
40 Pass. So Anaktuvuk Pass does have c&t also for sheep there.
41 So any resident of Unit 26 can hunt in 26, the 26 portion of De
42 Longs, on federal land, which is basically NPRA. And then
43 Point Lay and Point Hope also can hunt in the Bairds in Unit
44 23, because they the different c&t.

45
46 So that's the hunt that got instituted, and I'll let
47 Mr. Goodwin give you a little bit more detailed on how it
48 happened and what's going on. But that's the nuts and bolts
49 and here's your information sheet to take back to the villages.
50

0091

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Donna. Mr. Goodwin?

2

3 MR. GOODWIN: Mr. Chairman, a brief history on the
4 sheep. In 1991 there was a crash on the population, and
5 basically all hunting was closed for sheep, and especially in
6 the Baird. It was in the Bairds first, and then a little -- a
7 couple years later and the De Long Mountains were closed. So
8 we haven't hunted sheep in a while over there. And we've
9 always had -- the local folks always insisted with the Fish and
10 Game, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, that until that
11 population reaches about 450 to 500 animals, we should not
12 hunt. And we've kept that.

13

14 But this past year, since the population was right
15 around 420-something there, and it was getting pretty close to
16 450, the State went ahead and published a hunt, which would
17 include the federal lands for 11 sport hunters, and the rest,
18 of course, subsistence. A total of 40, 20 in the De Longs and
19 20 in the Bairds. The Baird Mountains are basically south of
20 the Noatak River, and the De Longs are north of the Noatak
21 River.

22

23 So we had a series of meetings. We had a couple of
24 meetings in Kotzebue this summer regarding this issue, and
25 that's when I came up with the idea of having a federal hunt
26 for subsistence only. And, of course, we submitted a proposal,
27 and the Board did pass it. But they also -- see, the State had
28 published its hunt. They had drawn 11 permits of people, and
29 they were drawn to go up and hunt the sheep. When we did pass
30 -- have the action passed, of course, they were not qualified
31 to hunt on the federal lands, but they can do it on the state
32 lands yet. So whatever 20 -- whatever sheep that they got on
33 state land is going to be deducted from what the quota is set
34 for. And, of course, I was very upset over that. I felt that
35 the State backdoored into what rightfully should be the
36 subsistence user when the stocks are low. And the numbers are
37 still low yet. But these 40 rams were explained to us by the
38 biologists that they're from nine to 12 years old, and they're
39 probably going to die anyway, so we might as well shoot them
40 for our food.

41

42 There's a missing population age group that's between
43 four and eight years old, based on the surveys that were done
44 the last ten years. So it looks like the population won't
45 start climbing until the year 2005. So we're still going to be
46 short on sheep numbers, but as long as there is a harvestable
47 number, we want to keep hunting, so what we intend to do is
48 submit a proposal to keep it at a federal hunt for only
49 subsistence users.

50

0092

1 At the same time, our Regional Advisory Council asked
2 for a management plan to be developed for the sheep. One plan
3 would -- what they're leaning towards right now is to do a
4 cooperative effort with the State of Alaska, but I've also --
5 I'm also going to ask for concurrence from our Regional Council
6 to do a contingency plan solely on federal land, because I
7 don't want to -- we don't want to get into the same hassle that
8 we had with the State over who has priority on animals. Do we
9 let the sport hunters go and hunt while the numbers are still
10 low? I don't think so, me personally. I think it should go to
11 subsistence users. But, of course, we're going to have the
12 problem with the State, because state lands are involved. And
13 it's -- they say a resident population goes back and forth to
14 state lands, but the surveys are done in July, and we can open
15 the hunt in August, and we know how many are going to be on the
16 federal lands.

17
18 And the other thing that we are allowed to do, and this
19 is what I guess really steams the State is that we can hunt
20 with airplanes, so we can go there with airplanes and hunt
21 right now for subsistence, you know. It's not allowed under
22 state law, but under the federal and the preserve, you can. In
23 the parks and monuments, you can't, but in a preserve, you --
24 airplane use is allowed. And that's really burning the State
25 up. I mean, they went bonkers over that. We saw articles and
26 everything else from various people in our newspaper the last
27 couple of months. But so far we've had pretty bad weather, up
28 until the last week here, and there weren't that many being
29 harvested. But now I think there.....

30
31 MS. DEWHURST: Four. Four. There.....

32
33 MR. GOODWIN: Four was -- yeah.

34
35 MS. DEWHURST:have been three from the
36 Bairds.....

37
38 MR. GOODWIN: Yeah.

39
40 MS. DEWHURST:and one from the De Longs that we
41 know of.

42
43 MR. GOODWIN: But they're out right now, because the
44 weather's pretty good at home now the last few days, so I'm
45 sure they're going to be getting the quota. Hopefully we'll
46 get them all. And that's where we're at right now.

47
48 It was quite an interesting process to make the system
49 work for us on federal lands.

50

0093

1 MS. DEWHURST: This is a special action though, and
2 special actions are only good for one year, one season, so if
3 either this Council or Northwest Arctic wanted to put this in
4 the permanent regulations, it would have to be a full proposal.
5 At this time it is just -- like I say, this is an emergency
6 action kind of thing, and it's good for one year.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay.

9
10 MR. GOODWIN: We are going to -- I intend to take it up
11 in our Regional Advisory Council meeting, so any support that
12 we can get from your group here to support the federal hunt,
13 we'd appreciate it, because it does involves residents on the
14 North Slope.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. This proposal will be worked
17 on, we'll revisit it in our March meeting.

18
19 MR. GOODWIN: Okay.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Be assured that we'll take a look at
22 that. Ms. Armstrong.

23
24 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Willie, do we know yet how many the
25 State -- how many the State's taken?

26
27 MS. DEWHURST: None.

28
29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: None?

30
31 MS. DEWHURST: None on the State. We've had I think it
32 was three or four drawing permit hunters go out, and none of
33 them were successful, and nobody's gone under their
34 registration hunt yet.

35
36 MR. GOODWIN: It rained like hell and snowed up in the
37 mountains for them, so they got out of there.

38
39 MS. DEWHURST: There was a cute story there, just real
40 quick. The permit hunters, the drawing hunters went up and the
41 weekend they went up, it got really cold. It froze. And their
42 sleeping bags froze to the ground, extended out. And then when
43 the charter guys, the plane came in to pick them up, they
44 couldn't get their sleeping bags in the plane, because they
45 were frozen to the ground and solid, so they had to leave them
46 out there.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Patkotak?

49
50 MR. PATKOTAK: A question for Willie. You said the

0094
1 total quota was 40?
2
3 MR. GOODWIN: Yeah.
4
5 MR. PATKOTAK: And half of that was given to sport
6 hunters?
7
8 MR. GOODWIN: Eleven.
9
10 MR. PATKOTAK: Eleven given.....
11
12 MR. GOODWIN: Yeah.
13
14 MR. PATKOTAK:to sport hunters?
15
16 MR. GOODWIN: Up to, no, eight. I take it back.
17 Eight.
18
19 MR. PATKOTAK: Eight to.....
20
21 MR. GOODWIN: Yeah.
22
23 MR. PATKOTAK:sport hunters. By the State?
24
25 MR. GOODWIN: Yeah.
26
27 MR. PATKOTAK: And the rest are all open permit?
28
29 MR. GOODWIN: It's -- on the federal lands, yeah, we
30 can. You -- I guess the people in Kivalina can go and get a
31 state permit to hunt this winter, or even right now, but they
32 can't use airplanes on state lands.
33
34 MR. PATKOTAK: Twenty on De Long and 20 in the Bairds?
35
36 MR. GOODWIN: In the Bairds, yeah.
37
38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other questions.....
39
40 MR. PATKOTAK: Anybody get sheep, Willie, tell them I'm
41 willing to trade muktuk for it.
42
43 MR. GOODWIN: I'm going to finish mine already.
44
45 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other questions for Willie or
46 Donna from the Council? If not, anything else, Ms. Dewhurst?
47
48 MS. DEWHURST: No.
49
50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Goodwin?

0095

1 MR. GOODWIN: Mr. Chairman, there's one other issue
2 that I would like to bring to your attention, and that's the
3 user conflicts that we've been having within the park, and
4 maybe the refuges, too, but I understand there was an incident
5 last weekend in the Gates of the Arctic involving some
6 residents from Shungnak. A user conflict issue that's probably
7 going to escalate into some serious consequences unless we help
8 figure something out here. I'm sure you have more information
9 on it than I do, but five young guys were picked up and thrown
10 in jail from Shungnak.

11
12 MR. UPICKSOUN: That's in the Gates of the Arctic.....

13
14 MR. GOODWIN: Yeah.

15
16 MR. UPICKSOUN:National Park issue?

17
18 MR. GOODWIN: Yes.

19
20 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay.

21
22 MR. GOODWIN: However, I bring that up, because with
23 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and involvement from the
24 Park Service, we are going to visit the issue of user
25 conflicts. Basically when our people are out there hunting
26 right now like caribou and moose, there's also people that are
27 dropped off by air taxis. Just drop them off and letting them
28 hunt.

29
30 One issue I'd like to talk to the Park Service about,
31 and hopefully it can go into the Gates of the Arctic, because
32 it's part of Unit 23, is the permitting process that they
33 should develop to make sure that times and seasons and numbers
34 of people going in from outside the region doesn't have much of
35 an impact on the subsistence user, especially right now, which
36 is a critical time for our people when the caribou are
37 migrating through, and the moose are in prime condition. So
38 the user conflict issue I think is going to be discussed in our
39 meeting, and hopefully it will -- we can get something from the
40 sub group that -- the advisory council for Gates of the Arctic
41 Park.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, exactly. Okay. Ben's writing
44 that concern or that issue down. So, Ben Hopson is our
45 representative from this Council on the park's SRC.

46
47 MR. GOODWIN: Uh-hum.

48
49 MR. PATKOTAK: Mr. Chairman, another question for
50 Willie.

0096

1 MR. GOODWIN: Who?

2

3 MR. PATKOTAK: There's a lot of interest for these five
4 young men from Shungnak. Why were they arrested?

5

6 MR. GOODWIN: As I understand, there was some alcohol
7 involved. They were up there, of course -- the area they were
8 in is a very popular place that's been going on for centuries
9 to get sheefish as they spawn, you know, or the suvuka (ph).
10 Holy gosh, there's -- they count 300,000 eggs in one sheefish.
11 And they're great big suvuks.

12

13 MR. PATKOTAK: Uh-hum.

14

15 MR. GOODWIN: So there was some ten out-of-state
16 hunters that were there at the same time, so I'm not sure of
17 the charges, but I understand they're pretty serious.

18

19 MR. PATKOTAK: Oh, criminal charges.....

20

21 MR. GOODWIN: Right. Yes. Yes.

22

23 MR. PATKOTAK:instead of harvested.

24

25 MR. GOODWIN: Yeah, criminal charges yeah.

26

27 MR. PATKOTAK: My wife's from Shungnak. I thought
28 maybe it was something else.

29

30 MR. GOODWIN: It's criminal charges. Yeah, they're
31 in.....

32

33 MR. PATKOTAK: Criminal charges instead of game related
34 charges, yeah. Okay.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. Thank you. Any other
37 questions from the Council for Donna or Willie? I want to
38 thank you, Mr. Goodwin, for.....

39

40 MR. GOODWIN: Thank you for the opportunity, Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:sharing your issues that are
43 related to ours.

44

45 We'll move on, give an opportunity again for any state
46 or federal agencies on proposal that affect Region 10? Hearing
47 none or seeing none, we'll move on to hear from the Regional
48 Council members, any proposal that they wish to present to the
49 Council at this time? Any Council members with a proposal? I
50 know, Ben, you brought.....

0097
1 MR. B. HOPSON: I have one.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Mr. Hopson, I'll turn the floor over
4 to you.
5
6 MR. B. HOPSON: Okay. The only thing is Craig Gardner
7 from the ADF&G office of Tok isn't here to provide.....
8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Is he going to be here?
10
11 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: He'll be here tomorrow morning
12 (indiscernible).
13
14 MR. B. HOPSON: I think possibly tomorrow. But I can
15 maybe wait and present this for the Council's information.
16
17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Is it vital to have Craig here,
18 or.....
19
20 MR. B. HOPSON: It.....
21
22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:you can possibly just hold off
23 on your proposal until Craig gets here and revisit that if you
24 want?
25
26 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum. Okay.
27
28 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Do you want to do that?
29
30 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)
31
32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I think having them together would
33 -- rather than go back and forth on it would probably.....
34
35 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum.
36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:expedite talking about the
38 proposal, and then we can hit two birds with one stone or
39 whatever that saying is.
40
41 MR. B. HOPSON: Okay.
42
43 MR. UPICKSOUN: So, Mr. Chairman, you want to
44 defer.....
45
46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah. Yeah, just revisit or
47 get.....
48
49 MR. UPICKSOUN:Ben's (Indiscernible --
50 simultaneous speech).....

0098
1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:back to his proposal when his
2 partner.....
3
4 MR. UPICKSOUN: Defer it until Craig.....
5
6 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, for his colleague.
7
8 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay.
9
10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Comes back on that. Would that be
11 okay with the Council members.....
12
13 MR. UPICKSOUN: Yes, we're willing to accommodate him.
14
15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:to wait for his.....
16
17 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum. Yes.
18
19 MR. UPICKSOUN: And, Mr. Chairman?
20
21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, Gordon?
22
23 MR. UPICKSOUN: I have one question in regards to
24 proposal. Donna, this special action, you say is good for one
25 year, and before the year's over, it would be helpful to put
26 this in the form of a proposal?
27
28 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, I suspect the Northwest Arctic
29 Council will be doing that, or it will be discussed at their
30 Council since they're the primary council for that area,.....
31
32 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah.
33
34 MR. UPICKSOUN: And regarding.....
35
36 MS. DEWHURST:and you guys would have a chance to
37 answer to it at that time.
38
39 MR. UPICKSOUN: Donna, I'm referring to the.....
40
41 MS. DEWHURST: The sheep, yeah.
42
43 MR. H. BROWER: Sheep.
44
45 MR. UPICKSOUN:to Point Lay.
46
47 MS. DEWHURST: Well, that's all part of that hunt.
48
49 MR. UPICKSOUN: Oh, okay.
50

0099
1 MS. DEWHURST: They're part of that hunt.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, they're going -- Willie
4 mentioned that he'll have a proposal, and we'll either back it
5 up or support it.....
6
7 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay. All right.
8
9 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:in our February or March
10 meeting.
11
12 MR. UPICKSOUN: Okay. That will be the same area. All
13 right.
14
15 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Any other proposals from the
16 Regional Council to come before us?
17
18 MR. H. BROWER: Mr. Chairman, I just have a question.
19
20 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Paul (ph)?
21
22 MR. H. BROWER: I just want to like -- I'd like to find
23 out if we have any proposals that were tabled or put aside for
24 like RFRs. Do we have any from the North Slope that are.....
25
26 MS. MEEHAN: There weren't any RFRs this year.
27
28 MR. H. BROWER: Nothing?
29
30 MS. MEEHAN: Mr. Chairman? Yeah, we did not receive
31 any RFRs this year. The first year.
32
33 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Good.
34
35 MR. H. BROWER: Thank you.
36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: I'll ask one more time from the
38 Regional Council, whether anyone have any proposals to come
39 before this Council? Hearing none, I'd like to move on, and be
40 assured, Ben, we'll.....
41
42 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum.
43
44 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:come back to you and.....
45
46 MR. B. HOPSON: Okay.
47
48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:Craig on the proposal, so we'll
49 leave that open. Would that be okay with the rest of the
50 Council members? Any objection to that?

0100

1 MR. UPICKSOUN: We'll wait for Craig Gardner.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. We'll revisit proposal with
4 Ben and Craig.

5

6 That takes us to old business, number 9. I think we're
7 doing pretty good. Barbara, I'll turn the floor over to you on
8 annual report that was submitted to the Federal Board, and we
9 have a response. The issues will be discussed. B, I think we
10 kind of went through that, Barbara, unless.....

11

12 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

13

14 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:you want to.....

15

16 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I'm right here.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Oh, okay. We've already done.....

19

20 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Go ahead. Yeah.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:number 9.B yesterday,.....

23

24 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

25

26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:am I correct or.....

27

28 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

29

30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: We can cross that out.

31

32 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

33

34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Travel voucher, I think.....

35

36 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

37

38 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:that's pretty much taken care
39 of. I think we went ahead and talked about number 9.F also.

40

41 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

42

43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: So that can be crossed off. So what
44 we have left are Board action, charter update, and the annual
45 report. And that might take us to the end of the day, and if
46 we have to get off early, we can do.....

47

48 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Even short.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:that and then we can start off

0101

1 with the agency reports tomorrow morning. Would that work with
2 everybody?

3

4 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

5

6 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: No one's rushing off? Everyone will
7 stay here? All right. Good to hear. Barbara, the floor is
8 yours.

9

10 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. My report will be short.

11 Everything.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Yeah.

14

15 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Everything that I have here is in
16 your books. Unless the charter was enclosed in those envelopes
17 you have, I didn't carry one. It wasn't given to me when --
18 before I left, so I don't have it with me, but I'll mail it to
19 you. It's your new charter.

20

21 And the next one on the Board actions of May 4 through
22 6 is under Tab I. It's a report that is given to your Chair
23 every year. And this will -- I was mentioning earlier, you
24 know, this -- all of these will be starting to be mailed
25 directly to you, and as spoken at the orientation meeting last
26 night, which went real well, and the Council members have just
27 jumped right in and are acting like they've been here before,
28 so I'm really impressed. And so all this information that I
29 will be giving out on the agendas will no longer probably come
30 up in the agenda, so I'll just directly deal with the Council
31 in mailing it to them and giving them the information from
32 there, from the office directly.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: And by the way, just to discuss
35 that, these also provide very good reports to the Council or
36 the cities or IRA council meetings. They summarize the
37 activities where the annual report is written to the Federal
38 Subsistence Board, so take advantage of this letter and present
39 it to your communities. Barbara? Sorry to.....

40

41 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No, that's okay.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:break in there.

44

45 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That's about all I have since
46 everything else was discussed at our meeting yesterday.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Let me, Barbara, if I may just
49 summarize for the new Council members the activities that
50 occurred last year. I think maybe.....

0102
1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:we can just walk.....
4
5 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: On the.....
6
7 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:through that real quickly.
8
9 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.
10
11 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: We hold two meetings yearly, and
12 that happened in '97. We met in January 28 and 29, dealing
13 with proposals, and in particular proposal 55 dealing with
14 black bear c&t in Unit 24. You can read that on that part.
15
16 Proposal 58(B) dealt with brown bear c&t determination,
17 and the Council adopted the proposal as modified by state -- I
18 mean the agency staff.
19
20 Proposal 60, again sheep, customary and traditional use
21 determination in Unit 24. We decided to defer this proposal.
22 We needed more information from the other villages before they
23 could make that determination. I wonder what the status is on
24 that. Maybe we can get an update on that when we deal with c&t
25 determinations. Could we find out what happened on that part,
26 or did we.....
27
28 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: On which one?
29
30 CHAIRMAN REXFORD:discuss this in.....
31
32 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Excuse me?
33
34 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Proposal 60. Did we deal with that
35 in our March meeting?
36
37 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: What is that about?
38
39 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Sheep c&t in Unit 24.
40
41 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Oh, okay.
42
43 MR. B. HOPSON: Tab four, Anaktuvuk?
44
45 MR. H. BROWER: Look under Tab I, Mr. Chairman, is the
46 continuing RFR 97-60.
47
48 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It's under Tab I. I think that's
49 it.
50

0103

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Pardon?

2

3 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Sheep. RFR 97-16.

4

5 MR. H. BROWER: Sheep submitted by Alaska Department of
6 Fish and Game.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Oh, yeah. Okay.

9

10 MR. H. BROWER: Presenting the.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah. It.....

13

14 MR. H. BROWER:(indiscernible) decision.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: It became an RFR. I think 97-16.
17 Yeah, I wonder if that's the same proposal that they -- that
18 the State wanted the Board to reconsider?

19

20 MS. MEEHAN: Right.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Is that the same proposal?

23

24 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: So you can find that under Tab I,
27 the response by Mitch on Proposal 60.

28

29 Proposal 74, another sheep customary and traditional
30 use determination, Unit 26. I'm not sure whether that covers,
31 but we'll find out. I think we need to find out whether that
32 -- the answer to his -- 26 covers that response from Mitch.

33

34 MR. B. HOPSON: I don't see anything under this, is
35 that.....

36

37 MR. H. BROWER: This is on the proposal 60. The Board
38 adopted the Regional Council recommendation and rejected the
39 RFR.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Where's that?

42

43 MR. H. BROWER: Tab I, it's the last sentence on the
44 next page.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Anyway, there's been -- there is c&t
47 in Unit 26, all of Unit 26 in summary.

48

49 MS. MEEHAN: For sheep, yes.

50

0104

1 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Yeah, for sheep.

2

3 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

4

5 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All of the communities have c&t
6 determination

7

8 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah, the Board rejected the RFR.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: So that takes us to Proposal 75,
11 again in particular Unit 26(A) and (B). That was passed. And
12 I think Ben was down there working on -- with us at the Federal
13 Subsistence Board.

14

15 MR. B. HOPSON: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

16

17 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Proposal 76. This particular
18 proposal was rejected by the Council.

19

20 We met on September 16 and 17. There were some issues.
21 There was an election as stated in there. The issues, there
22 were three issues that we brought up in the annual report:
23 National Park Service subsistence management program review.
24 That was pretty well clearly -- or understandable. BLM,
25 working with -- in NPRA, the draft -- or the environmental
26 impact statement. Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Again
27 muskox continued to be an issue. They're also going on further
28 west. It continues to be a concern as the herd moves this way.

29

30 A response dated August 14th from the Chairman on those
31 issues and proposals.

32

33 MR. B. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman?

34

35 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Ben?

36

37 MR. B. HOPSON: I have a question going back to the
38 Proposal 60 which you talked about.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Uh-hum.

41

42 MR. B. HOPSON: Can the staff provide us information to
43 enlighten us on the subject again? Does Anaktuvuk have c&t
44 determination for sheep in Unit 24? Or I'm.....

45

46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Unit 2-.....

47

48 MR. B. HOPSON:kind of getting the message like
49 Anaktuvuk doesn't have c&t for sheep in 24?

50

0105

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes, there is.

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: They're -- yeah, they're already in
4 24. It's rural residents of Unit 24 residing north of the
5 Arctic Circle, so that includes Anaktuvuk Pass, because they
6 are in Unit 24.

7

8 MR. B. HOPSON: Okay. All right.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Could we just get a status on
11 Proposal 60, see where that was? Because we wanted to wait.

12

13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Proposal 16?

14

15 MS. MEEHAN: 60, this one.

16

17 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: 60, that would be sheep c&t.

18

19 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Any other questions on the
22 annual report? What we try to do in the annual report is to
23 bring up the motions or proposals or any vital information or
24 vital issues that we deal with in our region, so a copy of the
25 minutes we usually try and attach to the annual report for the
26 Chairman to look at what's been acted on.

27

28 Tab I, Barbara? Or did you already talk about this?

29

30 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: This is -- this letter is written to
31 Fenton every year after the Federal Board meets. The Federal
32 Board meets like in May. This year they met from May 4 through
33 6, and this is when all the proposals are being discussed, and
34 all the Board recommen- -- like I mentioned last night at the
35 meeting, the Council recommendations are brought forth by
36 Fenton, your Chair, and this is where Fenton defends your
37 recommendations, because the proposals here are discussed in
38 your winter meeting, and then after that they go to the Staff
39 Committee. And the Staff Committee makes recommendations where
40 they mention how they think it should go before the Federal
41 Board. And then these are sent back to Fenton for his review
42 and all the other Council members. And then still Fenton goes
43 forward before the Federal Board to present your
44 recommendations and defend the proposals that you put forth
45 before the Federal Board, and this is -- this letter goes out
46 after the meeting is done with to give the report back out to
47 you to see how your proposals came out after the Federal Board
48 meeting. Any other additions?

49

50 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Thank you, Barbara. Again, she's

0106

1 right, it covers the issues that affected our region, the
2 results of the various proposal numbers on request for
3 reconsideration. RFR sheep by -- request for reconsideration
4 by Alaska Department of Fish and Game was denied.

5
6 Proposal 108, again 12 and three, muskoxen. No, that's
7 proposal 109, I'm sorry. Proposal 108 was deferred, so now
8 it's back on the table. 109 was 12 and three.

9
10 Proposal 94, sheep c&t. Point Lay residents, Unit 23.

11
12 Proposal 78, moose season was submitted by Western
13 Interior. That changed the existing season. We supported this
14 proposal, and also the Board passed the proposal.

15
16 So in essence that's what happened last year.
17 Including up to the Federal Subsistence Board meeting in March
18 -- I mean, in May. Any questions on these two reports?

19
20 Charter update, I just want to point that out real
21 quickly, I think had one on the alt- -- maybe it's not in the
22 alternates, but Barbara mentioned that she'll mail the newly
23 updated charter for us.

24
25 That's pretty much it for old business. Any other old
26 business to come before the board -- before the Council? Last
27 chance. Any old business to come before the Council? Hearing
28 none, we'll conclude with item nine under old business. We'll
29 start the day in the morning, unless the Council wants to hear
30 a couple of agency reports this afternoon? What's the wish of
31 the Council?

32
33 MR. UPICKSOUN: Mr. Chairman, we can finish the rest of
34 our agenda tomorrow. Actually we can break and reconvene at
35 9:00 o'clock in the morning.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Okay. Motion by Gordon to recess
38 until 9:00 tomorrow.

39
40 MR. B. HOPSON: Second.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: Seconded by Ben. All in favor say
43 ee-ee?

44
45 IN UNISON: Ee-ee.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All those opposed?

48
49 (No opposing votes.)

50

0107

1
2 much.

CHAIRMAN REXFORD: All right. Recess. Thank you very

3
4 (Off record - 3:50 p.m.)

5
6 (TO BE CONTINUED)

7
8 * * * * *