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8 YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
9 PUBLIC MEETING

10
11 KVNA Building
12
13 Bethel, Alaska
14
15 March 3, 1998
16
17 VOLUME I
18

19 Members Present:

20
21 Harry Wilde, Sr., Chairman
22 Paul John, Vice-Chairman
23 Fritz George, Secretary
24 Ilarion Nicolai
25 David O. David
26 John Thompson, Sr.
27 James Charles
28 Billy McCann
29 Lester Wilde
30
31 John Andrew, Coordinator
32

33 Excused:

34
35 Steven White
36
37 Interpreter:
38
39 Charles Hunt

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'll call the meeting to order. Roll
4 call and establishment of quorum, Secretary George.

5
6 MR. GEORGE: Harry Wilde?

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Here.

9
10 MR. GEORGE: Paul John?

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Late.

13
14 MR. GEORGE: Paul Manumik? Ilarion Nicolai?

15
16 MR. NICOLAI: Here.

17
18 MR. GEORGE: David O. David?

19
20 MR. DAVID: Here.

21
22 MR. GEORGE: Billy McCann?

23
24 MR. McCANN: Here.

25
26 MR. GEORGE: James Charles?

27
28 MR. CHARLES: Here.

29
30 MR. GEORGE: Johnny Thompson?

31
32 MR. THOMPSON: Here.

33
34 MR. GEORGE: Lester Wilde?

35
36 MR. L. WILDE: Here.

37
38 MR. GEORGE: Steven White?

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Excused, Steven White. We have a
41 quorum. At this time I would like to ask Mr. Joe Lomack to
42 give the invocation.

43
44 MR. LOMACK: (Gives invocation in Yup'ik).

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (Introduction of Council members in
47 Yup'ik). Fritz George, Secretary, Steven White from Eek,
48 excused, because he's attending some other meeting. David O.
49 David from Kwigillingok. And myself, Harry Wilde, from
50 Mountain Village. Paul Manumik, Sr., from Sheldon Point, he

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1 may be on his way here. Ilarion Nicolai from Kwethluk. Billy
2 McCann from Bethel. James A Charles from Tuntutuliak. John B.
3 Thompson from Saint Mary's. Paul John has not arrived here
4 yet. And Lester Wilde also is not here. And present and
5 sitting next to me is the coordinator, John Andrew. And the
6 interpreter that we have, Chuck Hunt, and the others will be
7 Leo Moses, but Leo is not here and Jon Dyasuk from Dillingham.
8 If you would go ahead and introduce yourselves and then that
9 way we would be able to know who you are too. Start from way
10 over there.

11
12 (Federal and State agencies and others present
13 introduces themselves: Nick Frank from Tuntutuliak. Myron
14 Naning, AVCP, Bethel. Marjorie Strauss, Kongiganak. Raymond
15 Nicolai, Kwethluk. Harvey Demantle, Akiak. Phillip Guy,
16 Kwethluk. Antone Anvil, Bethel. Joe Lomack from Akiachak.
17 I'm Oscar Nick from Atmautluak. Frank Berezin from Atmautluak.
18 Nick Lupie, Tuntutuliak. Ted Kugstun from Kipnuk. I'm John
19 Burr from Fairbanks, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Joshua
20 Cleveland from Quinhagak. Carl Morgan, Western Interior Chair
21 from Aniak. Henry Stone from Atmautluak. Ida Hildebrand,
22 Staff Committee member from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Bill
23 Knauer, Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage. Steve Kovach
24 with the Yukon Delta Refuge. Mike Coffing, Fish and Game
25 Subsistence, Bethel. Taylor Brelsford, I work with the Federal
26 Subsistence Board Staff in Anchorage.

27
28 MR. ISAAC: Alexie Isaac from KY-YK.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And our recorder?

31
32 COURT REPORTER: Annalisa DeLozier.

33
34 MR. BURKEY: It's Charlie Burkey, Department of Fish
35 and Game, Bethel.

36
37 MR. FISHER: Dave Fisher, Fish and Wildlife Service,
38 Anchorage.

39
40 Ms. McCLENAHAN: Pat McClenahan, Fish and Wildlife
41 Service, Anchorage.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Review and Adoption of Agenda. (Reads
44 agenda as written, See Agenda, Tab R).

45
46 (Following transcript as interpreted by CHARLES HUNT:)

47
48 INTERPRETER HUNT: (Chairman Wilde) We are now at Item
49 number 5. If there's no other new items.

50

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1 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (John Andrew) John Andrew says
2 that number five, he said that there would be a summary of the
3 minutes for February 5 and 6, 1997, and October 1 and 2, 1997,
4 and want to summarize the minutes from those meetings. Item
5 number 7, what happened yesterday, that will be taken care of
6 tonight at 7:00. Looking at the other side of the book, on
7 agenda item number 10-A, Mike Coffing will be taking care of
8 that. He says on item number C-2, Togiak National Wildlife
9 Refuge personnel are not here yet. Item 5-B will be taken care
10 of by Mike Coffing.

11
12 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) If there are no
13 corrections or additions to the agenda, the floor is now open
14 for adopting the agenda. David O. David has made a motion to
15 accept the agenda with the amendments and additions. Seconded
16 by James Charles. Is there any discussion on this?

17
18 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Question.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called for. All in
21 favor say aye?

22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed say no?

26
27 (No opposing responses)

28
29 INTERPRETER HUNT: (Chairman Wilde) Motion carried to
30 adopt the agenda with the additions and changes made. Under
31 Item number 5 of the agenda, Review and Adoption of "corrected
32 minutes" of February 5 and 6, 1997, and minutes of October 1
33 and 2, 1997. He feels that there are a lot of minutes at the
34 present time and will take a long time to review them page by
35 page and wanted to look at the summaries.

36
37 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (John Andrew) Mr. Chairman, when
38 they had the meeting last time, most of these minutes have been
39 reviewed, but the thicker ones are the minutes and the thinner
40 ones are the summarized minutes and they're smaller. The
41 summary will be reviewed. On the first one that they had in
42 Bethel, February 5 and 6, present were Harry Wilde, Paul John,
43 Fritz George, Paul Manumik, Ilarion Nicolai, David O. David,
44 Lester Wilde and Gene Pellitier (ph) was not present.

45
46 Fish and Wildlife Service and Office of Subsistence
47 Management, Taylor Brelsford, Pat McClenahan, Dave Fisher, John
48 Andrew, Sue Detwiler was present; Yukon Delta Refuge, Mike
49 Rearden, Steve Kovach, Chuck Hunt, Leo Moses, Pat Afgahan;
50 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, Andy Aderman, Jon Dyasuk;

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1 ADF&G, Ida Alexie, Mike Coffing. And others present were the
2 recorder (indiscernible), Ted Warner, Reporter, Billy McCann,
3 Charles Anthony, Thomas George. There were others that did not
4 sign in.

5
6 When the meeting started roll call was made by
7 Secretary George and all members were present except Gene
8 Pellitier (ph). A quorum was present for the meeting. Second,
9 the Regional Council reviewed the agenda. A motion made by
10 Lester Wilde to adopt the agenda, seconded by David O. David.
11 The motion passed with unanimous vote.

12
13 Item number 3, review of the meeting minutes. The
14 minutes of the October 1 and 2, 1997 and the minutes of
15 February 5 and 6, 1998 were taken for the next meeting. Item
16 number 4, there was public testimony. Comment/discussion were
17 given throughout the meeting on both things covering subjects
18 like the rural preference and Katie John. (This portion not
19 translated). There was action on proposals. Proposal number
20 45 and 49 was a deferred action. Proposal number 52, support.
21 Proposal 52, amendment to main motion, supported. Fifty-three,
22 supported, including Proposal number 54. Other action,
23 alternates. Four, all Council members were supported.
24 Secretary George's report was accepted. Kwethluk Joint Group
25 Resolution 97-00-01 was also supported. Kwethluk Joint Group
26 Resolution 97-02-02 was also supported.

27
28 Number 6, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Mike
29 Rearden presented a brief summary of the refuge leg hold trap
30 and issue. He pointed out that Kwethluk Joint Group has
31 responded to the trap land issue. Mr. Rearden also presented
32 the chart showing the census count numbers of the emperor
33 geese. Chuck Hunt gave an updated overview of the Yukon Delta
34 National Wildlife Refuge's Steel Shot Program.

35
36 And Togiak National Wildlife Refuge arrived the next
37 day. Mr. Andy Aderman and Mr. Jon Dyasuk reported there was a
38 very large number of caribou from the Togiak drainage, all the
39 way to the Dillingham area. Poor snow conditions have delayed
40 their winter moose census. Togiak Refuge did about 70 INA
41 workshops within the school districts in their regions.

42
43 Number 8, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Ida
44 Alexie gave brief report on the activities of the Regional
45 Advisory Committees and their upcoming meeting. Mike Coffing
46 reported on the annual subsistence both on the Yukon Kuskokwim
47 Village and Unit 18. They are currently working on cooperative
48 agreement on marine mammals within the coastal villages.
49 Charlie Barker was there for the commercial fisheries but did
50 not give a report, but offered to answer questions if they had

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1 questions toward his program.

2

3 And, number 9, Memorandum of Agreement, this was an
4 informal agenda item presented by Sue Detwiler, it's simply a
5 Memorandum of Agreement between the Board and the Department,
6 that formalizes the working relationship of the two managing
7 agencies. And application nomination process, Coordinator
8 Andrew presented the application nomination process to the
9 Council and the listening audience. And the Staff concerns,
10 there were no Staff concerns at the present time.

11

12 Number 12, Secretary George report. Council secretary
13 gave a report on the joint Board and Chairs meeting and the
14 Bristol Bay meeting. And at the time the Council moved to
15 accept his report and the vote was unanimous in favor. And the
16 Kwethluk Joint Group presented two resolutions, 97-02-01,
17 upholding the leg hold trap on National Wildlife Refuge; and
18 two, 97-02-02 pertaining to moose calf predation. Both
19 resolutions were supported by the Council.

20

21 A motion was made by David O. David and seconded by
22 White. All eyes in unison. Meeting adjourned at 2:06. p.m.
23 That's the end of the summary of the meeting on February 5 and
24 6 in Bethel.

25

26 (Interpreter Hunt interjecting) There is confusion as
27 to whether the Hooper Bay meeting was held October 1 and 2,
28 1996 or 1997. John Andrew is making the correction, saying
29 that the meeting on February 5 and 6 was in Bethel, and October
30 1 and 2, 1997, was at Hooper Bay. David O. David says that
31 October 1 and 2 should be 1996. They're still confused as to
32 whether the Hooper Bay meeting was in 1996 or October 1 and 2,
33 1997. He lost a year somewhere.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Let's do it this way, let's approve
36 these minutes he just finished with so we can take care of the
37 rest of them.

38

39 MR. DAVID: Mr. Chairman, I would move with the
40 corrections.

41

42 INTERPRETER HUNT: (Chairman Wilde) John Andrew has
43 read the summary. We need to have somebody make a motion to
44 accept the summary of February 5 and 6, 1997 as read by John
45 Andrew. David O. David motioned to approve it. Seconded by
46 John Thompson. Is there any discussion? Question called.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question's been called for. All
49 who in favor say aye.

50

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1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed same sign.

4

5 (No opposing responses)

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried.

8

9 (Interpreter Hunt interjecting) There is another
10 confusion as to the -- Johnny Thompson thought that there was a
11 main motion, but there wasn't any.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The summary is just pass. We just
14 correct the year instead of 1998, it should be 1997. We just
15 correct that.

16

17 INTERPRETER HUNT: (Chairman Wilde) The next meeting
18 minute summary is of October 1 and 2, 1997, at Hooper Bay.

19

20 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (John Andrew) Present members
21 were Harry Wilde, Paul John, Fritz George, Paul Manumik,
22 Ilarion Nicolai, David O. David, Billy McCann, James Charles,
23 John Thompson, Lester Wilde. Excused, Steven White. Taylor
24 Brelsford, Pat McClenahan, Dave Fisher, John Andrew, Jerry Berg
25 were present. Yukon Delta Refuge, Mike Rearden, Steve Kovach,
26 Chuck Hunt, Leo Moses. ADF&G, Tom Kron, Mike Coffing and Dan
27 Bergstrom. There was also about 20-25 members of the public
28 from Hooper Bay and Chevak present throughout the meeting.

29

30 Public radio broadcast portions of the meeting on KYUK,
31 and the Chevak affiliate station KCUK. And roll call was made
32 by Secretary George and all members were present except Steven
33 White. A quorum was present for the meeting. Regional Council
34 reviewed the agenda, motion was made by David O. David to adopt
35 the agenda, seconded by James Charles. Motion passed with
36 unanimous vote.

37

38 Review of the minutes were October 2 and 3, 1996, and
39 February 5 and 6 meeting in Bethel were read aloud in Yup'ik.
40 Motion to adopt October 2 and 3 minutes by David O. David,
41 seconded by Paul John and passed by unanimous vote. Motion
42 request to have only the main points of the highlights of each
43 of the meetings at the February 5 and 6 minutes. Motion by
44 Lester Wilde, seconded by David O. David and passed by
45 unanimous vote.

46

47 There was an election of office. Office of Chair
48 nominations were Harry Wilde, David O. David. The secret
49 ballot vote confirmed Harry Wilde as Chair with a seven to
50 three vote. Office of Vice-Chair, nominated was Paul John with

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1 a unanimous vote in favor. Office of secretary, nominated was
2 Fritz George with a unanimous vote in favor. Office of
3 sergeant-at-arms, nominated were Paul Manumik and Lester Wilde.
4 The secret ballot confirming Paul Manumik in a six to four
5 vote.

6
7 Public testimony was given on many subsistence related
8 issues by residents of Hooper Bay, Chevak and Quinhagak. There
9 was a lot of discussion on the issue of the RFR for caribou in
10 Unit 22(A). The Regional Council and other residents of the
11 region wanted to know why the State should or would request the
12 RFR, and testimony was given by elders from the region.
13 Federal fisheries and the possible expansion of the Federal
14 Subsistence Program also was presented by Taylor Brelsford,
15 with questions and discussion by the Regional Council members.

16
17 The Regional Council made a motion to submit proposals
18 which request positive c&t determinations for six villages at
19 Chefnak, Nightmute, Toksook Bay, Tununak, Newtok and Kipnuk
20 for moose, caribou and deer. The motion was made by Harry
21 Wilde, seconded by John Thompson and the Council passed it by
22 unanimous vote. Harry Wilde encouraged all the villages to get
23 together before the proposal deadline to get any proposed
24 changes to the Federal Office of Subsistence Management. He
25 reminded everyone that the deadline is October 24, 1997.

26
27 Mike Rearden, Refuge Manager for the Yukon-Delta
28 National provided an update on the water fowl populations on
29 the Delta, with specific reference to spectacled eiders,
30 emperor geese and Canada geese. Chuck Hunt provided an update
31 on the Refuge's efforts in villages to educate people on the
32 benefits of using steel shot. Steve Kovach provided an update
33 on Kilbuck caribou herd status and the brown bear collaring
34 project. Handouts were made available on the most recent
35 caribou surveys and the brown bear collaring project.

36
37 The Refuge invited all Regional Council members to
38 participate in caribou survey counts in the future and that
39 they should contact the Refuge Office in Bethel if interested.
40 The Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, Dave Fisher, presented
41 information on walrus haul-out numbers, Cape Pearce, Cape
42 Newenham and Round Island. An unusual number of dead sea birds
43 along the coast, moose and caribou population status and the
44 status of Refuge Public Use Management Plan.

45
46 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Mike Coffing,
47 reported that the Subsistence Division is adding to their
48 database of salmon harvest information for villages from Lime
49 Village downstream to the mouth of the Kuskokwim River.
50 Household surveys will be conducted in the coming months.

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1 There will be a Board of Game meeting in Nome on October 24-25,
2 1997, and in Bethel, January 17th. The Board of Fish will meet
3 in Fairbanks the week of December 2 to 9, 1997.

4
5 Dan Bergstrom presented information on commercial
6 fisheries on the Yukon River entering fishery and using mouth
7 of the river and provided a summary of the Governor's Task
8 Force Plan. Tom Kron provided an update on how the
9 US/Canada/Yukon Salmon Working Group are progressing. He
10 stated that 50 percent of the chinook salmon migrating up the
11 Yukon River spawn in Canada, which is reason enough to work
12 closely with the Canadians to conserve those fish stocks.

13
14 And then on the restructuring of the Federal
15 Subsistence Board presentation, an issue was provided by Taylor
16 Brelsford with many comments and much discussion amongst the
17 Council members. These comments were recorded and will be
18 typed up at a later date. The Regional Council did pass a
19 resolution to adopt Option 2 plus 1, Subsistence User, by
20 unanimous vote.

21
22 Memorandum of Agreement with the State and Federal
23 Office of Subsistence Management. A presentation of the issue
24 was provided by Taylor Brelsford, with many comments and much
25 discussion among the Council members. These comments were also
26 recorded to be typed up at a later date.

27
28 And revised training material, Secretary George
29 provided a summary of the work session he had in Anchorage to
30 work on the draft revisions. A draft manual and overview
31 booklet of the Federal program was sent to all Regional Council
32 members for their review and comments. An evaluation form was
33 sent out along with the materials to be filled out and returned
34 to the Anchorage office. A motion was made by David O. David
35 to have a one day workshop for all the Council members
36 regarding these new materials today before the next meeting.
37 The motion passed by unanimous vote.

38
39 The c&t backlog count for the Yukon-Kuskokwim region
40 was presented by Pat McClenahan. Charter renewal issues were
41 discussed by John Andrew. A motion was made to adopt the
42 charter as it is without changes. Proposed regulatory year
43 change to Regional Councils members because they were already
44 quite busy with other Councils around the region. A motion was
45 made by Lester Wilde to keep the same dates for meetings as
46 they had been in the past, which are the first week in October
47 for the fall meeting, and the first week in February for the
48 winter meeting. The motion passed by unanimous decision.

49
50 The Regional Council wanted to address their continued

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1 frustration with their travel to and from these meetings.
2 Their main concerns is that their airline tickets are usually
3 not at a ticket counter for them to pick up when they travel.
4 They suggest sending the tickets to the airline office in
5 Bethel in advance. Some have had to pay for their own tickets
6 out of their own pocket in order to get home after the meeting.
7 They also made a request to have some sort of compensation for
8 Council members who are hosting the meeting that's in their
9 village.

10
11 Other suggestions were to charter a plane to pick up
12 Council members, rather than have them flying to Bethel. A
13 motion was made by Harry Wilde to have Office of Subsistence
14 Management and Staff look into these problems and have them
15 fixed prior to the next meeting. The motion passed by
16 unanimous vote.

17
18 Motion was made by David O. David to adjourn the
19 meeting, was seconded by Ilarion Nicolai, motion passed
20 unanimous, meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

21
22 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) You have heard
23 the summaries of that meeting. If you don't have any problems
24 with it, somebody make a motion?

25
26 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Johnny Thompson) On the agenda
27 item and the problems with travel, and he's wondering if that
28 has been straightened out yet? Yesterday there was a workshop
29 yesterday they were going to work on it to straighten out, but
30 most of the Council members were not there, but it didn't
31 happen because there was hardly anybody. But later on. Can't
32 work on it at the present time, and then maybe later in the
33 future the Council can get together and come up with some
34 resolution to the problem of travel. It's because the way we
35 live at the present time it's getting more and more expensive.
36 And we have had this problem for a long time. I have always
37 been working with these types of things for the last six years
38 and this continues to be a problem for Board members.

39
40 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) Yeah, John, we
41 were suppose to have a workshop yesterday before the meeting
42 started, just to discuss problems with travel and any other
43 problems that the Council members may have and see if they
44 could be resolved, and air transportation. And when we try to
45 establish a quorum, that's always a problem for setting up
46 quorums before a meeting. Let me look at myself, yesterday at
47 9:30 I headed over this way and we couldn't reach Bethel. Just
48 before we reached Bethel, they brought me back to Saint Mary's.
49 And then I stayed at Saint Mary's and the weather was really
50 good over at Saint Mary's, with sun shining. And there was not

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1 a cloud in the sky.

2

3 At around 6:00 o'clock the pilot manager told me you
4 have been standing by, you are on standby tomorrow morning
5 because you don't have any confirmed reservations for tomorrow.
6 He said that he had been trying to get over to Bethel and they
7 didn't put me on the first one, but they put me on standby.
8 And all of those things seems to be problems even when we try
9 not to get ourselves into those types of situations. And if we
10 have workshop, we can sit down and discuss these and see if we
11 can come up with solutions. And that would be with only the
12 Council members. And then we can work at it.

13

14 And this last one is just a summary and the other
15 thicker paper is the minutes of the meeting. And if anybody
16 wants to read those, they can read them. And the other ones
17 just highlight the previous meetings.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I would like to ask the Council if
20 it's okay with this or not, someone should make a motion
21 accept.

22

23 INTERPRETER HUNT: (James Charles) Mr. Chairman, I
24 make a motion to accept the October 1 and 2 meeting summary
25 minutes. And to accept them the way they are.

26

27 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) James Charles
28 has made a motion to accept the meeting summary minutes as they
29 are.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by John Thompson. Any
32 discussion?

33

34 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Question.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called for. All in
37 favor say aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed?

42

43 (No opposing responses)

44

45 INTERPRETER HUNT: (Chairman Wilde) Motion carried,
46 passed on the October 1 and 2, 1997, meeting summary minutes.
47 There is no further discussion on any minutes. We have
48 completed all the minutes, that has been tabled. And we're
49 going on to number 6, which is open the floor to public
50 comments on the Federal Subsistence Management Program.

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1 Anybody that wants to make testimony must fill out that little
2 form that Taylor Brelsford is holding.

3
4 And now the floor is open for anyone to testify on the
5 Subsistence Management Program. And those people that are at
6 the table will be able to help anyone that needs help to fill
7 out any of these testimony forms. I would like to take a break
8 before any of the testimony start.

9
10 (Off record)

11
12 (On record)

13
14 (Interpreter Hunt interjecting) He (Chairman Wilde)
15 would like to have Joe Lomack be the first to testify. And he
16 said that if anybody was going to make their presentation,
17 before their testimony make sure they say their name and where
18 they are from.

19
20 TESTIMONY OF JOE LOMACK
21 (Translated by Interpreter Hunt)

22
23 His name is Joe Lomack, from Akiachak. From the time
24 that I was 10 years old, I used to go out hunting. My father
25 used to tell me the -- and the Federal government used to open
26 and close hunting seasons. And some of the things that I know.
27 And just before summer migratory birds arrive. And these are
28 what we use to survive on. And then muskrat hunting arrives.
29 And that they are opened at that time. And looking at all of
30 these, they used to tell us and those animals, birds and fish,
31 to be careful of how we take them.

32
33 And then when the summer arrives, when we come home
34 from all of our hunting for muskrats, then we start with our
35 fishing. They used to tell us that the Being of the Universe
36 had put us on this land to make certain that we survive from
37 the land, the animals and the birds and the fish. And to make
38 sure that we know all of these areas where the fish occur. And
39 then when fall time arrive, and then we'd go hunting for
40 subsistence purposes. And at that time they used to take care
41 of our reindeer and castrate -- and at that time they used to
42 take and they used to make sure that they were taken and they
43 used to make sure that when the reindeer went on rut, any they
44 used to make sure that they don't take those bulls because they
45 didn't smell too good at that time.

46
47 And they used to smell really bad, the whole body, the
48 whole meat. And then when it's time to go hunting, it used to
49 be opened on November 15 for fur trapping. And they used to
50 remain open. And then when they get their fur they used to go

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1 trading the furs for groceries. And they used all of this in
2 order for subsistence hunting and fishing. And there used to
3 be people that could not go hunting and fishing and these
4 people used to be given reindeer.

5
6 And when I go hunting for caribou, they don't even know
7 which ones are fat. And we can tell the animals, when they are
8 fat, because they're nice and round. But I used to hear long
9 ago all of these things. But I just want to let everybody know
10 what I was taught. In the summertime they used to set traps in
11 order to get fish. And then when it's time they take those
12 traps off. And then in the fall time they set traps for fish
13 or ling cod and then they do the same thing and get whitefish
14 and then they distribute them to people in the village. And
15 there used to be nobody wasting anything.

16
17 And then the bones, they don't used to spread them out
18 all over the place, but make sure that they were disposed of
19 properly. And all of these things that were left to make sure
20 that as long as you live you will be subsistence hunting and
21 fishing. And the only time that you will stop is when you die.
22 But even if you get old you would continue to eat these foods
23 from the land. Well, at the present time things are getting
24 shorter and shorter or less and less. And at those times
25 people have problems finding food for themselves.

26
27 Then it was told that whenever a person wanted to clean
28 their system, a lot of times most of the food that they ate was
29 vegetation to make sure they clean out their insides. And I
30 haven't forgotten any of these things that I have been taught.
31 As you really go out to subsistence hunting fish that you will
32 have a real good healthy body because you are taking these
33 foods from the animal. And to make sure that you share these
34 with other people. It is said that if he's out there in the
35 wilderness, that he would be able to be successful in hunting
36 and fishing. I was just trying to tell people here even there
37 is very little, it has always been said that if people argue
38 and disagree about the natural resources, that they were going
39 to slowly diminish.

40
41 Many years ago when all of these animals and birds and
42 fish were taken and not wasted, that there was plenty of them.
43 But now there is hardly any of these animals and birds and fish
44 available because a lot of people hardly ever use them. And
45 now they're saying long time ago -- right now we have a lot of
46 snow and when it melt, well how is it going to be in the
47 summertime? A lot of these things are diminishing because
48 people are arguing about them. And when I think about what we
49 are saying that no one is going to stop us from subsistence
50 hunting and fishing. And thank you very much for listening to

00014

1 me.

2

3 INTERPRETER HUNT: This is Phillip Guy from Kwethluk.

4

5 TESTIMONY OF PHILLIP GUY

6 (Translated by Interpreter Hunt)

7

8 Thank you Mr. Chairman. My name is Phillip Guy from
9 Kwethluk. I am thankful for having listened to Joe Lomack and
10 for some of the things that I am going to say. He is referring
11 to number 6, comments on the Federal Subsistence Management
12 Program. At this time it seems like we are getting more and
13 more quiet about resources, even though once in a while we talk
14 about these problems. And I see that the Federal subsistence
15 management is working in such a way that they are establishing
16 rules and regulations and respecting the subsistence hunting
17 and fishing ways of the Yup'ik people.

18

19 And when it's time to go hunting for these animals
20 which our fishing coincides with what the traditional
21 traditions of Native people. In Kwethluk we have the IRA and
22 the City Council, including the Village Corporation and we
23 participate in these things in looking at the problems that we
24 have on the subsistence resource. And a lot of those are not
25 written up in the customary and traditional use. And we have
26 some problems with these on the Yukon-Kuskokwim and the coastal
27 areas as we would like to make sure that they are included in
28 the determination of customary and traditional use.

29

30 There seems to be some satisfaction, overall
31 satisfaction with the Federal Subsistence Management
32 Regulations for the reason that the regulations seems to have
33 been adaptive to our customary and traditional way of living.

34

35 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the
36 time to speak, although it is a little short. I wanted to say
37 these things and I want to make sure that those others that
38 have to save something have the time to say it.

39

40 TESTIMONY OF BILLY McCANN

41 (Translated by Interpreter Hunt)

42

43 This is Billy McCann from Bethel, Alaska. And looking
44 at this hunting and fishing, when I think about it how about
45 human rights? They call this human rights and these are ours
46 when we think about it. And they know what it is, they call it
47 subsistence, but they don't know the definition of it because
48 they have never use it. And we can see they see it as being
49 money. But when we look at subsistence it's something that we
50 do and it was part of our life to subsistence because a lot of

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1 times it was very difficult to practice that.

2

3 I think it is time for those people that knows how to
4 write it, to write it out so that people that don't know about
5 subsistence will be able to understand it. All of the land was
6 for the purpose of hunting and fishing for subsistence. All of
7 the land was used for subsistence purposes. And it is not
8 something that is easy to do. And when people don't go after a
9 certain species of animals, birds or fish they usually
10 diminish. And there used to be a lot of muskrats in the spring
11 time, used to have a lot of muskrats don't smell so bad. And
12 at the present time there are no more muskrats, we can't go
13 after them any more.

14

15 And when people argue about natural resources, it makes
16 the resources usually diminish. Looking at the reindeer, they
17 used to pass through here and in the Nunapitchuk area, and the
18 corral used to be full of reindeer. And the people that used
19 to take care of them argued about it. And we used to take
20 their hides and waste them and just lay them out all over the
21 place. If there were so many of them, sometimes they would
22 take and kill them and leave the whole carcass. And the person
23 that takes care us, he took it all away, within two years there
24 were no more reindeer. And all of these wolves from I don't
25 know where came around and would kill them, even though there
26 were herders protecting them. And I think that why all of
27 these wolves were brought to us, so that we would get a better
28 understanding of how to take care of them.

29

30 And when I think that non-Native people don't have any
31 understanding of what subsistence is and sometimes I don't
32 understand them either. They don't understand because they've
33 never practiced subsistence. Somehow we've got to explain
34 them, let them understand exactly what it is. And look at it
35 and write it down so that other people can understand what
36 subsistence is. So that those people that know how to write,
37 some of us have college degrees, they should be able to
38 (indiscernible) on it.

39

40 I feel that the people hadn't closed subsistence, but
41 people were not using the animals, the birds and the fish to
42 continue to feed themselves. He's talking about the 200 mile
43 zone fisheries. And there's a lot of waste going on. And they
44 are in the spawning area. The high seas fisheries are the ones
45 that should have limits or close first. That's why we should
46 make sure that we understand those things. If I made a mistake
47 in speaking these things, you can go ahead and correct me.

48

49 TESTIMONY OF NICK LUPIE
50 (Translated by Interpreter Hunt)

00016

1 My name is Nick Lupie, I am from the Village of
2 Tuntutuliak. I'm going to talk about things that I understand.
3 The first person that talked about things that he talk about
4 were things that would we believe be true. Around 1910, in the
5 spring time, there used to be thousands of birds when I used to
6 go out hunting with bow and arrow. Well I believe that the
7 person, Being of the Universe took care of us at that time.

8
9 Most of the things that the persons from Akiachak, you
10 said all those things, made me understand. There are people
11 that have gone out subsistence hunting and fishing, and talk
12 about their grandsons. We was talking about those things many,
13 many years ago, that sometimes they had difficult times, that
14 they even practiced cannibalism, when a newborn is born, that
15 they used to have to survive that way. And if a person is very
16 hungry, and if there isn't any food, sometimes when a person
17 hunts and gets an animal, a lot of times another person would
18 go over there and kill that person just to get at the food.

19
20 Many years ago we used to be taught how to go hunting
21 for birds and we did at that time go out with bows and arrows,
22 and to make sure that we don't waste anything. And our parents
23 used to teach us to make sure that we don't waste anything.
24 And we make sure we take the feathers off the necks and the
25 heads and the wings and eat those parts too.

26
27 Whenever we have meetings like this I want to make sure
28 that I say the right thing so that people will understand how
29 our Native people live and to make sure that we're talking
30 about our way of taking food, subsistence hunting and fishing.
31 And Billy McCann talked about reindeer. And he was also
32 talking about what happened to the reindeer because people were
33 arguing about them. And that's what happened for those people,
34 they made the (indiscernible). No one understand that that's
35 what happened.

36
37 And people are talking about how the weather is going
38 to change for the worst and that this is what I used to hear.
39 And those people that are up right around the Kuskokwim almost
40 hauled away. And then there's going to be animals, they say
41 that it starts from up there, all of the animals are going to
42 diminish and start from way up there and end up down along the
43 coast before they start diminishing and disappear.

44
45 And I used to see when that happened. There used to be
46 no beavers around, but there is now beavers all the way to the
47 coast. And what people used to say about those things, I
48 finally understand it. And these people that are working on
49 these things are trying to manage it in such a way that their
50 subsistence way of life is protected.

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1 And he used to see airplanes going back and forth,
2 checking on the Native people hunting. And that's when people
3 started becoming scared and having meetings. But this is what
4 I used to hear, that the Being of the Universe, that all of
5 these natural resources are given to us. But to take care of
6 them, but not argue about them. And I think that this is true
7 and today and those animals, birds and fish that we don't go
8 hunting for anymore, they're gone. The muskrats and the
9 snowshoe hare are gone also. And some of these other animals,
10 birds and fish are also gone.

11
12 And some of these other animals, birds and fish, even
13 though they're still are out there, populations are also
14 diminishing. Long time ago when I became aware, the birds used
15 to arrive and we used to go hunting for them, when they laid
16 eggs we were gathering for eggs and nobody told us anything
17 about whether to take them or not. And then when it's time to
18 go salmon fishing we would move to our fish camps.

19
20 And Billy McCann also said when I was a young man, when
21 we used to go swimming and when the tide is coming in when we
22 go swimming, we could feel them bumping around our legs, there
23 were so many salmon at that time. And sometimes they would say
24 that in another couple of years there will be lot of fish. And
25 we used to hear all those things from around that time, and
26 that they used to take quite a bit of fish from Bristol Bay or
27 in that area. And now we don't have enough fish in the
28 Kuskokwim.

29
30 TESTIMONY OF MOSES STRAUSS, SR.
31 (Translated by Interpreter Hunt)

32
33 Moses Strauss from Kongiganak. Those things about
34 subsistence and all they're talking about, whenever they talk
35 about subsistence and what I think about is our table at home.
36 And our kids, from the time that they were small, I have always
37 worked hard to make sure that they have food on the table to
38 this present day.

39
40 There is subsistence and we've always been using it
41 from the time that we were small, to the time we got married,
42 to the time we got kids. And we know, all of us know. And our
43 wives, if they don't have any food to be put on the table, she
44 is not going to be very happy. If there are no food on the
45 table, people are not going to be very happy. When I look at
46 subsistence that's the way I think. This subsistence way of
47 life has been talked about many times, but we're talking about
48 food from the land. We're not talking about food from the
49 stores.

50

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1 But I'm sure that some of the other people think about
2 going to the store, but for most of us when we are talking
3 about subsistence here in the Kuskokwim and the Yukon, we are
4 talking about food from the land, from the wilderness. Our
5 ancestors knew where the subsistence resources are available.
6 They know if there is fish in the rivers and sloughs, that's
7 the way they used to be. And they know because that's the way
8 they went after their food. But the non-Native people don't
9 understand subsistence, it's been many years now and they don't
10 have any understanding of its meaning.

11
12 We have been trying to make them understand about what
13 subsistence is from how we do our subsistence hunting and
14 fishing activities. But when we are going out hunting and
15 fishing that's our store. Most other people, when they want
16 food they go out to the stores and get their food. The Council
17 know and understand these things. And furthermore, the Federal
18 subsistence management, I feel that subsistence has been making
19 it easier for us to go hunting and fishing, but the State has
20 made it much more difficult for us to do that. And the non-
21 Natives and many times people try to change but like I, I'm a
22 Yup'ik person, I cannot change to be something else. And what
23 they're trying to do is make things even for everybody, but it
24 doesn't work that way in the way that we go subsistence hunting
25 and fishing. And so there is a difference and there needs to
26 be a recognition of that difference.

27
28 People will go subsistence hunting and fishing, that's
29 not going to end. No matter how many rules and regulations are
30 established, if people want food they're going to go hunting
31 and fishing no matter what the regulations say. And it is
32 something that people have -- if a person is hungry, they're
33 going to go out and get food for their families. And people
34 have been uncomfortable that some of these subsistence
35 resources might be closed. And it is kind of uncomfortable
36 that there might be violence because of closure of subsistence
37 resources.

38
39 See, these are some of the concerns that I have and I
40 thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to testify.

41
42 TESTIMONY OF OSCAR NICK
43 (Translated by Interpreter Hunt)

44
45 My name is Oscar Nick and I am from the Village of
46 Atmautluak. We used to be all by ourselves and we didn't have
47 any neighbors, anybody to help us in case of help. And in five
48 years nobody has come in to see me or no one has come in to
49 visit me. And I know it was difficult at that time, but today
50 it's much more easier.

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1 And I moved there because I wanted to go subsistence
2 hunting and fishing. I had very difficult time and I was alone
3 at that time. But I didn't have any problems with getting
4 food. I moved from Nunapitchuk at that time and I was very
5 happy about it. Before I moved from there, at that time that
6 they were really watching bird hunting. And I was out getting
7 firewood and the plane landed and they took what little birds
8 that we had and took their shotgun away. This is not very
9 good. I can't go out there and do that to other people because
10 that is not our rule.

11
12 There should be some regulation saying they should not
13 be doing that because we don't do that to them. And he told
14 the people that those people that were in the plane took the
15 food that he got from out there to his family. And people,
16 they had come up to pick him up and take him away and he was
17 wondering who is going to take care of his family. And when
18 non-Native people arrive in our village, whenever I think about
19 how they may be hungry, so I often led them to my house to have
20 some coffee and some bread. They cannot understand what
21 subsistence means.

22
23 And there was somebody that came into their village
24 telling him that this person is going to tell them all about
25 their subsistence hunting and fishing. And he couldn't
26 understand how this person had known about subsistence hunting
27 and fishing when they have never practiced it. And if you want
28 to learn how we go hunting and fishing and learn about
29 subsistence, why don't you come to our village and be like we
30 are without a job, but to go hunting and fishing, then you will
31 learn about subsistence hunting and fishing.

32
33 We always try to make sure that even though they're
34 non-Native, too make sure that they are welcome at our house or
35 at our village, even though they don't understand.

36
37 TESTIMONY OF MYRON NANING, SR.
38 (Translated by Charles Hunt)

39
40 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and all of the
41 people that are in the Regional Council. Looking at the
42 agenda, I was going to talk tomorrow, and there are going to be
43 other reports that are going to be, but I just want to make
44 sure that people know and understand what AVCP is working on.

45
46 And those that are reporting will have an understanding
47 of Federal and State agencies. The ones that are working on
48 fisheries, in January when they had the meeting with the Board
49 of Fish looking at the area, talking about the chum salmon, and
50 they had taken their quota and made it less than it was before

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1 back in 1997 and the Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay and the people
2 didn't get very much at that time. And they wanted to close
3 fisheries on the Kuskokwim and for subsistence fishing, but all
4 of these people fought that and to make sure that it remain
5 open in 1993. And they talk about that all the way from here
6 to the Yukon River. And they want to make sure. There were
7 not very much chums at that time.

8
9 And during this week they're having a meeting in Nome.
10 And they have been closed in that area for chum since the
11 1990s. From that time they haven't been able to go subsistence
12 fishing for chums. And if everybody work on this, and those
13 people in Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay and Chevak, and those
14 villages on the mouth of the Yukon River, and they're thinking
15 about lessening than their catches. And they'll be talking
16 about that. And just to make sure that all of those fish that
17 are going to the Nome area are able to go there.

18
19 And the Board of Fish in their January meeting were
20 looking at the Nome area fisheries. And they were looking at
21 that and made a decision to lessen the quota down in the Area M
22 area. At this time that they are meeting, all these people
23 from Hooper Bay, Chevak, Scammon have gone to attend that
24 meeting. And now he's talking about the Migratory Bird Treaty
25 that was ratified by Senate and that the Native people will be
26 able to take migratory birds during the closed season. And he
27 has been involved in that. But the Fish and Wildlife Service
28 will be working under the National Environmental Policy Act.

29
30 And he was thinking that people might be filling out
31 all kinds of papers just to be able to take birds in the spring
32 time. And then the National Petroleum Reserve Number 4, those
33 people that are looking for petroleum, the BLM is working at
34 this time to make a lease sale in the Tuskus Lake area. The
35 environmental impact statement is the last thing that they will
36 do March 12th. Those people north of us they want us to
37 support that to make sure that they are trying to support them
38 to stop that because brandt to their molting in that lake up in
39 the North Slope area. And we need to work together so that
40 they wouldn't be able to take any of this oil, do any oil
41 exploration in that area.

42
43 And in the Aleutians, from King Cove to Cold Bay, they
44 are planning to make a road. It's not very long, it's only 20-
45 30 miles long. In the fall and in the spring time the
46 migratory birds usually stop around there to stop in that area.
47 And if they make a road in that are, and it's going to be
48 affecting those birds that we use for subsistence purposes,
49 especially cackling Canada geese and black brandt. Those
50 people are saying that they want to support the establishment

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1 of that road because they say that their air field is too
2 small.

3
4 We are not in support of that road and if they want to
5 make a hospital or a clinic, other than that road, we are in
6 support of that. But we don't want anybody to go over there to
7 make any development that will have any affect on the resting
8 and feeding place for these birds. And we had a meeting in
9 Portland, we were talking with the farmers. They said that the
10 cackling Canada geese in the Columbia River and Willamette
11 Valley are causing degradation on their crops and they do that,
12 really destroy their crops in April just before they migrate up
13 north.

14
15 And we have invited the farmers to come up here and to
16 make sure that they see our Native people and how they rely on
17 subsistence hunting and fishing. And we want to make sure that
18 we are treated equal so that when we're working on the
19 amendment or implementation of the regulations, we want to make
20 sure that we are treated equal in making decisions on the
21 subsistence. They don't want to change the portion of ANILCA
22 so that it will be protected. And the only thing that they
23 want to do is make changes to the Constitution. And that will
24 be up for a vote pretty soon.

25
26 Representative Scott Ogan is opposing to the
27 subsistence -- the Constitution of the United States and does
28 not recognize the rights of Native people to go hunting and
29 fishing. And want to make sure that everybody understand that.
30 But that his proposal is thinking that is not going to become
31 reality, but we need to be very aware of it. And it's going to
32 go through the process. By the end of this month we'll be
33 working on the legislative proposals on this change. We have
34 been talking with Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife Service
35 about co-management so that our people will have equal
36 decisions on management of all natural resources for
37 subsistence purposes. And these sort of things that AVCP has
38 been working on.

39
40 I thought that those Federal and State agencies making
41 their report would not be making any mention of these things
42 that we have been working on. And that's all I have to say,
43 Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

44
45 TESTIMONY OF JOSHUA CLEVELAND
46 (Interpreted by Charles Hunt)

47
48 My name is Joshua Cleveland from Quinhagak. My home is
49 not exactly from the Yukon-Delta, but with the Togiak National
50 Wildlife Refuge. I want to come here and attend the meeting on

00022

1 my own. All of the things that everybody has said already, I
2 want to make sure that I let the Council know that the refuge
3 lands, especially on the rivers and we want to make sure that
4 we have some type of co-management on these rivers.

5
6 Now he's talking about refuge lands and how these are
7 under management of rivers within the village areas and talking
8 about the regulations for those rivers.

9
10 (Interpreter Hunt interjecting) I can't understand what
11 he's talking about, not that I don't understand Yup'ik, it's
12 just that I can't understand what he's talking about).

13
14 Basically what he's talking about is management of the
15 river and that the village of Quinhagak would like to have some
16 sort of co-management with the Fish and Wildlife Service so
17 that all of the subsistence hunting and fishing activities will
18 be protected. And any other activities that may be going on
19 within the Quinhagak or its tributaries. This is especially a
20 problem in the summertime where there is a lot of other
21 activities with fishing. And he's talking about sometimes
22 because there's so many people over there, that that could
23 cause some problems with the people in Quinhagak. And this is
24 happening up river from Quinhagak from these people that are
25 doing their fishing activities up river from that village.

26
27 I do have a report here that support what I'm
28 testifying to. And he says that in the winter time the water
29 is very healthy, but as soon as it starts to melt and the
30 people start coming into that area, then there appears to be
31 pollution increase as the summer comes on. And the people too
32 told me to make sure that this information is passed on to
33 people. And if the Federal regulations and State regulations
34 say that if I'm going to drink this water from the river, then
35 it should be pure water and not contaminated.

36
37 He says with the test the way it is, if it reaches a
38 certain point, then all these kids that are going out there
39 swimming in that water have to be watched or stopped so that
40 they wouldn't get any diseases. What we have them doing is
41 taking samples from the river and have them test it for
42 contaminants. He's talking about the test they had made in the
43 river, not only in Quinhagak but also in Togiak and the graph
44 shows the different times or different degrees of contamination
45 in the water. And most of that has been caused by people doing
46 camping and fishing activities up river from the village.

47
48 Starting from 1997 these tests have been occur. And
49 way back there the contamination was pretty low. And in about
50 10 years, starting from 1980 and to the present day, the tests

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1 have shown that the contamination has risen very high. And
2 looking at these tests and reports, it will be very thankful to
3 make sure that we would like to have some support and come up
4 with some type of policy or rule. And to help out in stopping
5 this contamination. And we're having some problems because
6 there has not been anything done or established to come up with
7 policies and rules.

8
9 Billy McCann is asking him what chemicals? And he's
10 saying that most of the contamination is from sewage, human
11 feces and urine.

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you very much, Joshua. I want
14 to thank you guys very much. And we will call again any of the
15 names and we will also have a public meeting at 7:00 o'clock
16 tonight and the public will be able to testify at that time at
17 7:00 o'clock. At the present time we want to make sure that
18 the Council goes over to set up their hotel places. And they
19 haven't been given any stipend or anything like that. I want
20 to have a recess at this time and come back to this meeting at
21 7:00 o'clock tonight. And so ordered.

22
23 (Off record - recessed until 7:00 o'clock tonight)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
8 State of Alaska and Reporter and Owner of Computer Matrix, do
9 hereby certify:

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 23 contain
12 a full, true and correct Transcript of the Yukon-Kuskokwim
13 Delta Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council,
14 Volume I, meeting taken electronically by Annalisa DeLozier on
15 the 3rd day of March, 1998, beginning at the hour of 1:00
16 o'clock p.m. at the KVNA Building, Bethel, Alaska;

17
18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
19 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by Mary
20 E. Miller to the best of her knowledge and ability;

21
22 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
23 interested in any way in this action.

24
25 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 13th day of March,
26 1998.

27
28
29
30
31
32
33

JOSEPH P. KOLASINSKI
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 04/17/00