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NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

Barrow Alaska
October 18, 2005

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Harry K. Brower, Jr., Chairman
- Paul S. Bodfish, Sr.
- Gordon R. Brower, Sr.
- David A. Gunderson
- Ray Koonuk
- Terry Tagarook
- Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak
- Regional Council Coordinator, Barbara Armstrong

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Barrow, Alaska - 10/18/2005)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Call the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council to order. It's 8:40 in the morning. Can we have a roll call, please.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Harry Brower.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Raymond Paneak is excused. Terry Tagarook.

MR. TAGAROOK: Here.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Julius Rexford is excused. David Gunderson.

MR. GUNDERSON: Here.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Paul Bodfish.

MR. BODFISH: Here.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Ray Koonuk.

MR. KOONUK: Here.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak.

MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Here.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Baxter Hopson is excused. Gordon Brower should be here shortly. You have a quorum, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Barb. Next we have is a moment of silence. Please keep in mind all the activity that's been happening on the North Slope, time away from families, people losing family members. So at this time I'll ask for a moment of silence, please.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. The next we have is the welcome and introductions. Good morning.

1 I'll start with myself. My name is Harry Brower. I'm
2 chairman of the Regional Advisory Council. Starting with
3 you, Rosemary.

4
5 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'm Rosemary
6 Ahtuanguaruak. I live in Nuiqsut. I'm currently working
7 with the Mayor's Office as a village communications
8 liaison. I'm involving with this board and the Inupiat
9 Community of the Arctic Slope.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Barb.

12
13 MS. ARMSTRONG: Barb Armstrong,
14 coordinator for North Slope and Seward Pen.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Moving to our left.
17 Ray.

18
19 MR. KOONUK: Ray Koonuk, Point Hope. I
20 also work for the Native Village of Point Hope as housing
21 director.

22
23 MR. TAGAROOK: Good morning. Terry
24 Tagarook from Wainwright. This is going to be my last
25 meeting with the board and I hope we can have good
26 representation with our young. The one over here from
27 Wainwright. But we'll keep in touch. And I hope you
28 guys keep in touch, too. Let's just say it's been a fast
29 over 10 years with this board. I hope everybody can keep
30 up with everything that's changing with the regulations
31 and make sure the Federal and State people come to the
32 villages before they make the regulations and that way I
33 won't get arrested.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Terry. Go
38 ahead, Paul.

39
40 MR. BODFISH: I'm Paul Bodfish from
41 Atqasuk, subsistence hunter.

42
43 MR. GUNDERSON: David Gunderson, also
44 from Wainwright, subsistence hunter as well. Thank you.

45
46 (Staff introductions away from
47 microphone)

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, everyone.
50 We have an agenda before us. What is the wish of the

1 Council. Ray.

2

3 MR. KOONUK: I'd so move to approve the
4 agenda for October 18, 2005.

5

6 MR. TAGAROOK: Second.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion and seconded to
9 adopt the agenda of October 18, 2005.

10

11 MR. BODFISH: Call for question.

12

13 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Discussion.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Discussion.

16

17 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Under 12-A we'd like
18 to take into consideration Prudhoe Bay designation as
19 nonrural.

20

21 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Barb.

24

25 MS. ARMSTRONG: I will just announce for
26 you right now for the student art contest these are in
27 your folders and we need some input from the villages.
28 If you would talk to your school district or school
29 principals or teachers at your villages to have some
30 input from the villages and a lot of these art they show
31 off in the Anchorage area and it's so good to see village
32 students participating from all over the state. So this
33 is as an announcement. I think that's all I have for
34 now.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Ray.

37

38 MR. KOONUK: Also the relocation of the
39 meeting from Kaktovik to Barrow.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, that should be
42 noted that we're here at the third floor of the SRC here
43 in Barrow, Alaska, the Arctic Slope Regional Council
44 conference room. We had to change from traveling to
45 Kaktovik and change the location back to Barrow.
46 Any other changes or further discussion on the agenda.
47 Barb.

48

49 MS. ARMSTRONG: Under 10-D we'll have a
50 short presentation by Jeff Adams from fisheries. Am I

1 correct?
2
3 MR. CANNON: I believe it's 9-C on my
4 agenda.
5
6 MS. ARMSTRONG: 9-C.
7
8 MR. CANNON: (Away from microphone)
9
10 MS. ARMSTRONG: Monitoring Program project
11 investigator.
12
13 MR. CANNON: (Away from microphone)
14
15 MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Sorry.
16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So it's already an
18 agenda item.
19
20 MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, it's already there.
21 So it's 9-C, Jeff Adams.
22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other changes.
24
25 MR. BODFISH: Call for the question.
26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
28 called. All in favor of the agenda with the amendments
29 signify by saying aye.
30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.
32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any opposed.
34
35 (No opposing votes)
36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank you.
38 We have an agenda before us. We need an adoption of
39 minutes. Let's see, the last meeting was March 24. This
40 meeting was held in the Inupiat Heritage Center in
41 Barrow, Alaska March 24, 2005.
42
43 Just for the Council's information, I did
44 receive a letter on those questions we had addressed
45 during the March meeting regarding moose in Unit 24 and
46 the Federal Subsistence Board Chair did send a letter
47 regarding the responses to our questions that were asked
48 at that meeting. Gordon.
49
50 MR. G. BROWER: I think during the last

1 meeting we had a motion made to oppose Senate Bill 85 as
2 a group and I have not seen anything drafted to that
3 effect and sent to the State. They've been having public
4 hearings up here in Barrow on Senate Bill 85 and it
5 should be in the minutes somewhere.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary, thank you for
8 identifying the page. It's on Page 10. Gordon, there's
9 a motion there.

10
11 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman. Is it our
12 own duty to draft such a letter or that's just how it is,
13 it's just stated in the minutes of the meeting, it's not
14 sent in any formal way to be recognized by the State?

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think, if I remember
17 right, we asked Staff to forward a letter at that time.
18 Barb, you weren't here.

19
20 MS. ARMSTRONG: I was sick.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You were sick at the
23 time. I think it was Michelle. I think we need to look
24 into that a little further. Is it still possible to get
25 a letter sent out from this Council?

26
27 MS. ARMSTRONG: It's too late.

28
29 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman. I don't
30 think it's too late at all. The public hearing that was
31 set up here by Senator Ralph Seekins just took place and
32 they are looking for written comments to that effect. I
33 think this is one body that made such a motion in its
34 last meeting ahead of time. So I would have thought we
35 would have sent a letter by that time.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon. So
38 I would ask Staff again to get a letter forwarded to
39 Senator Seekins on Senate Bill 85.

40
41 MS. ARMSTRONG: Yes, I will get one out
42 for you and send it up to you for your signature.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon. Any
45 other comments or discussion from the minutes of March
46 24.

47
48 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ray.

1 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, the first page in
2 regards to Kaktovik member, is there any luck in getting
3 a member from Kaktovik?

4
5 MS. ARMSTRONG: We're trying again. We
6 were unsuccessful last year. We got one in but then he
7 pulled out just before the panel meeting last year and
8 we're working on it again this year, but we still are not
9 successful in getting any applicants from Kaktovik.

10
11 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

14
15 MR. G. BROWER: Routinely, I've been
16 talking with people in Kaktovik and I think there's some
17 interested people that I know of that want to submit a
18 nomination. It's just getting around to doing it or make
19 a presence or something. It seems to me it's pretty
20 important to get representation from Kaktovik.

21
22 MS. ARMSTRONG: You, as Council Members,
23 can give them those applications because I sent all the
24 notices out like you get. Everybody in the villages are
25 noticed about these applications. If you know of anyone
26 that wants to apply or you talk to anyone, Mr. Brower,
27 you can let me know and we can forward an application to
28 them or they can go to those offices there and there are
29 application copies I can forward too if you would give me
30 a name later. Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Ray.

33
34 MR. KOONUK: Yes, and it's also
35 advertised in the Arctic Sounder, so like everybody
36 should know where to go and who to contact.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Ray. Any
39 further comments or corrections to the minutes.

40
41 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I have a question, Mr.
42 Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

45
46 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: If Senate Bill 85 is
47 approved, will this board be offered a chance to assess
48 our regulations in a special meeting with those changes?

49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Barb.

1 MS. ARMSTRONG: I would defer to Mr.
2 Kron, if he would answer or give us suggestions.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Barb.

5
6 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Tom Kron with OSM.
7 I would think probably the thing to do is to wait and see
8 what happens with that and we'll have to evaluate things
9 if, in fact, it is approved. It's my understanding there
10 are public meetings around the state right now and it
11 sounds like you're going to submit a letter as well.
12 Let's wait and see what happens and then respond
13 accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Kron.
16 Any further discussions or changes to the minutes. Paul.

17
18 MR. BODFISH: I haven't heard anybody to
19 accept the minutes, so at this time I'll move to accept
20 the March 24, 2005 minutes since we're under discussion
21 on the minutes.

22
23 MR. TAGAROOK: Second the motion.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on the
26 floor and seconded regarding the minutes of March 24,
27 2005. Further discussion.

28
29 MR. G. BROWER: Question.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question's been called
32 accepting the minutes of March 24, 2005. All in favor
33 signify by saying aye.

34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any opposed.

38
39 (No opposing votes)

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank you,
42 Paul, Council. We have an agenda item under village
43 concerns. We'll start with David. Do you have any
44 village concerns in Wainwright.

45
46 MR. GUNDERSON: Hello, my name is David
47 Gunderson. I live in Wainwright. To my knowledge, I
48 don't know of any or have heard of any. This is also my
49 second meeting and I'm kind of new to this and I'm
50 learning as we go on. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, David.
2 Paul.

3
4 MR. BODFISH: Good morning. Caribou
5 harvest report, pretty good this fall, but when the
6 hunting was getting really active in getting the caribou
7 we had an incident with the people that were doing the
8 yellow bill loon survey, at least that's what they said,
9 flying a 185 with pontoons, was flying over caribou while
10 this guy was trying to hunt those caribou and chased them
11 away and kind of turned the herd that was coming from the
12 east. They headed south from the east of us, so we had
13 to go quite a ways out to harvest caribou.

14
15 Other than that, fishing has been good
16 and everyone is catching their limits or their catch for
17 the year on fish. But we did have to go quite a ways out
18 to get caribou this year. If they're going to be doing a
19 study, we'd like to have them out of there by September
20 or sometimes in August, be out of our hunting area,
21 because we had some people that were pretty mad about
22 that plane flying around out there disrupting the hunt.

23
24 That's all I have.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul.

27
28 MR. G. BROWER: I have a question of
29 Paul.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

32
33 MR. G. BROWER: Paul, last year on one of
34 your fishing reports that you guys were catching fish
35 with something wrong with them. Is that occurring this
36 year or you didn't see that too much?

37
38 MR. BODFISH: Fishing is just starting.
39 I haven't seen anything or anybody reporting any fish of
40 that type this year. We did see some fish where the
41 seagulls had almost gotten them. We find holes in them.
42 Those are the ones that escaped from the seagulls in
43 shallow water. But this year we haven't had any reports
44 of soft fish that I mentioned in the last meeting. We're
45 still looking into that though.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul. Any
48 further questions of Paul.

49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Terry.

2

3 MR. TAGAROOK: My name is Terry Tagarook
4 from Wainwright. With the spring whaling, we were
5 successful in harvesting a whale for our crew. The
6 geese, the ducks, getting ready for the blanket toss.
7 And then fishing. We had some mishaps with our
8 snowmachines falling in the river this fall. Caribou are
9 kind of further south this time of the year now. We're
10 waiting for the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd to go down to
11 Wainwright. It was a good season fishing, caribou
12 hunting. Going up to the mountains pretty quick and do
13 more fishing. Things have been good for putting our nets
14 under the ice for whitefish, cisco. I'm hoping to go
15 back and go up to the cabin before go back to work.
16 That's all I have.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Terry. Any
19 questions or comments.

20

21 MR. BODFISH: Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Paul.

24

25 MR. BODFISH: Yeah, I forgot to mention
26 there was a guy that had mentioned about the bird flu
27 that was going around with the ducks. Has anyone heard
28 about that or any of the agencies.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I know there's been a
31 lot of news within the Daily News and Miner, but I
32 haven't -- Dr. Yokel.

33

34 DR. YOKEL: Mr. Chairman. The Alaska
35 Department of Fish and Game has put out a little brochure
36 for hunters on bird flu. Just to summarize it up in one
37 sentence, the ideas at this time is there's little reason
38 for concern by hunters in Alaska.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dr. Yokel.

41

42 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Tom Kron, Fish
43 and Wildlife Service. My understanding is Fish and
44 Wildlife Service has been conducting surveys as well and
45 they have not found anything, but the feeling is that
46 there's little reason for concern, but they're going to
47 continue to look at it carefully. Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Paul, did
50 that answer your question.

1 MR. BODFISH: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Ray.

4

5 MR. KOONUK: Good morning. I have a few
6 items here as far as what's been happening in Point Hope.
7 I'll save the worst for last. Caribou has been taken,
8 but there's a few that has been caught with white worms
9 inside the meat. Past August and September there's been
10 hunters that have been reporting caribou with white worms
11 inside the meat. Catches of grayling are increasing. As
12 far as today they've been getting quite a bit of
13 grayling. Less trout from Kuprik River. Whaling was
14 good. We finally reached seven besides just taking one
15 or two and it's been a while since we reached seven.

16

17 Last, but not least, the incident on the
18 muskox, for this non-Native that shot five muskox over by
19 Cape Thompson, he sure put a dent in Point Hope, its
20 name. It wasn't any Native hunters that were out there
21 hunting. Apparently this individual has been caught
22 shooting at some seals, too. I don't know if that was
23 reported, but that was last spring. There was a hunter
24 out there waiting for geese and he saw this same person
25 just shooting seals and just leaving them. So this non-
26 Native person was shooting these muskox with no reason.
27 Right now we have the State Troopers investigating and I
28 think he's going to be sentenced here next month. This
29 person sure made a dent in Point Hope's name. The
30 hunters are mad and embarrassed as far as this individual
31 has done.

32

33 I just want to have Terry for being here
34 when we have our meetings and hopefully we'll see you in
35 the future. It's been a privilege to work with you here.
36 Thanks.

37

38 MR. TAGAROOK: Thank you, Ray. Just a
39 note. It's always good to have humor when you have a
40 meeting and it's always the best medicine, to have humor.
41 And there's always two sides to every coin. Remember
42 that.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Terry.
45 Thank you, Ray. I'll move over to Gordon if you have any
46 village concerns you'd like to share with us.

47

48 MR. G. BROWER: Good morning everybody.
49 It was a pleasure listening to all of you this morning.
50 It's always insightful and I like to hear things from

1 other villages. From my point of view we've been doing a
2 lot of good hunting. Summer boating was pretty good up
3 to the cabin. Shallow, really shallow this year. I mean
4 I got stuck pretty bad out there. Anyway, it was really
5 good.

6
7 Caribou all around, at least where I hunt
8 between probably Chip 1, Chip River 2 and Chip 9 up to 10
9 and a half, somewhere around there. Caribou have been
10 plenty. And really good fishing. We had real good
11 fishing along the Chip River from 6 to 10 and a half.
12 Everybody reporting really good harvest, good fishing.
13 Grayling. We were all competing who got the biggest
14 grayling, so grayling was really good. Spring whaling
15 was pretty successful. We got our whale for our crew.
16 We weren't successful this fall, but Barrow was overall
17 successful in whaling activities.

18
19 Unusual freeze up again this year. Just
20 goes straight into freezing without snow. We were
21 traversing on the river pretty early, but there's no
22 snow. Thickened up pretty good though. It was a really
23 good highway. Besides that hunting was pretty good. My
24 dad reported only two incidents. Two caribous on their
25 mane down here, two bulls that seemed to have maybe oil
26 or something on them. I don't know if they got into
27 natural contact with oil seepage in an area where maybe
28 come in contact with. Two of them that he caught smelled
29 like oil like that, so we didn't keep them. We thought
30 maybe they were contaminated. But a lot of caribou all
31 around. Foxes and critters all getting antsy and running
32 around stealing fish.

33
34 Other concerns I had was I had submitted
35 a letter on my own. This was a response to offshore
36 Lease Sale 195 by MMS. I really believe that we need to
37 stand up for our waters, fishing waters and whaling
38 waters. I've been working with the North Slope Borough
39 as land management for about 10 years and over the years
40 have come to realize that the oil industry shouldn't be
41 out there in the oceans. I've dealt with offshore trials
42 with oil spill response systems that do not work in open
43 water, broken ice conditions. Just the fear of being out
44 there to try to recover in moving ice for entrapping
45 barges, that's a really big fear when you look at these
46 offshore leases, selling them out to explore and develop.
47 I think we need to stand up on the subsistence side of
48 things.

49
50 I read some of the letters that trickled

1 in. One from Lisa Murkowski to Gail Norton to look at
2 the concerns and, where appropriate, maybe recommend even
3 a moratorium on areas for leasing such as they've done in
4 some parts of the state, in parts of the United States.
5 I think we need to have a strong voice and bring out
6 these kind of concerns when it's going to affect
7 subsistence. One day this development unchallenged out
8 there in the arctic is going to spill oil and it's going
9 to ruin whaling. Even the threat of an oil spill without
10 the possibility of cleaning it up.

11
12 We're controlled by an international
13 group, IWC. What do they feel the oil industry is to the
14 bowhead whale? Is it a threat? What is it? We're
15 considered a threat, so we're given a quota. We take
16 animals and eat them. We're a threat to the bowhead
17 whale population, so we're given a quota system to manage
18 it. What happens when there's an oil spill. I mean
19 those are some of the concerns I'd like to see more
20 subsistence involvement and protection. Maybe Fish and
21 Wildlife Service and people involved to look at these
22 areas for critical habitat.

23
24 Think about this stuff. We can designate
25 areas. I believe the whales migrating all the way from
26 Point Hope all the way to Demarcation, studies indicate
27 that they are feeding areas, they're calving, they're
28 mating, calves are being born, it's a nursery. All of
29 these things coupled together. It's not just a migratory
30 route. It's feeding, calving, it's a nursery. We all
31 know this from experience and hunting. They should have
32 special designation for these areas.

33
34 I would encourage Staff that works on
35 these issues to look at our concerns very heavily to this
36 part. There is no proven system to pick up oil in the
37 arctic. Look at what happened to Exxon Valdez. That
38 kind of growing concern is mounting. The risk analysis
39 right now is up to 15 percent according to MMS on a
40 category of a spill in the arctic. When you're looking
41 at these kind of risk analyses, one day it's going to
42 happen. Lease after lease.

43
44 You're looking at North Star is pumping
45 90,000 barrels per day right now. It's just big money.
46 That's all it is. One ice keel can rupture that pipeline
47 and there's still no possibility of cleaning that oil up
48 even if it spills. We live in that kind of world. I've
49 been encouraging the North Slope Borough to make comments
50 to these lease sales to encourage them to make

1 prohibitions. Make special habitat designations in the
2 arctic. It is a pristine environment. It needs to be
3 protected. Just one of my big concerns.

4

5 I work with land management in the
6 Borough and these are some of the things that I think
7 need to come out in some settings like these.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
10 Rosemary, did you have a comment or did you want to make
11 your village concerns.

12

13 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I recognize his
14 concerns and I really appreciate him bringing them out in
15 this forum. We really have to take some serious looks at
16 the rural studies and mappings that are done and
17 overlapping areas that are very important to our
18 traditional and cultural uses. In this Board we can
19 recognize that without some of the political atmosphere
20 that are available in some other arenas, so it's really
21 important that we take some looks at these issues.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Did you
24 have some concerns you wanted to voice this morning.

25

26 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: For Nuiqsut I wasn't
27 able to attend the March meeting and I appreciate you all
28 for keeping that meeting in progress and attending to the
29 issues that were presented. For us, we definitely have a
30 change in our arctic cisco fishing. For eight years we
31 had very poor fishing. We do know there were some
32 changes that were done on the coastal areas with
33 development activities and improving their maintenance of
34 causeways and that activity was done last summer. We saw
35 a few fish last summer, but this year we're seeing cisco
36 in every net and that's the biggest change we've seen in
37 10 years that I've been doing fishing out there.

38

39 This leads to some really important hopes
40 for our community. Offshore whaling activities were
41 greatly impacted this year. We had tremendously bad
42 weather. We also had a direct conflict with
43 nearshore/offshore activity that caused direct impact to
44 our whaling activities. We had actual hunts that were
45 going on and barge activity that were happening that
46 prevented harvest of whales because a barge got in the
47 way of the whale, the whale was able to go under, but the
48 boat couldn't get around fast enough and the whale got
49 out to the ocean further away, away from being harvested.
50 We were successful in bringing back one half of a whale

1 to our community this year and that makes the importance
2 for the other subsistence resources very vital for our
3 community this year.

4
5 We also have seen some problems with
6 caribou. We did have caribou harvests this summer. We
7 still have caribou with lesions, discolorations to the
8 liver. They noted more yellowish color instead of the
9 bright, healthy red color that it's supposed to be.
10 They've been noticing pus areas within the animals,
11 especially around the internal organs. And there were
12 also last spring a bunch of caribou that had died off
13 around the area that were very skinny, so we weren't able
14 to get samples sent out. By the time I was informed when
15 I came back, it was too late. The animals had been
16 continuous in the biodegradation of the animals, so I
17 wasn't able to get sampling.

18
19 We think that the icing conditions we had
20 last year played a big factor in those caribou deaths.
21 We're very concerned to the change of the Teshekpuk Herd.
22 We know there were calving that occurred on the other
23 side of the Dalton Highway and whether or not these
24 animals were able to get back to Teshekpuk Lake, we were
25 not able to see that that happened. A lot of activity
26 has increased travel for harvest to our hunters. Average
27 of at least minimal 30 miles to go out and get a caribou.
28 This is in change to the herd migrating directly through
29 the community, right through the runway, and those herds
30 have been diverted further away from the community.

31
32 We do have a factor with the Meltwater
33 site. The road over there definitely is affecting the
34 east to west migration. We had hunters this year that
35 were ahead of the herd, camping in Itkillik area and they
36 witnessed that the animals came through the river but
37 when they got to Meltwater diverted to the east and did
38 not come around to the village. So those kind of
39 activities are definitely severely impacting our
40 traditional and cultural uses of the area and how we
41 subsist.

42
43 The people did do a great job with
44 Silnupaugaq fishing this year. We were able to get out
45 without having the rain and get some harvest done. There
46 were a few people who put out nets for the Anakliq fall
47 fishing season and they were seeing some good numbers,
48 but those numbers have already dropped. The summertime
49 we were able to get quite a few arctic char and they
50 didn't see too many problems with them, but during the

1 summer fishing for the Anakliq we were still seeing quite
2 a few with parasites and there were still some harvested
3 with tumors in the eggs and in the muscle.

4

5 We did try to get some samples sent out.
6 I don't know what the reports are on those. A few people
7 got out and got bearded seal this summer and that was
8 really good for the community. It added to the diet this
9 year.

10

11 Overland hunting for caribou is down
12 right now because males are going into the rut and most
13 of the animals have migrated away from the community, but
14 people are trying to go out there and look for the
15 females without calves. It's so important this year that
16 we do attempt to get some animals into the cellars this
17 year without the whale to fall back on for the winter
18 harvest.

19

20 So we're very thankful for the changes
21 that occurred and the constant communication that we
22 brought forward from our community that led to some
23 changes in activity, but we do have some major changes
24 that will happen with the Nearshore activity. The
25 islands that are going to be put in for development will
26 cause changes to our fishing again and this is bringing
27 great concern to our community. We're thankful that we
28 have our nets in the water right now before these
29 activities start but we're fearful about what will happen
30 and it's really important that we get some kind of
31 monitoring done that monitors what's happening with these
32 nearshore islands that are going to be developed.

33

34 The last concern is there were one or two
35 hunters that saw polar bears that had died in the water.
36 It looks like they were very skinny. They probably had
37 been fishing in the ocean out on the ice and then tried
38 to get back to shore and didn't make it. And there were
39 polar bears seen out on some of the burial islands that
40 were in very poor shape going into the winter, so they're
41 very concerned on the health and welfare of the polar
42 bears.

43

44 We also have had brown bear activity
45 around the community. They're coming into the village,
46 especially right before they're going into denning, so
47 that is an area that's having conflict with in the
48 community. We don't want to put these bears down, but if
49 they're in the village we have to react and protect our
50 community. Hunters usually respond when those kind of

1 things happen. Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
4 Any questions, comments from council.

5

6 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

9

10 MR. G. BROWER: Some of the concerns
11 related to Meltwater. Meltwater is a development that
12 occurred several years back and there were quite a bit of
13 studies surrounding the development itself. I don't know
14 if Fish and Wildlife Service or ADF&G. I think those
15 people were pretty heavily involved with designing some
16 of the studies around it with ABR, the caribou
17 monitoring.

18

19 But I did get a letter back to our office
20 from the industry that sided with ABR that regardless of
21 what they did caribou was not crossing over through the
22 middle that it was expected to do by creating pipelines
23 at eight-foot high.

24

25 The convoying issue surrounding -- we put
26 a convoying limitation during peak calving and migration
27 so that it wouldn't try to alter the migration during
28 that period. But the letter that we got back saying
29 there was no difference if it was convoying, the caribou
30 were avoiding this area and wanted to lift the convoying
31 band. It just tells me that there's an ongoing issue
32 with development infrastructure and caribou, regardless
33 if the animal -- it has been talked about them being
34 habituated to development. That doesn't seem to make
35 kind of sense when you think that industry saying the
36 animals eventually get habituated over time.

37

38 But we also have seen at least a 25 mile
39 distance change in the core calving area. From the coast
40 area where they were usually calving to about 25, 30
41 miles inland. So there is definite impact from
42 development and we're still doing, at least from my part
43 in the Borough, trying to identify ways of mitigating
44 some of these kind of impacts.

45

46 I would also like to point out that the
47 North Slope Borough, through some of the development,
48 started trying to address accumulative effects
49 displacement, you know, reasonable access to subsistence
50 resources, by having the industry create good neighbor

1 programs where they're submitting funds that can be drawn
2 out. So I would look into that. I think there's a panel
3 that's supposed to be formed and the industry has been
4 depositing, I think, \$50,000 per year into this certain
5 fund for displacement, for this kind of subsistence-
6 related impact that could be used for a multitude of
7 different things besides maybe additional fuel or
8 transportation of probably whale meat from Cross Island
9 or something like that.

10

11 Anyway, I think it's just one of those
12 things that needs to be looked into to start tapping into
13 some of those funds if the hunters are having to, on
14 their own, go different places to hunt on their own
15 expenses. Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
18 Rosemary, did you want to respond.

19

20 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: The community is aware
21 of these efforts that are in place and the initial
22 discussions are initiating. It's going to be a long
23 process that occurs in developing a plan on how these
24 funds are used to benefit the offset of the changes that
25 are occurring with traditional land uses. As these
26 communications occur, the first biggest factor is this is
27 just a small penny in the bucket of the cost of these
28 types of activities and it's not going to provide that
29 much benefit. As Barrow does their assessments and
30 discussions, you better plan a lot bigger dollar amount
31 into your efforts and discussions and the other
32 communities as they work on the additional developments.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
35 Any comments from the Council. Gordon.

36

37 MR. G. BROWER: I'd just like to say that
38 we should all be diligent, you know. We're all
39 subsistence hunters and we need to bring to light the
40 impacts to subsistence and our land managers out here
41 need to know, BLM needs to know, Fish and Wildlife needs
42 to know, because they're going to deal with Federal
43 public lands being developed and infrastructure
44 eventually being placed upon lands that are primary
45 habitat of subsistence resources and reasonable access
46 issues. They need to be able to know these impacts so
47 they can come to the table when development is going to
48 occur with real plausible solutions, real alternatives,
49 maybe buried pipeline systems, maybe other types of
50 systems that may be beneficial.

1 There needs to be an answer to make co-
2 existence a reality. I mean we strive to try to strike a
3 balance in what we do and we welcome on the North Slope
4 for many years industrial activities, but there has to be
5 a point where industrial activities needs to accommodate
6 the continual survival, the indigenous right to subsist,
7 the Native peoples and that needs to come around.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.

10

11 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Terry.

14

15 MR. TAGAROOK: Since Kaktovik is not here
16 and I've been e-mailing some of my friends in Kaktovik
17 and wanted to let you all know that there was a couple
18 killed by grizzly bears in Kaktovik area. And some of
19 those people are complaining about hikers going into
20 their cabins and using their cabins up in the mountains.
21 I think that there should be something done about that.
22 I'm hoping that we could get a representative from
23 Kaktovik to say something about the village concerns that
24 affect your hunting areas, mostly the sports hunters and
25 hikers that are going to that area. I was sad to hear
26 that a couple was killed by a grizzly bear.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Terry for
29 bringing that up. I guess that one of the reasons for
30 trying to hold the meeting in Kaktovik was to try and get
31 more input on what's affecting the residents of Kaktovik
32 in terms of all activity that's occurred within Arctic
33 National Wildlife Refuge. We know the outfitters that
34 work off the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge are from
35 both sides of the mountain range and that definitely has
36 some impact. There's some recreational use that seems to
37 be impacting some of the cabin owners within that area.
38 So that was one of the reasons that we were trying to
39 hold a meeting in Kaktovik, to get their local input
40 because we haven't had a representative since Fenton
41 resigned from this Council.

42

43 Any further comments. Rosemary.

44

45 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: One additional comment
46 I didn't bring out was we also had some impacts from the
47 floaters that come down. There are activities related to
48 floats. They get hired out of Fairbanks and other places
49 to charter out and go pick up these individuals. Two
50 incidents in July when we were out over the weekend up to

1 Umaruk (ph) and a jet passed Kiuktusluk (ph). We had the
2 plane flying less than 50 feet above the bluffs where the
3 falcons are. I saw two falcons dive right down to the
4 ground to get away from this plane that was coming. It
5 landed on the sand bar to pick up the kayaker that
6 floated on up the river from way inland.

7
8 On their permits we put stipulations that
9 they're not supposed to do this. They're supposed to fly
10 away from the bluff, but there's no enforcements
11 occurring. I did bring this out to the Mayor's Office
12 when I came back into town on both incidents. It does
13 affect those birds when they're nesting and they're
14 attempting to feed their young. To watch those falcons
15 just dive and land on the ground in response to it is
16 very concerning. It's tough for them to live up here and
17 feed their family, so it's important to try to find a way
18 to enforce those restrictions that are placed upon those
19 flights.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
22 Ray.

23
24 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair. We have Red Dog
25 Mine around our area and it's the most contaminated area
26 in the United States as a mining deal. We're getting
27 concerned as far as what they are saying as being
28 contaminated. If it is contaminated, where is that
29 contamination going? Is it seeping down to the Wulik
30 River and down to the ocean? I haven't received any
31 reports as far as what Northwest Federal Subsistence
32 Board has been talking about or have they brought any
33 concerns as far as Red Dog Mine. I used to go to these
34 meetings, but I haven't went to the Northwest Federal
35 Subsistence meetings. I don't know if these Staff here
36 have any jurisdiction around Unit 23. Who am I to talk
37 to about this as far as Staff overlooking areas like Unit
38 26, 23?

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Barbara, I think we
41 have other coordinators you could communicate with, but I
42 think you're coordinating also with the Northwest Arctic
43 Borough.

44
45 MS. ARMSTRONG: No, I'm coordinator for
46 North Slope and Seward Pen. I know Point Hope has Unit
47 23 hunting. I think sheep and caribou. We are going to
48 ask to see if Ray can attend the Northwest Arctic meeting
49 at the winter meetings. That's what had started before,
50 but something happened and then it stopped, so I'm going

1 to ask again. Ray and I have been talking about this
2 that he had started attending the Northwest Arctic
3 council meetings from Point Hope at Kotzebue, so we are
4 going to ask and we'll see what happens and we'll let you
5 know.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Barb. Just
8 to add on a little bit more. I think we've had the Gates
9 of the Arctic Resource Commission that's been established
10 within the Gates of the Arctic and we have a
11 representative that's representing the users of that area
12 and I think it would be wise maybe to get one set up for
13 the National Preserve and having a representative from
14 our Council because we do have shared use areas in
15 different parts of our region. So probably something
16 similar to that effect would be helpful in attending a
17 meeting that's happening within that specific area.
18 Barb.

19
20 MS. ARMSTRONG: We have Ray Bunack (ph)
21 and I think Rachel Mikana (ph) on the Gates, then we have
22 Frederick Sun from Shungnak on the Gates, but are you
23 talking about Cape Krusenstern or Kobuk Valley SRC?

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think those two would
26 be the closest ones to communicate with in regards to
27 Point Hope because the boundaries don't mean nothing to
28 resources and people that are hunting within the areas.
29 It's just all these management schemes are set up that we
30 have these boundary lines that are keeping people
31 separated in terms of regulations and coming to meetings.
32 So I think if we could appoint a person, for instance
33 Ray, to attend meetings within that area to voice
34 concerns on effects that are happening or caused by
35 another industrial activity or something like that that's
36 occurring just south of their community, that would be
37 something to look into.

38
39 MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay. I don't think we
40 have anybody here from Park Service, but we will ask to
41 see if Ray can attend their meetings, either Kobuk Valley
42 or probably Cape Krusenstern, the SRC meeting. We'll
43 also ask to see if we can fund his travel and per diem to
44 those meetings that they attend. I know they've had
45 their meetings this summer already and I think they're
46 supposed to have some more by November and we'll see what
47 kind of turnaround we can do. I certainly will ask for
48 you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Barb. Does

1 that help with your concern, Ray?

2

3 MR. KOONUK: Yes, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. We're still
6 under village concerns. Gordon.

7

8 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman. I had a
9 concern. This came out from -- I had been assigned a
10 task from the land management administrator, the director
11 of planning, to try to figure out the number of sport
12 hunting guides that are taking place within the North
13 Slope Borough, whether it is on Federal public lands,
14 State lands, private lands. I had been browsing through
15 the internet for about a good two months investigating
16 sites where people were advertising to do big game
17 hunting and a lot of it was ending up in ANWR. I'd like
18 to have the land managers for ANWR to cough up this
19 information. There has been a rash of problems from
20 Anaktuvuk Pass to Kaktovik complaining about rafters
21 displacing migratory routes, to hunters and spike camps
22 along the Dalton Highway, using the Dalton Highway as a
23 launch-off point. Some outfit that uses horses. These
24 are affecting the ability of villagers to harvest
25 effectively.

26

27 I was just listening to the North Slope
28 Borough assembly meeting not too long ago and Anaktuvuk
29 Pass again is impacted where they're not harvesting the
30 necessary nutritional amounts to sustain the village and
31 they're going through a hard time. Some of the causes
32 might be natural, but certainly I think a look into sport
33 hunting spike camps that don't use traditional means,
34 that don't recognize when 50,000 head of caribou are
35 involved when you don't let the first ones go through to
36 make a scent trail, that you just don't hunt the leaders
37 off and out of existence and let the caribou go in ways
38 that they go to disburse. Usually there's leaders
39 involved with caribou migration.

40

41 That was one of the concerns Anaktuvuk
42 Pass pointed out. They believe that might be one of the
43 issues. These trophy hunters are getting the biggest
44 bulls, the first ones available, and not letting the
45 animals go through and not hunt from the middle section
46 so that a scent trail of migration is not set. That's
47 one of the traditional means.

48

49 The other thing is if they do hunt, the
50 people reporting wanton waste, animal carcasses being

1 left behind with no enforcement around these areas, no
2 ranger, no wildlife enforcement. If you're going to
3 issue permits to hunt in these areas, you better darn
4 well be able to enforce game laws in these vast areas.
5 That should be dealt with severely with a big hammer. We
6 don't like to see that. Especially it may be breaking
7 laws to leave animals and just take the heads, the trophy
8 value. That meat could be used in the village. As long
9 as you can prepare it traditionally and be able to save
10 that meat in a way that's acceptable by that village, not
11 just to stockpile it meat after meat and let the carcass
12 rot up and make bear tracking out of it. Those are some
13 of the things. If it's available to be donated to a
14 village, it should be. It's just one of those concerns.
15

16
17 I see on the internet at least 20
18 different advertisements for ANWR hunting. The other
19 part of it is some of them are advertising lodges.
20 Somewhere Philip Smith Mountain areas. I don't know
21 whether it's within the North Slope Borough boundaries.
22 I checked with our tax assessor. They don't know these
23 things. The North Slope Borough has jurisdiction on
24 taxation on Federal lands. If they're not knowing these
25 things, those people are tax evaders, subject to fines,
26 even discontinuation of their activities until they get
27 their tax problem in order. Those are some of the things
28 we're seeing. We need to coordinate with the North Slope
29 Borough on some of these activities, Fish and Wildlife
30 Service, BLM, whoever is doing these things. They need
31 to be cognizant of the impacts created. A lot of the
32 hunting that's sport related, if there's limitations on
33 subsistence, there should be a corresponding limitation
34 on sport. If there has to be limitations on catch for
35 subsistence, there has to be heavy limitations on sport.
36

37 Anyway, that was just one of my concerns
38 that I wanted to bring out that I had been working on for
39 about six to eight months trying to identify sport
40 hunting activities within the North Slope. A lot of them
41 need to come through the North Slope Borough to get their
42 permits as well, but about 80 percent of them aren't even
43 registered with the Borough. They don't have Borough
44 permits. They have to go through Borough lands to get to
45 Federal public lands. They've got to go through the
46 highway, they've got to go through the airports. They
47 should have Borough permits to conduct the activities out
48 there to get out there in the first place.
49

50 I'd like the Federal land managers to

1 recognize that or at least work with the people that are
2 impacted to have appropriate conditions on their hunting,
3 how they deal with the waste of an animal. We had our
4 North Slope Borough inspectors go down the Haul Road
5 looking at animals on the highway that were alive with
6 arrows stuck in them walking around. I mean people are
7 doing those kind of things. Not making a clean shot and
8 an animal is walking around, carcasses left on the road.
9 Those kind of things should not be allowed to be
10 happening like that. Thank you.

11

12 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

15

16 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: In our village we're
17 very aware of the hardship that Anaktuvuk faces when they
18 have lack of caribou harvest. We routinely share our
19 harvest with many extended family members in the
20 Anaktuvuk area. We've even brought Anaktuvuk hunters to
21 our community to help them hunt because they have lost
22 out in efforts of harvest and recognize the importance to
23 support intercommunity relations and facilitate sharing
24 of our resources.

25

26 This has already been noted. Many of the
27 people that went to AFN brought caribou with them to
28 share with Anaktuvuk and it is important to recognize
29 that these are true impacts that are definitely happening
30 in their area. We also face some of these reactions and
31 we try to work with the community to facilitate their
32 needs. We have to look at the bigger picture and find
33 ways to prevent these great harms that are happening.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
36 Any other comments. Terry.

37

38 MR. TAGAROOK: Just one. Maybe more than
39 one. Ever since the ice went out after the spring, the
40 ice went out and never came back to Wainwright. With the
41 weather and climate changing, I think that has an effect
42 on our hunting walruses.

43

44 Another thing, if I remember correctly,
45 there should be another member outside of the villages
46 that are supposed to be on the Board, sportsman or
47 whatever, that never got on board. I don't know why.
48 Maybe they don't want their activities known.

49

50 MS. ARMSTRONG: Terry, the reason why you

1 did not get any comm sports on this Council is because
2 there's a requirement that the com sports people have to
3 be residents of the region and there are no resident comm
4 sports people that live in the region of North Slope.

5
6 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ray.

9
10 MR. KOONUK: I was just listening to
11 Gordon's comments as far as arrows being utilized in
12 hunting caribou. Don't we have any law enforcement or
13 wildlife troopers that should be attending this meeting?
14 I think there's some real valid concerns as far as what
15 is being done out there with these sport hunters. I
16 think they need to be informed or have someone attend the
17 meeting so that they can pass this message on to the rest
18 of their officers.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we do have
21 enforcement people within the State. Mr. Beddingfield, I
22 think he's with the State Troopers. I know he's fairly
23 busy. I did invite him just for your information to our
24 North Slope Borough Fish and Game Management Committee a
25 couple times to give updates on activities and the
26 observations that he's made over the course of one year
27 and where he could use some help. We tried getting
28 information from him and sharing that stuff to change
29 regulations at the Board of Game that affects the
30 hunting. There is enforcements just to share the little
31 knowledge I have on that. I'm not sure how the US Fish
32 and Wildlife Service or BLM rangers within the Haul Road.

33
34
35 Dr. Yokel, do you have anything to
36 comment on that?

37
38 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ray.

41
42 MR. KOONUK: If the State Troopers can
43 find a bullet and trace it to the store as far as how
44 they found out who shot these muskox, why can't they do
45 that with the arrows? There's something wrong here. I
46 don't know. It's just not right.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Ray.

49
50 DR. YOKEL: Mr. Chairman. Dave Yokel

1 with BLM. The BLM does have a ranger who occasionally
2 patrols the Dalton Highway with the purpose of enforcing
3 BLM regulations and I believe he is deputized to enforce
4 State laws at the same time. However, it's not against
5 the law to wound a caribou. It's an unfortunate
6 byproduct of hunting that some animals are wounded and
7 lost through wounding. I don't know the statistics, but
8 I would guess that the wounding loss rate is higher for
9 bow hunters than for gun hunters, but it occurs with both
10 forms of harvest. It's also much more noticeable when an
11 animal is wounded by an arrow than by a bullet because
12 the missile itself is more noticeable in the caribou.
13 There isn't necessarily anything to enforce in terms of
14 wounding laws. It is required that a hunter make a
15 reasonable attempt to recover that animal, but it isn't
16 always possible regardless of the means of hunting.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dr. Yokel.
19 Any other comments. Hearing none, maybe I'll give a
20 brief report on my observations here in Barrow in terms
21 of village concerns. I work for the North Slope Borough
22 as the subsistence research coordinator and we do a lot
23 of work in communicating with hunters in different
24 villages on the North Slope. We have a subsistence
25 specialist that collects harvest information on resources
26 and interact with a lot of community hunters. So I do
27 hear a lot of issues that come out from these interviews,
28 but I try to keep them contained in a manner that helps
29 the resource or the people being affected.

30
31 From my observations, just like what
32 Gordon stated, we've had fairly good hunting opportunity
33 throughout the course of summer, caribou hunting,
34 fishing, migratory bird hunting, marine mammals. That's
35 been fairly well throughout the summer and fall. Bowhead
36 whale hunting was very successful. Thirteen landed here
37 in Barrow, that's pretty good from previous years.
38 Bringing all that whale meat into town and sharing with a
39 lot of people, that's a part of our tradition and that
40 occurred just a couple weeks ago.

41
42 A lot of fishing happening. There's
43 still people going out fishing as we speak, setting
44 gillnets under the ice. Traveling over the tundra and
45 through the lakes, I think it was about a foot thick near
46 Barrow. Caribou has been harvested all up and down the
47 coast, inland, down near Skull Cliff, up near the
48 Ikpikpuk River, there's been caribou harvested even
49 throughout the summer.

50

1 Again, Gordon stated the river has been
2 fairly low. We've had a very dry season through the
3 summer and fall. I tried making a couple attempts to
4 travel up the river but didn't get too far. Ended up
5 spending a couple nights and not returning back to Barrow
6 because of the low water in the river system. The access
7 wasn't all that great unless you had an all-terrain
8 vehicle to travel up along the river. That would have
9 been a lot of work.

10
11 Just for comparison, I did travel several
12 years ago just pushing the boat through these shallow
13 areas and it took four of us eight days to travel 100
14 miles and that was a lot of work. We wanted to
15 experience what the folks from long time ago were doing.
16 They didn't have outboard, they had dog teams and walking
17 the land. That's what we wanted to experience. We did
18 that and it took us eight days to travel that 100 miles.
19 By the time we got to the cabin we were relieved from
20 pushing on the boat and working those shallow waters.
21 Anyway, that was just enough experience we had several
22 years ago.

23
24 Otherwise, I think one of the issues I'd
25 like to address is something that's already on the agenda
26 in terms of the review of rural determination. That's
27 one of the issues I've heard a couple comments on. I'd
28 like to discuss the issues at that time. I don't have any
29 other comments or concerns. Does anybody have any
30 questions of the Council.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If there are no further
35 questions or comments, maybe we'll take a couple minutes
36 break and we'll pick up on the Chair's report afterward.

37
38 (Off record)

39
40 (On record)

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning,
43 everyone. We'll call the meeting back to order. We have
44 a few more items to cover on the agenda. We're done with
45 village concerns. Would any of the Council members like
46 to comment or add onto the village concerns. Ray.

47
48 MR. KOONUK: We talk about our hunters,
49 but we never talk about our wives that put away the meat
50 or they go out there and pick berries. They had a good

1 season, too, in Point Hope. They picked a lot of
2 salmonberries, a lot of blackberries and a lot of greens,
3 so they had their share of fun out there on the tundra,
4 besides mosquitos. I just wanted to acknowledge them.
5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Ray. I
8 should voice the same thing. My wife did have fun the
9 two times we went out boating, so she was asking why I
10 wasn't taking her on the last boat ride. I said you're
11 going to get frostbite on this one.

12

13 If there's no other comments, I think
14 we'll continue on. We're under the Chair's Report,
15 agenda item 7. The two items are the 805(c) letter, and
16 that's pretty much self-explanatory and it's in the
17 meeting packet materials. The other item is the 2004
18 annual report and annual report reply. I did share the
19 Federal Subsistence Board did provide a reply to issues
20 we addressed during that meeting in 2004 regarding moose.
21 We can take a couple minutes on reviewing both these
22 items or take them one at a time. I think we'll take
23 that approach. If you have any questions on the 805(c)
24 letter, we'll start with that. It's located on Page 13
25 of your packet.

26

27 Just for the Council's information, Ray
28 and I both were not able to attend these meetings. It
29 was during the time of our spring whaling season and
30 whales were in both communities at the same time, so I
31 don't think we're going to abandon our crew to come down
32 to these Federal Subsistence Board meetings when we're
33 doing our subsistence hunting at the time. So that's why
34 I was stating these letters are fairly self-explanatory.

35

36 (Pause)

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions or
39 comments from the Council.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, we'll
44 move on to the next item, 2004 annual report and reply on
45 Pages 18 and 19 in your packet material.

46

47 (Pause)

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We did have a lengthy
50 discussion on this issue and it's regarding Unit 24

1 moose. We did have several questions in regards to the
2 restrictions that were being placed at the time.
3
4 Is there's any questions or comments from
5 the Council.
6
7 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.
8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ray.
10
11 MR. KOONUK: The moose around Unit 23, I
12 know around Point Hope area the moose have declined and I
13 don't know if anybody here or any Staff member can answer
14 as far as the population within our unit. I know for the
15 last few years the moose have been declining.
16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Ray. Barb,
18 who would be in charge of Unit 23?
19
20 MS. ARMSTRONG: Unit 23 moose would be
21 Chuck Ardizzone and he has some information and I'll get
22 that from him. Like I said, we'll try to get Ray in to
23 attend our winter meeting at Kotzebue this year on Unit
24 23. And Unit 24 moose will be reported by Tom Kron when
25 the time comes. It's on the agenda.
26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.
28
29 (Pause)
30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further comments or
32 concerns on the issues we discussed in our 2004 meeting
33 regarding moose in Unit 24.
34
35 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.
36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.
38
39 MR. G. BROWER: It seems to me I had made
40 concerns when limitations are imposed upon subsistence
41 harvesting for villages, that there should be a
42 corresponding decline on non-subsistence activities on
43 the same population and to look at the conservation
44 measures taken so there is the least bit of effect for
45 villagers to put food on the table. That was one of my
46 main concerns on the pattern of conserving. Subsistence
47 has to be the least impacted user when it comes time to
48 start limiting the use of game animals and I would still
49 like to really emphasize that. Putting food on the table
50 is far more important than hanging a rack in a trophy

1 room.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon. Mr.
4 Kron, did you want to respond to those concerns.

5

6 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair, Member of the
7 Council. My name is Tom Kron from OSM. The Federal
8 Subsistence Board responded to your request in the letter
9 starting on Page 19 in your Council books and provides
10 information on Unit 24 moose. Wennona Brown just let me
11 know that the Koyukuk River Moose Hunters Working Group
12 have been reformed and will be meeting next week. This
13 group includes the State Advisory Committees along the
14 river, the Federal Western Interior Advisory Council and
15 local commercial hunting guides. It sounds like also the
16 State AC's will be meeting on Monday and the working
17 group will be meeting next Tuesday, Wednesday, I believe.

18

19

20 Basically the moose populations along the
21 Koyukuk have been declining and in response to that
22 measures have been taken to reduce the harvest, provide
23 some additional protection to the cows, while at the same
24 time responding to the needs of the people in the
25 villages. Again, it's laid out in detail in the letter
26 to the Chair and it probably doesn't make sense for me to
27 just read it to you, starting on Page 19 and concluding
28 on Page 22. That's all I have now. If there are other
29 questions, I'll try to answer them. Thank you, Mr.
30 Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Kron.
33 Gordon, I think there's still work continuing to the
34 concern you had voiced, so I think we need to take a
35 little bit more time in getting the responses and the
36 outcome of what's being taken in this Koyukuk River Moose
37 Management Plan. I guess there's going to be further
38 discussion on the issues that you have raised.

39

40 MR. G. BROWER: Thank you very much. Our
41 concerns are for our people and we would like that
42 carried as far as it will go. When we strive to put food
43 on the table. Anaktuvuk Pass is having one of the
44 hardest years this year and it's already been expressed
45 to the North Slope Borough Assembly, caribou issues.
46 Moose is going to be one of the big issues, too. When
47 people are doing anything to put food on the table, there
48 should be, in a declining resource, either something that
49 should not affect subsistence harvesting. It should
50 affect sport hunters, non-subsistence take, either reduce

1 them or eliminate them, so that subsistence is the one
2 that's taking the lead, people needing to survive, to put
3 food on the table. That was my concern.

4

5 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Barb.

8

9 MS. ARMSTRONG: That's another thing that
10 came up in the office in discussion, that we are also
11 going to ask for your Council Member Raymond Paneak to
12 attend Western Interior Council meeting. If that gets
13 approved, I also am going to ask that I follow Ray to
14 attend that meeting when they are discussing moose at
15 their winter meeting. Thanks.

16

17 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

20

21 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I think it's also very
22 important to assess when there is activities that force
23 the migration of these animals into other areas if
24 they're able to get back into their areas. I know we had
25 a tremendously successful moose season this year. With
26 the Interior fires, it made our moose hunting very
27 successful this year. But if we're harvesting too much
28 on our side and the animals are not getting back, that's
29 also a concern that needs to be assessed.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
32 Any further comments on the subject.

33

34 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wennona. Come up to
37 the table, please.

38

39 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 Wennona Brown with the Arctic/Kanuti/Yukon Flats National
41 Wildlife Refuges. I just wanted to add in response to
42 some of the concerns about the moose populations in Unit
43 24, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is right now
44 working on a proposal to subdivide Unit 24 into different
45 management units. There again, in an effort --
46 particularly because the northern half of the unit has
47 lower moose populations than the southern half, so each
48 area could get more adequate management based on the
49 moose populations whereas the unit as a whole, the
50 southern half of the unit, the higher moose populations

1 are sort of masking the declining populations in the
2 upper half. That will be one of the topics of discussion
3 at the Moose Working Group meeting next week. I just
4 wanted to add that for your information.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

7
8 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

11
12 MR. G. BROWER: Just a question. In
13 doing something like that, that would make separate
14 management tactics for moose that's probably primarily
15 transient. The animal is recruited to these northern
16 parts in like a cyclical pattern possibly and that needs
17 to be assessed to what the recruitment rate is from the
18 northern and the southern region. If they're going to
19 start to divvy it up, the recruitment rate from the
20 northern part. They just don't come from nowhere. They
21 come from a population size and they rove around. I've
22 heard this more than once, especially in the Kaktovik
23 area, where the moose is a transient animal. It revolves
24 around and replenishes itself from another area.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If there are no further
27 comments, we'll continue on with our agenda. We don't
28 need to take any kind of action on this report at this
29 time.

30
31 Our next agenda item is fisheries 2006-
32 2007 proposal review and Regional Council
33 recommendations. Proposal FP06-01, allow the sale of
34 handicrafts made from nonedible byproducts of subsistence
35 harvested fish or shellfish. Page 23. This information
36 will be presented by Mr. Kron.

37
38 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Members of the
39 Council. The analysis on this proposal starts on Page
40 25. The analysis was prepared by Helen Armstrong. She
41 was unable to be here today.

42
43 This proposal would correct an
44 administrative oversight allowing a practice described in
45 ANILCA "for the making and selling of handicraft articles
46 out of nonedible byproducts of fish and wildlife
47 resources taken for person or family consumption."
48 That's in ANILCA Section 803.

49
50 The proposal was submitted by OSM of the

1 Fish and Wildlife Service. Federal regulations currently
2 do not provide for the sale of handicraft articles made
3 from fish or shellfish. The intent of Proposal FP06-01
4 is to accommodate existing practices.

5
6 The proposed Federal regulation would
7 provide the same opportunities to Federal subsistence
8 users as is being proposed through the State process.
9 The Alaska State Board of Fisheries last week approved an
10 agenda change request to look at this very same issue
11 during this coming winter's meetings.

12
13 The preliminary Staff conclusion is to
14 support the proposal. It's a statewide proposal, so it's
15 being reviewed by all 10 Regional Advisory Councils. A
16 number of the SRC's have also looked at it. I'm not sure
17 what the total count is, but I know at Eastern Interior's
18 meeting last week in Tanana that Council and Western
19 Interior Council both supported it and the other Councils
20 that had looked at it through that point and the SRC's
21 that had looked at it through that point were in support.
22 I'm not sure what happened last week at the other Council
23 meetings.

24
25 Again, the intent is to correct an
26 administrative oversight to align the regulations with
27 what's described in ANILCA. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Kron.
30 Any comments from the Department of Fish and Game. Go
31 ahead and introduce yourself at this time, Geoff.

32
33 MR. CARROLL: Good morning. I'm Geoff
34 Carroll with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm
35 just catching up here. There hadn't been comments
36 written up by the State, but they would be presented at
37 this meeting. I don't know if they've mailed anything
38 in. They didn't send anything to me that I'm aware of.
39 I can't imagine why we would be opposed to it. Has the
40 State submitted any official opinion on this?

41
42 MS. BROWN: (Away from microphone)

43
44 MR. CARROLL: Okay. Yeah. I don't see
45 much to oppose about it. I probably shouldn't state that
46 on the record.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Geoff.
49 Other agency comments.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted.
4 Interagency Staff Committee comments.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Fish and
9 Game Advisory Committee comments. Barb, which one is
10 this?
11
12 MS. ARMSTRONG: If they were active, that
13 would be Eastern and Western Advisory, but I don't think
14 they're active to date. Eastern Advisory Council are the
15 ones in the east; Kaktovik, Nuiqsut and those areas. The
16 Western are Barrow going down. I don't think they're
17 active and there aren't any comments. Except there are
18 -- am I getting ahead with written public comments?
19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That will be our next
21 topic if there's no representation or comments from these
22 Advisory Committees.
23
24 MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay. We have a couple
25 of written public comments by the Ahtna 'Tene Nene'
26 Subsistence Committee supported the proposal and also
27 Chilkoot Indian Association supported the proposal and
28 Karen Pletnikoff, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association,
29 supported the proposal.
30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Barb. Any
32 public testimony.
33
34 (No comments)
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None. Last one is
37 Regional Council deliberation, recommendation and
38 justification. What is the wish of the Council.
39 Rosemary.
40
41 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I would like the
42 Council to consider this proposal for approval for making
43 a motion.
44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor to
46 support the proposal, Rosemary?
47
48 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes.
49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ray.

1 MR. KOONUK: Second for discussion.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Ray. Any
4 further discussion. Ray.

5

6 MR. KOONUK: I am in support of this
7 proposal. I'm seeing more arts and crafts being made by
8 the younger people back in Point Hope due to declining
9 jobs, revenues, coming in from the Borough from the State
10 and this is really helping the community itself and it is
11 teaching the younger generation how to make baleen
12 baskets and bracelets and whatnot. The material that we
13 get like from whale, caribou or seal, it's being utilized
14 more now than I have in the past and it is expanding.
15 I'm really happy to see that. That's working real good in
16 our community.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Ray. Any
19 further discussion from the Council.

20

21 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

24

25 MR. G. BROWER: I think this should be
26 supported. It's something in our traditional past that
27 may have been used. I think I've seen pouches made with
28 fish skin, like little tool pouches and whatnot. We
29 should not be able to limit anything that would be
30 economically beneficial for subsistence economy. One day
31 all the jobs up here may decline to the point where
32 subsistence economy may lead again. In some of the
33 villages it's probably still leading. In a declining
34 revenue base in the arctic, that's what we may end up
35 doing. We need to support anything and everything that
36 is a means to get by. Handicrafts is one of those things
37 to be able to trade. Items made for food, for sleds, you
38 know, that's just the way it was. I'm totally in support
39 of anything that would support traditional cultural
40 activities.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon. Any
43 further discussion.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No comments.

48

49 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.
2
3 MR. KOONUK: Question called for.
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
6 called on the Proposal FP06-01. The motion is to support
7 the proposal. It's been discussed and the question has
8 been called. All those in favor signify by saying aye.
9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any opposed.
13
14 (No opposing votes)
15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank you,
17 Mr. Kron. The next agenda item is 10, Fisheries Resource
18 Monitoring Program. Richard Cannon. There's three
19 different subjects, so we'll start with 10-A.
20
21 MR. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
22 Council Members. My name is Richard Cannon. I work with
23 the Office of Subsistence Management. I am a fisheries
24 biologist that works with the various fisheries research
25 and monitoring projects that are ongoing in the Kuskokwim
26 Region and in the Northern Region. I'm taking over for
27 Dr. Steve Fried who has been reassigned to some other
28 duties in our program. I'm happy to be here and working
29 with your Council. This is my first time to address you.
30
31 Today I'm going to be going over three
32 items. Actually two and I'll be introducing the third
33 one. As you can see from your agenda, I'll be talking
34 about the draft 2006 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan
35 for the Northern Region. I'll just stop there and
36 explain that the Northern Region in terms of our program
37 includes the North Slope Regional Council area, Northwest
38 Regional Council area and the Seward Peninsula Regional
39 Council area, so it's a very large region.
40
41 With regard to the Monitoring Plan,
42 there's some actions you'll be needing to take. I'll be
43 talking to you about some proposed projects that we come
44 to your Council and ask for your recommendation about the
45 funding of these projects and then I'll be talking about
46 an effort that we'll be starting sometime in 2007, which
47 will be a strategic planning effort to look at the
48 priorities for this area for fisheries programs.
49
50 And then finally Mr. Jeff Adams from the

1 Fish and Wildlife Resources Office in Fairbanks, who is
2 one of our investigators who we're providing funding to,
3 will talk to you about a project in your area here that I
4 think you'll find of interest.

5
6 This report for the Fisheries Monitoring
7 Program begins on Page 29 of your books. There's an
8 introduction that's found on Pages 30 to 34 and that will
9 give the Council some history and sort of the statewide
10 perspective on the Monitoring Program. It will talk
11 about the funding and kind of the history of the program.

12
13 Just to remind the Council about what
14 this program is attempting to accomplish, it provides
15 funding for tribal organizations, regional organizations,
16 as well as agencies and other non-government groups to do
17 monitoring and research in support of Federal subsistence
18 management in fisheries.

19
20 The projects can include harvest
21 monitoring projects where they're actually looking at the
22 actual harvest in subsistence fisheries, the conditions
23 associated with that harvest. Some studies are
24 traditional knowledge studies that involve local
25 residents, ensuring their knowledge about the biology and
26 use of the resource as well as more traditional western
27 science projects that monitor fish stocks, like weirs,
28 test fisheries, tagging and genetic studies and so on.

29
30 I also want to mention that as we come
31 before you today, these projects have been reviewed by
32 our Staff for technical merit and then we go through an
33 additional review process where we have a Technical
34 Review Committee and their job is to evaluate each
35 project to make sure that it has high technical
36 standards. This Technical Review Committee is made up of
37 agency scientists from both State and Federal
38 organizations.

39
40 I'll direct you to Page 34 and Figure 1
41 shows sort of a funding pie chart. It tells you that for
42 2006 how the money is sort of divided up with this
43 proposed work among State, Federal and Tribal
44 organizations. You can see 31 percent of these funds
45 would go to the State Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
46 45 percent to Tribal organizations and 24 percent to
47 Federal agencies.

48
49 Also I want to ensure that the Council
50 understands that we make funding commitments for up to

1 three years so that a principal investigator can have
2 funds obligated or committed to their work so they don't
3 have to come back to us every year. When we make that
4 commitment, that will reduce the amount of money we have
5 each year during that three-year period for starting new
6 projects. Because of past year's commitments for 2004
7 and 2005, we have less money to consider for new projects
8 than we would for next year, 2007, where we'll have about
9 5 million. This year we have about 1.2 million
10 statewide, so we have a smaller amount of money to work
11 with. On average, the Northern Region has received about
12 10 percent of the total budget statewide. This year that
13 amount is to about 15 percent.

14
15 On Page 35 through 39 there's a regional
16 overview for Northern Region. That's where that begins.
17 In this section we provide the recommendations and the
18 justification for projects recommended by the Technical
19 Review Committee.

20
21 I want to highlight some of the materials
22 in this section. First, Table 1, in this section on Page
23 36, provides a list of all the projects that have been
24 funded in the Northern Region since the program began in
25 2000. As you can see, this table has each project
26 grouped by the Regional Council that's involved with it.
27 At the top are those projects since 2000 that have been
28 funded for the North Slope. You can see who the
29 investigators were. Then the amount of funding that was
30 provided each year and you'll notice that, for example,
31 for 2005 and 2006 there are many commitments for project
32 04-103, which is a Dolly Varden sonar feasibility study
33 on the Hulahula River and that would be the presentation
34 you will be hearing about at the end of this section of
35 talks.

36
37 So the point is there that there are
38 funds that have been obligated for projects in your
39 region from past years. They then would be added to the
40 projects that we're going to be talking about today.

41
42 In 2006, eight stock status and trends
43 projects, which these are fishery biology projects, were
44 submitted for the Northern Region. The Technical Review
45 Committee forwarded three of these proposals for
46 investigation plan development. Of the four harvest
47 monitoring and traditional knowledge proposals that were
48 submitted for the region, two were advanced for
49 development of a more detailed study plan, but were later
50 withdrawn by the investigators. These two studies would

1 have addressed subsistence fish harvest monitoring in
2 northwest Alaska.

3
4 On the bottom of Page 39 you will find
5 the Technical Review Committee's prioritized list of the
6 three proposed investigation plans for the Northern
7 Region for 2006. You'll note that there's a line drawn
8 under Project 06-101, which is the Pikmiktalik River
9 Salmon Escapement Monitoring Project. This is a project
10 down in Seward Pen Region. The Technical Review
11 Committee recommends funding all projects above this line
12 for 2006.

13
14 This would provide support for two of the
15 stock status and trends projects that the Technical
16 Review Committee felt were strategically important to the
17 region, met your issues and data needs for each area and
18 were technically sound, provided some level of capacity
19 development to involve local people and organizations and
20 the investigators had shown that they could do the work,
21 and they were within our funding limitations.

22
23 Pages 40 through 45 provide summaries of
24 each of these projects and the justification of why or
25 why not each proposed investigation plan was recommended
26 for funding.

27
28 I'd also like to call your attention to
29 the handout that was provided to you. On this handout
30 you'll see each of the studies that are up for
31 consideration for 2006. You'll see that what the
32 recommendation has been by the other Councils. There's
33 also one study that is an interregional study that deals
34 with Dolly Varden that we thought would be of interest to
35 your Council. As you can see, in most cases, both Seward
36 Pen and Northwest Arctic decided to take no action on
37 projects that really didn't affect their region. So
38 that's for your information.

39
40 Do you have any questions at this point?

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions from the
43 Council.

44
45 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

48
49 MR. G. BROWER: Distribution and stock
50 structures of subsistence fish, NPR-A. Is that one

1 that's being proposed for funding?

2

3 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is
4 one of the investigation plans that was considered by the
5 Technical Review Committee.

6

7 MR. G. BROWER: Just to follow up, is
8 that based on some of the Council Member's here input?
9 In the past we've been wondering about the status and
10 stocks within NPR-A because of oil industries. It's been
11 totally leased out in these areas with the possibility of
12 exploration and development and wanting to have a better
13 handle on protecting subsistence fish and wildlife and to
14 what extent do you see this funding? Is it just a
15 monitoring or is it an assessment to see what stocks may
16 be within NPR-A?

17

18 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Brower.
19 The project that was proposed was a joint proposal by a
20 number of contributing groups, North Slope Borough and
21 some contractors as well as the Borough of Land
22 Management. This proposal, and as we go on I'll be
23 giving you some more information about each proposal, but
24 its intended purpose was to do some baseline assessment
25 of the fisheries that are occurring within the areas that
26 are now opening up to oil development.

27

28 MR. G. BROWER: So it's just not a
29 blanket NPR-A, it's just areas affected by direct
30 leasing?

31

32 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Brower.
33 Yes, that's my understanding. This would open up some
34 basic -- it's baseline work to understand distributions
35 of resident fish species in the area to the east of
36 Teshekpuk Lake that is now opening up to oil development,
37 new areas.

38

39 MR. G. BROWER: Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further comments.
42 Rosemary.

43

44 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We've stated in
45 previous meetings that it's very important to study and
46 understand the water patterns in the NPR-A area. The
47 seasonal water levels and the fish migration through
48 these areas are not well understood. The traditional
49 knowledge, we understand the fish are moving from the
50 lakes to the rivers and streams and the creeks. Getting

1 this into the scientific data is very important.

2

3 There's going to be a lot of gravel pads
4 and a lot of gravel roads placed in this area and
5 industry often puts minimal culverts in and we have to go
6 without resources and present at many years of meetings
7 before changes are made in these areas unless they get
8 washed out with a flood or something and then industry
9 will go in and put in something bigger.

10

11 But it's very important to understand the
12 water levels in our area are high in the springtime
13 during the meltdown and that's when the fish are moving
14 from the lakes into the rivers and streams and they come
15 back in. Understanding that is going to prevent loss of
16 subsistence resources, so it's very important that you
17 guys work at identifying as well as, as development goes
18 in, monitoring these areas for areas that are blocking
19 normal migratory patterns. You know, if all of a sudden
20 this one lake has lots of fish in there that didn't get
21 out, that's important to know. Communicate with the
22 communities so that we work with the industry to get
23 these changes put in.

24

25 We're very concerned about what has
26 happened and what will continue to happen and we continue
27 to communicate, but this is very unknown for the
28 scientist, but traditional knowledge is very well known.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
31 Mr. Cannon, did you have anything more.

32

33 MR. CANNON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. In going
34 through your discussion process about these projects
35 there's a number of ways you can proceed. I can go
36 through them one at a time and give you kind of an
37 overview of the project and then you could take that up
38 as a Council and provide a recommendation either to take
39 no action if you felt that this particular proposal
40 didn't affect your region or for whatever other reason or
41 you could make a recommendation to support the TRC's
42 findings or make your own finding. That, of course, will
43 go in to the Federal Subsistence Board, who will make the
44 final call on these funds. Or you could take them as a
45 group. But that's really up to the Chair and your
46 Council.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So what's the wish of
49 the Council as to how we want to proceed with these
50 proposals. Gordon.

1 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I think once
2 they're affecting the North Slope that's where we should
3 try to get involved. If it's going to be across
4 boundaries, I think we should be involved with that, but
5 if it's going to be from somewhere else, that proposal
6 should take on from that respective RAC. I don't have a
7 problem anyway. Some of these look like they're needed.

8
9
10 There should be more studies on the North
11 Slope. Personally, we need to stay ahead of the game,
12 baseline information. Things change. Baseline
13 information 20 years ago is not the same as today. You
14 just never know what has happened.

15
16 I just want to emphasize that, that we
17 need to stay on top and monitor the stocks. I have named
18 concerns of studying fish in NPR-A primarily due to fears
19 of what industry can do out here. The noise issues,
20 sensitive stocks, different types of fish. All that
21 should be noted and studied and captured. You know, this
22 information is valuable resources.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon. I
25 would like to state I'm in line with what Gordon is
26 stating because we've made recommendations from this
27 Council for fisheries and they've been rejected. We
28 asked for one near the Point Hope area. The problem was
29 that it was on State lands and we need to readdress that
30 in one fashion.

31
32 Another fashion was to try to identify
33 where Federal lands are and if that would be an area of
34 interest for research. We need to find out from Ray.
35 The other approach was to approach the State to see if
36 they could help in addressing the concern raised by Ray
37 Koonuk several years ago and he did have -- what was that
38 thing called, the needs identified for our area and this
39 structure was one of the issues we identified for
40 Kaktovik.

41
42 And the area this proposal is talking
43 about on FIS06-107 was one of the other concerned areas
44 because of the type of fishing that was happening in that
45 area and the changes that were occurring. I think we did
46 make that recommendation, if I recall, Gordon, and you're
47 right, we did have people that were involved from this
48 Council to try and get some of this fisheries work done.

49
50 I'd just like to ask the Council how you

1 want to proceed with this. Do we address them
2 individually? Maybe I should ask Mr. Cannon. Are these
3 proposals with the work that's going to be proposed
4 interchanging boundaries? Is there interaction between
5 different units?

6
7 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. With regard
8 to interactions or relationships between the various
9 Regional Council areas, no, I do not believe that will be
10 the case. The two that involve the North Slope are
11 directed at areas within your Council's area of
12 responsibility. They don't really fall into areas that
13 would be affected by Northwest Arctic or Seward
14 Peninsula. That would be 06-107 and 06-108.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

17
18 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

21
22 MR. G. BROWER: I think we should move
23 that directly affect our area. Those we should focus on
24 and I think Northwest Arctic has done the same so that
25 they're in control of their own and we should be steering
26 our own as well within our region. Try not to interfere
27 in their program I would think. That's not to say we're
28 going to interfere from up here if we're supporting what
29 the Northwest Arctic wants, but it should just be their
30 discretion unless it was crossing over to us here.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon. The
33 question to Mr. Cannon, I guess, is there already is a
34 note on Page 42 not recommended for funding. How much
35 weight does that carry in terms of making a
36 recommendation to address that issue?

37
38 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. It is
39 important that your Council make its recommendation based
40 on your knowledge of the situation and the importance you
41 place on these resources and the projects that will help
42 you conserve them. I think the Federal Subsistence Board
43 is interested in knowing from you as to what your
44 feelings are about these proposals.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Cannon.

47
48 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman. So are
49 these up for a motion to have action taken on them?

50

1 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. The action
2 that we ask the Regional Councils to take is to take an
3 action in terms of either developing through consensus or
4 a specific recommendation on the funding of these
5 projects. So if it was your choice to recommend,
6 although the TRC recommended not to fund 06-107, after
7 your discussions and deliberations you may decide to take
8 a different action and that's something that would go to
9 the Federal Subsistence Board for their consideration.

10

11 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

14

15 MR. G. BROWER: It seems to me we've
16 collaborated amongst ourselves several times about fish
17 studies and NPR-A and even considering in light of what
18 Congress may approve some German programs in ANWR, we
19 need to take a positive step forward to promote and help.
20 It's in a sense helping ourselves to identify stocks,
21 fish in these areas. I would recommend that we support
22 any studies that would identify these resources, their
23 habitats, their spawning, much like what's been going on,
24 just to mount a continuing effort to monitor, study and
25 do this type of work on the North Slope. Collaborate
26 with the Native Village of Barrow, with ICAS, with the
27 tribal entities that have the authority to do so, to
28 receive money to do so, but to expand it, not just limit
29 it. A recommendation to expand the study to areas where
30 the leasing has occurred, where development is not
31 imminent but the exploration is occurring with the
32 likelihood of development later on. Those stocks should
33 start to be identified.

34

35 It's not just broad whitefish, we get
36 salmon in these rivers. There's areas of just smelts.
37 I've never seen anywhere any identification of smelt, the
38 ilhauqniq in that area, but I hear it from elders.
39 There's a big population of ilhauqniqs there that used to
40 be a good subsistence catch, but no studies ever taken to
41 identify these things. It may be lost in case of
42 catastrophic events, such as an oil spill, not captured.
43 So I would take it that we really should support it with
44 recommendation to expand studies, to continue to monitor,
45 assess, identify stocks.

46

47 One area that I was particularly
48 interested in was between Chip River and Alakna, the
49 lakes in between there with interlocking little creeks,
50 tiny little creeks, and elders talking about very

1 colorful fish in there, about 18 inches in length,
2 something like a rainbow trout, but I think it's a
3 different species or something. I've only heard it
4 referred to as pythlook. I don't know what the English
5 would be, but some kind of trout. Those kind of stocks
6 should be identified and not just only talked about in a
7 traditional and contemporary knowledge sense. They
8 should be studied and assessed.

9
10 I would vote to support 06-107 for
11 funding with that expanded language.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor to
14 support Proposal 06-107.

15
16 MR. BODFISH: Second.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Paul. Any
19 further discussion. The language that Gordon provided has
20 been recorded. Any further discussion. Mr. Cannon.

21
22 MR. CANNON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I don't
23 mean to interfere with your process, but I am prepared to
24 give you just a very brief summary of the reasons why the
25 TRC made the decision that it did and that might be
26 something you'd be interested in hearing to help you
27 understand where they're coming from.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're still under
30 discussion on the motion.

31
32 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

35
36 MR. G. BROWER: I think while we're under
37 discussion it may be good to get a brief reasoning behind
38 the TRC, why it wouldn't recommend funding.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Then let's go ahead.
41 Mr. Cannon.

42
43 MR. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 The proposal that we received actually had some very
45 strong components to it. Number one, it addressed a
46 number of different species for that area. It made a
47 compelling case for getting out -- as you mentioned in
48 your discussion about the importance of getting basic
49 inventory work down for this area and the potential for
50 impacts because of development and the importance of

1 these areas for subsistence use.

2

3

4 The issue that the Technical Review
5 Committee had to deal with is that the Federal
6 Subsistence Board has established certain basic policies
7 for this program that they have to operate under and one
8 of those policies was that this money was to be used
9 primarily to be directed at management of subsistence
10 fisheries. In most cases that means, in other areas of
11 the state, the harvest management of fisheries. What's
12 being brought before in this proposal is the impact of
13 expanding development. I think everyone understands that
14 there's a relationship there.

15

16 The Federal Board though has said that
17 when a proposal for work like this is directed at
18 preparing for an assessment of development, like expanded
19 oil and gas development, that the management agency, the
20 land management agency, the Borough of Land Management,
21 should be primarily responsible for conducting that work.
22 So that was one thing they had to consider.

23

24

25 The BLM, when they wrote the proposal,
26 they were one of the lead authors on it, they wrote it
27 from more of a habitat assessment perspective. So the
28 Technical Review Committee looked at that. They had some
29 opportunity to talk to them and talk to their
30 representatives and I think reach a better understanding
31 of the fact that they need to emphasize more in their
32 proposal that they need to shift the work that's being
33 done more towards understanding actually the subsistence
34 fishery that's there in that area and the importance of
35 getting this baseline information so that you can begin
36 to monitor just the health of the populations for that
37 fishery and not emphasize the development aspects of it.

38

39

40 I think everyone realizes that these
41 things are interrelated, but in order for us to consider
42 this proposal, given the direction we've been given, that
43 kind of emphasis has to be placed on the proposal. So
44 there's some strong parts of this proposal that I think
45 would fit well within our program.

46

47

48 The Technical Review Committee also
49 wanted a little more detail about the sampling that was
50 done. That's just the way they do things. They like a
51 little more details about sampling protocols and that
52 kind of stuff, so what they've done is that they've asked
53 the investigators to resubmit their proposal for next
54 year with more emphasis on the subsistence aspects of

1 this work and more development of the methodologies.

2

3 There will be more money available next
4 year. There simply wasn't enough money to fund
5 everything that was before the TRC this year to do the
6 work in Seward Pen, which is a fairly expensive project.
7 There's only about \$180,000 for the whole Northern Region
8 this year. The project down in Seward Pen was 140.

9

10 So what we're hoping to see happen is
11 that next year this proposal will be resubmitted with
12 those changes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13

14 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

17

18 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I think I
19 understand where you're coming from. If we take the
20 emphasis out of oil and gas and we put the emphasis on
21 subsistence management to better enhance and maintain the
22 stocks so as not to overharvest, that approach is the
23 funding source way.

24

25 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Brower,
26 you said that very well.

27

28 MR. G. BROWER: I think if we can restate
29 and maybe fix that motion to state it in that fashion,
30 then maybe we might have a better chance. And emphasis
31 that there needs to be resource monitoring for
32 subsistence fisheries. It's the same thing. Whether
33 it's oil and gas fears of trampling over these things,
34 it's the same thing because they intertie the harvest
35 rates, the monitoring, the management is affected. So, I
36 think, Mr. Chairman, I respectfully want to rearrange my
37 motion to change the language.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon, maybe we could
40 ask the seconder to withdraw the second and we could
41 withdraw the motion and do a new one.

42

43 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman, I think
44 that would be most appropriate.

45

46 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman. I think we
47 could put it to a vote and then redo the motion after.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So there's two options.
50 We could either withdraw the motion but then Mr. Koonuk

1 identified the other option was to vote on it and vote
2 down the motion. That's what he indicated. We're under
3 discussion.

4

5 MR. KOONUK: Question called for.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
8 called on the motion brought forth by Gordon to support
9 the Proposal FIS06-107. All in favor of the motion
10 signify by saying aye.

11

12 (No aye votes)

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None. All opposed
15 signify by saying aye.

16

17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed have taken
20 charge of the vote, so the motion died.

21

22 Further discussion on the same proposal.
23 I think we wanted to change the motion. Gordon.

24

25 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman. I would
26 move that we support 06-107 with the language that there
27 should be some funding for the subsistence management
28 of fisheries stocks within NPR-A and also look at
29 multiple species and to expand the area so that
30 subsistence harvest patterns are not interrupted and
31 there is a better management regime associated with
32 knowing the stock levels for the purposes of subsistence.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on the
35 floor to support Proposal 106 with the language indicated
36 by Gordon Brower.

37

38 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Second.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Rosemary.
41 Any further discussion.

42

43 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I think it's also very
44 important to recognize that we are in a very rapidly
45 changing environment. There are changes to our
46 vegetation that are occurring, there's changes to our
47 water levels that are occurring and looking at these
48 changes would be very prudent to watching the changes
49 that happen with our fish. As the vegetation becomes
50 more woody, more willows and whatnot, that greatly

1 affects our waterways and how the fish use these areas.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
4 Any further discussion.

5

6 MR. BODFISH: Call for question.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
9 called. All in favor of Proposal FIS06-107 supporting
10 the proposal as indicated, signify by saying aye.

11

12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any opposed.

15

16 (No opposing votes)

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Mr.
19 Cannon.

20

21 MR. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
22 Council Members. By this action I understand your
23 Council would like this proposal resubmitted as stated in
24 your motion which passed that would direct the
25 investigators to develop a proposal that would
26 specifically contribute to the understanding of
27 subsistence uses in this area and the resources to ensure
28 their sustained use and the conservation of those
29 resources as per your motion.

30

31 What that may mean in terms of the
32 program is that this proposal, with that type of
33 direction, would not come back to us until the next cycle
34 in 2007.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further comments.
37 Do we need to continue with the next item. Mr. Cannon.

38

39 MR. CANNON: Yes, you have one additional
40 proposal 06-108. Aerial monitoring of Dolly Varden
41 overwintering abundance in the Anaktuvuk, Ivishak,
42 Canning, Hulahula and Kongakut Rivers on the Arctic
43 National Wildlife Refuge. Mr. Chairman, I can give you a
44 summary of the TRC's views on this proposal as we did for
45 the last one for your consideration.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Why don't we continue,
48 Mr. Cannon.

49

50 MR. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 This proposal would fund the continuation of aerial
2 surveys to monitor the relative abundance of wintering
3 Dolly Varden, char stocks in the Arctic National Wildlife
4 Refuge. Dolly Varden populations are utilized by
5 subsistence fisheries in the eastern North Slope
6 communities and an important resource.

7
8 These populations depend on a relatively
9 small amount of overwintering habitat. Most of the known
10 overwintering habitat is located in upwelling areas
11 located in the upper reaches of a small number of river
12 systems. Resource managers and stakeholders, subsistence
13 users are concerned about the potential overfishing and
14 environmental impact on these stocks of Dolly Varden.

15
16 Fisheries managers are also interested in
17 monitoring the abundance of these stock concentrations as
18 a means of assessing the overall productivity and health
19 of Dolly Varden resources in the refuge. Recent declines
20 in overwintering harvest surveys have raised concerns
21 among managers about the status of the populations.

22
23 The TRC has reviewed the work that's been
24 done, felt the work should continue for at least another
25 three years as an interim step to a more ground-based
26 assessment program that would involve more projects on
27 the ground if possible, but this is an important step
28 along the way to continue this aerial survey work. So
29 they recommended that this funding go forward. Thank
30 you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

37
38 MR. G. BROWER: A question. You said the
39 aerial survey is a continuation and this aerial survey is
40 identifying the pockets that would later on be possibly
41 on foot to continue the study of probably overwintering
42 fish?

43
44 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Brower.
45 That's a very good question. What we're interested in
46 doing now is using aerial surveys, which have been done
47 in these overwintering areas. They don't go on the
48 ground at this point. There are areas, as I'm sure
49 you're aware, that are open. They can see the fish as
50 they're moving into these areas. It gives them at least

1 a relative index of the fish movements, the timing, as
2 well as the relative abundance. But I think there's a
3 need to get better data than the aerial survey, so we're
4 interested in pursuing projects that would allow us to
5 get more rigorous counts of fish and better data on
6 actually what's happening with these overwintering
7 stocks. So this is a prelude to doing that type of work.

8

9 MR. G. BROWER: Just one more follow-up
10 question. Have you had any or heard of any impacts
11 associated with aerial monitoring, maybe from subsistence
12 harvesters, in terms of peak migration events? Do those
13 coincide during those overflights and is there any
14 conflict with the Porcupine Caribou migration and calving
15 associated with any of this?

16

17 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Brower.
18 Yeah, your discussions earlier, I took interest in what
19 you were saying about the effects of surveys on
20 migrations of wildlife. This is something we can ask our
21 investigators, but I have not heard specifically an
22 answer to your question. I have not heard about those
23 kinds of concerns, nor have I heard it coming through the
24 subsistence users. Now I'd be very interested if your
25 Council has, however.

26

27 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Overflight surveys in
28 our area are tremendous and they are detrimental to
29 traditional and cultural uses in the area. Some of our
30 most serious impacts are related to the biology and
31 wildlife surveys that are occurring. Scientists are very
32 reluctant to move from their study path in spite of
33 hunters activities that are occurring. As these
34 activities increase in our various communities, our
35 communities are facing more conflict with these types of
36 activities and our hunters prefer we get studies on the
37 ground as much as possible instead of in the air during
38 our subsistence harvest seasons.

39

40 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Cannon.

43

44 MR. CANNON: It would be very helpful for
45 our program to get some recommendations and specific
46 advice about how to proceed with these kind of projects.
47 If there is this level of concern, then we're not
48 interested in seeing projects that are going to be
49 disruptive to subsistence activities. In other regions
50 of the state, we make a point in ensuring that

1 investigators do consultation with local communities. If
2 that needs to happen here or hasn't happened here, then I
3 just need to know about it and we will ensure that it
4 will happen.

5
6 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

9
10 MR. G. BROWER: Studies are very
11 important. It's good to collect good data. It's also
12 really good to be mindful of subsistence activities,
13 harvest that's going on. I think that's just one of the
14 protocols that needs to be in place. When you're going
15 to be out there, then the areas affected, the village
16 that has subsistence harvesting in those areas, maybe a
17 coordinated effort to be there and inform them. You may
18 be welcome.

19
20 I would really encourage Kaktovik to get
21 a representative on board. And I've heard it time and
22 time again from many different projects that I've worked
23 on and done permitting on and condition permits. When
24 you're going to be out there and there's a possibility of
25 interrupting subsistence activities, you know, be
26 vigilant and your pilot should be aware of his
27 surroundings, too, and be able to consult with the
28 village leaders or something like that so that he can
29 disseminate the information in the villages, these people
30 are going to be doing surveys. You may get good support
31 and maybe even a rep on board. Who knows.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
34 Just to add on, I think we do hear a lot of these
35 concerns of disturbance caused by research, but we try
36 and ask the investigators to come to the community before
37 starting their investigation and get communications
38 established as to when the activity is going to be
39 occurring so the subsistence hunters or fishermen could
40 be out doing their subsistence and then at least know
41 what's happening.

42
43 I know Atqasuk has had several concerns
44 raised because of the migratory bird surveys interfering
45 with their subsistence activities during their take for
46 migratory birds and even through the caribou hunting
47 season. There's been disturbances noted from the
48 community. Also from Nuiqsut we've had several
49 interferences reported to us and we've had to contact the
50 agencies conducting the research to come back to the

1 community to have them describe what's happening and how
2 long they're going to be out there and what time frame.

3

4 I think those are very important issues
5 to bring out in communicating on the project that's going
6 to be happening. So I think that would be one
7 recommendation that we should continue to voice, that
8 these investigators at least make an effort to go to the
9 village that could likely be affected by what's
10 happening. Rosemary.

11

12 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We recognize the
13 importance of these surveys and that it is important to
14 support some of these activities, but especially in our
15 community we've had so many years of disruption that
16 there isn't as strong of support.

17

18 I mean we communicate effectively with
19 our community, but if we're not informed and it's the
20 only week that someone can get out and they're spending
21 \$700 to get out there and they spend five days for the
22 herd to come and you're watching the plane flying over
23 every day you're out there trying to harvest, it's very
24 detrimental to welfare and community interactions. It
25 leads to a lot of social ills and social conflicts that
26 happen within the community between the leadership in the
27 community when these kinds of things happen. So
28 communication is a very strong tool if it's used
29 effectively.

30

31 Getting maps of areas of your activity
32 and placing them in the communities ahead of time will
33 make it very beneficial. We have bulletin boards we've
34 established to improve the communications between the
35 hunters and the people working around our community and
36 it's very important to get this information to the local
37 communities.

38

39 We have hunters that are out towards
40 Anaktuvuk River every year in August and September going
41 moose hunting and caribou hunting and it is a vital use
42 area in spite of the changes to the traditional use
43 areas. It's very important for us to go up to Umeruk to
44 go hunting. That's a four-hour boat ride from our
45 village, but that's where we're going to now and it's the
46 only area we have left to go without a lot of activity.

47

48 So as you're doing these kind of things,
49 communications are key. We don't have 50 boats out
50 there, but we do have hunters out there. But if our

1 hunters know you're going to be 25 miles up the river,
2 they might only go 15. Those kind of things will reduce
3 those conflicts. Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
6 Any further discussion. I can't recall if we've made a
7 motion or not.

8

9 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. I don't think
10 you've made a motion on this particular funding request.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Cannon.
13 Gordon.

14

15 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman. I would
16 move to support funding for this area monitoring of Dolly
17 Varden overwintering abundance in ANWR 06-108 with the
18 added language that this project being funded should
19 coordinate with the nearest affected village with
20 effective communication.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on the
23 floor for Proposal 06-108.

24

25 MR. TAGAROOK: Second.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded. Any further
28 discussion on the proposal. The motion was to support
29 the proposal.

30

31 MR. KOONUK: Question.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
34 called. All in favor of the proposal signify by saying
35 aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any opposed.

40

41 (No opposing votes)

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank you,
44 Mr. Cannon. Do we have any further items that we need to
45 continue with?

46

47 MR. CANNON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. There is
48 an inter-regional project. If it's the pleasure of this
49 Council, you may decide not to take any action on it.
50 The reason we've brought this one before you is because

1 although the work is being done down in the Bristol Bay
2 area, the subject matter of this particular study could
3 have great bearing on other studies of Dolly Varden in
4 other parts of western and northern Alaska.

5
6 What is being proposed is a new technique
7 for evaluating the stock biology of this species. We
8 hope it holds some promise of really helping us to be
9 able to keep track of the various stocks of Dolly Varden,
10 not only in Togiak but throughout the range. So I'm
11 bringing that one before you with that information and
12 you can decide whether you would like to take some action
13 on it or not.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're discussing an
16 inter-regional investigation plan, Proposal 06-701.
17 Gordon.

18
19 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

22
23 MR. G. BROWER: What did you say was the
24 link with possible Dolly Varden studies up in ANWR and
25 other parts of the North Slope?

26
27 MR. CANNON: This proposal essentially
28 will fund some research work for this region to help
29 improve the stock characterization with genetics of Dolly
30 Varden within this particular region. If this method
31 works, this methodology works, then it would have
32 application to other Dolly Varden stocks.

33
34 As you are probably aware, we are
35 collecting stock biology information for Dolly Varden in
36 your region. One of the difficulties has been, because
37 of the extensive migrations that Dolly Vardens undertake,
38 to know whether you have a sufficient baseline, whether
39 you have all the spawning families represented. Without
40 that baseline, your results of trying to identify
41 specific stocks are always somewhat in question.

42
43 This method that's being proposed will
44 help us do that. It could be a big help for the research
45 and have benefits for studying Dolly Vardens in other
46 regions. That's why I'm bringing it before you.

47
48 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

1 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, it seems to me this
2 is one of those things that's stated on its own, an
3 inter-regional investigation plan, that it does have some
4 ties to us up north because we have been doing Dolly
5 Varden for some time. I think on Anaktuvuk River and
6 ANWR as well. I would see that there is no real
7 opposition to this. It looks like it may benefit in the
8 long run how things are being studied up here as well.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

11
12 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I think it's important
13 that we recognize that this is interacting in our
14 continued efforts to monitor our stock and support this,
15 so I'd put that into a motion.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Could you restate the
18 motion, please.

19
20 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'd like to make a
21 motion to support study 06-701.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor to
24 support Proposal 06-701.

25
26 MR. KOONUK: Second.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded. Any further
29 discussion.

30
31 MR. G. BROWER: Question.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
34 called on the motion to support the mixed-stock analysis
35 of Dolly Varden. All in favor signify by saying aye.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any opposed same sign.

40
41 (No opposing votes)

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank you.

44
45 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

48
49 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: In recognition of our
50 Staff member and needing to put into the record, we chose

1 to take no action on study 06-101 and I put that into a
2 motion.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion to take no
5 action on Proposal 06-101, Pikmiktalik River chum and
6 coho salmon enumeration and sampling.

7
8 MR. G. BROWER: Second.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded. Any further
11 discussions.

12
13 MR. KOONUK: Question.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
16 called on the motion. All in favor signify by saying
17 aye.

18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any opposed same sign.

22
23 (No opposing votes)

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank you,
26 Rosemary. Mr. Cannon.

27
28 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. I want to
29 thank the Council for your recommendation on the 2006
30 proposed studies. The next thing, very, very briefly,
31 I'm just going to mention that our program is beginning
32 strategic planning for the Fisheries Program within the
33 various regions that we work with. There has been
34 strategic plans done to identify the most important
35 studies that this program will fund in Bristol Bay and in
36 Southcentral, the perimeter of the Copper River Basin
37 with the Regional Councils and other stakeholders from
38 those regions. Those are done and they're on our website
39 if you would like to see the results of those planning
40 efforts.

41
42 We're now starting in Southeast Alaska
43 and Kodiak and we will be doing those this year. For the
44 Northern Region, we'll be beginning in 2007. When we set
45 up a planning group to do this, we invite regional
46 organizations, tribal organizations, State agencies,
47 Federal agencies. In addition to that, we are asking
48 Regional Council members to be involved with this as
49 well. So I'll be keeping you informed about this as we
50 develop our plans for this work. Again, the target would

1 be the spring of 2007.

2

3 Mr. Chairman, that brings me to the last
4 item on my agenda, which is a presentation by Mr. Jeff
5 Adams on one of the projects in your region. I see on my
6 watch it's 10 minutes to noon, so I'm not sure what your
7 pleasure is, whether you would like to take his
8 presentation now or break for lunch. How long is your
9 presentation, Jeff?

10

11 MR. ADAMS: Ten or 15 minutes.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We might as well
14 continue with that. I hear a couple voices saying why
15 not. I don't have any problem with that.

16

17 MR. TAGAROOK: If he pays for lunch.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did you hear that, Mr.
20 Adams.

21

22 MR. ADAMS: No.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: As long as you pay for
25 lunch.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MR. ADAMS: Well, I guess we can come
30 back after lunch.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No, I think we can
35 continue with your presentation.

36

37 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
38 Council Members. First off, I'd like to thank the
39 Council for the invitation here and also to Rich Cannon
40 for the invitation to present and show you some of the
41 projects that you've approved in the past that we've
42 actually been able to implement to answer some basic
43 questions about Dolly Varden behavior and some numbers in
44 the Hulahula River, which is near the village of
45 Kaktovik.

46

47 For some background, in 2003 we actually
48 consulted with the village. I think Fenton Rexford was
49 on the Council at that time, so we touched base with Mr.
50 Rexford and other locals in the Arctic Refuge, with the

1 OSM Staff at that time and determined this would be a
2 good opportunity to try a new type of technology, this
3 DIDSON technology. So 2003 we spent a little bit of time
4 identifying which stream, what locations and the village
5 was very supportive of working on the Hulahula, which is
6 only about six miles from the village of Kaktovik.

7
8 In 2003 we identified some sites. The
9 locals call them Fish Holes 1, 2 and 3, which are known
10 overwintering areas. We identified those, took a look at
11 them with the DIDSON, determined that they were actually
12 good places to do this type of work. 2004 spent
13 considerably more time on the ground and then set up the
14 camp and did some preliminary counts just to get a feel
15 for what it would take. This year we actually
16 implemented the whole program and got some pretty good
17 numbers that I'll show you here in a second.

18
19 DIDSON is just an acronym that stands for
20 Dual-frequency Identification Sonar. What makes this
21 unique compared to most other sonars is that the sonar
22 beam is split up into 96 different slices if you would,
23 so when it goes out into the water and it sees an object,
24 it actually has a lot more sensitivity to determine the
25 size of the object, the movement of the object, things
26 like that. In the past, traditional sonar just showed
27 you that there was something out there and left a lot
28 more to interpretation as determining what that object
29 was doing.

30
31 The dual frequency, I'm referring to the
32 1.8 and the 1.0 megahertz, the number of soundwaves that
33 you want to go out over a certain amount of time, and
34 that's what really allows the better sensitivity. And
35 from where the soundwave goes out, there's 29 degrees.
36 This is where the power comes into the grid and also
37 where the signals come back. This box on top, actually
38 the soundwave goes out of this part of it here, and this
39 is a unique patented lensing system that actually allows
40 the soundwave to be focused and more sensitive.

41
42 Another point of DIDSON, it only weighs
43 15 pounds, where traditional sonar units are at least
44 twice or sometimes three times that, so it makes it much
45 more portable. If you can see here, here's that same
46 picture that's been applying to this tripod that we send
47 into the stream and then see the signal coming back on
48 because it goes back to the computer.

49
50 As you notice the Hulahula, it's

1 glacially fed so it is very turbid, so it makes it
2 difficult to actually see what's going on in the stream.
3 This was part of one of the problems with sonars. They
4 can tell you that there's something out there, but you
5 don't really know. You need other applications, other
6 techniques to actually determine what species is there or
7 what size of fish are there also.

8

9 As I said, it's much easier than the
10 traditional sonar. The training only takes a couple
11 hours with the technician. Historically, it took maybe
12 up to a week or so just to get a technician really
13 comfortable with how to interpret the signals coming
14 back, but the DIDSON is pretty straightforward.

15

16 Also, because it's relatively simple, it
17 requires basically a laptop computer, a switching box and
18 then a generator system, but the number of pieces that
19 you need to use with sonar is much less too, so there's
20 much less opportunity for crashes and for down time. The
21 controls are pretty familiar to folks and it's almost
22 like using a video camera, if you will, as opposed to a
23 whole bunch of dials and gauges and such.

24

25 This is sonar from the Chandler River
26 with the fall chum salmon. We've operated split-beam
27 sonar for several years, so we're very familiar with the
28 contour of the bottom is, whether it's flat or there's
29 bumps in it. This one shows the relatively small
30 substrate. These are about two or three-inch diameter
31 gravel if you will. Here's a little bit of a trench
32 where the sonar actually kind of shoots over the top of
33 that but it's very shallow so even if a fish does go
34 through that trench we're still able to see it in the
35 sonar.

36

37 This is a video clip here. This will
38 actually show you what it looks like on the screen so you
39 can see the chum salmon swimming upstream and they're
40 from about 3 meters to 6 meters or so. The dark spot is
41 a shadow because the fish intercept the soundwaves so
42 that there's no -- it's just like a flashlight basically
43 looking out through the water. The reason I show this is
44 to show the different type of substrate here with a much
45 smaller gravels and cobbles in what I'll show you was the
46 Hulahula.

47

48 The objects of the project was to
49 estimate the annual escapement of the number of fish that
50 run upstream in the fall to spawn and then also to

1 describe the variability in timing and size of that run
2 over a couple years.

3
4 The tasks were to evaluate the
5 feasibility of sonar. Even though we had confidence in
6 it in other areas, we had never used it in a glacial
7 stream or in a stream with the velocity of the speed of
8 the water along with larger cobble, things like that, and
9 especially late in the season when Dolly Varden spawn.
10 We weren't really familiar with what sort of icy
11 conditions and such. Also document the bathymetry or
12 basically what it looks like as you shoot across the
13 stream. And then obtain the accurate positions of the
14 targets.

15
16 We were hoping to use the video and
17 sonar, but because of the turbidity in the water and the
18 season closed down on us faster than we expected, so we
19 didn't really have a chance to use a real video camera to
20 see a fish when it moves into the sonar beam and then be
21 able to see the fish in the sonar beam at the same time.

22
23 As I said, in 2003 we spent some time in
24 the aircraft, found some sites, talking to locals and
25 stuff, so we had an idea where the lower end of the
26 migration would be occurring. 2004 we went to a couple
27 sites and actually described those that we felt confident
28 that the DIDSON would work, made some preliminary counts.
29 This year we did a daily and then a seasonal count for
30 the fish and worked on species identification also.

31
32 If you're familiar with the area, the
33 Hulahula is one of the streams that drains north out of
34 the Brooks Range. Kaktovik is over here. It's
35 approximately six miles I believe from the village to the
36 mouth of the river. We were located about 20 miles
37 upstream above all the breaks. Again, we just wanted to
38 use one sonar unit if we could so we wanted to have all
39 the fish channeled into one location.

40
41 Here's the species of interest, obviously
42 the Dolly Varden. Here's the actual operation if you
43 will. The tripod is over here. We placed some rocks
44 down below here to make sure the fish don't go behind the
45 DIDSON unit, the sonar. And then here's all the
46 equipment, so you can see it's a relatively small
47 operations. Everything fits in a backpack more or less.
48 This is the sonar site.

49
50 This picture is actually from 2004 where

1 we were able to mount the whole sonar unit inside the
2 tent on a raft and then float down the stream and
3 actually be able to pull over without moving any of the
4 equipment off the raft except for the acoustic lens, the
5 part that shoots the soundwave. We were able to survey
6 several different areas in a manner of a week or so
7 because, again, the equipment is so small and so
8 portable.

9
10 At this site the channel is 30 meters, so
11 approximately 100 feet across. The assumption was that
12 there was just a single species moving through, which we
13 pretty much confirmed this year. And we distribute 24-
14 hour counts, so the sonar was continually running. I
15 think we had two days because of high water we weren't
16 able to operate, but we basically ran 24 hours a day and
17 were able to count every fish that moved upstream or
18 downstream in the river. We had three people doing that,
19 so they worked three eight-hour shifts in order to make
20 all that time.

21
22 Again, this is the site at low water and
23 you can see that again because of the river being
24 relatively shallow, we had to move the transducer or the
25 acoustic lens out into the water farther, so we had to
26 put another rock behind there to keep the fish from going
27 behind the lens.

28
29 And then downstream the river breaks
30 again, so we would have needed several different units in
31 order to count the fish there. If you look upstream, it
32 breaks again too, so right in this area, right below that
33 ripple the locals call Fish Hole 1. So it's well known
34 that that's where the fish overwinter and that's what we
35 were hoping to do, is get above the break yet below the
36 overwintering area so that we'd be pretty confident that
37 we were counting all the fish that came into the stream.

38
39 This again is just a comparison with the
40 stream bottom with the one at Chandler. You can see all
41 these cobbles or boulders if you will, maybe six to eight
42 inches in diameter. It turns out that those were really
43 helpful once we tried to identify fish in that the fish
44 would actually hold behind there and give us an
45 opportunity to identify them.

46
47 Because of the turbidity and our video
48 system wasn't going to work right, we were able to
49 identify fish as they moved through and then used hook
50 and line to actually -- you can see the fish in there and

1 then there's the lure coming down and then the fish goes
2 over and it's hooked and we were able to pull that
3 individual out of the water and identify whatever species
4 it was. All the fish we caught were Dolly Varden, so
5 again we feel real confident that those were what we were
6 there to count.

7
8 We identified three different sizes of
9 fish. Having this imaging system was pretty difficult to
10 identify, so we're able to capture fish with hook and
11 line, measure them and then immediately back them
12 downstream. As you can see, there will be a fish that
13 will come into view and then we can get a good feel as to
14 what that 20-inch fish looks like as it goes through the
15 sonar beam as opposed to a smaller fish.

16
17 So through the season we had 900 fish in
18 three hours of sonar data that we actually looked at. We
19 counted 10,470 fish moving upstream and 1,469 fish moving
20 downstream. After talking to the local elder, the lady
21 in Kaktovik whose allotment is close to where we were at,
22 she thought that where we were situated was a little bit
23 too far upstream of where actually the entire fish hole
24 is, so we think that's what was going on. The fish
25 didn't actually go upstream and then go downstream and
26 leave the system. What they probably did was they'd move
27 up and then they'd kind of move back and hold for a while
28 if you will below the sonar and then move back up. So
29 next year I think we'll be able to move far enough
30 downstream where we won't have these fish moving back and
31 forth.

32
33 Because of those breaks and when we broke
34 camp we were actually able to do an aerial survey and we
35 didn't see any -- when the water cleared up after the
36 glacier stopped melting, downstream we didn't see any
37 fish in any other waters below the site, so we still feel
38 like we were in the best spot lowest in the stream.

39
40 These are just some photos of the
41 different colors of the Dolly Varden and different sizes.
42 These appear to be much older. We saw several of those
43 that weren't quite as bright and as spotted as these two
44 males. Our presumption is this is probably a spawning
45 female or a pre-spawn more like and this fish is most
46 likely a fish that would just go up into the area and
47 overwinter as opposed to actually spawning.

48
49 This is where I'd appreciate some
50 insights from the Council, if they have any ideas as to

1 being able to identify by color or sizes if fish will
2 spawn or have spawned or maybe won't spawn until the
3 following year. So if anyone has insights like that, I'd
4 appreciate that.

5
6 The project was successful. Again, with
7 the help of the locals, we were able to pick a strategic
8 site and make it work with DIDSON. Again, despite that
9 heavy cobble and such it was still able to identify the
10 fish. We basically had the sonar working before we even
11 had the cook tent set up and things like that. The crew
12 was trained very quickly and they became very comfortable
13 with operating the machinery.

14
15 We had a major flood event that caused us
16 to have to pull out the acoustic camera if you will,
17 actually pull it out of the water or we would have lost
18 it downstream. That only happened twice during the
19 season, so we didn't lose that much data. No equipment
20 failures, no computer crashes, things like that, due to
21 the less complications if you will, complexities in the
22 system. And it was economical, less training time, less
23 weight to carry things out. I mean it made it
24 considerably cheaper than the traditional sonars.

25
26 We're considering now, with Mr. Cannon's
27 help, trying to identify another river where this type of
28 technique would be helpful in identifying the Dolly
29 Varden.

30
31 So, in summary, it's easy to use as I
32 mentioned a couple times, and it has good detection. You
33 have a visual as opposed to just some dots on a computer
34 screen or piece of paper so you can actually see that
35 there's really a fish there and in which direction it's
36 moving. Traditional sonar you would see an image on the
37 screen but it wouldn't move, so it would just sit there
38 and you would have to assume if it was a salmon that it
39 was moving upstream but you didn't really know that for
40 sure. With the DIDSON, you can actually tell direction
41 of travel. And the a shorter development time. With the
42 DIDSON being able to basically see into the water and
43 identify big rocks and things like that that you're
44 assured the DIDSON will work there, much simpler and then
45 it's easier to get the staff up to speed.

46
47 That's all I have if anybody has any
48 questions.

49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions from the

1 Council, comments.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we're going to
6 go fishing.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 MR. TAGAROOK: Can I borrow it so I can
11 go fishing?
12
13 (Laughter)
14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have just a comment
16 on my observations. Just that the water level not
17 fluctuating as much as you indicated. It's been a dry
18 season for us throughout the whole summer. We've noticed
19 that too along the Chip and the Ikpikpuk. It's been
20 fairly dry. Otherwise you would see more water surge.
21
22 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chair. I appreciate
23 that because that's what we had thought too, is that
24 maybe we just got kind of lucky this year for the first
25 time and not to go into next season expecting it to be
26 quite as straightforward as it was this year. So I
27 appreciate those insights.
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments.
30 Paul.
31
32 MR. BODFISH: Just to jump on the low
33 water level. It's going through its cycle. These next
34 few years we might just have low tide because in the past
35 seven years we've had high waters and now we're going
36 through our cycle where maybe three years or even more
37 than that we might have low water levels. We weren't
38 able to boat further than our village and that's as far
39 as we got until you get up to the second creek, which is
40 only a couple miles up and that's as far as you were able
41 to get by boat. We did have a dry season this summer.
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further comments.
44
45 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chair. I'd just like
46 to make a comment, you know. Looking at this, it says
47 subsistence management regulations for the harvest of
48 fish and shellfish on Federal public lands and waters in
49 Alaska. This is geared toward subsistence uses, right?
50 If they could put a moratorium on our whales, why not put

1 a moratorium on those deep sea fishermen that are maybe
2 preventing some of the stocks from coming in to spawn in
3 the southeast Bristol Bay area. Why not put a moratorium
4 on those deep sea fishermen that are using those ships
5 and maybe getting most of the stocks from coming into the
6 river drainages in all of Alaska. I think that would
7 help solve some of these problems of fish declining down
8 in Southeast or Bristol Bay or Aleutian Chain. I think
9 that's something that needs to be considered or other
10 people need to think about. Put a moratorium on those
11 deep sea fishermen out there that are catching a lot of
12 fish. That's all I have. Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Terry. Any
15 other comments. I think everybody is ready for lunch.
16 We'll take a lunch break and come back at 1:30.

17

18 (Off record)

19

20 (On record)

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: This is call for
23 proposals to change Federal subsistence wildlife
24 regulations. We're starting with agenda item 11, 11-A,
25 review of Federal closures. Mr. Kron, you have the
26 floor.

27

28 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman and Members of
29 the Council. Section A on your agenda is in response to
30 a request we got earlier this year from the State of
31 Alaska. Basically they were recommending that we take a
32 look at closures that have been in place on the Federal
33 side for a long time. OSM thought that this made a lot
34 of sense. Wildlife populations can change over time and
35 it makes sense to revisit closures and make sure that the
36 public, Regional Council, Staff and the biologists still
37 think that they make sense.

38

39 In response to that, we've undertaken a
40 review of the closures across the state. There are a
41 total of 30 closures across the state of Alaska that were
42 implemented by the Federal Subsistence Management Program
43 in response to requests that have come in over the years
44 when we started the program in 2001. There are three
45 closures within Wildlife Management Unit 26 for the North
46 Slope. Nine of the 10 regions across the state have
47 closures, so all nine of those Regional Councils have
48 been reviewing the closures in their area.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Kron, excuse me for

1 a second. For the Council's information, the briefing
2 materials are in your packet and on Page 52. Thank you.

3
4 MR. KRON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
5 should have pointed that out. I have it open here in
6 front of me and I neglected to mention that. I have just
7 kind of an overview based on the information there in the
8 review and would suggest that we go through one by one of
9 the items that are listed under the closures.

10
11 Section 815(3) of ANILCA allows closures
12 when necessary for the conservation of healthy
13 populations of fish and wildlife, and to continue
14 subsistence uses of such populations. These 30 closures
15 that I mentioned represent both of these situations.
16 Fish and wildlife populations are known to fluctuate.
17 Subsistence use patterns are also known to fluctuate. It
18 is for these reasons that the validity of those original
19 Board decisions, some of them made almost 15 years ago,
20 need to be looked at, to review the existing closures to
21 determine whether the original justifications continue to
22 apply.

23
24 All these 30 closures were adopted prior
25 to the 2001 regulatory year and they're part of this
26 review process that's being undertaken across the state.
27 I will review the summaries contained in the brief
28 histories as to why the closures were implemented along
29 with a summary of the current resource conditions and an
30 OSM recommendation as to whether the closure might
31 continue or be deleted. Again, we're looking for Council
32 comments and perspectives here on this issue.

33
34 Councils are asked to consider the
35 closure and the issues around it. Input from the
36 Councils will be helpful in developing proposals needed
37 to consider the appropriate adjustments that might be
38 needed in these regulations. The current call for
39 proposals window is through October 21st. Councils may
40 choose to work with OSM staff to develop a proposal
41 around one of these issues. Other Federal agencies or
42 ADF&G or the general public are free to submit proposals
43 at any time. Again, for the current regulatory cycle,
44 they'll need (microphone malfunction).

45
46 I think I'm back on. All proposals that
47 are developed at the conclusion of this review process
48 will be considered through the normal regulatory review
49 process that this Council is always involved in.

50

1 The review process on closures has come
2 together fairly quickly, subsequent to that original
3 request, and it is important to hear input from all those
4 involved. On several of the closures that are discussed
5 here I've heard input from other agencies that I think we
6 need to be hearing here. I guess I would recommend as we
7 get into each of these that Dave and Geoff and Wennona be
8 included in the discussion. Again, this process has come
9 together fairly quickly with the intent of reviewing
10 these closures across the state during this fall cycle of
11 meetings.

12
13 With that, if the Chairman is ready, I
14 could begin to move into the closures that are mentioned
15 there on the agenda.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let's continue unless
18 we have any questions or comments from the Council.

19
20 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

23
24 MR. G. BROWER: I was just kind of
25 reading on some of this
26 and the reasoning behind closures. Like Unit 22 were
27 adopted because of the relatively low in recovering
28 muskox population and Unit 2 deer closures were adopted
29 because rural residents provided substantial evidence
30 that they were unable to meet their subsistence needs
31 because of the competition from other users of the
32 resources. Those are the causes of closures? What type
33 of closures are they? Are they closed to subsistence or
34 are they closed to other users, such as sports, when
35 you're talking about closure?

36
37 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. The six
38 closures on your agenda essentially are restricted to
39 only rural users. Basically the people from the villages
40 from the North Slope. Other uses, sport hunting for
41 example, are excluded. Again, it varies from place to
42 place. I think the one muskox proposal, WCR05-25, has
43 been described as a resource conservation issue and
44 permits have not been issued in that particular hunt.
45 Again, it's variable, but in all of these subsistence by
46 rural users is the only allowed usage. Thank you.

47
48 MR. G. BROWER: So that's not to say that
49 when you're excluding the others, that just means you
50 don't know what the others are doing? Like the sport

1 hunting side of it. I'm thinking when you're closing it
2 to rural subsistence users there is no other users
3 capable of taking these animals whatsoever, like sport,
4 those types, that get permits to do so. Once it's at
5 that stage the only way to open it is to look at the
6 subsistence need first to see if there's a viable stock
7 to open it even possibly for just subsistence purposes.

8
9 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. I think
10 probably this will become clearer as we go through each
11 of the individual closures. There are differences
12 between them. Some are conservation issues, some are
13 restricted to -- well, all of them are restricted to
14 subsistence only. Again, I think it will become more
15 clear as we go through the individual areas. Thank you,
16 Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Do we have
19 any other comments, questions.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Mr. Kron,
24 continue.

25
26 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. The first three
27 that are listed on the agenda, sheep in Unit 23, moose in
28 Unit 24 and sheep in Unit 25, the reason this Council is
29 being asked if you'd like to comment is because one or
30 more of the villages in this region have customary and
31 traditional use determinations for each of these hunts.
32 Helen Armstrong thought it would be good if I asked you
33 if you wanted to go through each of those in detail or
34 possibly you may want to defer to the home region.

35
36 So it's your call. Do you want me to go
37 through each of these in detail or how would you like to
38 proceed? It's going to take some time if we do that.
39 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I know we've taken
42 action for each of these units because we have the shared
43 boundary lines and shared resources that we use within
44 our boundaries. So I think it would be appropriate to
45 address them individually because I don't remember all
46 the issues and details that we had addressed from the
47 time we went through this process. So I think that would
48 be appropriate to address them individually, please.

49
50 MR. KRON: Okay. Thank you, Mr.

1 Chairman. The first one, Unit 23 sheep, there is a
2 closure area basically in the Baird Mountains area. The
3 reason this is on your agenda is because Point Lay has
4 customary and traditional use determination for sheep in
5 Unit 23. This closure was originally implemented in
6 1999. The justification for the original proposal was
7 that the number of large rams decreased by 54 percent
8 from 1998 to 1999 based on those population surveys. The
9 Board adopted the closure to allow continued subsistence
10 uses while addressing that conservation concern.

11
12 The Northwest Arctic Council supported
13 the proposal with a modification to include the
14 designated hunter system. The North Slope Council also
15 supported the proposal with a modification to change the
16 language up to 20 permits and up to 20 full curl rams.
17 This was based on the Northwest Council's original
18 intent. At that time the State did not support the
19 proposal pertaining to the DeLong Mountains.

20
21 The most recent survey in 2004 counted
22 598 sheep in the Baird Mountains and this compared to 981
23 counted in 1989. Following the 2004 population survey,
24 the National Park Service recommended no change to
25 Federal subsistence harvest quotas for the Baird
26 Mountains.

27
28 Sheep surveys have been conducted in the
29 Baird Mountains since 1986. The population last peaked
30 in 1989. In the early 1990s, the sheep population
31 declined dramatically. From 1998 to 1999, the number of
32 large rams decreased 54 percent according to population
33 surveys. In 1996, the lowest count totalled 302 sheep.

34
35 Lamb production was high during 1995
36 through 2000 seasons. The average annual increase in
37 total sheep has been 4 percent since the Federal
38 subsistence hunt was opened in 1998-1999. In the 2004
39 survey, 598 sheep were counted in the Baird Mountains.

40
41 Low sheep abundance resulted in closures
42 for both State, general and Federal subsistence hunting
43 seasons in the Baird Mountains from 1991 through 1994.
44 The Federal subsistence hunt was opened in 1998 through
45 1999. Hunts have been open each year except 1999-2000
46 when a low number of full curl rams were counted during
47 surveys and the hunt was closed that season. Only full
48 curl rams were allowed to be harvested until the 2004-
49 2005 season when the quotas were set at 15 rams and 6
50 ewes. The subsistence hunt from 1998 to 2005 is

1 summarized in a table.

2

3 The OSM wildlife biologist recommendation
4 is to maintain the status quo, not change the closure.
5 Since the sharp population decline during the 1990s, the
6 number of sheep counted in the Baird Mountains has risen.
7 However, given the significant conservation concerns,
8 maintaining the closure is consistent with sound
9 management principles to conserve a healthy sheep
10 population and is consistent with ANILCA mandate giving
11 preference to rural residents for continued subsistence
12 uses. That's Section 815(3).

13

14 Again, this closure, if you've got a copy
15 of the wildlife regs, it's described on Page 106 of the
16 regulation book. Again, we're seeking the Council's
17 comments. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Kron.
20 Any further discussion from the Council. It's been some
21 time since we addressed this issue, since the early '90s.
22 I remember we did make an effort to open a hunt for Point
23 Lay and Point Hope to take sheep in the area. Like I
24 stated, it's been some time since we addressed this. In
25 your recommendation it says maintain status quo. Can you
26 give a little explanation how that would be interpreted.

27

28 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. I guess I'm
29 looking to page 106 in the regulation book and the
30 recommendation basically is to maintain the restriction
31 that it only be available to Federally-qualified
32 subsistence users. Those would be rural residents of
33 Unit 23, north of the Arctic Circle and Point Lay.
34 Again, there's also specifications on the harvest that's
35 allowed. Currently it's 21 sheep, of which 15 may be ram
36 and 16 may be ewes. Federal public lands are closed to
37 the taking of sheep except by Federally-qualified
38 subsistence users. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Kron.
41 Any comments.

42

43 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

46

47 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, just my own
48 understanding, if you're a Federally-qualified
49 subsistence user, you can't take a sheep with a permit
50 and you're talking about the closures of others in this

1 regulation book?

2

3 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. That's correct.
4 Again, Federal registration permits are issued for this
5 hunt. The number of sheep that can be harvested is
6 limited, but it's only rural residents of the area that I
7 described. A sport hunter cannot hunt in this particular
8 area. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Does that help answer
11 your question, Gordon.

12

13 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. In light of
14 listening to some of the background material, it's still
15 not appropriate timing to open it until there's a
16 substantial increase capable of supporting any other
17 hunts. That's just my outlook on it.

18

19 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

22

23 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: In light of the
24 history that's presented and the discussion, I propose
25 that we maintain this closure as stated.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is that a motion.

28

29 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes, in a motion.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on the
32 floor.

33

34 MR. TAGAROOK: Second.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded to maintain
37 the status quo as recommend by the OSM and keeping the
38 closure. Mr. Kron.

39

40 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. I don't know, but
41 it might be good to ask for input from ADF&G and BLM
42 since they're here and also Fish and Wildlife Service.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I just need some
45 clarification. I think we're going through proposals at
46 this time. I was trying to think if it's in a proposal
47 form, we could follow through the process that we
48 indicated earlier. Again, Mr. Kron.

49

50 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. These are not

1 proposals at this time. Some of these issues you may
2 want to draft a proposal for for future consideration
3 through the Council process and the Federal Board. All
4 we're doing is explaining these 30 different closures
5 across the state, of which there are six on your agenda
6 for consideration, and we're looking for your comments at
7 this time. What I just heard and what the motion
8 describes is not submitting a proposal for this one,
9 keeping it as is.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just to maintain the
12 closure. Yes. While we're under discussion, does BLM or
13 the State wish to provide any comments on this. The
14 topic that we're discussing is on Federal wildlife
15 closures in Unit 23. Maybe before you start, Geoff, let
16 me introduce Arnold Brower. He's one of our elders in
17 the community. Arnold, thank you for coming to the
18 meeting. If there's any concerns or comments you'd like
19 to provide, just raise your hand and we'll recognize you,
20 Arnold. We're addressing the North Slope Regional
21 Advisory Council's recommendations on proposals at the
22 time just to let you know where we're at on our agenda.
23 We're discussing the call for proposals under the Federal
24 wildlife regulations.

25

26 (Conversation in Native)

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Geoff. You
29 can continue.

30

31 MR. CARROLL: I'm Geoff Carroll with the
32 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I have to apologize.
33 I'm at a little bit of a loss for the official State
34 position on some of these. I think I was supposed to get
35 an e-mail in over the weekend and I just ran back over
36 there to check to see if anything had come in and it
37 appears that my e-mail system is down and nothing has
38 been coming in. I would just say that in looking at the
39 population figures and population trend and the recent
40 harvest, it would make sense to just maintain the status
41 quo. It seems like a fairly obvious observation there.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Geoff. Dr.
44 Yokel, did you wish to add any comments.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Fish and Wildlife
49 Service, any comments on this proposal.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. So the
4 discussion on the motion is to maintain the status quo
5 position on this closure. Any further discussion.

6

7 MR. BODFISH: Call for the question.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
10 called. All in favor of the motion to maintain status
11 quo signify by saying aye.

12

13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed same sign.

16

17 (No opposing votes)

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Again, Mr.
20 Kron, you have the floor.

21

22 MR. KRON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The
23 next closure WCR05-20 is for moose in Unit 24 remainder.
24 The description for this can be found on Page 112 in the
25 regulations book. It's for the Kanuti Controlled Use
26 Area. It's closed to taking of moose except by rural
27 Alaska residents of Unit 24, Koyukuk and Galena.

28

29 Anaktuvuk Pass has customary and
30 traditional use determination for moose in Unit 24
31 remainder. For that reason, it's before you as well.
32 Western Interior Regional Council has also reviewed this
33 issue.

34

35 This closure has been in place for a long
36 time. It was initiated in 1992. The justification for
37 the original closure was to provide priority to
38 subsistence users. The Western Interior Regional Council
39 was not yet established when this closure went into
40 effect. Originally, in 1992, the State opposed the
41 closure and their comments indicated the use that was
42 occurring in the Kanuti area was primarily local
43 residents anyway.

44

45 Current resource abundance related to
46 management objective. The analysis of results from moose
47 surveys conducted on the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge
48 revealed that the 2004 population size and density were
49 significantly lower than the 1999 estimates.

50

1 Resource population trends. The moose
2 population in this area of Unit 24 has experienced
3 several problems; high predation, low calf survival and
4 low yearling bull numbers. Population estimates for the
5 northern portion on Unit 24 including Kanuti National
6 Wildlife Refuge were obtained in 1999. Density for the
7 entire area was estimated at .36 moose per square mile
8 and the density on the Refuge alone was estimated at .39
9 moose per square mile. Moose trend surveys have been
10 conducted by the Refuge, ADF&G and BLM since 2000.

11
12 In 2003, two trend areas were surveyed on
13 the Refuge and one trend area was surveyed in the Middle
14 Fork Koyukuk River Survey. Results showed continued low
15 values for calves and yearlings per 100 cows. The moose
16 population for the Kanuti Controlled Use Area is
17 considered low at this time.

18
19 The OSM recommendation is to maintain
20 status quo with a justification that based on population
21 and composition of the moose in the Kanuti Controlled Use
22 Area, there is a need for continued harvest restrictions
23 that coincide with the Board's original actions. A
24 regulation giving priority to local residents limits
25 harvest to address conservation concerns and to continue
26 subsistence uses for the moose population in Unit 24.
27 Local residents have expressed concerns about
28 nonsubsistence harvest of moose. This recommendation
29 aligns with the management directives from the Koyukuk
30 River Moose Hunters' Working Group. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Kron.
33 Any further comments from the State.

34
35 MR. CARROLL: I don't have any comment on
36 this one.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any from the U.S. Fish
39 and Wildlife Service.

40
41 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 Wennona Brown for the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge. I
43 just wanted to sort of reiterate Mr. Kron's comments that
44 the moose populations on the Kanuti NWR remain low and,
45 therefore, the Refuge would support maintaining the
46 closure for rural residents.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any other
49 comments. BLM.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None. What is the wish
4 of the Council.
5
6 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.
7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.
9
10 MR. G. BROWER: For this population, has
11 there been any -- I mean I think I heard that even the
12 calculations today are substantially lower than the
13 population of 92. Why is that? Is there a predation
14 problem going on here? Why isn't the animal coming back
15 up from all of this time?
16
17 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. I think there
18 are a variety of suggestions as to what may be going on.
19 Predation is one of the issues here, quality of habitat
20 is another, but, again, the population, my understanding,
21 has declined since the original closure was put in place
22 in 1992. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Does that answer your
25 question, Gordon?
26
27 MR. G. BROWER: Yes, it does, but it kind
28 of raises some questions though as to how to manage this
29 animal you may have to manage another one. It seems to
30 me there should be some other proposals being made to try
31 to help a moose population that's been 14 years that
32 can't get over the step. I don't know what it is,
33 overharvesting or what. The recruitment rate is -- you
34 know, there could be a multiple problem situation, but it
35 seems to me there should be some effort to stabilize the
36 herd through other means as well. If it's a predation
37 issue, I mean you look at the wolf and maybe the opening
38 dates on some of these can be better managed. There may
39 be earlier wolf hunts and stuff like that. Who knows.
40 That may be able to offset the predation of these
41 animals. Anyway, that's just my concern. It opens up
42 some other questions why for such a long period of time
43 you're not seeing better numbers.
44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Kron.
46
47 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. The working
48 group is looking at these very same issues and many of
49 the Western Interior Regional Council meetings they've
50 discussed the moose population trends in detail and

1 they're looking at it very closely. The predator issue
2 is a big concern, as I'm sure you can imagine.

3
4 The moose populations in this area and I
5 did not go into detail on this proposal, but if you go
6 back to prior to 1930 the moose population in this area
7 was very, very low. It began to increase right around
8 Statehood. There were some predator control programs
9 that the State initiated that are believed to have
10 helped. But basically the moose population increased
11 substantially from about 1930 to the early 1990. All
12 throughout that time there was more and more pressure
13 being put on the habitat by the moose themselves. But
14 since 1990 there has been a decline in the moose
15 population throughout this area. It's still not near as
16 low as it was in the early 1900s, but it has declined
17 from that high we saw during the '80s and very early
18 '90s. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further comments.
21 Gordon.

22
23 MR. G. BROWER: Maybe we're looking at a
24 peak population that it ever had and that's just the size
25 of what it could be then. If you look at it from that
26 far back, that is the population. It's not going to get
27 any bigger. Maybe a little bigger or a little smaller.
28 I tend to think about these things, if there's any
29 underlying factors on some of these things. I think we
30 should maintain the status on this thing.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

33
34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I also support his
35 statements that he's given towards this discussion and I
36 also think there should be some assessment in the habitat
37 and seeing if there's other related factors. I mean has
38 there been some fires in this area that has led to some
39 diversion of some of these animals into other units and
40 now we have increase in nearby units that would not be
41 typical and the numbers have not come back because of
42 their migration. Maybe we've had harvesting from this
43 diversion that's preventing these numbers from coming
44 back.

45
46 In light of the discussions, I also would
47 maintain this closure at this time, but also encourage
48 additional assessment be done to be included to come back
49 and discuss this at a future time when it can be
50 incorporated into this assessment.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
2 Any further comments from the Council.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Kron

7
8 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Just a comment.
9 Again, there have been a lot of fires in the interior of
10 the state for the past couple years and there's been a
11 significant amount of acreage that's burned in this area
12 of Unit 24, so fires are definitely part of the issue in
13 the short term. In the long term, it will probably
14 benefit moose habitat 10, 15 years from now. But, again,
15 big chunks of this country have burned here in recent
16 years. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. David.

19
20 MR. GUNDERSON: Is it possible that the
21 moose are traveling westward towards different parts of
22 Alaska or even like to Canada or even lower down to the
23 Lower 48 to escape the smoke? They might be traveling
24 together. When an animal is in danger, it tries to find
25 the best possible ways to survive. You have to look at
26 it from every point of view before you start making these
27 decisions on what's good for the moose and try to realize
28 that it could be anything, not just one thing. Thank
29 you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, David. Any
32 other comments. Geoff, maybe continue and see if the
33 State has any further comments on this matter dealing
34 with the moose in Unit 24.

35
36 MR. CARROLL: Oh, I'd just say if it's a
37 depressed population, then it makes sense to maintain the
38 status quo. You want to keep the hunting pressure down.
39 You might as well continue the closure on non-Federally-
40 recognized hunters from that area.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Geoff. Any
43 further comments from Federal agencies.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
48 Service, BLM.

49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Well, we've
2 heard a couple comments from Council members and the
3 recommendation from OSM office to maintain status quo,
4 also from the State of Alaska. What is the wish of the
5 council.

6
7 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

10
11 MR. G. BROWER: You know, in making a
12 recommendation I think Office of Subsistence Management,
13 instead of just keeping it closed, which we are going to
14 I think try to maintain, to do other things, try to make
15 some assessment to see if there's any way that this
16 population can experience a little bit healthier pattern
17 of growth. I know some time ago we approved some
18 relocation of wolves to the North Slope that was
19 affecting the Forty Mile Caribou some time ago. I don't
20 know how many wolves were transplanted but certainly
21 we've done that in the past. It's not out of the
22 question to try to help out to see if there's any means
23 to help out a population like that. It's just food for
24 thought for Council members.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So our recommendation
27 on this subject regarding moose will coincide with OSM's
28 recommendation to maintain the status quo. Do we need to
29 make that in the form of a motion?

30
31 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes, Mr. Chair. I
32 would make a motion to maintain this closure at this
33 time.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor to
36 maintain status quo as recommended.

37
38 MR. BODFISH: Second.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Paul. Any
41 further discussion.

42
43 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I would like to
44 encourage the Staff to assess other factors, such as the
45 habitat and the predation, and give us a report at a
46 future meeting.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
49 Any other comments or further discussion on this motion.
50

1 MR. GUNDERSON: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
4 called on the motion. All in favor signify by saying
5 aye.

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any opposed.

10

11 (No opposing votes)

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank you.
14 Mr. Kron, we have another one that we need to address.

15

16 MR. KRON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I think
17 we've just completed a couple of the easier ones. This
18 one will probably generate more discussion. WCR05-21.
19 The Arctic Village Sheep Management Area for Dall sheep.

20

21

22 This particular closure is described on
23 Page 117 in the current regulations book. Federal lands
24 are closed to the taking of sheep except by rural Alaska
25 residents of Arctic Village, Fort Yukon, Kaktovik and
26 Chalkyitsik. This closure was initiated in 1991-92
27 season.

28

29

30 The Board established this particular
31 closure area in response to concerns raised by the
32 residents of Arctic Village who felt that non-Federally-
33 qualified hunters interfere with sheep hunting by local
34 residents. In 1995, the Board extended the original
35 boundary of the closure area at Cane Creek northward to
36 include Red Sheep Creek drainage. The Board also
37 established the management area to facilitate better
38 harvest reporting.

38

39

40 Originally the ADF&G didn't have
41 recommendations on the original closure but subsequently
42 requested reconsideration of the closure that was
43 implemented.

43

44

45 Current resource abundance related to
46 management objectives. Because no population surveys have
47 been conducted in the eastern Brooks Range since 1991, it
48 is difficult to estimate abundance.

48

49

49 Little information exists concerning the
50 sheep populations of the eastern Brooks Range. Reports

1 from hunters suggest that sheep populations in the area
2 continue to be relatively low.

3
4 OSM records indicate that only one
5 Federal permit for sheep in this area was issued in 2000,
6 but no harvest was reported. Refuge staff have indicated
7 that other hunters have routinely obtained sheep in this
8 area. I think Wennona may have some additional
9 information for us.

10
11 Again, primarily because of the lack of
12 information and the lack of harvest reporting and permit
13 information, OSM's recommendation was to initiate a
14 proposal to modify or eliminate the closure. You know,
15 put all the information together and bring it back before
16 the Council for your consideration. Thank you, Mr.
17 Chairman.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Kron.
20 Comments from the State.

21
22 MR. CARROLL: It looks like the State
23 recommendations all along have been to modify the
24 closure, so it's probably still the State recommendation.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Geoff. Any
27 other Federal agencies. Dave.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wennona, would you like
32 to add on any discussions to this.

33
34 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again,
35 for the record, Wennona Brown with the Arctic Refuge.
36 After we had heard that these closures were going to be
37 reviewed, like I've said, I've had one person in Arctic
38 Village consistently get permits every year and has,
39 although not turned the harvest tickets in, has reported
40 to me verbally that he's not gotten sheep.

41
42 We did try to do a survey up there
43 quickly this fall of people, their hunting patterns of
44 sheep over the past few years. We can document that
45 there are three to five people that hunt sheep regularly.
46 There may be more, but like I said we did not have time
47 to do a full survey. I can't speak as to how many sheep
48 have been harvested up there. The Refuge does not do
49 population surveys in that area, nor does the State. The
50 Refuge surveys on either side of the Sheep Management

1 Area over in the Atigun Pass and the Hulahula River
2 drainage.

3
4 The ratios over the past few years of
5 lambs per hundred ewes has been actually pretty good. In
6 the probably 40, sometimes over 50 per year. And then
7 the yearlings per 100 ewes, 20 or so survival rate. That
8 was Atigun Pass. In the Hulahula drainage, the lambs per
9 yearling have been, in the past three years, 39 or so up
10 to over 50 and then the yearlings in the 12 to 30 range
11 over the past three years, and then overall survival rate
12 has been in the 50 percent range for sheep.

13
14 I do have a couple charts here if the
15 Council would like to have them to look at. So that's
16 sort of my comments. On either side of the area the
17 survival looks pretty good. What's actually happening in
18 that specific area we don't know. I know the closure is
19 very important to the people in Arctic Village. They
20 have a lot of cultural and traditional ties to that area.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Comments from the
23 Council. Gordon.

24
25 MR. G. BROWER: It seems to me there is
26 not an adequate way of determining whether the population
27 is stable enough to provide a management scheme to open
28 it. From what I've heard, there's a lot of I don't
29 knows. We've just been talking about other areas with
30 moose where we know, that we have data that has a good
31 stepping stone, a good management profile. To just
32 outright make modifications, maybe we need more
33 information. Maybe there needs to be an assessment,
34 maybe there needs to be adequate harvest monitoring so
35 you know what's been caught before we make modifications,
36 and to keep it closed until a good enough data is
37 received to make some modifications. That's what I'm
38 hearing, my gut feeling from the type of information
39 that's being provided, that there should be information
40 that leads you to believe it's a sustainable hunt.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon. Mr.
43 Kron.

44
45 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Brower.
46 Again, this is not a proposal to open it up here. All
47 this is is a proposal whether or not we should undertake
48 a review, try to gather more information, maybe do a
49 survey up there in the village to find out how many
50 people have hunted, encourage them to get permits, do

1 that kind of thing. This is not a proposal to do away
2 with it, it's just a review of that situation. So it
3 will remain closed at least until there's a proposal to
4 change things and we don't have that on the table right
5 now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

8

9 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I have had
10 communications with members from that community and there
11 are a lot of concerns about the changes to habitats in
12 those areas in the recent years with the fires and such.
13 A couple of the hunters I spoke with were very concerned
14 and were looking towards the sheep as an alternative
15 because they were not as severely affected as the other
16 wildlife populations that they depend on. It is
17 something that also needs to be taken into consideration.
18 Without additional information we don't have the meat and
19 bones to make those choices with, so it needs to be
20 assessed and reported to us before we consider the
21 changes. Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
24 Do we have any further comments from U.S. Fish and
25 Wildlife Service or BLM.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

32

33 MR. G. BROWER: I would move to keep the
34 status quo.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maintain the closure.

37

38 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor to
41 maintain the status quo and keeping the closure in place.

42

43 MR. TAGAROOK: Second.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Terry. Any
46 further discussion.

47

48 MR. BODFISH: Question.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been

1 called on the motion. All in favor to maintain the
2 status quo on the closure signify by saying aye.

3

4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed same sign.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Thank
11 you. Our next item is on Unit 26 moose. Again, Mr.
12 Kron.

13

14 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Again, this is
15 for Unit 26(A), that portion of the Colville River
16 drainage downstream from and including the Chandler River
17 and it's for moose. This particular regulation is found
18 on Page 112 in the current regulations book. Again, it's
19 a restriction to Federal lands to rural Alaska residents
20 and residents of Unit 26, not including Prudhoe Bay
21 Complex, but including Point Hope and Anaktuvuk Pass
22 being able to hunt under this regulation.

23

24 This particular closure was initiated in
25 1996-97 season. The original justification was that a 75
26 percent moose population decline had occurred from 1991
27 to 1996. Prior and leading to the May 1996 Federal
28 Subsistence Board action, the moose population in Unit
29 26(A), the Colville River drainage in particular, was in
30 serious decline.

31

32 The North Slope Regional Council
33 supported the initial 1996 and the revised 2002 closure
34 regulations. The State was neutral on the initial
35 closure and supported the revised closure that occurred
36 in '02.

37

38 Current management objectives are to
39 increase the size of the affected population to increase
40 the total number of animals. Analysis of results from
41 trend counts conducted in 2000, 2001 and 2003 revealed
42 that the population in the affected area was 325, 333 and
43 413 moose respectively. In 1997, the calf survival
44 started to improve with increases noted in the population
45 from 1998 through 2003. These increases may be due to a
46 combination of immigration, lower adult mortality and
47 higher calf survival. With improved calf survival, the
48 percentage of bulls in the younger age groups also has
49 gradually increased, improving the sustainability of a
50 bull only harvest.

1 The original OSM recommendation that's
2 included in the handouts you have before you was to
3 maintain the status quo, but I understand that both Dave
4 and Geoff have a lot of experience and I think it would
5 be good to hear from them on their perspectives on this
6 issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom. Anyone
9 from the State.

10
11 MR. CARROLL: I think Dave had some
12 things to say first.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Dr. Yokel.

15
16 DR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 Dave Yokel with BLM in Fairbanks. I did respond to the
18 Office of Subsistence Management's analysis, partly on
19 the basis of their review of the moose number data.
20 Those data were all collected by Geoff Carroll though, so
21 I suspect I won't repeat that comment today, except I
22 think the Office of Subsistence Management misinterpreted
23 those data.

24
25 I will make a comment about the Federal
26 public lands in that area. If you have your Federal
27 regulation book, turn to Page 120, it shows the map for
28 Unit 26 and we're talking about the subunit 26(A) here,
29 so that's the part west of that dashed line that is just
30 east of Anaktuvuk Pass. You can see there's a few -- and
31 the Federal lands under this regulation exclude most of
32 the NPR-A.

33
34 There are a few little blocks of yellow
35 land there north of the Park. I haven't commented on the
36 maps that go into this for several years because I hadn't
37 seen an updated land status map since 1997 until about a
38 month ago. All of these little blocks of yellow land in
39 here, BLM land, have been selected since then. I believe
40 by the State of Alaska. I'm not sure. It would either
41 be the State or Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. That
42 means they're no longer under the purview of the Federal
43 subsistence program. So, in effect, there are no Federal
44 public lands in that sea of white out there anymore.

45
46 This regulation also includes that part
47 of the Colville River drainage below the Chandler and
48 Anaktuvuk Rivers, so there's the little bit of the NPR-A
49 that includes the Kikiakrorak and Kogosukruk Rivers would
50 be covered under this closure. However, this whole area

1 is also a controlled use area. No one is allowed to use
2 an airplane to land on gravel bars or such to hunt moose,
3 so that controlled use area, which is also a State
4 regulation, that effectively prevents people from outside
5 the area from coming in here and hunting moose.

6
7 So I just wanted to give you that update
8 on the land status and I'll leave the population data to
9 Geoff.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions to Dr.
12 Yokel on the land status.

13
14 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chairman.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Terry.

17
18 MR. TAGAROOK: Just a question for Dave.
19 Are there any sports hunters that are hunting in 26(A)?
20 When you look at the Colville River, in the past we've
21 seen evidence of planes landing on the river and we
22 figured that these would be the sports hunters coming in,
23 landing and taking moose in the past.

24
25 DR. YOKEL: Well, in the past it was
26 legal to do so before these restrictions went into
27 effect. For instance The Smith family in Umiat used to
28 guide or maybe served as transporters for some hunters
29 along the Colville River. I think currently sport
30 hunters for caribou can come into the State lands here
31 because the controlled use area forbidding airplane
32 travel does not affect caribou hunters, it only affects
33 moose hunters. So there can still be sport hunters
34 landing and hunting in this area but not hunting for
35 moose.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments.

38
39 MR. TAGAROOK: Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

42
43 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: For our village this
44 area near Umiat, the mouth of the Anaktuvuk River and the
45 Chandler River has become a highly concentrated use area.
46 In light of activities continuing to change our
47 traditional use area around our communities, this is
48 going to be a very high use area for the next generation
49 and that's very important for our usage in this area.

50

1 DR. YOKEL: Mr. Chairman. I don't
2 disagree with Rosemary at all, but the lands she's
3 talking about are not Federal lands. The boundary of
4 the NPR-A there is the highest high water on the left
5 bank, so that's above the flood plane. The Federal lands
6 are above the habitat types normally used by moose and
7 moose hunters.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments in
10 regard to the land status.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None. Geoff, did you
15 want to make some comments for the State.

16
17 MR. CARROLL: Geoff Carroll, Alaska
18 Department of Fish and Game. In relation to the land
19 status, Dave was talking about it, it really kind of
20 makes this whole thing a bit of a moot point. As he
21 said, there's really no Federal land there involved.
22 Chandler and Anaktuvuk, that's all State land up there.
23 Even where the Colville River runs along the edge of NPR-
24 A, the entire river is State management. In that
25 respect, having this closure in place doesn't really do
26 any harm, but then it doesn't really do any good either.
27 So that's one aspect of this.

28
29 As he was mentioning population numbers,
30 kind of the incorrect numbers that are reported here --
31 when I do counts, every year I go in and I do what's
32 called a trend count and I just count the concentrated
33 moose areas, the Colville River between the Killik and
34 the Anaktuvuk, the lower Chandler and the lower
35 Anaktuvuk, and that's something I can do in a couple days
36 and do it every year. Every three or four years we go in
37 with a couple of airplanes and we just fly every little
38 drainage on the North Slope and try to count every moose
39 up there.

40
41 So the ones that were reported here were
42 a result of the trend counts, which are usually about
43 half the total moose numbers. As far as total population
44 counts in the last few years, in 1999 we counted 326,
45 2002 we counted 576, this last spring we counted just
46 over 1,000 moose in that area. So we're kind of unique
47 in the state. We haven't done any wolf control or
48 anything else in that area, but we're experiencing good,
49 healthy increase in the moose population. So, from a
50 population standpoint, there really isn't much

1 justification for maintaining a closure.

2

3 The State approach to this all along has
4 tried to minimize user conflicts. That's the other issue
5 in this. I know it's not a good thing at all to have
6 people with airplanes coming in and landing, particularly
7 in the area below the Anaktuvuk and that area where the
8 Nuiqsut people hunt. If this would keep aircraft out of
9 there, then that would be one thing, but, as I say,
10 there's really no Federal land there to speak of anyway
11 and there has been a closure on the use of aircraft in
12 the entire area through State regulations.

13

14 However, because the population is doing
15 so well in there, during the next Board of Game meeting
16 there is a proposal that will open some of that area to a
17 very limited use of aircraft. It would be a drawing
18 permit hunt where people could apply for permits and if
19 they got one of those permits, they could use aircraft in
20 their moose hunt and that would probably be limited to 20
21 permits a year.

22

23 I'm supposed to give a talk at the end of
24 this and I'll talk more about possible Board of Game
25 regulations, but I just think that kind of relates to
26 this because there's likely to be some fairly major
27 changes in the State regulations after this coming Board
28 of Game meeting. That's kind of something to think
29 about, too. I think that's about all I have to say at
30 this point.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other agency
33 comments.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further comments
38 from the Council. Arnold, did you want to make comments.

39

40 MR. A. BROWER: My name is Arnold Brower,
41 Sr. I'm a hunter and subsistence user of game in North
42 Slope, especially in 26(A). I found out that 26(A) is a
43 new section. Is that correct?

44

45 MR. CARROLL: No, it's been 26(A), (B)
46 and (C) for quite a while. It's not really anything new.

47

48 MR. A. BROWER: Okay. In my observation
49 on moose, moose has declined from Ikpikpuk in that area
50 for a number of years. It did start to rise at one time

1 and it reaches my area of hunting and all of a sudden it
2 disappeared from that area. Some information I collected
3 out there from people and North Slope Borough Fish and
4 Game section that they were dying, the calves were all
5 dying from whatever it was, unknown. I believe that
6 because they disappeared. Today I haven't seen a moose
7 in five years up in that area, up to near Valley of the
8 Willows, in that section. It's right up to the
9 foothills, by the Chip River, high bank.

10

11 My concern there was what causes a large
12 decline if the moose could not survive at that time. It
13 could have been a sickness of some kind. Because I've
14 been a reindeer herder in that section since the 1930s
15 and I've known the caribou and the reindeer to get a head
16 sickness, which we observed on a 24-hour basis since I
17 was a reindeer herder. This sickness did occur. We
18 never asked the ancestor how to cure them. We have to
19 get rid of them because they were contagious to other
20 animals, but we learned that. So these questions are
21 unanswered to me. The moose population is no more in
22 Chip River where we enjoyed one time, hoping someday to
23 include muskox and no more in there.

24

25 We sure have a lot of influx in grizzly
26 bear, but I don't know how long they're going to be
27 there. This is my question and probably something I
28 would like to have known. There are some causes that
29 would bring the game in my observations of a long time
30 being a reindeer and caribou observer. Some sicknesses
31 occurred in the fall and the winter, but during the midst
32 of the winter they would decline, I mean they would kind
33 of die off and decline.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Arnold.
36 Geoff, did you have any further comments.

37

38 MR. CARROLL: I'd just like to response
39 to Arnold's observation and kind of a question about the
40 moose on the Ikpikpuk. At the same time moose all across
41 the North Slope along the Colville River, even over to
42 the east of there on the Kuparuk River and the Sag River.
43 The moose population declined dramatically on the
44 Colville River by 75 percent. It went from about 1,600
45 moose down to probably in the range of 300 to 400. I mean
46 very dramatic. We did a lot of studies to try to see
47 what was going on there and one thing we found is there
48 was a high incidence of the disease brucellosis, like
49 caribou have. It somehow jumped from one species to the
50 other and got into the moose population.

1 Also a fairly similar disease called
2 leptospirosis, which both effect the calving and the
3 strength of the calves and it can out and out kill the
4 adults. We also found out that the moose throughout the
5 area were very low in the mineral copper, which is just
6 one of the minerals animal need for some reason. They
7 were low in that and in Sweden they found when they were
8 having a moose die-off over there it was a copper
9 deficiency that was a lot of the problem.

10
11 We also found that at about the same time
12 the moose crashed snowshoe hares moved over the mountains
13 and moved into that area and just exploded. They had a
14 population explosion. They were eating the same food,
15 they were all eating the willows, so they were having
16 food competition and we had a real rough summer for them
17 and some bad winters. But it's kind of a combination of
18 factors. Then once the numbers got pushed down, we had
19 high levels of predators, both bears and wolves, so once
20 the moose populations got below a certain level and
21 there's lots of predators, then they did the final blow
22 on it, really pushed the population down.

23
24 In just one year we had the population
25 way down like that. We had almost no calf survival at
26 that point. We went in that one year and found only one
27 calf. Suddenly, for reasons I don't know, calf survival
28 shot way up, got a lot better, and from then on we've had
29 sort of a slow, steady increase in the population.

30
31 It seems like you have to get lots of
32 moose on the Colville and then they start leaking over
33 into the Ikpikpuk and I don't know when you'll start
34 seeing more in the Ikpikpuk, but they're doing much
35 better on the Colville at this point.

36
37 MR. A. BROWER: I didn't see anything
38 this summer. I've been up there all summer for two
39 months.

40
41 MR. CARROLL: Oh, still no moose.

42
43 MR. A. BROWER: There are more larger
44 grizzly bears. This seems to connect somewhere. I think
45 they follow the caribou quite a bit, whatever they can
46 feed on and catch, especially in July when the mosquitos
47 are heavy. Caribou are normal except unusual weather
48 pattern this year. I have watched the caribou cross over
49 easy from one place to another because the ice conditions
50 were not slippery. The river overrun and high and low

1 tide of the river was basically controlled by blowing
2 sand and no slick areas where the animals would refuse to
3 go across. That's not there. They just keeps moving
4 freely in that direction. I think most all the calving
5 areas are now filled up with the breeding stock.

6
7 You cannot predict each year where the
8 caribou will be and how the pattern will run because of
9 the fact of the weather. The same thing with us when we
10 were reindeer herding. We never could predict anything,
11 so we had to be there 24 hours a day. We'd keep the
12 caribou and others from getting in there and taking over.
13 Caribou are wild, they've got a wild instinct and they
14 got leadership knowledge of getting a hold of the
15 reindeer, which are follow-the-leader type things, and
16 it's hard to keep the caribou away from them. So we
17 learned a lot from both caribou and reindeer being with
18 them for 24 hours. Seventy years I did it.

19
20 But I learned that the caribou, once they
21 got into a sickness in the head, are hard to manage,
22 really hard to manage. They seem to have a wild
23 instinct, kind of angry and they have no attention to
24 other things. From there we learned that it probably is
25 in the brain because the eyes are affected. It's hard to
26 detect when they have that sickness, but you can realize
27 what's going on. I imagine they are contagious, too,
28 when they get that sickness. I don't know. I'm not a
29 biologist. I'm just reporting to you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Arnold.
32 Geoff, did you have any comments. Dr. Yokel.

33
34 DR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd
35 just say very briefly that Mr. Brower's information is
36 always appreciated and respected and I wouldn't presume
37 to debate it. The only point that I would make is that
38 the Ikpikpuk River watershed is not within the area
39 covered by this closure. It's entirely within the NPR-A
40 and Federal lands and it's entirely within the Controlled
41 Use Area so no sports hunters can fly into there, the
42 only people who can really access it are people from
43 Barrow or perhaps Atqasuk by boat. I suspect that the
44 moose will, as Geoff said, move back into there. It just
45 takes more time because it's a smaller area of moose
46 habitat. Otherwise, thank you, Arnold.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further comments on
49 the moose in 26(A).

50

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I have a question.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.
4
5 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: If it's not conducive
6 to our ability to manage in this area, what would be an
7 arena we could entertain discussions into to allow us to
8 enforce our restricted use in this area?
9
10 DR. YOKEL: Well, the area that's newly
11 important to Nuiqsut for moose hunting is entirely under
12 the jurisdiction of the State of Alaska, so really your
13 only recourse in that area is to go to the Board of Game,
14 perhaps through the North Slope Borough Fish and Game
15 Management Committee. And the same would be true for
16 Anaktuvuk Pass as well up there.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Does that help with
19 your question there, Rosemary?
20
21 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: It does offer us
22 additional areas to provide discussion. It's very
23 important to assess subsistence use changes in our
24 community and the changes in concentrated efforts of our
25 hunters and the reactions it's going to cause to other
26 units with our increased use in this area. Traditionally
27 we would have some hunters go into these areas and hunt,
28 but these last two summers we've had many hunters go into
29 these areas and hunt and there's going to be reactions
30 that occur just as reactions led to us having a good
31 moose harvest related to the fires and those changes that
32 led to their moose habitat changing. So there needs to be
33 some assessment and understanding of migrations in and
34 out of various units into other units and the changes in
35 concentration and continued harvest that's going to
36 continue to occur over the next years.
37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
39 What is the wish of the Council. The OSM recommendation
40 is to maintain the status quo. Gordon.
41
42 MR. G. BROWER: So move to maintain the
43 status quo.
44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor to
46 maintain status quo in Unit 26(A).
47
48 MR. BODFISH: Second.
49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded. Any further

1 discussion from the Council.

2

3 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I really think that
4 Staff needs to look at other factors that affect wildlife
5 resource changes and to surrounding units. Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further discussion.

8

9 MR. TAGAROOK: Just one question.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Terry.

12

13 MR. TAGAROOK: What about the use of the
14 Haul Road to hunt for moose from Fairbanks or down lower?

15

16 MR. CARROLL: I don't think that's an
17 issue at this point. We have no use of aircraft allowed
18 in Unit 26(A) and nobody is going to walk that far from
19 the Haul Road. At this point we have restrictions on the
20 use of four-wheelers or any kind of ATV's off the Haul
21 Road, so there's really no way they can get over there.
22 The Board of Game has continued closure on moose hunting
23 over in what's called Unit 26(B), the area that surrounds
24 the Haul Road. I don't think it's much of an issue with
25 moose. Caribou is a different story. It could be a real
26 issue if there are some changes made along the Haul Road
27 and the use of ATV's. But no problem with moose I don't
28 think.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further discussion.

31

32 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Just a note and
33 comment. There are people in our community that take
34 advantage of the ice roads connecting to the Dalton
35 Highway and have changes their usage in the various
36 areas. Because of this access that wasn't traditionally
37 available, access into this area is very difficult
38 without it, but with the ice roads there are migration of
39 hunters. When we're having a very poor season, some of
40 our hunters are trying to caravan together and load up
41 onto a trailer their snowmachines and go into areas that
42 are not accessible without that.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further discussion.

45

46 MR. TAGAROOK: Question.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: the question has been
49 called on the motion to maintain the status quo on Unit
50 26(A) moose. All in favor signify by saying aye.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed same sign.
4
5 (No opposing votes)
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Mr. Kron.
8 WCR05-24, caribou in Unit 26(A).
9
10 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. This
11 restriction is found on Page 121 in the regulations book.
12 Federal lands south of the Colville River and east of the
13 Killik River are closed to the taking of caribou from
14 August 1st to September 30th except by rural Alaska
15 residents of Unit 26, Anaktuvuk Pass and Point Hope.
16 Again, it's an August 1st through September 30th closure.
17
18
19 It was originally initiated in 1995.
20 Justification for the original closure was to provide
21 opportunities for the subsistence harvest of caribou on
22 Federal public lands in the Anaktuvuk Pass area and
23 protect the migration corridor of caribou so they would
24 take their normal route into Anaktuvuk Pass.
25
26 The North Slope Council supported this
27 closure as it was necessary to protect the migration
28 corridor for caribou in the Anaktuvuk Pass area. The
29 Western Interior Council supported the closure because it
30 may allow caribou to come over the Brooks Range and into
31 Unit 24 and to the south making them available to
32 subsistence users of Western Interior Alaska region. The
33 State opposed the original closure.
34
35 Current resource abundance related to
36 management objectives. Three caribou herds are present
37 in the general area of Anaktuvuk Pass at various times
38 during the year. The Teshekpuk Herd being one of them.
39 The 2002 census numbers were over 45,000 for this herd.
40 The population is believed to be high. In 2002, the
41 population size of the Central Arctic Herd was nearly
42 32,000 animals, with an objective to maintain a
43 population of at least 18,000 to 20,000 caribou. The
44 census for the Western Arctic Herd was not available in
45 2002, but it was considered to be very large in size.
46 Overall, the population of the three caribou herds who
47 range and traverse Unit 26(A) are not currently a
48 management concern.
49
50 We are looking for Council comments based

1 on the initial review by OSM Staff. It was felt a
2 consideration should be given to initiating a proposal to
3 modify or eliminate this closure. This closure
4 originated in 1995, was submitted by the city of
5 Anaktuvuk Pass. Based on most recent caribou population
6 data, the three herds in this area appear to not be a
7 conservation concern. However, it should be noted that
8 local residents are very concerned and were hopeful that
9 eliminating non-Federally qualified hunters would aid
10 them. At the time, they expressed their concerns that
11 activities by non-Federally qualified hunters, guides and
12 transporters were affecting the caribou migration. These
13 concerns currently persist.

14
15 There's been some discussion about this
16 earlier in this meeting. The concern for the Anaktuvuk
17 Pass people is that despite the high population of
18 caribou, if the migration turns away from the pass at
19 Anaktuvuk, the caribou migrate too far away for the
20 people of Anaktuvuk to easily harvest them. Thus, the
21 proposal was initiated to keep non-local hunters from
22 hunting early in the migration to avoid this from
23 occurring.

24
25 The relatively high abundance of caribou
26 along with the high harvest by local hunters may warrant
27 a more thorough review of this Federal closure. Thank
28 you, Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Kron.
31 State comments.

32
33 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, as stated, the
34 population numbers really are not an issue. In fact,
35 there was another census done in 2002 and 490,000 caribou
36 were counted in the Western Arctic Herd, so it is
37 continuing to increase at this point. It's purely an
38 issue of whether caribou are being deflected up there or
39 not. Anaktuvuk Pass is at the far eastern edge of the
40 range of the Western Arctic Herd and on years when the
41 herd tends to be farther to the west, then I'm sure they
42 get fewer caribou at Anaktuvuk, so it probably is a very
43 delicate situation there, a little bit of activity could
44 affect the direction of the relatively few caribou from
45 that herd that are that far to the east.

46
47 One problem here, as with the last
48 regulation, again there's almost no Federal land to the
49 south of Anaktuvuk Pass, so this closure really doesn't
50 do any harm, but it doesn't do any good either. It's one

1 of those things that's kind of on the books but isn't
2 really doing much to help with the situation.

3

4 There is a proposal in for the Board of
5 Game meeting that's coming up in November and it also
6 asks for a modification of the controlled use area to the
7 south of Anaktuvuk that basically would prohibit the use
8 of people using aircraft to hunt caribou. Given the
9 makeup of the Board of Game this year and the
10 questionable biological evidence up there, I don't think
11 chances are real good that it will pass. I think one
12 thing we really need to consider is using a North Slope
13 Borough solution. I mean using the permitting power of
14 the North Slope Borough to help with that situation, too.

15

16 Basically, I guess my analysis is, as far
17 as this is concerned, there's no Federal land up there to
18 speak of and it just really doesn't help and it doesn't
19 hurt.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any comments from U.S.
22 Fish and Wildlife Service.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: BLM. Dave. Arnold,
27 did you want to make a comment on this.

28

29 MR. A. BROWER: Yes. I think it is
30 important to make a report now and then of what you have
31 gone through before. I'm very much aware of two
32 incidents that occurred in my lifetime, once when the
33 Navy was here, of the starvation of caribou. To observe
34 it and maybe to make a report of it probably has not been
35 given. I'm observing something similar this year which
36 may occur. We don't have the snow and slowly the frost
37 and the icy conditions of the terrain is visible and if
38 the snow comes through and the rain goes with it, I mean
39 slushy rain, that means that the caribou may not
40 penetrate that portion of the surface with their hooves.
41 Two times it's occurred. Last year it's something
42 similar, but it was a different style.

43

44 I predict a global change that we may
45 have because we don't have any ice right now. Ice is
46 forming just by cold weather and it's also forming on the
47 ground. The ground itself has been frozen about a month
48 and it's slowly covering up with a sheet of ice and snow.
49 It's coming that way. That's why the feeding elements
50 of the caribou are down. Now if that occurs it's going

1 to be a very bad year. Changing each year. The pattern
2 is different each year.

3
4 Storing the subsistence catch that we
5 have are no longer making the meat salvageable. The
6 permafrost is a different degree. You can load it up
7 until about August. It's good and solid and frozen where
8 you can stick your hand in your mouth and touch an ax,
9 you'll stick to it. It's cold. But since September
10 everything started to change. August, last part of
11 August, the bacteria starts to setting on these fish and
12 meat that I put in the permafrost storage now. It's
13 quite a change on our subsistence lifestyle put away like
14 we used to do a long time ago.

15
16 The snow pattern is freezing on the
17 surface. When the Navy was going full speed with the
18 Cats, we were breaking up the foothills with the Cat
19 because we knew the herd was following out the trail of
20 exploration. We didn't have anything but Cat trails and
21 it was breaking up the surface. We learned much about
22 the habits of them. We kept breaking up ground more and
23 more to help out the caribou, but it was a big starvation
24 time. In case you blame somebody, it's natural.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Arnold.
27 Dave, did you want to make a comment.

28
29 DR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All
30 I would say is to reiterate what Geoff said and correct
31 it slightly for the record. Geoff said there are no
32 Federal lands south of Anaktuvuk Pass. He meant north of
33 Anaktuvuk Pass. And he's correct. There is a
34 little tiny bit of Gates of the Arctic preserve in that
35 very southeastern corner of 26(A), but it's not really
36 north of Anaktuvuk Pass. So that's the only piece of
37 land that this regulation actually affects. So, like
38 Geoff says, it does no harm, it does no good.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further comments
41 from Federal agencies. What is the wish of the Council.

42
43 MR. BODFISH: Mr. Chairman.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Paul.

46
47 MR. BODFISH: I have a question. After
48 hearing what I've heard here about the caribou, we've got
49 non-Natives hunting caribou in Atqasuk and I was asked to
50 see if they needed a permit to hunt caribou.

1 MR. CARROLL: Everybody legally needs a
2 permit to hunt caribou and especially non-Natives.

3
4 MR. BODFISH: Yeah, that was brought up
5 to my attention to bring to this Board. So they do need
6 to get a permit to hunt.

7
8 MR. CARROLL: Unfortunately that's not
9 always real easy to do because we've always had a problem
10 keeping licensed vendors in each one of the villages.
11 You know, you can't just go down to the store at this
12 point probably and get a license. Anybody that contacts
13 me I'll make sure we get them a license one way or the
14 other. I wish our license vendor system worked better,
15 but it's always been kind of an awkward system that
16 sometimes we have one and sometimes we don't in each one
17 of the villages.

18
19 MR. BODFISH: Okay, thanks. I'll pass
20 that one.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further comments.
23 Gordon.

24
25 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I would just like
26 to reiterate that the status quo is good and that Geoff
27 mentioned briefly the use of North Slope Borough zoning
28 powers to possibly designate an area. We've tried
29 control use to try to help Anaktuvuk Pass. I've heard
30 that concept more than once now come before the North
31 Slope Borough, zoning it for the purposes of subsistence.
32 Title 19, going through its revisions, has provisions to
33 do zoning and designate subsistence zones. That might be
34 one of the tools that may be up and coming and I'm glad
35 you mentioned it, but it would still help Anaktuvuk Pass
36 if there is this closed area for the purposes of
37 maintaining migratory path, regardless of the size of the
38 caribou, just to try to maintain that the migration will
39 come through. And that's what its purpose is for, to
40 help trying not to deflect the migratory path of where
41 they're normally going through. That's my thought on it.
42 I hope somebody does push something through the zoning
43 power. That's something I think can be done.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
46 Rosemary, did you have a comment.

47
48 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I just need to
49 recognize the absence of Raymond for this discussion. I
50 know he would enlighten us with issues and discussions

1 that would add to our discussions here. If you could
2 make some efforts to communicate with him on this and
3 make sure his thoughts are incorporated into the
4 discussion, it's very important to do so.

5
6 We have had a lot of discussion with him
7 in the past and we all recognize the importance of the
8 traditional use of our members in Anaktuvuk Pass and this
9 area and working to prevent the deflection for their
10 sustainability is very important. If we don't have
11 enough Federal lands in this area to do so, then we need
12 to recognize that and look at other alternatives to
13 improve the restrictions in this area that will prevent
14 what has already happened this year.

15
16 We know that village is going to suffer
17 extreme hardship without their harvesting. There are
18 very limited resources for them. There are very few jobs
19 out there and their village is going to be suffering
20 tremendously this winter. If this is not the right
21 arena, making sure we get it into the right arena for the
22 appropriate management, it's very important to do so.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
25 Terry.

26
27 MR. TAGAROOK: I'd just like to make one
28 more comment. I think the caribous are migrating later
29 than usual than we've observed before. When we were a
30 lot younger, they used to come around earlier, but
31 they're coming around later, in the fall. There might be
32 more caribous coming around or some kind of weather
33 change. Maybe the global warming is affecting the
34 migration and that's something we need to look at too.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Terry. Any
37 more comments from the Council. Arnold.

38
39 MR. A. BROWER: We listened to our elders
40 in the past on subsistence hunting, their livelihood, in
41 making it work. Not only in caribou, but also in fish.
42 They informed that the caribou will deflect easily. I'll
43 back up Geoff Carroll's report this year on increase of
44 calves and caribou.

45
46 I've observed the migration of caribou in
47 two different forms and the pattern they travel. If
48 they're not going around in my area, I'm observing
49 caribou that is traveling. Not a few caribou, but in a
50 great herd. Maybe right after rutting season, it's

1 going in that direction. Even though you're probably not
2 reporting very much in your area, but I'm observing the
3 travel of caribou in the same form they traveled before.
4 So that's good news for everyone that is up in that area.
5

6
7 In Anaktuvuk Pass, I've heard so much of
8 the arguments that they've been deflected by other people
9 or deflecting the first bunch. Even in our area I don't
10 disturb the first group of caribou traveling. They make
11 the trail and the other caribou know by scent and follow
12 the first group no matter how you try to stop them. If
13 the first group has passed through, they'll follow that
14 trail.

15
16 Anaktuvuk has said that they would like
17 that undisturbed. The migration travel, the pattern,
18 should not be disturbed if they are going to Anaktuvuk.
19 But if somebody has disturbed the first one and shot them
20 off, they stop there. They've got no way to follow their
21 leader. They just distribute among themselves and
22 scatter and find another means of travel. So Anaktuvuk
23 Pass is off course its own patterns of caribou that is
24 going through there by butchering the first leadership of
25 caribou that knows the trail. That has been argued on
26 time and time again that they do not want anyone to
27 disturb those migrating animals that are going to
28 Anaktuvuk Pass each year.

29
30 They've been given a chance to move to
31 another area, but I imagine we all know where we grew up
32 and refuse to move. These choices have been given to
33 Anaktuvuk a long time to where they could have free use
34 of gas, fish, caribou, but it was not the livelihood they
35 grew up in. They said they can't do that. This goes on.
36 I mean it's not just a story, it's the formation of
37 subsistence livelihood that they follow. If they follow
38 the instruction of the elders they knew something would
39 be there. Just what I heard, what I observed. I'm
40 relating that because it's true.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Arnold.
43 Ray.

44
45 MR. KOONUK: I follow what Arnold says
46 and we've seen that happen in Kivalina, Point Hope.
47 Interference. Hunters going out early and catching the
48 first herd and it disturbs the migration. I follow what
49 he's saying. He's right. Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Ray.
2 Continuing with the discussion on Unit 26(A) caribou.
3 We've heard the recommendations and comments from the
4 Federal agencies. Paul.

5
6 MR. BODFISH: Yeah, just to talk on what
7 Arnold had said about disturbing the caribou migration.
8 We sure did experience that this fall hunt. That caribou
9 coming from the east was deflected to the east of us and
10 they headed south and crossed the river further down
11 south. The ones coming from the west, they went up
12 north. They were deflected to the west of us. We were
13 deflected in both sides, the Teshekpuk Herd and the
14 Western Herd that were coming through. They both were
15 sort of deflected from my area. They did mess with the
16 first bunch that were going to come through.

17
18 I did talk with Dr. Yokel about that bird
19 survey plane that was flying around out there that had a
20 big effect. It turned the caribou herd that was supposed
21 to come close by through Atqasuk, which our elders still
22 hunt and depend on that. This year they come home empty-
23 handed because they can't travel far. That's all I have.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul. Just
26 commenting on the comments that we've heard from the
27 presentation on this, the State recommendations and other
28 Federal agencies, BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service and a
29 recommendation from OSM to initiate proposal to modify or
30 eliminate the closure. We've had Council comments to
31 maintain status quo. What is the wish of the Council.
32 Rosemary.

33
34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: In light of the
35 information presented and the discussion we have, we have
36 fears of the unknown. There is no alternative discussion
37 provided for us to assess to make a determination. If
38 there were information presented to Fish and Game or
39 something of the sort, North Slope Borough Wildlife, that
40 the issues that we have within this proposal as an
41 alternative, we would be more willing to consider some
42 changes, but that is not being presented today. And, in
43 light of that, I think it's very important to continue
44 with this closure until we are assured that there are
45 going to be inclusions in the other discussions. We have
46 too much unknown to take this off the books, even though
47 there's varied limitations to the Federal lands in the
48 area.

49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

1 Any other comments.
2
3 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: That's a motion.
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm sorry, Rosemary.
6 It's in the form of a motion.
7
8 MR. TAGAROOK: Second.
9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded. Further
11 discussions.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 MR. BODFISH: Question.
16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
18 called. The motion is to maintain status quo until more
19 information is provided. All in favor of the motion
20 signify by saying aye.
21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.
23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any opposed.
25
26 (No opposing votes)
27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank you,
29 Rosemary. Mr. Kron, we have one more.
30
31 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, that's correct.
32 One more closure area and I think it will be a little bit
33 quicker than some of the others. This is for Unit 26(C)
34 muskox. It's found on Page 122 of the current Federal
35 regulations book. Basically it's limited to one bull by
36 Federal registration permit only.
37
38 It was initially started in 1992. Muskox
39 population is below the management objective and
40 additional harvest would be inconsistent with the
41 conservation of healthy population in Unit 26(C). The
42 Council supported modification made by the Board when
43 this was implemented.
44
45 The number of muskox on the coastal plain
46 of the Arctic Refuge has declined sharply over the past
47 three years. Less than 70 muskox older than calves were
48 observed on the Refuge in Unit 26(C) in 2002. No permits
49 were issued during 2004 and none have been issued to date
50 in 2005. The muskox population in Unit 26(C) remains

1 below the threshold level required before limited hunting
2 is permitted.

3
4 OSM's recommendation is to maintain the
5 status quo. The justification being that the muskox
6 population has declined below the three percent threshold
7 level required to maintain a limited hunt. The harvest
8 season should remain closed until the muskox population
9 increases to a more sustainable level. Therefore, the
10 status quo should be maintained to be consistent with
11 sound management principles and conservation of healthy
12 wildlife populations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Kron.
15 Does the State have comments.

16
17 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, given the low
18 population there and particularly the fact that the
19 subsistence hunt has basically been closed down, it only
20 makes sense to maintain the closure on other hunters.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any comments from BLM.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Arctic National
27 Wildlife Refuge.

28
29 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 Wennona Brown for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
31 In the report that I had mailed out to the Council
32 previously and I think Barb also handed out another copy,
33 there is an update on the muskox population. I just
34 wanted to add that on October 5th Arctic Staff did some
35 aerial surveys. Also on October 12th. In those surveys
36 on the refuge they did not see any muskox. I think they
37 said there were three that had radio collars. One of
38 those has moved west of the refuge, one of them has moved
39 east of the Refuge and joined a group of 29 muskox on the
40 Clarence River in Canada. That group had five young,
41 which is encouraging. But of the three muskox that were
42 collared, there's only one remaining on the Refuge at
43 this time.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any other
46 agencies. Any further discussion. Arnold.

47
48 MR. A. BROWER: Being a reindeer observer
49 and follower, I've learned that muskox were one time
50 natives of the North Slope. The old man mentioned that

1 one time to get one muskox they have to kill all the darn
2 things to get one out of there. But they were part of
3 this North Slope arena one time.

4
5 You mentioned that the travel of the
6 muskox are steadily traveling along the coastline to
7 around Point Hope and going back down into that area on
8 the southern portion of the Brooks Range. Is that
9 correct?

10
11 MR. CARROLL: There are kind of two
12 muskox populations on the North Slope. One originated at
13 Cape Thompson and is above Point Hope, then they get up
14 to Cape Lisburne in that area. Occasionally some of
15 those work their way along the coast and end up at Point
16 Lay and in that area. So muskoxen from that population
17 do seem to work their way up the coast. We keep thinking
18 that they would expand out into the Brooks Range
19 foothills, but we haven't seen much evidence of that so
20 far.

21
22 The other population originated in ANWR
23 and they were gradually increasing their range to the
24 west and had gotten fairly plentiful even on the Colville
25 River, but now that group, the ones within ANWR, have
26 essentially disappeared. They've gone from over 300
27 animals to just a few. The most recent report they could
28 hardly find any. In recent years there's been maybe 20
29 in all of ANWR.

30
31 So, where they've started from they've
32 just about disappeared. They have spread both to the
33 west and to the east. Now we're seeing the ones that
34 traveled toward the west between ANWR and the Colville
35 River, that population seems to be going downhill. We
36 had over 300 animals in there and most recent years we've
37 only counted 200 and the hunters from Nuiqsut have
38 reported that they're having a hard time finding muskox
39 near Nuiqsut or along the Colville and my most recent
40 surveys we only found one group on the Colville where in
41 past years we found three or four.

42
43 It seems like there's kind of a
44 combination of there's lots of bear predation but then we
45 had at least one fairly large group down on the Colville
46 two years ago. The river flooded beyond its normal
47 range. They seem to be finding lots of ways to die in
48 recent years. It doesn't seem to be much to do with
49 hunting. We harvest a few a year, but not very many.
50 But bear predation and you see other things happen, and

1 drowning. We're kind of wondering what's going to become
2 of that population in future years, but it's not looking
3 real good for them right now.

4

MR. A. BROWER: Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any other
8 comments.

9

(No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What is the wish of the
13 Council. The recommendation of OSM is to maintain status
14 quo.

15

16 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Maintain status quo
17 motion.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor to
20 maintain the status quo.

21

MR. TAGAROOK: Second.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Second. Any further
25 discussion.

26

MR. BODFISH: Question.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
30 called on the motion to maintain the status quo on the
31 muskox in 26(C). All in favor of the motion signify by
32 saying aye.

33

IN UNISON: Aye.

35

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any opposed.

37

(No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank you,
41 Mr. Kron. Arnold, thank you for your participation in
42 these discussions.

43

44 MR. A. BROWER: I'd like to make
45 something known. I observe subsistence and game so
46 closely from way back. Even though maybe it's not part
47 of your agenda, I'd like my report to materialize because
48 I keep it up every 10 years by reporting. This is the
49 first time I make it available to the Subsistence
50 Council, which may be very important.

1 I worked with the Navy right from the
2 beginning on the oil exploration, using anything that
3 will produce oil and get that sound coming up. Drilling
4 information and the natural resources that are being --
5 I'm talking about the oil seeps. The Navy use their own
6 exploring and things don't look so good and some of those
7 things are running. Formation of oil coming out from the
8 top and had a river right out of it. Those type of
9 observations I had during the course of my reindeer
10 herding and knowing caribou and all wildlife. Let me put
11 it to all wildlife. Not to include fish, but to the
12 wildlife. Those that fly and those that travel on the
13 North Slope, like caribou and foxes and stuff.

14
15 Because this happened around my trapping
16 area, my hunting ground, the report I make this year is
17 strong because nobody else reports for 40 years. Never
18 attempt to correct it. And it has been flowing all that
19 time. It's done by human mistakes that are done during
20 that time. Maybe they didn't have a way to plug up those
21 wells. Maybe there was nothing to prevent that oil to
22 come out like they have today. Today it's not bad.

23
24 The report I make this year, I was
25 employed by one of the oil companies to look into their
26 ice roads where they would go without disturbing fish. I
27 did go into an area and mark all the natural resources
28 that are there for viable use from the Navy from way
29 back. We marked them and also went into some of their
30 sites where the drills had been put up. I know some of
31 them were broken and all that time for 20 to 30 years
32 some of them were still spraying oil from the well that's
33 broken.

34
35 This summer we went there and one of
36 those that were broken had stopped and the damage it had
37 to the terrain and wildlife, wildfowl. You know that
38 steller eider, spectacled eider. I figured that brant
39 would be the next one. I observed this oil seeps that
40 occurred by human making that are flowing from
41 underground coming up.

42
43 Another one spouted up right next to it
44 about 10 years ago. We call it Christmas tree and right
45 from it it's boiling with that liquid and it's pouring
46 out and nobody seems to care or know about it or observe
47 it or take a look at it and see what type of wildlife it
48 has destroyed. I went in there to the industry shop and
49 pointed out to them that maybe you guys are going to be
50 pointed at that you did all this. They got scared.

1 So I have to make a report to the Native
2 government, like IRA government. I don't know if they
3 have been forwarded this information to BLM or otherwise.
4 But 40 years of my reporting every 10 years, it should
5 have been noted a long time ago, been corrected.

6
7 My observance is observed in the
8 springtime, not in the winter. In winter I trap around
9 them but the foxes are dirty. This year I got two bull
10 caribous that are dirtier than anything I have seen
11 around the village. I didn't show it to Gordon when they
12 landed up there, but there were two caribou bulls. I
13 think it will hurt the animal because I know in the
14 wintertime we clean up our reindeer, some of the spotted
15 ones and good ones that we thought we could salvage.
16 During the winter they peel off -- the fur peel off from
17 the animal and it's a coat, some kind of a healing, but
18 it's awful when they froze up during the winter. This is
19 under my observation.

20
21 But I'm reporting that there's a leak up
22 there that is unusually filthy to look at. It has a
23 river going down to the lower section, the lowland. When
24 you go there in the last part of July or August, you
25 don't see it. It's been obstructed by the tundra. But
26 in the spring when it's thawing out, you'll know. That
27 oil is flowing on the surface of the water down to the
28 lowland. You can see some of the ducks and nobody
29 attempts to help them. These reports are very important
30 under my observations.

31
32 I have an allotment up there and I hunt
33 there and I know some of the geese and white goose, when
34 they go into that, will fly a little bit all right, but I
35 don't think they ever get back to normal. It's there.
36 The damaging portion is in the spring when the water is
37 run off and the oil comes to the surface. It spreads
38 out. That's what I see. Nobody else ever goes there
39 interested to observe. Even now I think you can go there
40 and look at the lowland and it's a different color, the
41 tundra.

42
43 I don't know if you even know Sinclair
44 Lake. The industry is going right through it and they
45 are going to use Cape Simpson as a staking area for
46 drilling, seismic. They are aware of this now. I flew
47 with them. I instructed them a little bit as to where
48 they are, how they could go around it.

49
50 This report is essential to be reported

1 to BLM and Federal government where they can get it
2 cleaned up and get it in order. I don't know if there's
3 any point to do any work on this thing, but it has to be
4 fixed because once the runoff runs into Sinclair Lake,
5 Sinclair Lake runs into ocean and it has a river right
6 where my allotment is. I hunt there and I fish there and
7 I know that's a staging/nesting area for waterfowl,
8 brant. You can hardly sleep there in summer when the
9 young ones get you up. But if that type of oil is there,
10 imagine how much damage there's going to be to the
11 waterfowl and nobody to clean them up.

12
13 I want to let you know that you should
14 keep your eyes open and ears open to see what's happening
15 out there. Is it being cleaned up or is it being left
16 there so you can be blamed that you shoot to many
17 illigiks and they're gone. But the actual thing that
18 will cause them to become extinct is that type of an
19 incident if that's not stopped. You make it happen and
20 it has to be stopped by those that make it happen and
21 probably clean up.

22
23 That's the report I wanted to bring to
24 you involved in waterfowl, seeing that you're talking
25 about subsistence that move around, foxes. Fish will be
26 the next target that run through there because that is an
27 old historical site going up to Barter Island. We
28 observe it and inspect it. It had a breakthrough. It
29 finally break through. Of course it was 50 feet. Now
30 they don't have to go over that. They can go right on
31 through. It's one of those water -- the water had eaten
32 out all the tundra and break it all up and make it a
33 small stream. Now you can go up from Sinclair Lake. And
34 the other side, the northern side probably will become an
35 island before long.

36
37 This report I want to make and probably
38 be recorded so you get interested enough to have that
39 thing cleaned up or anything that's of the same similar
40 nature that's on the North Slope. If it's done,
41 unrecorded, by God, let them clean it up first and do
42 something else afterwards.

43
44 I don't have it in writing here, but I'm
45 giving it to you as I see it. The other government that
46 I thought might have interest because they are
47 subsistence users also and would be interested enough to
48 make this report available to the Secretary of Interior.
49 The Secretary of Interior had control over IRA
50 government. I don't know where it is today. Have you

1 heard about it?

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Arnold, thank you. Mr.
4 Kron.

5

6 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Brower.
7 This meeting is being transcribed. Tina is recording
8 everything that you said and it will be converted to
9 text, so it is being recorded. Thank you very much for
10 your valuable comments.

11

12 MR. A. BROWER: I had to bring this up
13 earlier because I'm going to be on that site tomorrow
14 morning. I'm glad we have now a good source of
15 subsistence councilmen. They know more than I do. I
16 grew up a long time and I didn't have any education like
17 they did. I'm proud of them.

18

19 I'm still out there hustling it. I've
20 been out there two months and I just come back. I can
21 tell you there's a lot of caribou. This year I observed
22 the fawns and they're healthy. There's a lot of fawns.
23 But we don't use them like we used them a long time ago.
24 We used to butcher them the 24th of July for nice warm
25 underwear.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MR. A. BROWER: That's gone. They were
30 really nice. Clothing in August.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Again, I'd like to
33 thank you, Arnold, for coming to our meeting.

34

35 MR. A. BROWER: Thank you for letting me
36 talk.

37

38 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chairman. (In Native)

39

40 MR. A. BROWER: Are these also involved
41 in trapping?

42

43 MR. KRON: (Nods affirmatively)

44

45 MR. A. BROWER: Okay. Trapping interior
46 is open October 15th on colored foxes. The red fox will
47 be in prime color. As the sun goes up in January, the
48 red fox will have to fade out. That's why you have to
49 end the red fox, the colored fox trapping earlier than
50 the white fox. The sun will bleach their color. So they

1 have to open that October 15 and was set by the State. I
2 don't know how it is today. I've seen it also on
3 November 15. But the colored fox, like red fox, silver
4 sox, are prime somewhere in October. Fifty miles from
5 the shoreline. They have to be further in. I wanted to
6 bring this up because the color of the fox that you catch
7 is very important on the colored foxes. You don't want
8 to have a pale fox when the sun pales them. Okay.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Again, thank you,
11 Arnold. Mr. Kron, maybe before we go any further the
12 Council Members would like a five minute break. Thank
13 you.

14
15 (Off record)

16
17 (On record)

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Call the Council back
20 to order. We're under agenda item 11. I think we have
21 one, Unit 24 moose. Mr. Kron, did we have to address
22 this moose proposal?

23
24 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. I think we
25 addressed item B from the old agenda. We addressed Unit
26 24 moose, but in our booklet on Page 53 there's a State
27 Unit 24 draft regulatory change. It's there for
28 information. Barb had told me we have to sprint here.
29 We've only got this room until 5:30, so we're going to
30 have to kind of move on some of the items that are there
31 for information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So this is for
34 information only to our Council Members?

35
36 MR. KRON: Again, Unit 24, there are
37 communities with Unit 26 that have customary and
38 traditional use determinations for Unit 24, so we
39 included this in here just for your information. Thank
40 you, Mr. Chairman.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. The Council
43 Member that's going to be the most affected is not here
44 at this meeting, so I think we need to make sure we
45 communicate that to him. To continue on, I think the
46 next agenda item is 12.

47
48 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Just a moment. I
49 think it's really important. Gordon noted in his
50 discussions that dividing this unit there has to be some

1 recognition of the inter-migration within this unit of
2 the resource and if this unit is divided, that there has
3 to be an over-unit evaluation that occurs so that we're
4 not counting moose in multiple subunits that are the same
5 moose in the assessment of those resources.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

8

9 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

12

13 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, thank you,
14 Rosemary. I kind of forgot what this was. In divvying
15 up to make subunits out of them, would that affect the
16 population in each little subunit and therefore affecting
17 how much can be harvested for that subunit when a known
18 transient population existed or recruitment rates
19 depended upon the other subunits. I'm just trying to
20 look out for Anaktuvuk. Being at the northern portion of
21 this, they would probably get the area less recruited and
22 possibly deleted out of management. So that's the
23 question I was concerned about. It needs to be a good
24 assessment for transient population to subunitize this
25 thing because of the effects it would make on the less
26 productive area maybe. But still that population
27 recruits from the other units.

28

29 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: So the recommendation
30 we would have is that definitive assessment and
31 evaluation for this division needs to occur before unit-
32 wide changes to harvest occur are really mandatory to
33 ensure the health and stability of this area. We know
34 that this area has concerns and before changes are made
35 in one subunit an overall assessment must occur.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

38 That will be noted in the minutes. Again, we'll
39 communicate with Raymond how this is going to be
40 affecting near his community for the harvest of moose.
41 Barb.

42

43 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. That is the
44 reason we are asking to see if Raymond can attend the
45 Western Interior meeting in the winter and I think moose
46 in Unit 24 will be discussed again. I think they're
47 meeting ahead of you. We should be back at this Council
48 to report back what he has found out or what they have
49 decided.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So there's a letter
2 that's being sent to Western Interior?

3
4 MS. ARMSTRONG: Western Interior has
5 agreed because I've talked with the coordinator and asked
6 to see if we would be allowed to come and attend. We
7 just need to ask my superiors to see if that's possible
8 that we can have Raymond and I attend the meeting this
9 coming winter.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Gordon.

12
13 MR. G. BROWER: I'd just like to make
14 sure we convey to Raymond our concerns. We are concerned
15 for him. It seems like this is a complicated issues of
16 subunitizing an area. I've heard it more than once from
17 a biologist about the transient population issue, you
18 know, the recruitment from other areas. You just don't
19 stigmatize an area with a very low population just
20 because of that. Maybe the habitat value. It's
21 transient, it's cyclical. The recruitment has to come
22 from somewhere. By subunitizing it like that could have
23 detrimental effect in the harvesting by Anaktuvuk. That
24 should be as clear as daylight.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon. Any
27 other discussion.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. We'll
32 move on to agenda item 12, agency reports. A, Office of
33 Subsistence Management. Mr. Kron.

34
35 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Right now
36 there's a call for comments on communities proposed for
37 further analysis in the review of rural determinations.
38 The information on this is printed on Pages 56, 57 and 58
39 of your books and then there's maps that go with that as
40 well. In the discussion on your agenda I recall comments
41 about the need to talk about Prudhoe Bay. I will be very
42 brief with my overview here.

43
44 The Board is seeking comments on whether
45 communities or areas should be added to, or removed from,
46 the proposed list on the rural or nonrural status and
47 characteristics of these communities. The initial
48 determinations were made back in 1991 and the regulations
49 require that the Board review rural determinations on a
50 10-year cycle, beginning with the publication of the year

1 2000 census.

2

3

4 Earlier this year an initial review of
5 the rural/nonrural status of all Alaska communities was
6 conducted with an emphasis on what has changed since
7 1990. This review found the status of most communities
8 should remain unchanged. In the summary that's provided,
9 there are 10 communities or areas listed on Page 56 and
10 57 that are proposed for further analysis by the Board.
11 You will note that there are currently no North Slope
12 Region communities on that list.

12

13 The criteria intended to be used for
14 inclusion include do 30% or more of the working people
15 commute from one place to another, do they share a common
16 high school attendance area, are the places in proximity
17 and road-accessible to one another.

17

18

19 We're looking at a two-step process here.
20 This is a call for comments by the Federal Subsistence
21 Board and it's part of the first step. This step
22 concludes in December when the Board will approve a final
23 list of communities for further analysis at that public
24 meeting and it will be in Anchorage. Council chairs are
25 invited to attend that Board meeting. It's currently
26 scheduled for December 6th and 7th. So this Council
27 Chair or his designee is invited to attend that Board
28 meeting. More information on the initial review can be
29 found in an OSM Staff Report which is available on the
30 website.

30

31

32 Once again, this is an action item for
33 the Council. We're seeking comments and/or
34 recommendation and Council Chairs are invited to carry
35 that with them and provide additional clarification at
36 the December 6th and 7th Board meeting. Thank you, Mr.
37 Chair.

37

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Kron.
40 Further discussion from the Council. Rosemary.

40

41

42 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Reading what's
43 proposed, I recognize there's regions that have been
44 involved in these identifications and discussions and
45 they have a lot of insight that we may not have in these
46 discussions, so that's important to note. For us, there
47 are issues associated with Prudhoe Bay, considering it
48 for nonrural status, and I'd like to add that for
49 consideration.

49

50

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

1 Any further discussion.

2

3 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

6

7 MR. G. BROWER: Just a question on
8 nonrural status. It has to be a community or just a
9 place?

10

11 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Brower.
12 Either one. It's an area, community. For example,
13 Anchorage is nonrural. There are larger geographic areas
14 that are described as well. The Fairbanks North Star
15 Borough, for example, is nonrural. That's a large area.
16 Fairbanks is a big part of that, but there's a lot of
17 area around that Borough. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19 MR. G. BROWER: I was just concerned
20 about Deadhorse, Prudhoe. The North Slope Borough has
21 been an industrial complex. Every one of the population
22 there, maybe with the exception of the postmaster and a
23 few people over there, everybody's transient population.
24 They don't live there. It's all leased by the oil
25 companies to produce oil for the State. It's one of
26 those things I don't know how you'd categorize it. It's
27 a commercial center.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Kron.

30

31 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. My
32 understanding is that there are some people that do live
33 there year round and, as such, would be considered
34 residents. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have a question in
37 regards to how the North Slope Borough was formed and the
38 Prudhoe Bay area was not identified as a residential area
39 or community at the time. So how would that have an
40 effect to making this determination?

41

42 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. As I understand
43 it, I don't think it would be a factor in this process,
44 but I'm not totally sure.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any further
47 discussion or comments.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm trying to find out
2 what the criteria is to make these determinations, the
3 listing.

4
5 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Again, they
6 used one set of criteria in 1990. My understanding that
7 the criteria they now intend to use are as follows: 1)
8 do 30% or more of the working people commute from one
9 place to another, 2) do they share a common high school
10 attendance area, 3) are the places in proximity and road-
11 accessible to one another.

12
13 These are concerns about larger areas
14 that the Federal Board has looked at criteria for this
15 process. They had one set of criteria initially.
16 They've considered other options.

17
18 In the report it says, under Federal
19 regulations a community with a population below 2,500 is
20 considered rural unless it possesses significant
21 characteristics of a nonrural nature.

22
23 A community with a population of more
24 than 7,000 is considered nonrural unless it possesses
25 significant characteristics of a rural nature.

26
27 A community with a population above 2,500
28 but not more than 7,000 will be evaluated to determine
29 rural/nonrural status.

30
31 Communities that are economically,
32 socially and culturally integrated will be grouped for
33 evaluation purposes.

34
35 And what I led off with was the
36 discussion of possible groupings. So it will mainly be a
37 function of population size. Again, Prudhoe would
38 definitely fall below the 2,500 population level, but,
39 again, there's this option that describes that unless it
40 possesses significant characteristics of a nonrural
41 nature, or is considered to be socially and economically
42 part of a nonrural area. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So how is Prudhoe Bay
45 defined in terms of the last portion you just read from
46 Page 56?

47
48 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. I think the
49 stage where the Board is at right now is just trying to
50 gather comments as to what things should be considered.

1 If this Council were to suggest that Prudhoe be added for
2 analysis, there would be an analysis done. If the Board
3 accepted it after their December meeting and then it
4 would come back before you, I think in the winter
5 meeting, for further review. Basically the Councils will
6 be involved in the review process all along. They're
7 still solidifying the process, but I think there's some
8 judgment involved here and it will be the Board's final
9 judgment and your recommendations that will determine
10 what happens. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Kron.
13 Any further comments. Dr. Yokel.

14

15 DR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You
16 seem to be concerned about the situation at Prudhoe Bay.
17 Rightfully so. I'd just like to remind you that there
18 are really three situations that would have to occur
19 there for the people there to hunt under Federal
20 regulations. First of all, rural determination. Even if
21 that was positive and it was decided that was rural, the
22 next thing you'd have to figure out is whether or not
23 each individual is a resident.

24

25 Certainly, by far and away, most of the
26 people there are not residents of the North Slope. They
27 live somewhere else. They own property somewhere else.
28 Their families live somewhere else. So you don't have to
29 worry about them getting the right to hunt under Federal
30 regulations even if Prudhoe Bay Industrial Complex is
31 determined to be rural.

32

33 Thirdly, the area has to have a positive
34 customary and traditional use determination for each
35 species in the area before they can hunt under Federal
36 regulations. You know, because your Council has dealt
37 with this in the past, that they've been excluded from
38 those C&T determinations. So I think you have little to
39 be concerned about right now in the way of competition
40 for hunting from Prudhoe Bay under Federal regulations.
41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dr. Yokel.
44 Any further comments. Rosemary.

45

46 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I recognize the North
47 Slope Borough efforts in their planning activities and I
48 wouldn't want to set precedence in overriding their
49 identification of the Prudhoe Bay area, so I withdraw
50 this.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further comments.
2
3 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.
6
7 MR. G. BROWER: I'd just like to note,
8 even though it doesn't provide any significance, I guess
9 learning of the other criteria needed, the C&T and all
10 that kind of stuff, but still Prudhoe Bay is an oilfield
11 complex. There's no education, nothing going on, there's
12 no schools there. The security force, there's all oil
13 company. It's just all industrial and that's how it
14 should remain. It shouldn't even rank anywhere as a
15 commercial industrial complex. That's just the way I see
16 it. I mean the North Slope Borough taxes it because of
17 oil infrastructure and it's just a place to produce oil.
18 There's no children there, no community, no stores,
19 nothing. Just an oilfield complex is what it is. I hope
20 it stays that way.
21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon. Any
23 further comments from the Council.
24
25 MR. BODFISH: Mr. Chair. I concur with
26 what Gordon just said. It's an oilfield complex and I
27 don't see it as a community. Just people coming up from
28 down south to do their job and go back home where they
29 come from.
30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Paul.
32 Rosemary, did you have a comment.
33
34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: There may not be
35 politically supported activities of the individuals that
36 do go there, but there are activities that do occur in
37 those areas. There's not a lot of recognition of these
38 types of activities, but there are people that have taken
39 vehicles down the Dalton Highway to go and do their
40 fishing and hunting and activities like that. One of the
41 vehicles that was supposed to be used in our community
42 ended up with 30,000 miles on it before it got to our
43 community because it was being used on the Dalton
44 Highway. So there is activities that are occurring
45 around these areas and if we're not making any effort to
46 assess what's occurring, there's going to be reactions
47 that do occur. If this is not the right arena to
48 consider some regulatory efforts in those areas, then it
49 needs to be brought to the right arena for that
50 assessment.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
2 Any further comments, discussion. Mr. Kron.

3
4 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. If you were to
5 propose that Prudhoe be analyzed for nonrural status,
6 basically put it in an urban status officially, this
7 would be the time to make that comment. I realize that
8 the motion was withdrawn, but it's your call. Thank you,
9 Mr. Chair.

10
11 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. I think we
12 need to have some increased local communications within
13 the North Slope Borough and within other avenues before
14 we make this determination. There's a lot of planning
15 activity that are very important to not usurp by making a
16 sudden change within this. There has to be an assessment
17 that occurs, looking at the reactions that will occur
18 with that. So it is important to consider it, but also
19 the local discussions have not occurred to make a
20 determination.

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

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

25
26 MR. G. BROWER: I think it should be
27 under review for nonrural qualification. They shouldn't
28 qualify for rural status whatsoever over there. That
29 should be given down with a hammer. It's an oilfield
30 complex. There's no sense of community there, no
31 children, no stores, no schools. It would be catering to
32 just individuals. It would be like making rural to a
33 select people in Prudhoe Bay that come up here to make a
34 living and enjoy life elsewhere.

35
36 It's like selective. It's a club.
37 Prudhoe Bay is like a club. It's not a community. It's
38 a club of billionaire oil developers who has a place to
39 stay out of the weather and bring along 5,000 of his co-
40 workers to produce oil. That's all it is. It's not a
41 community. They don't have a mayor, no elected
42 officials. It's not a community. It should be that way.
43 Unless you can buy a lot there and build a house. They
44 bought these things for a specific reason. It's not a
45 community. It's oil development. It should be under
46 review. It shouldn't enjoy a rural status. It's an
47 industrial complex.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon. Any
50 further comments from the Council.

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: In Nuiqsut, every ice
2 road season, we get about 50 new residents that list
3 Nuiqsut as their residence, hoping to gain employment in
4 activities around our community. In Prudhoe Bay, there
5 are people who list Prudhoe Bay as their residence, but
6 they still own their houses and go out on their vacations
7 and go out and live in their time off work off the North
8 Slope.

9
10 These are things that occur in efforts to
11 try to meet their own needs, but they don't contribute to
12 any efforts of interaction in our local government, any
13 efforts in communicating on issues and concerns and there
14 are no efforts to recognize their interactions in these
15 areas and reactions that may affect resources outside of
16 the oil and gas development. That's a reality that
17 occurs in efforts to obtain the lucrative jobs that are
18 available on the North Slope, but that doesn't mean they
19 are residents and it's important that we recognize that.

20
21
22 We can't stop people from choosing to
23 list their residency as such, but we can sure recognize
24 that people are coming into areas and are interacting
25 with our traditional and cultural resources, our
26 subsistence resources, that may have a future reaction if
27 we don't discuss it.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
30 Any further comments. I'd just like to raise a question
31 to Mr. Kron. If we didn't propose to make that
32 evaluation for Prudhoe Bay, what time frame are we
33 looking at for a response?

34
35 MR. KRON: I don't have the final time
36 table in front of me, but my understanding is the Board
37 will make a decision on what the final list is for
38 analysis, then there would be analysis done by Staff and
39 the various agencies, and then they would come back with
40 their recommendation, which you would get a chance to
41 look at again. I believe I heard it said they would have
42 something ready for your winter meeting. Again, even if
43 you proposed Prudhoe to be added for analysis, I don't
44 know what the analysis would show. The final
45 determinations wouldn't be made until further down the
46 road. So it's a ways off and you'll get a chance to look
47 at it a number of times here. But it wouldn't even be
48 considered if you didn't ask that it be considered.
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. What is the
2 wish of the Council.

3
4 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. Gordon
5 brought up some really good points and I recognize the
6 importance of assessing the Prudhoe Bay area for our
7 area. I don't think it would be wrong to have it
8 considered, but also there needs to be a direct
9 communication to the North Slope Borough and their
10 planning efforts in this determination and seeing how
11 this would affect. If we go out there and make this
12 determination and all of a sudden the North Slope Borough
13 has to make some changes to other planning efforts by
14 adding this as a community or whatever it becomes, then
15 that's a very detrimental interaction that occur. We
16 could receive some important information from reviewing
17 and assessing and accumulating information for this, but
18 we also need to react within the North Slope Borough and
19 their efforts and let them provide some insight into this
20 discussion.

21
22 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Terry.

25
26 MR. TAGAROOK: I think we could leave it
27 just the way it is until something needs to be done and
28 it could be acted on later on.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think Mr. Kron stated
31 that if we wished to have one of these areas evaluated we
32 need to make a statement now.

33
34 MR. TAGAROOK: Might as well put that in
35 the form of a motion.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Could you please
38 restate the motion.

39
40 MR. TAGAROOK: To keep Prudhoe Bay as is
41 until the studies are done and then could be acted on
42 later on.

43
44 MR. KOONUK: Second.

45
46 MR. G. BROWER: Discussion

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Discussion, Gordon.

49
50 MR. G. BROWER: How often do you look at

1 rural status?

2

3

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Kron.

4

5

MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. The regulations
6 require we do it every 10 years. Again, we're a little
7 bit late in our second review. The first time it was
8 done was 1991. We're operating this time off the 2000
9 census. Potentially the next time around it could occur
10 before 2015.

11

12

MR. G. BROWER: During that time, the
13 inspections we look at, continual wanton waste that we
14 review out of Deadhorse, it's just based on the rural
15 nature of the area and that you can hunt according to
16 these guidelines. I don't know if we could stand for
17 that. I don't know whether the Borough in it's past has
18 determined that the North Slope oilfield infrastructure
19 -- that's what it is. It's just an oilfield complex. I
20 don't think it makes any difference to any planning
21 effort. I don't know of any planning effort we make at
22 the Borough, I've been in planning a long time, to
23 include Prudhoe Bay except to expand it and create more
24 infrastructure to tax. It shouldn't enjoy if that's what
25 it's enjoying now. Maybe I'm mixed up here, the
26 rural/nonrural situation.

27

28

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Kron.

29

30

MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Brower.
31 Again, I think Dr. Yokel provided you with some very
32 appropriate comments with that issue. Right now they
33 would be considered nonrural in nature, but before they
34 could hunt they would have to have the C&T determination
35 and they do not have that, so there are a couple steps in
36 the process. But, again, Prudhoe Bay is currently
37 considered nonrural and that's what this process is
38 about. It's done every 10 years. We're going through
39 the second cycle and my understanding is it wouldn't
40 happen again until after the 2010 census. So it's a
41 number of years off. But if you wanted to have something
42 considered at this point for this series, now would be
43 the time to do it. But, again, you've got these other
44 safeguards that Dr. Yokel enumerated. Thank you.

45

46

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Dr. Yokel.

47

48

DR. YOKEL: I'd just like to say this
49 very clearly and succinctly. It's nonrural now. It is
50 not up for consideration now. So it will be nonrural

1 after this round unless you request them to consider it
2 and somehow they figure out it is rural. I think your
3 best bet here is to let it rest.

4
5 MR. G. BROWER: I totally agree.

6
7 DR. YOKEL: Mr. Chair, I misspoke.
8 Prudhoe Bay is rural now. If I said nonrural, I
9 apologize. It is considered rural now. Excuse me.

10
11 MR. G. BROWER: Then I take that back.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 MR. G. BROWER: That's what I thought. I
16 mean you're looking at it being a rural setting, which I
17 think it's not. Another 10 years of this down the line,
18 what kind of time frame -- is this the only time to
19 submit them right now before you can mount a review of
20 this? Then I wouldn't support the motion. I would say
21 change Prudhoe Bay. It should not be enjoying rural
22 status.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Now that we've had
25 discussion and clarifications, without me misspeaking, I
26 hope, Prudhoe Bay is a nonrural status.

27
28 MR. G. BROWER: It is a rural.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Excuse me. Rural
31 status. See, I stand to be corrected already. A rural
32 status now as we speak. So the motion was to keep
33 Prudhoe Bay as is and keep it the same. That's the
34 motion that we're working on and discussing. So if you
35 do support to keep Prudhoe Bay a rural status, that's
36 going to continue with all the activity that's been going
37 on within the Prudhoe Bay Complex area. If you don't
38 support it, the motion will fail and then we would need
39 to take another action to assert it be evaluated for
40 nonrural status.

41
42 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chair. I would like
43 to withdraw my motion with Ray Koonuk's concurrence.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Does the second concur.

46
47 MR. KOONUK: (Nods in agreement)

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: He nodded yes. So we
50 don't have a motion on the floor.

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: As we clarified our
2 discussion further in this effort, we recognize it is
3 important to consider Prudhoe Bay's status and we feel it
4 is important to consider it as nonrural and add that to
5 the discussion to identify areas.
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is that a motion.
8
9 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: That's a motion.
10
11 MR. KOONUK: Second that motion.
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on the
14 floor to evaluate Prudhoe Bay as a nonrural status. Any
15 further discussion.
16
17 MR. G. BROWER: Question.
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
20 called. All in favor of supporting this motion signify
21 by saying aye.
22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.
24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed same sign.
26
27 (No opposing votes)
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Our next
30 agenda item is the marine waters jurisdiction. It's a
31 written briefing. Mr. Kron, will you be addressing that.
32
33 MR. KRON: I can if you'd like. Very
34 briefly, the marine waters described here are in refuges
35 that are not within the North Slope Regional Council
36 area. I can go into detail if you want or we can just
37 leave it as that and you can read about it in your
38 Council books. You can provide comments if you wish to,
39 but, again, it doesn't affect this region. Thank you,
40 Mr. Chair.
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What is the wish of the
43 Council. So this is just for our information.
44
45 MR. KRON: Yes, Mr. Chair.
46
47 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Is this going to have
48 precedence in the future in our area?
49
50 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Kron.

2

3 MR. KRON: I'm not sure I can give you a
4 direct answer there since I'm not a lawyer. Basically
5 there were some original assessments that were made with
6 the various refuges that are on the list there, Togiak,
7 Yukon Delta and Alaska Peninsula about saltwater
8 embayment areas and whether or not they were under
9 Federal jurisdiction or not.

10

11 Basically the legal assessment now is
12 that they should not have been. They were originally
13 included in the maps and they're saying now that they
14 don't think, based on their reading of the legislation,
15 that it was appropriate to include these areas under
16 Federal jurisdiction.

17

18 In terms of legal precedent, again, I
19 can't really answer that question very well. Thank you,
20 Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Again, is this an
23 action item or just for informational purposes?

24

25 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Informational
26 purposes. Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Kron. I
29 don't think we need to take any action. We can read it
30 and absorb it and it's just for information that it's
31 being shared with us. It could be a learning tool as it
32 proceeds and we could learn from it, what the outcome of
33 these decisions could be.

34

35 The next item we have is 12(A)(3),
36 registration reporting. A news release. Is this another
37 informational item for the Council?

38

39 MS. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's another
42 informational item. 12(A)(4) is a letter of apology.
43 Tom Kron.

44

45 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Tom Boyd has
46 signed a letter and I will give it to you as well. It's
47 in the mail to Fenton Rexford. Basically the Federal
48 Subsistence Program got the permits for the hunt out too
49 late and we apologize for doing that. It won't happen
50 again. I brought a copy along and I will give it to the

1 Chairman, but it's in the mail to Fenton. Thank you, Mr.
2 Chair. We're sorry.

3

4 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: There are issues for
5 concerns related to this. In our village we did not get
6 the hunting licenses this summer. Those kinds of things
7 are very important to follow through in the villages.
8 We're trying to encourage reporting and identification of
9 hunters and statistical data in our area. Whatever
10 efforts that can be done at an administrative level to
11 make sure that these errors are not happening. Without
12 getting any licenses issued in our village, there's a
13 real misnomer on our calculation of statistical data. So
14 administrative actions to prevent are important.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
17 Any further comments in regards to this issue. Geoff.

18

19 MR. CARROLL: I'd like to respond to
20 Rosemary and mostly to apologize for that. It was a
21 miscommunication. I contacted the people at the AC store
22 and the lady assured me that they had licenses and they
23 had moose harvest tickets and everything and then I left
24 town for about 10 days and came back and got another call
25 that they didn't them. Anyway, they went the first
26 couple weeks of the season without having any permits
27 available. It's very counter productive for both of us.
28 I know I'm not going to get much moose harvest
29 information because people didn't have moose harvest
30 tickets.

31

32 I contacted the enforcement guy right
33 away and told him what had happened. It's Curt
34 Beddingfield in Cold Foot and he happens to be a real
35 good guy and he said, yeah, okay, I understand. We're
36 not going to arrest anybody from Nuiqsut for not having
37 the proper stuff. On the other hand, we're not going to
38 get a lot of good harvest information. It would have
39 been important this year because a lot of moose were
40 harvested.

41

42 Along those lines, I think the Federal
43 Subsistence Board news release on failure to return State
44 hunt reports kind of goes right along with it. The Board
45 of Game did pass regulations this year that the State is
46 really going to start cracking down on things like that
47 and if people don't turn in their hunt reports, then
48 they're not going to be able to get registration permits
49 the following year. So, in spite of our mess-up here, it
50 is important to communicate to people that they need to

1 turn in their moose harvest reports, their muskox
2 reports, things like that, that there is a potential of
3 not being able to get permits in the future if they don't
4 turn them in.

5
6 And if you wouldn't mind passing it on to
7 other Nuiqsut hunters, even if they weren't able to get
8 their permit before they went hunting, I'd sure like to
9 get any reports on harvested moose. We can get them
10 harvest tickets even though it's late now. I mean
11 they're at Nuiqsut at the store, but I'd appreciate it if
12 people would pick those up and report their moose because
13 it's important to be able to show that there is a
14 substantial subsistence harvest of moose out of there.

15
16 If we go to the Board of Game and it
17 looks like hardly anybody has harvested subsistence moose
18 anyway, then they're more apt to give more permits to the
19 non-local hunters. So any way we can get reports on
20 those harvested moose, even though we messed up, I'd sure
21 appreciate it.

22
23 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I will bring this back
24 to our community. For everyone's information, we do have
25 a new position hired through the City of Nuiqsut to
26 address cultural issues. It's a cultural administrator.
27 The individual hired is Dora Nukapigak. She has been
28 involved with the Cup'ik Subsistence Oversight Panel and
29 is a strong subsistence hunter, whaler and involved in
30 all these activities. So that is a resource that is
31 available in our community.

32
33 I will go back and communicate. There
34 has been a good harvest of moose this year and I'm trying
35 to get information about who harvested what and where.
36 We'll try to obtain that information. Since we're not
37 able to include it into the report directly for the
38 permits, summarizing it and getting it off to you would
39 be the next best bet.

40
41 This person is primarily hired on to
42 interact within the community related to activities
43 around us, whether it be industrial, agency or what have
44 you. As she continues in this position, she will be
45 greatly overwhelmed, but she is in the building and is at
46 work now and working with the City to best identify how
47 we can best utilize her in her position.

48
49 We do have subsistence resource
50 activities that are occurring through the Cup'ik

1 Subsistence Oversight Panel. There are activities to try
2 to monitor and communicate locally. That is another
3 resource to utilize. And trying to incorporate these
4 various individuals into the picture is very important to
5 do so.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

8

9 MR. CARROLL: Who does Doreen work for?

10

11 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: It's Dora. Dora is
12 working for the City of Nuiqsut as a cultural
13 administrator. This is a position we had. Previously
14 James Taalak was the cultural guardian. We were not able
15 to continue the funding for that position, but the
16 Federal government has finally recognized the importance
17 of that position since we haven't had it for two years
18 and has given us a grant to fund that position, so it is
19 funded for one year at this time.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Our next agenda item is
22 12(B), National Park Service.

23

24 MS. ARMSTRONG: We don't have anyone here
25 from National Park Service.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No personnel from
28 National Park Service. 12(C), US Fish and Wildlife
29 Service, Arctic Refuge. Wennona Brown, you have the
30 floor.

31

32 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again,
33 Wennona Brown for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
34 I'll be very brief because I know we're sort of running
35 out of time and there are others that want to speak. A
36 couple weeks ago I did mail each Council Member a copy of
37 our summary of 2005 survey activities. I just want to
38 say after you've had a chance to review it, if you have
39 any questions, I'd be glad to try to answer them.
40 Otherwise, I'll yield the floor to the next person.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions from the
43 Council.

44

45 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you for
46 providing us with this information. It's very beneficial
47 to assess what's occurring to the side of us as we're
48 trying to assess what's happening with our resources and
49 we really appreciate your effort to get some information
50 out to us.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
2 Any other Council members have any comments or questions.

3

4

5

(No comments)

6

7

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Wennona.

8

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MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: 12(C)(1), sonar project. Mitch Osborne. So we're done with that. The issue has been taken care of. 12(D), Bureau of Land Management. Dave Yokel.

DR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to give you a brief update of the management activities in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska.

The first question that may be on your minds is when will the record of decision for the Northeast NPR-A be signed and what will it say. The answer is I don't know. We've been wondering that ourselves since last December. At least at my level there's no clue yet as to when that will occur, so I can't enlighten you any.

The next thing is that we have begun the planning effort for the South NPR-A. We just yesterday completed the scoping process for that plan for that piece of land. We have visited seven of the eight North Slope villages to hold scoping meetings to hear the local people's comments on what should be within the scope of that plan. The only North Slope village that we did not hold a meeting in is Kaktovik, which is pretty far removed from NPR-A. We also held meetings in seven villages in Nunana and Seward Pen region and also meetings in two urban centers, Fairbanks and Anchorage. The next move in that plan will be for the development of alternatives and then the analysis of the impacts as alternatives.

Very quickly, and I'm going to go fast unless you stop me with questions. Very quickly, the plans for this winter in the NPR-A in terms of oil and gas exploration, they're still somewhat undetermined, but the one proposal that they do seem firm on right now is the one by Fortuna or FEX. To drill two or three exploratory wells in the general area of the Chip/Ikpikpuk tributary. Fortuna is a company that

1 Arnold Brower, Sr. spoke of earlier when he said they
2 hired him to look at their ice road routes. So,
3 presumably, they will be moving out of the Cape Simpson
4 strip once the tundra season opens this winter and
5 working to drill two or three wells.

6
7 Conoco Phillips has staked several well
8 sites this summer and I understand they do plan on going
9 ahead with the environmental analyses for permitting
10 those, but as of yet they have not. Their corporate
11 headquarters have not determined whether or not they will
12 be providing any funding for actually drilling those this
13 winter. So I can't say any more than that. The last
14 meeting we had with them they said they probably won't.

15
16 In terms of seismic, I do know we have an
17 application from
18 Veratoss for seismic operations somewhere in the
19 Teshekpuk Lake, Ikpikpuk, Chip area. That's also very
20 unfirm at this date.

21
22 In the meantime, BLM-funded studies
23 continue in the areas of
24 harvest monitoring, fisheries, wildlife, hydrology and
25 archeology.

26
27 Finally, I wanted to mention a little bit
28 about plugging of old wells. Arnold Brower, Sr. brought
29 up the topic of the old military wells in the Cape
30 Simpson area. Our petroleum engineers are discussing
31 possibly plugging some of those wells this winter in the
32 Cape Simpson area and perhaps returning to Umiat to plug
33 some more wells there this winter. How that will
34 progress remains to be seen.

35
36 So that's all I wanted to quickly cover,
37 Mr. Chairman. If you have any questions, I'll try to
38 answer them.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for Dr.
41 Yokel. Gordon.

42
43 MR. G. BROWER: Dr. Yokel, working with
44 planning department, I had the privilege of escorting
45 some grants division people to look at some sites. One
46 of them were Cape Simpson, old abandoned well, orphaned
47 well stuff, to show what BLM can do in doing remedial
48 work, so we proceeded to go to the James Dalton well just
49 north of Lonely. But we had to high-tail it out of there
50 because the air smelled like natural gas and the ocean

1 was bubbling like a jacuzzi was going off. We reported
2 that I think there was a natural gas leak and a sheen
3 going out into the ocean from the reserve pit that was
4 being exposed by waveshore action.

5
6 I think we conveyed that over to BLM and
7 they're supposed to go back and reassess. Also the North
8 Slope Borough's petroleum engineer that on their staff is
9 looking at the plugging abandonment procedures that were
10 done, just to get engineering perspective on it. Anyway,
11 that's one thing that's out there and I hope there's
12 going to be recommendation to go back to recase that
13 thing. That's what I'm privy to anyway.

14
15 We were on a mission to use NPR-A funds,
16 documentation funds for a pristine environment, impact
17 environment, remedial environment, see what's all going
18 on in NPR-A and that's what we found.

19
20 Plus one more well. The Ovuk gas well.
21 Eskimo hunters reporting hissing sounds from that well.
22 It was confirmed by North Slope Borough gas field
23 technicians out there with the rolaguns that the well is
24 condensating on the outside. To them, that's an
25 indication in their technical terms that that well is
26 leaking. I don't know if it's global warming or whatnot,
27 but these wells are leaking. And it was confirmed, I
28 think by Greg Noble, I don't know, from BLM, that this,
29 in fact, is an old Navy well and hadn't been turned over
30 in the Gas Transfer Act in 1984, to turn over gas wells
31 to the Borough, but this is, in fact, a BLM
32 responsibility.

33
34 DR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
35 Gordon. I think the week you saw that gas bubbling up
36 around the J.W. Dalton well was the week in mid-September
37 when we were up here doing scoping meetings and we did
38 hear about it right away. I'm not up 100 percent what
39 the BLM has done since then. I think some folks have
40 looked at photographs, if not gone out there. There has
41 been a little bit of bad weather in the ensuing time.

42
43 The last I heard just yesterday was
44 somebody looking at it they thought from where the
45 bubbling was compared to where the pilings were that it
46 appeared to be coming up several feet from where the well
47 was. So I guess all I could say is right now we don't
48 know what's going on there. If it's actually the -- the
49 casing itself was plugged with quite a bit of concrete.
50 I'm sure it's not coming up through the casing. Whether

1 it's coming up around the casing or whether it's coming
2 out of the ground somewhere else nearby, I don't know and
3 I certainly don't know what can or will be done about it
4 at this point.

5
6 I'm personally not familiar with the Ovuk
7 well at all. You're saying it's near Barrow and was
8 transferred to the North Slope Borough in the Barrow Gas
9 Field Transfer Act?

10
11 MR. G. BROWER: No. We initially thought
12 that it was transferred to us, but it is not. It's about
13 20 miles outside of Barrow. The Ovuk well. It's the
14 Echo Bay well. And that one is condensating and in the
15 wintertime it was reported by hunters that it was
16 hissing, whistling. The technicians just confirmed a
17 couple weeks ago that upon their inspection of
18 hunter/gatherers report that it is, in fact,
19 condensating.

20
21 DR. YOKEL: Mr. Chairman. And you say
22 Greg Noble is already aware of that?

23
24 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. I had an e-mail
25 from Bob Schneider and Bob had come over to the office
26 and made me e-mail the coordinates over to Greg and Greg
27 was one of the ones trying to find out the identity and
28 who that well belonged to. It had been drilled probably
29 in the '50s or something.

30
31 DR. YOKEL: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
32 Chairman. Well, then, I guess they'll be working on
33 that. That's about all I can tell you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further questions
36 or comments to Dr. Yokel.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dr. Yokel.

41
42 DR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Alaska Department of
45 Fish and Game. Geoff Carroll.

46
47 MR. CARROLL: Geoff Carroll, Alaska
48 Department of Fish and Game. I guess the most common
49 question for me with everybody is where are all the
50 caribou. Anaktuvuk hasn't had caribou around there.

1 They've been scarce in this area and scarce at Atqasuk,
2 Wainwright. Basically the Teshekpuk Herd most of the
3 summer has stayed way to the east. Two falls ago they
4 kind of clustered there and then you got some rain and
5 ice and about a third of the herd took off and went to
6 ANWR and a bunch went over to Atqasuk area too. Really,
7 it's hard predicting what they're going to do next. They
8 seem to be edging south. So some of these might actually
9 end up at Anaktuvuk.

10

11 The Western Arctic Herd all of those have
12 already gone south of the mountain range and these are
13 mostly collared cows, so there might be some hope that
14 there's still some bulls up on the coastal plain that
15 might come down through Anaktuvuk, but it's hard to say.

16

17 Anyway, that's why we're not seeing too
18 many caribou in this area. They sure weren't there last
19 year and I guess we'll see what they do yet this year. I
20 think Nuiqsut must be doing fairly well with caribou.

21

22 Other than that, I just want to kind of
23 give you a head's up on regulations that will be
24 considered at the Board of Game meeting in early
25 November. I don't need to deal with these too much at
26 this point because these are just proposals at this stage
27 and we really don't know yet what the Board of Game will
28 finalize the regulations as.

29

30 The proposal that's going in for moose is
31 in response to our increasing moose population that's
32 looking pretty good. In fact, the area along the
33 Colville River there are about as many moose in there as
34 there were at the peak back in '91, '92. That population
35 has recovered very well. In response to that, the Board
36 of Game is going to want to increase access for hunters.
37 They want to increase hunting opportunity.

38

39 We've had a restriction on the use of
40 aircraft in the area ever since the decline in the mid-
41 '90s, so there's going to be some lifting of that
42 restriction. What's proposed at this point is what I
43 picture as kind of what will bring about the minimum of
44 impact. What the suggestion is for is from September 1st
45 to September 14th there will be a drawing permit hunt and
46 as many people as want can apply for those and people
47 that are selected will be able to use aircraft for
48 hunting. We're going to try to restrict that to 20
49 permits per year, so that will put a real limit on how
50 many people will be flying into that area.

1 The fear was if they just opened that up
2 to any resident hunter then we might be flooded with
3 hunters in that area. As long as we can keep a lid on
4 it, I think we can limit the number of moose that are
5 harvested that way and maintain a good, healthy
6 population.

7
8 Along with that, I think Harry has
9 pointed out in past meetings that use of aircraft gives a
10 tremendous advantage to people from other parts of the
11 state because there are no transporters on the North
12 Slope now. There's no way you can get on a plane here
13 and fly down and hunt moose on the Colville or whatever.
14 So it's kind of crazy that people from other parts of the
15 state have that option but those of us that live on the
16 North Slope really don't have an option to fly in there
17 and hunt.

18
19 The way it's been set up is that a person
20 can fly into Umiat and use a boat from there and some of
21 us have been taking advantage of that in the last few
22 years and it's provided a good moose hunt and that will
23 continue. Other than that, there are no planes that can
24 fly you out and drop you off on a gravel bar or something
25 that are available up here.

26
27 In order to provide more hunting
28 opportunity for people up here for that southern area
29 along the Colville there will also be a winter moose
30 hunt, which will run from February 15th to April 15th.
31 That provides an opportunity for people from Wainwright
32 or Atqasuk or Barrow or Nuiqsut or whatever if they want
33 to go down and hunt that area basically it would be
34 upstream from Umiat and there will be an either sex moose
35 hunt proposed for that area.

36
37 Also for the Northwestern part of 26(A)
38 we've had a summer moose hunt in that area for moose that
39 wander onto the coastal plain during the summer and that
40 will continue. It will be extended a little bit longer.
41 It will be from July 1st to September 14th rather than
42 just July 1st to August 31st. That's for either sex
43 moose as well.

44
45 For the Nuiqsut area, they've basically
46 been in a position to have a good, successful moose hunt
47 out of there. The only real change for them will be that
48 we're going to extend the general season for that area
49 basically from August 1st to August 31st, according to
50 the regulations. They were kind of limited to that area

1 downstream from and including the Chandler River and now
2 this will include the area above the Chandler as well.

3

4 Basically, I guess that's it in a
5 nutshell. There will be a very limited use of aircraft
6 proposed to the Board of Game this time and the Board
7 will act on it and we really don't know what they will
8 approve or not approve.

9

10 For Rosemary, I know that one real
11 concern in Nuiqsut is aircraft use in that area that
12 Nuiqsut hunts in. In this proposal, the only use of
13 aircraft would be from Anaktuvuk River and upstream.
14 There would be no use of aircraft below that. So try to
15 keep that area for Nuiqsut use primarily.

16

17 Any questions on this moose proposal.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Geoff, I didn't hear
20 the dates for the Board of Game.

21

22 MR. CARROLL: Board of Game will be
23 November 8th.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Where at.

26

27 MR. CARROLL: In Kotzebue. And I know
28 especially this moose proposal is liable to effect people
29 from at least some of the villages. The North Slope
30 Borough Department of Wildlife Management will have
31 representatives there and will probably try to get some
32 of the people from the villages there to testify on these
33 proposals, so it would be good to talk to your
34 representative on the North Slope Borough Fish and Game
35 Management Committee or talk directly to Harry or
36 somebody that's going to be coordinating the North Slope
37 effort on testifying on these proposals.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further comments.
40 Gordon.

41

42 MR. G. BROWER: It seems to me it should
43 be limited. You know, an opener. It seems to me they
44 shouldn't be allowed aircraft. They could still land at
45 Umiat and get on a snowmachine or a boat and do it. It
46 seems to me aircraft invites, you know, the problems and
47 stuff that's associated with displacement of traditional
48 and cultural activities that it conflicts with that we
49 hear so often about. I think just an opener would be all
50 right.

1 Do you think we could be jumping the gun?
2 The population is just at 1,000. A drastic decline in
3 the past and a fluctuation variability that it could be
4 detrimental to a growing population. Let it sustain
5 itself for a little while before we do an opener.

6
7 Also removing that 156 parallel from Chip
8 River.

9
10 (Laughter)

11
12 MR. CARROLL: Removing what? I'm sorry.

13
14 MR. G. BROWER: Remember you guys had
15 that -- or was it us? Did we impose it on ourselves?
16 156 on the west or east you can't hunt moose. On the
17 other side, three feet away, you can harvest a moose.

18
19 MR. CARROLL: One thing this proposal
20 does is it opens up the Ikpikpuk for hunting basically
21 August 1st to September 14th and have the same
22 regulations as the lower Colville for the Nuiqsut
23 hunters. As far as aircraft, I completely agree with
24 you. I mean I hated to see the moose population crash,
25 but ever since we were able to exclude aircraft from the
26 area my life is so much more calm and peaceful. I love
27 it. The problem is there's big areas out there. The
28 whole upper Colville and the Anaktuvuk and the Chandler
29 you just can't get to any other way. I know the Nuiqsut
30 people run upriver with their boats, but they can't get
31 very far up the Anaktuvuk or the Chandler without
32 aircraft. That's what the Board of Game is looking at
33 and they're always looking for places to provide more
34 opportunity.

35
36 What I was afraid of is that they would
37 just open it to make it any resident hunter could use
38 aircraft from September 1 to September 14th season and I
39 was really afraid. That area hasn't been hunted for
40 eight or 10 years, so there's lots of big bulls up there,
41 so we're just going to get flooded with hunters. At
42 least with this drawing permit hunt idea we'll have a
43 lid. We'll be able to restrict how many hunters are
44 going in there. So I would rather have no aircraft too,
45 but I think it's going to happen and trying to minimize
46 the impact.

47
48 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We recognize that when
2 we saw moose good this year, we were going to have to
3 face some changes to other people coming in and doing
4 these kind of activities. I have no problem with your
5 early part of recommendations, but I'm very concerned
6 about opening up upper Anaktuvuk River upstream to
7 aircraft and the reaction it will also have to the
8 caribou migration and those efforts. That's the greatest
9 fear we have for additional usage of aircraft in that
10 area. We recognize there will be hunting going on for
11 the moose, but the reaction to the caribou causes
12 detriment to that community and that's the main issue I
13 have with these changes.

14
15 MR. CARROLL: Well, I think that's
16 something to communicate. Either go there yourself if
17 you can work that and testify or communicate to Pete,
18 whoever is going to be going there from the Borough. I
19 think that would be a good idea, just not have aircraft
20 use on the Anaktuvuk.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's a little past our
23 time to be in here and we have a couple more issues to
24 take care of. If you can make your comments brief,
25 Gordon, go ahead.

26
27 MR. G. BROWER: I just reinforce what
28 Rosemary said. We've had numerous complaints all the way
29 up into the assembly listening to complaints about
30 Anaktuvuk's conditions over there and in times past the
31 North Slope Borough as far as having hunters from
32 Wainwright hunt for the village of Anaktuvuk Pass. To
33 mount pressure like this on villages that are needing to
34 put food on the table to sustain their livelihood, their
35 families and their children, the increased pressure, the
36 effects it could create on migratory issues and stuff
37 like that, there are real issues surrounding this. I
38 don't mind an opener, but not all out, you know. An
39 airplane is like giving them a hand grenade, you know.
40 It's the same thing. That's what I think.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon. Any
43 other questions.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Geoff.

48
49 MR. CARROLL: Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Our next agenda item is
2 13, other business. Topics for 2005 annual report.

3
4 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. So far for
5 your annual report issues I've got moose and caribou.
6 Any more I hear from you I can add more on for your
7 annual report for 2005. Let me know.

8
9 On the farewell to Terry, thank you.
10 We've been here together since back in the '60s going to
11 high school, grew up together and still working together
12 for 12 years and we certainly want to thank you for being
13 on the Council, helping us decide, guiding us, supporting
14 us. We have a certificate here for you. In addition to
15 that, on behalf of the Council, we got you a stainless
16 steel thermal cup and thermos, a travel combo for you.
17 We want to thank you. We'll be in touch with you, I'm
18 sure. I have your e-mail address and home address and
19 your phone number.

20
21 MR. TAGAROOK: Thank you.

22
23 (Applause)

24
25 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. The only
26 other issue is that we are having some changes to our
27 nearshore environment near Nuiqsut and there needs to be
28 increased monitoring efforts that go on for fishery
29 issues in the Nuiqsut area. If we can incorporate that
30 into our topics of issues. Nuiqsut is having nearshore
31 environment changes that are very concerning to our
32 fisheries and we need to have increased monitoring occur
33 in relation to that.

34
35 MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay, I'll get in touch
36 with you by e-mail.

37
38 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you, Terry. If
39 it weren't for you, I wouldn't be here. Thank you very
40 much.

41
42 MR. TAGAROOK: I had to recruit somebody
43 from Nuiqsut.

44
45 MR. G. BROWER: Terry, I always had the
46 pleasure, I always liked to see you and the comradery and
47 all that, the stories and listening to the area of
48 Wainwright. You did a job well done. I'll try to follow
49 in your footsteps.

50

1 MR. TAGAROOK: Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ray.
4
5 MR. KOONUK: It's going to be lonely in
6 the hotel now.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 MR. KOONUK: We spent twice a year
11 talking and meeting and just having fun. I'm going to
12 miss you, Terry, and we'll see you.
13
14 MR. TAGAROOK: Barb's going to be here.
15
16 (Laughter)
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'd also like to show
19 my appreciation to you, Terry. I've spent a long time
20 working with you, since we started with this North Slope
21 Regional Advisory Council. It's been many years of
22 learning together and growing with addressing the
23 subsistence issues that we've been dealing with over the
24 years, so I'd just like to show my appreciation and say
25 thank you.
26
27 MR. TAGAROOK: One last comment I'd like
28 to make. It's always good to laugh during the course of
29 the meeting. That makes it a lot easier.
30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Terry. The
32 next agenda item is 14(A), confirm February 16-17, 2006
33 in Barrow. Confirmed. Establish date and location of
34 fall 2006 meeting.
35
36 MS. ARMSTRONG: We have for Seward Pen
37 October 5 and 6, 2006. And October 13, 2006 for
38 Northwest.
39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You mean right after
41 AFN would be a better time instead of before AFN because
42 we missed out on a good opportunity to meet with the
43 community we need to hear from. And being right in line
44 with AFN it could create a problem for us, so I think if
45 we could maybe keep that open until we get an indication
46 as to when the next AFN will be, the time frame anyway.
47
48 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.
49
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ray.

1 MR. KOONUK: Is there a recommendation to
2 have it in Hawaii.
3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I don't think so.
5
6 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I don't like those big
7 cockroaches. No.
8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anyway, with that
10 noted.....
11
12 MS. ARMSTRONG: It's on the last page of
13 your book. The date you need to look out for is October
14 5 and 6 or October 13. Leave those three dates out. I
15 haven't heard of anyone else, so the window is open for
16 you.
17
18 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman. It seems
19 to me October 5 and 6 is a whaling time.
20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.
22
23 MR. G. BROWER: Sometimes it can stretch
24 into October 12 and 13.
25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: This time frame seemed
27 to be fairly good. It's just that if we could indicate
28 after the AFN would be a better time.
29
30 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: The last week of
31 October.
32
33 MS. ARMSTRONG: We tried that with Seward
34 Pen. We tried going over the window with Seward Pen. In
35 fact, we're asking right now for October 25 and 26, but I
36 don't know if it will get approved or not, so that's why
37 they chose October 5 and 6 first and then the other two
38 dates. You can't go outside the window because of the
39 analyses that need to be written.
40
41 MR. G. BROWER: What about just days
42 before, like October 16, 17th.
43
44 MS. ARMSTRONG: If you are willing to
45 travel on a Sunday.
46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe instead of
48 getting so late into the window frame, we should try the
49 August, although there are a lot of subsistence
50 activities happening during that month. If we set it up

1 during the end of August and beginning of September, that
2 would be a good time frame for us, too. In October we're
3 getting into the situation where we're having to deal
4 with cramping meetings in between other meetings and that
5 could be more of a hassle more so than ever.

6

7 MR. G. BROWER: August 31, September 1.

8

9 MR. BODFISH: Seconded.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No discussion.

12

13 MR. G. BROWER: For some of us that may
14 be on the planning commission, the 31st would be a
15 conflict for me. September 7 and 8.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: September 7 and 8 it
18 is. That's good enough. No more discussion.

19

20 MR. G. BROWER: Good idea.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here in Barrow. Okay.
23 Number 15, adjournment.

24

25 MR. TAGAROOK: So moved.

26

27 MR. BODFISH: Second.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So moved by Terry.
30 Seconded by Paul. So ordered. Thank you everyone for
31 taking the time to be here. Thank you all.

32

33 (Off record)

34

35 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 26th day of October 2005.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08 _