

00001

1 YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL  
2 SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
3 VOLUME I  
4 October 12, 1999  
5 School Gym  
6 Quinhagak, Alaska  
7

8 Members Present:

- 9  
10 Mr. Harry O. Wilde, Sr., Chairman  
11 Mr. Robert Nick, Co-Chair  
12 Mr. Fritz L. George, Secretary  
13 Mrs. Mary Gregory  
14 Mr. Willard Church  
15 Mr. James Charles  
16 Mr. Billy McCann  
17 Mr. Johnny B. Thompson  
18 Mr. Lester Wilde  
19 Mr. John Hanson, Sr.,  
20 Mr. Phillip Moses  
21 Mr. Alvin Oweltuck, Sr., Alternate Yukon Member  
22 Mr. Thadius Tikiun, Alternate Kuskokwim Member  
23  
24 Mr. John Andrew, Coordinator

00002

P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

(On record)

CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: It's about 7:00 o'clock,  
the meeting has just been called to order.

CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Meeting called to order,  
request roll call, Secretary George.

MR. GEORGE: Harry Wilde.

CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah.

MR. GEORGE: James Charles.

MR. CHARLES: Here.

MR. GEORGE: John Hanson.

MR. HANSON: Here.

MR. GEORGE: Mary Gregory.

MS. GREGORY: Here.

MR. GEORGE: Willard Church.

MR. CHURCH: Here.

MR. GEORGE: Billy McCann.

MR. McCANN: Yeah.

MR. GEORGE: Robert Nick.

MR. R. NICK: Here.

MR. GEORGE: Johnny Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Here.

MR. GEORGE: Phillip Moses.

MR. MOSES: Here.

MR. GEORGE: Lester Wilde.

MR. L. WILDE: Here.

00003

1 MR. GEORGE: Alvin Oweltuck.

2  
3 MR OWELTUCK: Here.

4  
5 MR. GEORGE: Thadius Tikiun.

6  
7 MR. TIKIUN: Here.

8  
9 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, all the Board  
10 members are present at this time.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, quyana, Secretary  
13 George.

14  
15 Alvin Oweltuck will now give the benediction.

16  
17 MR OWELTUCK: (In Yup'ik)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay, quyana.

20  
21 MR OWELTUCK: (Prayer in Yup'ik)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: At this time I'd like to  
24 introduce the Advisory Council, who they are and where  
25 they're from. I will start with Mrs. Mary Gregory, new  
26 member, Bethel, Alaska.

27  
28 MS. GREGORY: Mary Gregory from Bethel, it's  
29 been quite a while, for about two years she was making  
30 attempt to join the Subsistence Advisory Council. Since the  
31 subsistence from the land and waters, and so we are alike.  
32 I'd like to be instrumental in bringing about issues. And  
33 she been subsisting in Bethel for 44 years and she from  
34 (indiscernible) and she was growing up across from, where she  
35 was born. And she's interested in identifying these things.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Mr. Phillip Moses, new  
38 member, Toksook Bay, Alaska.

39  
40 MR. MOSES: I'm Phillip Moses, I'm from  
41 Toksook Bay. He's from Nelson Island area, north basin, he  
42 has not ventured out of the area up to this day. His parents  
43 were alive through the time that he was old enough to get  
44 married. After he got married his dad died, but his mother  
45 lived to see him, you know -- his mother. At time when he  
46 was a young man, his brothers and sisters were all secretly  
47 drived [sic] from the land. His father was always  
48 encouraging him and cautioning him and giving him directions  
49 in which direction he would have to go and be able to live.  
50 To the message in which he was instructed to do by his

00004

1 father, his brothers and sisters didn't follow the  
2 instructions that he had been given when he was a young man,  
3 but he used the instructions and the directions as a compass.  
4

5 He also said, were written at the time the messages  
6 that were rendered down to the younger people. They were  
7 full of information for the young people to follow and at the  
8 time when the instructions were given, the instructions  
9 didn't seem to be really important at the time, but as the  
10 time goes on the instructions and the directions that were  
11 rendered down to the younger generation, I noticed, they are  
12 now.  
13

14 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, quyana.

15  
16 Mr. John Hanson, new member, Alana, Alaska.

17  
18 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (In  
19 Yup'ik)

20  
21 INTERPRETER: John Hanson is from the Yukon,  
22 specifically from Alakanak. His name is John Hanson. He was  
23 a member here for the last two years as an alternate. The he  
24 was on the Board of Game for six years. And then his service  
25 was again to the Board of Fish and again he served for six  
26 years, and after that he was replaced by some (In Yup'ik),  
27 but he appreciates the fact that he's now a member of the  
28 Federal Subsistence Council because to him our method and  
29 hunting and surviving from our land is very important to us.  
30

31 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Mr. Alvin Oweltuck, new  
32 alternate member from Marshall, Alaska.  
33

34 MR OWELTUCK: Alvin Oweltuck, he's from  
35 Marshall. (In Yup'ik)  
36

37 INTERPRETER: He is now an alternate at this  
38 time to the Advisory Board. There's is another organization  
39 that he was a board member, but I couldn't get that.  
40

41 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Next, Advisory Council, I  
42 want to introduce Mr. Fritz George, Secretary/member,  
43 Akiachak, Alaska.  
44

45 MR. GEORGE: Yeah, quyana, Mr. Chairman. (In  
46 Yup'ik)  
47

48 INTERPRETER: He has been on the Subsistence  
49 Council for the last four years and he's from Akiachak and he  
50 has worked closely with John Andrew.

00005

1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Mr. Billy McCann,  
2 appointed Sergeant at Arms/member, Bethel, Alaska.

3  
4 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

5  
6 INTERPRETER: Billy McCann, he's originally  
7 from Napakiak, but he basically, I guess, in the last four  
8 years has moved to Bethel and he has tried to involve himself  
9 in our problems whenever the problems arise to us.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Mr. Johnny Thompson,  
12 member, St. Marys, Alaska.

13  
14 MR. THOMPSON: (In Yup'ik)

15  
16 INTERPRETER: Johnny Thompson is pretty well  
17 known in the region. When he first started out working  
18 towards resolving some of the problems towards fishing and  
19 he's worked for six years with fisheries and after that he  
20 has been in many areas, advisory boards, the two members that  
21 he's been working with for many years, so when they asked him  
22 to become a member of this Council he was glad to accept the  
23 position because it leads to our livelihood regarding  
24 subsistence.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Mr. Willard Church,  
27 member, Quinhagak, Alaska.

28  
29 MR. CHURCH: Yeah, this is the beginning of  
30 the second year that I've been on the Advisory Council and  
31 it's also the end of the second year that I've worked for the  
32 Native Village of Quinhagak as the Natural Resource Director.  
33 A lot of you and the different agencies I've worked with and  
34 had contact with over the course of two years. And  
35 subsistence is an important issue. As my role as a director  
36 and also as an Advisory Council member progresses on, I come  
37 to a point where I start to understand the meaning of  
38 subsistence more thoroughly and I think that with the  
39 Advisory Council's role with the new changes occurring with  
40 subsistence fisheries and also the Migratory Bird Treaty Act  
41 there's an opportunity for tribes to become more active in  
42 co-management with cooperative projects to where we can get  
43 our departments and our office up and running to where we can  
44 play an active role. You know, Quinhagak is a prime example.  
45 I think there's an opportunity for a lot of other communities  
46 to also become directly involved in managing their own  
47 resources.

48  
49 Thank you.

50

00006

1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Mr. James Charles,  
2 member, Tuntutuliak, Alaska.

3  
4 MR. CHARLES: I'm James Charles (In Yup'ik)

5  
6 INTERPRETER: James Charles from Tuntutuliak,  
7 he's been on the Advisory Council for the last two years.  
8 It's been two years since he got on this Advisory Council.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Mr. Lester Wilde, Hooper  
11 Bay, Alaska.

12  
13 MR. L. WILDE: This is going to be my fourth  
14 year on the Advisory Council and I grew up with a subsistence  
15 way of life and with the encouragement of the Chairman, who  
16 happens to be my brother, I've always tried to protect our  
17 way of life. With all the changes and rules that are coming  
18 towards our daily lives, I think this program is one of the  
19 more important ones that we need to active in.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Mr. Thadius Tikiun,  
22 alternate member, Bethel, Alaska.

23  
24 MR. TIKIUN: Okay, my name is Thadius Tikiun,  
25 Junior, I was born and raised in Bethel. I worked for a fish  
26 company for a few years, as most of you guys know, the fish  
27 company was Yukon Fish Company. I've run for the IRA  
28 Council, I've been in there for 25 years, I was asked to run  
29 for the Regional Advisory Council a little over a year ago  
30 and I decided to take it as a challenge because there's a lot  
31 subsistence issues that are concerns for the people in this  
32 area and, hopefully, being a Board member on the Advisory  
33 Council here we might be able to solve some of them.

34  
35 That's all I got, thank you.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: My name is Harry Wilde,  
38 I'm from Mountain Village. (In Yup'ik) I was born in Hooper  
39 Bay. I've been travel and grew up, more like I grew up in  
40 St. Michael area, but after I get married I'm living at the  
41 Mountain Village. I've been -- this is my second time I've  
42 been here in Quinhagak. Quite a while back when I used to  
43 work for Harold Spark (In Yup'ik) I was here one time and  
44 it's good to be here, it's, today, a nice day, a good day.

45  
46 Also our Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Advisory Council's  
47 Regional Coordinator, next to me, I think he do a lot of  
48 work, what he done, John Andrew.

49  
50 MR. J. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

00007

1 John Andrew (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: And he's named after his  
4 grandfather and Eek, he was born there in the year 1945  
5 during the time when the dogs were more used for traveling  
6 to. And since 1968 he has been working with the U.S. Fish  
7 and Wildlife Service. And all (indiscernible) leads to game  
8 and fisheries, he's been working and he's glad to be here  
9 with the Council as the coordinator for the Federal  
10 Subsistence Council. Whenever the meetings are going to be  
11 gather, just like this one, he works very, very hard to set  
12 things and prepare things for the Council. Whenever he comes  
13 here to the Quinagak Village, he comes to his family  
14 members, his extended family members are here and in the  
15 Dillingham area he's got a lot of family members as far down  
16 as Dillingham.

17

18 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: And now one of our  
19 members, Robert Nick. I've been knowing Robert Nick for what  
20 I would say, a long time and him and I has been working in  
21 some things together. Mr. Robert Nick from Nunapitchuk.

22

23

24 MR. R. NICK: Quyana, Harry. Robert Nick (In  
25 Yup'ik)

26

27 INTERPRETER: It's been a long time since he  
28 has involved himself in a lot of issues, in all these  
29 fisheries, game and whatever. Ever since he was able to  
30 attend any and all meetings in the region, he has been  
31 involved. And he feels and thinks a lot of things that he  
32 knew from the time he was young, the things he knew that and  
33 perhaps feel that the would assist communities in the region  
34 to do better. So actually he did intend to become a member  
35 of this Council, and he was successful in doing so, because  
36 he hears and understands the methods in which the Native  
37 people use getting what they need from the land as well as  
38 the ocean and the rivers, our real subsistence from the land  
39 and on the Federal land and the game that we hunt on these  
40 lands. He has a very deep concern for the subsistence way of  
41 life and he, with great vigor, wanted to be among the group  
42 here with the views that he has, the potential in helping and  
43 guiding the rest of the Board in what he knows in relation to  
44 subsistence. He believe in the Federal government, believes  
45 that we do subsist from the land and he would like to work  
46 closely with those that have ties in with people that have  
47 anything to do with subsistence. And he appreciates the fact  
48 that there are people from other communities as well.

49

50 MR. R. NICK: Quyana, Harry.

00008

1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana, Robert. And for  
2 this meeting, interpreters welcome Alex Nick, Jon Dyasuk and  
3 Ferdinand Sharp. (In Yup'ik)

4  
5 INTERPRETER: Recognizing the translators,  
6 myself, Jon Dyasuk, Ferdinand Sharp, Alex probably will be  
7 here tomorrow. He's just stating that some of the  
8 interpreters that were put on the agenda to be translators  
9 are not going to be here.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Also I would like to  
12 welcome, agency staff and mostly speakers for this meeting.  
13 And my understanding, also, that some of them is not here.  
14 Migratory Bird Treaty, Mimi Hogan, Yukon Delta NWR, Michael  
15 Reardon, Togiak NWR Andy Aderman -- Andy's right here.  
16 Regional team, Helen Armstrong, Dave Fisher, also John Andrew  
17 and also that AVCP Tim Andrew.

18  
19 MR. J. ANDREW: And James Sperling.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Tomorrow?

22  
23 MR. J. ANDREW: James Sperling.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: James Sperling here?

26  
27 (No audible response)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah. Okay, Alaska  
30 Department of Fish and Game, Mike Coffing, tomorrow they'll  
31 be here.

32  
33 Division of State Board staff, Ida Alexie, Wildlife  
34 Conservation Division, Roger Seavoy and Sportfish Division,  
35 Dan Dunaway. Bureau of Land Management, Jeff Denton, he's  
36 not here, he should be here tomorrow, maybe.

37  
38 MR. J. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay. Commercial fishery  
41 Division, Doug (indiscernible).

42  
43 MR. J. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Charlie Burkey will be  
46 here tomorrow.

47  
48 And for those of you that I didn't pronounce your  
49 name, I wonder if you could recognize yourself, where you're  
50 from and.....

00009

1 MR. J. ANDREW: Introduce.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: .....introduce yourself.

4

5 MR. MILLER: My name is Allen Miller and I'm  
6 here helping Andy Aderman represent Togiak National Wildlife  
7 Refuge.

8

9 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

10

11 INTERPRETER: And those of you that are  
12 guests, introduce themselves as well. I would appreciate  
13 that very much.

14

15 TRANSCRIBER'S NOTE: Audience introduces  
16 themselves, most away from microphone - please see sign-in  
17 sheets.

18

19

20 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Also we have tonight  
21 Taylor Brelsford.

22

23 MR. BRELSFORD: My name is Taylor Brelsford  
24 and I work with the Federal Subsistence Program in Anchorage.  
25 I work with John Andrew and the other regional coordinators  
26 on the Regional Council Program. I'll be speaking a bit  
27 later about the Federal Subsistence Fisheries Program. And I  
28 had the good luck to live for many years in Western Alaska in  
29 several small villages on the Kuskokwim and then Aniak and  
30 then I was teaching with the University of Alaska in  
31 Dillingham for about five years before I started working the  
32 Federal Subsistence Board. So, I've been waiting to come to  
33 Quinhagak for a long time for a chance to be here, and it's  
34 great to see all of the representatives from the nearby  
35 villages.

36

37 INTERPRETER DYASUK: (In Yup'ik) well known  
38 translator for the region.

39

40 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Next, and last, is our  
41 record court.

42 MR. HANSON: That's the Court Recorder.

43

44 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Court Recorder.

45

46 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My  
47 name is David Haynes, I'm pleased to meet you all. Thank  
48 you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: And for our meeting

00010

1 honored guests tonight, Mr. Wassile Bavilla, Quinhagak IRA  
2 President.

3  
4 MR. BAVILLA: (In Yup'ik) I want to thank all  
5 of you Subsistence Advisor Council for coming here to do your  
6 business here and a lot of you from the other outlying  
7 villages that have come here to attend the meeting. And also  
8 if you have any problem while you are here, we do have a  
9 health aide in the community and we also have police and  
10 safety officers. And if you don't have anybody to take you  
11 around wherever you want to go in some places, the IRA  
12 Council has a vehicle if you need to go someplace and it's  
13 listed in the phone book. Just ask anybody in the community  
14 to help you with whatever you need. And if you're hungry you  
15 tell the people here in the community you are hungry. And I  
16 also advise the Council it's been a long time that Wassile  
17 has worked with a lot of these Advisory Council members. I'd  
18 like to thank them all for having come here.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Tomorrow  
21 morning people that would like to say something or make a  
22 comment will be able to start at about 11:00 o'clock. The  
23 meeting will continue tomorrow at the Bingo Hall in the  
24 morning and tonight the Council is going to hold -- they're  
25 going to elect Chairman, Co-chairman, Secretary and Sergeant  
26 at Arms. John Andrew will be coordinating that activity.

27  
28 MR. J. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (In  
29 Yup'ik) At the falltime when we meet, the first thing we do,  
30 usually, is to elect the officers for this Council, the  
31 Chairman, Co-chairman, Secretary.

32  
33 Nominations now are open. John Hanson.

34  
35 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
36 I nominate Harry Wilde for Chair.

37  
38 INTERPRETER: John Hanson from Alakanak moved  
39 to elect Harry Wilde.

40  
41 MR. McCANN: I'll second it.

42  
43 MR. TIKIUN: (In Yup'ik) the nomination now  
44 (In Yup'ik).

45  
46 MR. THOMPSON: If there's nothing -- my name  
47 is John Thompson, if nothing -- nobody nominates.....

48  
49 MR. J. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

50

00011

1 INTERPRETER: John Thompson wanted unanimous  
2 consent and Thadius Tikiun moved to close the nominations.

3  
4 MS. GREGORY: And there's no other  
5 nominations and we close the nominations, he automatically  
6 becomes.....

7  
8 MR. J. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

9  
10 INTERPRETER: If there are no other  
11 nominations for the Chair, Harry Wilde is again the Chairman  
12 of the Council.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana (In Yup'ik) Thank  
15 you for having me take the Chair, I guess you all know that  
16 I'm making an effort to do everything I can to guide the  
17 group and I tried my best and I think and I hope you have  
18 confidence in my hand.

19  
20 And the nominations are now opened for Co-chair.

21  
22 MR. HANSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman, I  
23 nominate Robert Nick for Co-chair.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert Nick was  
26 nominated, who second the nomination?

27  
28 MR. TIKIUN: I'll second the nomination.

29  
30 MR. J. ANDREW: Thadius (In Yup'ik)

31  
32 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chair, I nominate John  
33 Hanson.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

36  
37 INTERPRETER: James Charles nominate John  
38 Hanson, Thadius Tikiun seconded [sic].

39  
40 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Any more nominations.

41  
42 MR. CHARLES: I nominate John Hanson.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: John Hanson is nominated  
45 by who?

46  
47 MR. CHARLES: James Charles.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: James Charles. Who  
50 second the nomination?

00012

1 MR. THOMPSON: Second it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Who second it? Johnny  
4 Thompson.

5

6 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I move the  
7 nominations cease.

8

9 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Mary make a motion to  
10 nominations cease. (In Yup'ik) Who second the motion to  
11 close the.....

12

13 MS. GREGORY: (Indiscernible - multiple  
14 voices)

15

16 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Johnny Thompson. (In  
17 Yup'ik)

18

19 (Votes by written ballot - John Andrew asked  
20 Mr. Peter Abraham to read the written ballots)

21

22 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert Nick (In Yup'ik)

23

24 (Applause)

25

26 MR. R. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

27

28 INTERPRETER: Robert Nick (In Yup'ik) all of  
29 you members for having faith in me.

30

31 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

32

33 INTERPRETER: Next for the Secretary.

34

35 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: The floor is now opened  
36 for Secretary.

37

38 MR. J. ANDREW: Nominations.

39

40 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Nominations for  
41 Secretary.

42

43 MR. TIKIUN: Mr. Chairman, I nominate Fritz  
44 George.

45

46 MR. THOMPSON: Second.

47

48 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Fritz George is nominated  
49 by John and seconded by John [sic].

50

00013

1 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, I nominate Willard  
2 Church.

3  
4 MR. CHURCH: Mr. Chairman, due to my language  
5 limitation I would like to decline the nomination. I feel it  
6 would be more appropriate for an individual to be bilingual.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Willard Church declined  
9 due to his bilingual. Other nominations?

10  
11 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah.

14  
15 MR. L. WILDE: I'd like to cast unanimous  
16 consent for Fritz George.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: There's a motion on the  
19 floor to unanimous consent to Fritz George.

20  
21 MS. GREGORY: I second the motion.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Second by Mary.

24  
25 MR. J. ANDREW: Okay. Sergeant at Arms (In  
26 Yup'ik)

27  
28 INTERPRETER: Lester Wilde moved that  
29 unanimous consent for Fritz George to be the Secretary, Mary  
30 second.

31  
32 MR. J. ANDREW: Sergeant at Arms.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Sergeant at Arms and the  
35 floor is open for nominate Sergeant at Arms.

36  
37 MR. TIKIUN: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to  
38 nominate John Hanson as Sergeant at Arms.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: John Hanson is nominated  
41 for Sergeant of Arms. Who second it?

42  
43 MR. CHURCH: Second. Mr. Chairman, I second  
44 the nomination.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay, Willard second it.  
47 Any other nominations?

48  
49 John.

50

00014

1 MR OWELTUCK: I make a motion to close  
2 nominations, Mr. Chairman.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: There's a motion on the  
5 floor to close the nominations.

6  
7 MR. THOMPSON: Second.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Second by.....

10  
11 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Thompson.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: .....Johnny Thompson.  
14 All those in favor say aye.

15  
16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

19  
20 INTERPRETER: Next in line.....

21  
22 MR. J. ANDREW: Agenda.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Approval of March.....

25  
26 MR. J. ANDREW: No, agenda.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Oh, agenda (In Yup'ik)  
29 agenda additions or corrections and agenda approval.  
30 Council, you'll find it in your Tab B, 7, Approval of March 3  
31 and 4.....

32  
33 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Huh?

36  
37 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, if I may, on  
38 the agenda, I want to make sure that we're careful on the  
39 record -- we've actually begun the meeting in advance of the  
40 public notice and usually we try to be pretty careful to make  
41 sure that the meetings are on the set dates where we've given  
42 people publicity. I think we've had some help from the IRA  
43 Council in Quinhagak over the CB to make sure that people in  
44 the village know we're going to go ahead and start early, so  
45 I think we can be flexible and go ahead with our meeting this  
46 evening, but we want to make sure that people who come  
47 tomorrow, if they didn't know about tonight, that they could  
48 ask question or offer their comments tomorrow to be sure they  
49 have a chance to participate.

50

00015

1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: So what you mean is do w  
2 have to wait until approval of this agenda?

3  
4 MR. BRELSFORD: I'm suggesting that we're  
5 ready to go, but I want to make a comment on the record about  
6 being sure that we have good public notice about our meeting  
7 times and places.

8  
9 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I think you did  
10 that already, both the public meeting and the public  
11 announcement was given twice this evening.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay. Mary.

14  
15 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Fritz.

18  
19 MR. GEORGE: (In Yup'ik)

20  
21 INTERPRETER: Fritz is asking whether the  
22 wolf problem can be put into the agenda to be discussed, wolf  
23 control or whatever.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Additions or corrections  
26 and agenda approval?

27  
28 MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah.

31  
32 MR. THOMPSON: (In Yup'ik) I have a concern  
33 about caribou herd. I think I have a chance over here, yeah,  
34 caribou in Unit 17, that I have a chance to speak over here.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Thadius

37  
38 MR. TIKIUN: Can he bring his concerns during  
39 the comment period from 11:00 o'clock on each day, can he do  
40 that at the same time, on caribou and I think he had a  
41 concern on wolves. Can those be brought up at that time  
42 period?

43  
44 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Any concerns, beside just  
45 wolf and caribou, I guess there's public comment for that.

46  
47 MR. R. NICK: Mr. Chairman.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert.

50

00016

1 MR. R. NICK: Can I make a comment on  
2 Mr. Brelsford's comment? As far as the notification on the  
3 change of the start of the meeting, I understood Mary to say  
4 that it has been over the radio twice and as far as this Item  
5 Number 6, you know, the agenda, you know, it's a matter -- it  
6 is our work schedule for our next two days, unless staff has  
7 any recommended changes to the agenda, it is proper for the  
8 Council to act on the agenda and Mr. Thompson's comments  
9 about his concern about the caribou, on the second page,  
10 under reports, 6(b), we will have an opportunity to bring out  
11 comments and concerns as individual Council members then  
12 also.

13  
14 Mr. Chairman, I'm saying that we can act on the  
15 agenda tonight.

16  
17 MR. R. NICK: Mr. Chairman.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert.

20  
21 MR. R. NICK: Unless staff has any  
22 recommended additions to the agenda, I move that we approve  
23 the agenda that is before us.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: There's a motion on the  
26 floor by Robert Nick to approve the agenda before us, is  
27 there any second to the motion.

28  
29 MR. CHARLES: Second the motion, Mr.  
30 Chairman.

31  
32 MR. J. ANDREW: James Charles.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Second by.....

35  
36 MR. J. ANDREW: James Charles.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: .....James Charles. Is  
39 there any discussion?

40  
41 (No audible responses)

42  
43 MR. L. WILDE: Question.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: If there's no discussion,  
46 all in favor say aye.

47  
48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Opposed say no.

00017

1 (No opposing responses)

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Motion carried, the  
4 agenda is approved. However, what I hear is caribou and all  
5 those need to be discussed, we would like to await some of  
6 the speakers that are coming in tomorrow, so the people that  
7 who are concerned about the caribous, about from 11:00  
8 o'clock tomorrow that's the time that they should start  
9 giving their comments to the Council.

10

11 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah.

14

15 MR. L. WILDE: Under Item C, other Regional  
16 Council comment and recommendations, wouldn't that be a good  
17 place to put caribou and wolves?

18

19 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: I think that would be the  
20 good place for the Council to put their comments and  
21 recommendations.

22

23 Taylor, there will be someone here tomorrow that will  
24 talk about the caribou and others? Because I never really  
25 seen how the proposal look like, but the only thing I know is  
26 the numbers.

27

28 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, we do have  
29 biologists from the Togiak Refuge and tomorrow we will have  
30 people from the Yukon Delta Refuge to address those issues  
31 and there will an agenda item for new proposals to change the  
32 subsistence regulations, so we should have plenty of  
33 opportunity tomorrow to address those concerns.

34

35 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Have to ask  
36 the Council if it will be okay to wait until tomorrow for the  
37 people to discuss and answer some of the questions that might  
38 arise. To make comment and others will be taken care of  
39 tomorrow.

40

41 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Item 7, approval of March  
42 3 and 4, 1999 meeting minutes. Secretary George.

43

44 MR. GEORGE: Quyana, Mr. Chairman. (In  
45 Yup'ik)

46

47 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay, you'll find it on  
48 your book C.

49

50 MR. GEORGE: Tab C (In Yup'ik)

00018

1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Tab C.

2

3 MR. GEORGE: (In Yup'ik) Meetings prior to  
4 this meeting in other meetings that he has attended, whenever  
5 minutes are made, so just the Council had enough time to read  
6 the minutes that were taken (indiscernible) have any  
7 questions to introduce the minutes or do you want me to read  
8 the minutes?

9 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

10

11 MR. GEORGE: (In Yup'ik) So I guess the  
12 Chair's recommendation is to read the minutes.

13

14 In Alakanuk they had a nice welcome for the Board and  
15 John -- there was a big Eskimo dance, John Hanson wasn't  
16 among the dancers, I guess he doesn't dance.

17

18 The meeting was called to order at 8:30 in the  
19 morning by Chairman Wilde in Alakanuk City Hall. The start  
20 of the meeting was slightly delayed due for the need to  
21 rearrange the tables and chairs for the recorders and  
22 translators to set up the their equipment.

23

24 Roll Call/Confirmation of Quorum/Invocation and there  
25 were eight regular members and 1 alternate and three were  
26 excused.

27

28 And Federal and State Agencies: Fish and Wildlife  
29 Service, Office of Subsistence Management, Sue Detwiler, Pat  
30 McClenahan (teleconference), Dave Fisher (teleconference),  
31 John Andrew; Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge: Steve  
32 Kovach, Chuck Hunt, Alex Nick; Alaska Department of Fish and  
33 Game: Mike Coffing, Dan Bergstrom.

34

35 Other Present: Tim Andrew, AVCP, Inc.; Jeff Reeves,  
36 Kuigpagmuit, Inc.; Ragnor Alstrom, Mayor of Alakanuk; Francis  
37 Phillip; Austin Kakutak; James Leopold; Patrick C. Joseph,  
38 Jr.; Paul M. Phillip; Emmanuel Stanilaus; John James; Joe  
39 Phillip; and Fred Augustine.

40

41 The welcome address was done by Chairman Wilde and in  
42 continued to introduce the members of the Regional Advisory  
43 Council, the Coordinator, interpreters, court reporter. Some  
44 of the guests and staff were introduced by the Coordinator.

45

46 Then the Regional Council reviewed the agenda, a  
47 motion was made by Lester Wilde to approve the agenda, and it  
48 was seconded by James Charles and passed by unanimous vote.

49

50 Review and Adoption of the Summarized Minutes of

00019

1 October 6 and 7, 1998: The minutes of October 5 and 6 [sic]  
2 were read in Yup'ik by Secretary George. After discussion  
3 and correction were pointed out, member James Charles moved  
4 to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Billy  
5 McCann and it passed unanimously.

6  
7 And after the break there was testimony/comments.  
8 The Chair opened the floor to the general public for them to  
9 testify or comment on the Federal Subsistence Program. There  
10 wee no public testimony at this time.

11  
12 Old Business: Wanton Waste: Chuck Hunt gave a  
13 report on the progress of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife  
14 Refuge Wanton Waste Information and Educational Program. the  
15 Refuge has created materials geared towards IRA and TRA  
16 Councils in Unit 18. The targeted clients will be the Native  
17 subsistence hunters and students of the villages. They will  
18 deal with the whole spectrum of wanton waste issues that  
19 occur in our region. They are cautious of bringing this out  
20 to the general public for fear of negative reactions. They  
21 intend to bring this out to the "public" after careful  
22 planning and strategizing on how best to bring out the public  
23 presentation. Tim Andrew of AVCP, Inc. reported on the  
24 wanton waste concerns of their Natural Resource Department.  
25 Their last Natural Resource Game Specialist, Michelle Sparcks  
26 has moved out to Washington, D.C. work there. She had done  
27 some preliminary work with the Yukon Delta National Wildlife  
28 Refuge and with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Subsistence Regional  
29 Advisory Council before she left the region.

30  
31 Update on Federal Subsistence Fisheries Management:  
32 Sue Detwiler gave an update on this program. Federal  
33 Subsistence Program is preparing to extend their jurisdiction  
34 to many of the State's navigable waters as a result of the  
35 Katie John decision. If the State gets in compliance it will  
36 get 11 million to manage the subsistence fisheries, if not,  
37 then Service will get \$1 million to implement the subsistence  
38 fishery program. The Final Rule was published in January of  
39 this year, but does not go into effect until October of this  
40 fall. There is a lawsuit by the State Legislative Council  
41 challenging the constitutionality of Title VIII.

42  
43 Update on the Results of Village Meetings on  
44 Migratory Bird Management: This report was tabled for the  
45 next meeting, since there was no one to present it.

46  
47 Update on Cooperative Agreements: Pat McClenahan  
48 gave a brief update on cooperative agreements in our area.  
49 Tentatively there is one agreement with AVCP, Inc., Natural  
50 Resource Department that has never gotten to the written

00020

1 stage at this time. The other one is with Alaska Department  
2 of Fish and Game, Subsistence Division. There is one  
3 cooperative agreement with the Native Village of Akiachak on  
4 their uses of large animals. The Department has received a  
5 signed cooperative agreement between Fish and Wildlife  
6 Service and the Department and one of the components has to  
7 do with the C&T study for the Village of Akiachak. The  
8 baseline study will be similar to the study done for the  
9 Village of Kwethluk.

10  
11 Update on C&T Working Group Recommendations: Pat  
12 McClenahan pointed out that there is a tow page report on C&T  
13 from the working group that was covered at the last meeting.  
14 The working group was established by the Board last May and  
15 they have met three times sine then. Their last meeting was  
16 in November of 1998. They have recognized the importance of  
17 traditional knowledge. She explained the multiple species  
18 analysis, since most subsistence hunters harvest other  
19 species of game when they are hunting for certain species.  
20 Analytic standard of council are different. For example,  
21 Bristol Bay Council prefers to se published data, while most  
22 of the other council prefer to use knowledge of the elders  
23 and the subsistence hunters. Nine out of 10 Councils  
24 recommend keeping the C&T requirements as part of the  
25 regulatory process.

26  
27 1998 Annual Report Update, Addition of Any Other  
28 Issues, Approval: Coordinator Andrew reported to the Council  
29 on the 1998 Annual Report. In the past year we had two new  
30 members appointed to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Subsistence Regional  
31 Advisory Council, they are Willard Church from Quinhagak and  
32 Robert Nick from Nunapitchuk. And Fritz George was  
33 reappointed to our Council. We had two meetings, one in  
34 March to deal with regulatory proposals and the other one in  
35 October to elect new officers and deal with subsistence  
36 related business. Both meetings took place in Bethel due to  
37 weather and travel related logistical problems. Fritz George  
38 attended the Bristol Bay meeting, Ilarion Nicolai attended  
39 the Western Interior meeting and Chairman Wilde attended the  
40 Board and the Chairs meetings in Anchorage.

41  
42 Proposals to change Federal subsistence regulation on  
43 taking of wildlife on Federal public lands.

44  
45 Presentation Procedure for Each Proposal:

- 46  
47 1. Introduction of proposal/analysis (Lead).  
48 2. Alaska Department of Fish and Game Comments.  
49 3. Other Agency Comment/Eastern Interior Regional  
50 Council Recommendation on Overlapping Proposals

00021

- 1 4. Summary of Written Public Comments (Andrew)
- 2 5. Public Testimony.
- 3 6. Regional Council Deliberation and Recommendation
- 4 and Justification.

5  
6 And these were the proposals that there were:

7  
8 Moose species, Unit 21(E), Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional  
9 Council recommendation, defer the proposal. Motion was made  
10 by Lester Wilde and seconded by John Hanson. Roll call vote,  
11 9-0-0-2 and justification was to defer the proposal until the  
12 Alaska Department of Fish and Game acts on a similar  
13 proposal.

14  
15 Proposal 43, Species: Black Bear, Units: 21. Yukon-  
16 Kuskokwim Regional Council recommendation. A motion was made  
17 by Fritz George and seconded by James Charles to amend the  
18 motion to include Mt. Village, Pitkas Point, St Marys,  
19 Marshall, Pilot Station, Chevak, Hooper Bay, and Scammon Bay.  
20 Roll call vote 9-0-0-2. Justification: The villages  
21 mentioned above do take black bear when they are hunting in  
22 21(E) in the fall season.

23  
24 Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Council recommendation,  
25 oppose the proposal. Lester Wilde made a motion to oppose  
26 the proposal, and it was seconded by John Hanson. Roll call  
27 vote 9-0-0-2. Justification: The wording of the proposal is  
28 too vague. Many Unit 18 residents hunting in Unit 21 take  
29 black bear. The proposal does not include all the  
30 communities that customarily and traditionally use black bear  
31 in Unit 21(E).

32  
33 Proposal 45, Species: Moose, Units: 21(E). The Yukon-  
34 Kuskokwim Regional Council recommendation oppose the  
35 proposal. Motion was made by Lester Wilde to oppose 99-45  
36 and was seconded by Johnny Thompson, Sr. Roll call vote: 9-  
37 0-0-2. Justification: The early fall closure could be  
38 detrimental to subsistence user.

39  
40 Break at 3:34 to 3:40.

41  
42 Proposal 27, Species: Caribou, Units: 17(A), 17(B).  
43 The Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Council recommendation support  
44 the proposal. Billy McCann moved to support the proposal and  
45 was seconded by John Hanson. Roll call vote: 9-0-0-2.  
46 Justification: Residents of communities in Unit 18 have  
47 historically hunted caribou in portions of Unit 17(A) and  
48 17(B).

49  
50 Proposal 38, Species: Caribou, Units: 17(A). The

00022

1 Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Council recommendation adopt the  
2 proposal. Willard Church moved to adopt the proposal and was  
3 seconded by John Hanson. Roll call vote: 9-0-0-2.  
4 Justification: Eek and Quinhagak customarily and  
5 traditionally hunt for caribou in 17(A).

6  
7 Proposal 40, Species: Moose, Units: 17(A). The  
8 Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Council recommendation support the  
9 proposal. The motion was made by Billy McCann and seconded  
10 by Lester Wilde to adopt this proposal without modification.  
11 Roll call vote: 9-0-0-2. Justification: There is  
12 sufficient moose populations to support a subsistence hunt.

13  
14 Proposal 42A, Species: Moose, Units: 19(B). The  
15 Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Council recommendation support the  
16 proposal. Lester Wilde made a motion and was seconded by  
17 John Hanson to support 42A. Roll call vote: 9-0-0-2.  
18 Justification: It is clear that the residents of Eek and  
19 Quinhagak have used moose in 19(B).

20  
21 Proposal 42B, Species: Moose, Units: 19(B). The  
22 Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Council recommendation oppose the  
23 proposal. Motion by Lester Wilde and seconded by John Hanson  
24 to oppose 42B. Roll call vote: eight yeas, one nay, no  
25 abstain and two absent. Justification: It would not be fair  
26 to allow two villages to have an extra season, and the moose  
27 may not withstand the opening in the area suggested.

28  
29 Proposals 42A and 42B were taken up on 3/3/99 to  
30 accommodate the teleconference arrangements with the regional  
31 office staff, Western Interior Coordinator, Vince Matthews  
32 and Western Interior Chairman, Carl Morgan.

33  
34 Council recessed at 4:45 p.m. We had a welcome dance  
35 that night. John Hanson didn't dance with the welcome dance.

36  
37 Wednesday, March 3, 1999, Council reconvened at 8:27  
38 a.m. with agency reports.

39  
40 Y-K Delta National Wildlife Refuge: Biologist Steve  
41 Kovach reported that there are 30 to 40,000 caribou in Unite  
42 18, and some were crossing the river back in October and  
43 November. The collars on those animals are getting old and  
44 losing battery power. There is not enough snow cover to do  
45 any collaring projects on them safely. Brown bear project is  
46 ongoing. Currently, working with Alaska Department of Fish  
47 and Game on Moose Management Plan. the Kilbuck and the Brown  
48 Bear Working Group will meet at the latter part of April.  
49 Chuck Hunt gave an update on migratory birds, and the  
50 activities of the Waterfowl Conservation Committee. All the

00023

1 geese species are doing well and increasing population wise,  
2 with the exception of emperor geese. During this spring they  
3 will enforce the emperor geese closures, and the  
4 noncompliance of the Steel Shot Program in the Yukon-  
5 Kuskokwim Delta. He informed the Council that Mike Rearden  
6 is not feeling too well these days.

7  
8 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge: The staff doing  
9 moose census. And the Bureau of Land Management did not make  
10 it to the meeting.

11  
12 Association of Village Council Presidents,  
13 Incorporated, Tim Andrew reported that AVCp, Incorporated has  
14 introduced a number of resolutions since their last  
15 convention. They are:

- 16  
17 1. Reduction of chinook by-catch in the pollock  
18 fisheries.
- 19  
20 2. Study of declining emperor geese.
- 21  
22 3. Reduction of glaucous gulls in the nesting and  
23 rearing grounds of the emperor geese.
- 24  
25 4. Study of emperor geese in the wintering grounds.

26  
27 There is another resolution in the works by the  
28 Native villages of Emmonak, Quinhagak, Kwethluk, Mekoryuk and  
29 Kwillingwok to protect the resources they share in common.  
30 They support the salmon monitoring projects for both the  
31 Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. Brown Bear and the Quailguut  
32 Working Groups will meet in April. They are continuing to  
33 work on the wanton waste issue. AVCP has been working on the  
34 Yukon Fishermen Disaster Relief Program and with private  
35 sectors to provide food for their dogs. They continue to  
36 work with State and Federal governments on co-management and  
37 cooperative projects. Their Natural Resource Department has  
38 been working on environmental projects within the AVCP region  
39 to address the Hovercraft Project that is having an impact on  
40 our subsistence way of life.

41  
42 Alaska Department of Fish and Game Report:

43  
44 Dan Bergstrom, Yukon Area Management Biologist,  
45 Commercial Fisheries, gave a report that 1998 salmon runs  
46 were very poor for both the Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers.  
47 Yukon's king salmon harvest was lowest on record, roughly  
48 one-third of any given year. (Broke off for teleconference)  
49 The last two years of chum and coho runs on the Kuskokwim  
50 have been low. Climatic changes have caused died off on

00024

1 seabirds, shellfish and various species of salmon. It is  
2 difficult to project, forecast, salmon runs for this summer.  
3 Key strategy is to manage in-season runs, not based on  
4 forecasted runs. They are expecting average runs on the  
5 Kuskokwim River and the same for Quinhagak and Goodnews Bay.  
6 The Commercial Fisheries Division is expecting weak to  
7 average runs on the Yukon River drainage.

8  
9 Mike Coffing, ADF&G, Subsistence Division, has been  
10 involved in emergency subsistence salmon deliveries to the  
11 villages of Hooper Bay, Chevak and Scammon Bay last fall, and  
12 there were more deliveries before Thanksgiving. He has been  
13 working on a seal and sea lion project funded by the National  
14 Marine Fisheries for the villages of Hooper Bay and  
15 Quinhagak. They had hired two individuals for those villages  
16 to find out about the uses, sharing, receiving and other  
17 practices related to the uses of the seals and sea lions.  
18 The Natural Resource Department of Emmonak has expressed  
19 interest in this program. They are starting a cooperative  
20 project with the Native Village of Akiachak to study their  
21 subsistence uses of large mammals. The cooperative Working  
22 Groups, Brown Bear and Kilbuck (Qauvilgut) is facing  
23 declining budgets. He also informed the Council that Ida  
24 Alexie has just returned from the Board of Fisheries meeting  
25 in Soldotna and she apologizes for not being able to attend  
26 the meeting.

27  
28 Roger Seavoy, Assistant Area Biologist for Alaska  
29 Department of Fish and Game doing moose survey in Lower Yukon  
30 area.

31  
32 Ida Alexie, Division of Board just returned from  
33 Board of Fisheries meeting.

34  
35 Time and Place of Next Meeting: There was discussion  
36 on the location of their next meeting. The Chair informed  
37 the Council that they were invited by Council member Nick to  
38 have their next meeting in Nunapitchuk. Also, there was an  
39 effort to have the fall meeting in Quinhagak. They motion  
40 was made by Willard Church and seconded by Lester Wilde to  
41 have their next meeting in Quinhagak on October 12 and 13,  
42 1999 with a vote of nine yes and two absent.

43  
44 Benediction: The closing prayer was delivered by  
45 Council member Johnny B. Thompson, Sr.

46  
47 Adjournment: Billy McCann moved to adjourn the  
48 meeting, seconded by Ilarion Nicolai. Motion passed  
49 unanimously, meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

50

00025

1 That's the minutes of the meeting.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

4

5 INTERPRETER: Oh, he wants a motion if  
6 there's no correction on the minutes of the meeting.

7

8 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. According to  
9 the minutes, me and John Hanson did a lot of motion making  
10 which -- we must have done all the work last time, but I  
11 think there was only two motions that was made by myself and  
12 that was second by John, that was the item on Proposal 41 on  
13 and Proposal 42.

14

15 MR. HANSON: 41 and 42.

16

17 MR. L. WILDE: Now, I did not make a motion  
18 on opposing the Proposal 45 -- oh, that was 42 and 45 that  
19 John and I -- that I made the motion on, Mr. Chairman. I  
20 don't know who made the other motions, I think that somebody  
21 should look into that and have that correct.

22

23 There was a couple of typos. On 1998 Annual Report  
24 update, there's a typo on the one, two, three, four, fifth  
25 line. March to deal with regulatory, I think is the words  
26 supposed to be in there instead of regulaory [sic] or  
27 whatever the word is. And on agency reports, on the next --  
28 third to the last line it states: during this spring they  
29 will enforce the emperor geese closures and the noncompliance  
30 of the Steel Shot Program. I don't know, depending on the  
31 English that we use, I think it should have been compliance  
32 of the Steel Shot Program. And maybe that's why the third --  
33 the last line says Mike Reardon's not feeling well because of  
34 noncompliance.

35

36 Could somebody check those? And Proposal Number 42,  
37 that motion was not being made by John and I, I don't  
38 believe.

39

40 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik) The minutes  
41 of the meeting were pretty sick, but he things that the staff  
42 can fix some errors on the minutes. He could read well  
43 because he left his reading glasses. After the minutes have  
44 been corrected, they can be accepted by the -- if it's all  
45 right -- or they can wait until they are corrected to accept  
46 the minutes of the last meeting.

47

48 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, it would be  
49 appropriate to approve the minutes with the corrections  
50 requested by Lester Wilde and we will make those corrections

00026

1 based on his comments, but you could actually act on the  
2 minutes tonight to finish up.

3

4 MR. L. WILDE: One more question I have,  
5 Mr. Chairman. Fish and Game, could you answer this question  
6 on next to the last page, by-catch of pollock fisheries.  
7 Two, study of declining emperor geese. Three, reduction of  
8 -- is that the right term of the -- the right name for the  
9 gull? Could somebody from Fish and Game give us the right  
10 name of the gull, whatever that seagull is? I don't believe  
11 that's the name, I could be wrong.

12

13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mr. Chairman, I'm a fish  
14 biologist (indiscernible - away from microphone) spelling  
15 error that it just has to be corrected

16

17 MR. L. WILDE: Without holding anything on,  
18 Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move that the minutes be approved  
19 as corrected.

20

21 MS. GREGORY: Second. And one other comment,  
22 that Fritz did a very good job of interpreting.

23

24 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Member from  
25 Hooper Bay moved to accept the minutes as corrected and Mary  
26 Gregory seconded the motion to accept the minutes as  
27 corrected. There's a motion on the floor, Lester made a  
28 motion to accept the minutes of the meeting as corrected and  
29 seconded by Mary Gregory. Is there anybody want to ask  
30 question?

31

32 (No audible responses)

33

34 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik) If there's no  
35 questions, I want to make -- I'd like minutes of the -- the  
36 minutes, as corrected, to be approved.

37

38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik) The motion is  
41 unanimous. Before we go on to the next item of the agenda,  
42 we should have a break, a five-minute break.

43

44 (Off record)

45

46 (On record)

47

48 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Item 8,  
49 Federal subsistence fishery management discussion.

50

00027

1 INTERPRETER: The Federal subsistence fishery  
2 management discussion.

3  
4 MR. BRELSFORD: I'll be speaking this evening  
5 on behalf of my boss, Tom Boyd, who is the Director of the  
6 Federal Subsistence Program. I would like to provide for you  
7 an overview of the five major issues in our planning for the  
8 expansion, the Federal takeover or the Federal fisheries  
9 expansion.

10  
11 On October 1st, we started this transition to new  
12 responsibilities. Secretary Babbitt, he's the Secretary of  
13 the Interior, he said, this would not be a catastrophe if we  
14 all remember to work together. And Mitch Demientieff, the  
15 Chairman of the Federal Subsistence Board, he's from Nenana,  
16 he said the wanted to put to rest the concern that Federal  
17 management would be Washington, D.C. management, and he said,  
18 instead that the Federal Subsistence Board will make these  
19 decisions in Alaska working with the Regional Councils,  
20 working with the people of the villages of Alaska.

21  
22 We've been preparing for this Federal subsistence  
23 fisheries expansion since 1995 when the Katie John decision  
24 was passed. Since then we've published Federal Register  
25 notices, three times, and held over 40 public meetings.  
26 We've talked with the Regional Councils many times over the  
27 last three years. As you know, implementation of the Katie  
28 John decision was delayed three times by the Congress and we  
29 were hoping that the Alaska Legislature would pass a ballot  
30 measure to come back into compliance with the Federal  
31 requirements.

32  
33 Since January of this year we've started to plan for  
34 the operations, the on the ground implementation and this has  
35 focused on an implementation plan, 14 points, and you will  
36 find that in your books at Tab D.

37  
38 Tonight, I want to focus on six of the most important  
39 ones and then maybe later we can go into some of the  
40 additional topics at another meeting. But tonight I want to  
41 talk about staffing, how the Federal Subsistence Fisheries  
42 Program will work. Secondly, I want to talk about cooperative  
43 management with tribes. Then I want to talk about State and  
44 Federal cooperation, then we'll talk about how the Regional  
45 Councils on the Yukon River could work together. There's  
46 three separate Councils on the Yukon, but they have to work  
47 together to do a good job, to look at the river as one whole  
48 river. I also want to speak for a moment about  
49 extraterritorial jurisdiction and, finally, on customary  
50 trade. After each of these, I'll stop for a few minutes to

00028

1 see there are questions and comments, so we don't go too  
2 long.

3  
4 So now, looking at staffing and organizing for  
5 Federal fisheries management, one of the most important  
6 things is to look -- is to see how the five Federal agencies  
7 can work together. We want to have an organization that  
8 encouraged effective coordination between the five agencies.  
9 As you know, fisheries management is more complicated than  
10 wildlife management because the fish pass in and out of  
11 Federal lands many times going up the Yukon River. We can't  
12 manage the Federal lands in fragments, we have to think about  
13 the whole river system and to make sure that all of the  
14 agencies work together to manage those fisheries. The most  
15 important thing is to be sure that we have good information  
16 about the fish runs, about fish populations, each year.  
17 There are many gaps in the fisheries information today and we  
18 want to make sure that the Federal Subsistence Program could  
19 add new fisheries information to improve the management.

20  
21 So the approach we take is called unified resource  
22 monitoring, it means that all of the five agencies will work  
23 together to identify information gaps and priorities and they  
24 will share their staff and funding to address those  
25 information gaps. We want the staff from different agencies  
26 to be located at the same field stations, so they can work  
27 together just down the hall from each other. And then we  
28 also want to be sure that all of the fish population  
29 information, the fish run information, is put together  
30 quickly and accurately so that the managers can use it for  
31 in-season management or for the emergency order period. If  
32 each of the agencies was working by themselves, they couldn't  
33 get that information to the managers in time to make  
34 emergency order decisions in the summer. So to gather  
35 fisheries information we will have a unified program for all  
36 five agencies.

37  
38 Some of the management support activities will be  
39 with the Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage. We  
40 will be adding some new fisheries biologist and some more  
41 staff to help with the Regional Councils and the Federal  
42 Subsistence Board. There will be some new field staff, a new  
43 fish biologist in Bethel and a new fish biologist in  
44 Dillingham are on the plan.

45  
46 So let me stop at this point and ask if there are any  
47 questions about this topic of planning?

48  
49 MR OWELTUCK: Can you give us example of  
50 information gap?

00029

1 MR. BRELSFORD: So the question is, what  
2 would be an example of an information gap?

3  
4 MR OWELTUCK: Yeah.

5  
6 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. On the Kuskokwim  
7 River, for example, the count towers and weirs are -- and  
8 sonar projects are only at a very few places and the  
9 managers, the fish biologists would like to know about more  
10 of the spawning streams to have more information, so in the  
11 last few years they added a weir project on the George River,  
12 that was a new one. Or, again, on the Tadaquitsak River.  
13 There are more places where salmon spawn, but nobody is  
14 counting them so they want to put some more counting  
15 projects. On the Yukon River, the Pilot Station sonar is  
16 very important and the test fishing, the fishwheel at Tanana  
17 is very important, but there's many other places on the Yukon  
18 River where we could count the fish returning and then have  
19 more accurate, more complete information about the salmon  
20 run. Also subsistence fishing includes many other species  
21 besides salmon, white fish, black fish, pike, burbot and  
22 there are only a few projects to look at the population of  
23 those other fish, so we hope to learn more about the other  
24 fish that people use in the wintertime for subsistence. That  
25 would be another area, another information gap.

26  
27 MS. GREGORY: On your staffing, you said  
28 something about keeping people in one place. Where you try  
29 to have that one place?

30  
31 MR. BRELSFORD: The question was where would  
32 be some of the places where the staff would be together in a  
33 shared office? And we're looking at places like Bethel,  
34 probably some seasonal locations during the commercial season  
35 where some of the ADF&G biologists come out for the fishing  
36 season, we want to have people at the same place. Fairbanks  
37 would be an important management center for the Yukon River,  
38 is another example. So that's the idea, we want to make sure  
39 those guys can talk directly together.

40  
41 MS. GREGORY: You said that the Federal  
42 government would not be managing from the Washington, D.C.,  
43 in the same token, we wouldn't want them to manage us from  
44 Anchorage.

45  
46 MR. R. NICK: I have a question, Mr.  
47 Chairman. Taylor, in your reference to the five agencies are  
48 the agencies that are listed in this pink?

49  
50 MR. BRELSFORD: Actually, Mr. Nick, I believe

00030

1 up at the top underneath the logos the agencies are listed,  
2 but I could mention them again for everybody. Most people  
3 out here are familiar with the Fish and Wildlife Service from  
4 the national wildlife refuges, and also there's the BIA and  
5 Bureau of Land Management and then in other parts of the  
6 state the National Park Service is a big land holder. And  
7 then in Southeast and in Prince William Sound the National  
8 Forest Service is a very large Federal land managing agency.  
9 I think I got all five of them.

10  
11 MR. McCANN: How about -- you said something  
12 about you're going to start trying to look at the loss in  
13 other, too, count. Now, we've been having problem with white  
14 fish for quite a while and we know what happened, actually,  
15 because by beaver dams, stuff like that, how can we solve  
16 that or -- buy fighting beavers? How could you get the white  
17 fish back? They're going downhill with the.....

18  
19 MR. BRELSFORD: Hmmm.

20  
21 MR. McCANN: (Indiscernible - away from  
22 microphone) pretty hard question.

23  
24 MR. BRELSFORD: Yeah, I believe that's on  
25 that this Council has really struggled with over the years.  
26 I've heard lots of meetings about increasing the beaver  
27 season, so more people could harvest beaver, use them for  
28 food. I don't know if we have any other magic solutions  
29 about the beaver population. We recognize, with you, that  
30 the trapping prices is a big problem, that when prices are  
31 low, some people don't go out as much. We probably can't  
32 change that part right away. And, instead, what your Council  
33 has focused on was to increase subsistence harvest of beaver,  
34 people taking beaver for food or for using in their homes.  
35 So I think we're going to have to stay with that idea, see if  
36 we can make some progress.

37  
38 Mr. Thompson.

39  
40 MR. THOMPSON: Billy McCann mentioned part of  
41 what I was going to say, that some time ago, that was about  
42 several years ago they wanted to have the white fish  
43 commercialized, but lot of people deny that because we know  
44 if it happens to come into a commercial setting it would be  
45 like any other species that are declining right at present  
46 time.

47  
48 But the other one is I always wonder, you know, there  
49 is a language, say part of fish is -- you could sell it or  
50 exchange to something, so I think that language, to me, it

00031

1 does a lot of harm. We all know that some fishers are using  
2 subsistence as a tool to sell part of the fish or the whole  
3 fish during closures, so that makes me wonder sometimes. And  
4 especially roe fisheries, that's what really hurts. Quite a  
5 while back when I was on Advisory Committee a lot of guys  
6 opposed to that, but Department of Fish and Game says it's  
7 easy to control. But now, at present time, it's hard to  
8 control, that's why we, the Lower Yukon people, are blamed.  
9 The returns that are supposed to be the spawning areas are  
10 caught before they get to their destination. That I want to  
11 see be controlled or make more investigations. So that's my  
12 real concern about fish.

13

14 MR. BRELSFORD: Let me say thank you but.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

17

18 INTERPRETER: (In Yup'ik)

19

20 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
21 we'll keep moving and we will return to the question of  
22 customary trade that Johnny Thompson raised.

23

24 Next, I want to talk quickly about cooperative  
25 agreements with Native organizations and with other fisheries  
26 groups. During this planning we've recognized the need to  
27 work closely with the Native communities to support local  
28 involvement in subsistence fisheries management. This summer  
29 we completed an inventory, a list, of tribal fisheries  
30 projects. We found over 50 projects by different tribes  
31 around the state, some of them were funded by emergency funds  
32 from the chum collapse on the Yukon River, others were funded  
33 by the BIA and some were funded in cooperation with ADF&G.  
34 So we found a large number of field projects already going on  
35 and we want to build on this capacity in the new Federal  
36 program. It will take a few months to work out the  
37 priorities and design for the field projects for next summer,  
38 but our goal is to start several projects during the first  
39 fishing season in the summer of 2000 and then build up in  
40 future years.

41

42 The selection of field project, tribal monitoring  
43 projects will be based on statewide priorities for  
44 information. But some examples would include conducting  
45 village harvest surveys and monitoring projects, like fish  
46 weirs, counting towers and test fishing that allow us to  
47 protect escapements.

48

49 Another area would be cooperative management plans,  
50 like the projects that AVCP has done on Kilbuck caribou or

00032

1 Western Alaska brown bear. We want lots of -- we want the  
2 groups to cooperate across the whole Yukon River, for  
3 example.

4  
5 In the budget for the year 2000, about \$10,000,000  
6 was appropriated for the Federal Subsistence Program. About  
7 \$6,000,000 is going into resource monitoring for fish  
8 information and that's the pool, that's the money where we  
9 will have projects with the tribes and projects with ADF&G.

10  
11 Let me stop here and ask if there are, maybe, one or  
12 two questions about cooperation with the tribe? And then  
13 we'll go on to the other topics.

14  
15 MR. CHARLES: Taylor, ADF&G has been using  
16 subsistence harvest calendars and that tool seems like it has  
17 been useful for them and maybe the Fish and Wildlife Service  
18 could use that same tool and get a close count of what has  
19 been caught. Like they have -- like the Service has been  
20 using foam for counting spring, we've had that and that helps  
21 them as a management plan and for subsistence fisheries, too,  
22 it would work the same way and maybe good way to keep count  
23 of what's been caught.

24  
25 MR. BRELSFORD: Yes, it's one of the most  
26 successful projects in Alaska, on the Yukon and Kuskokwim  
27 River, the calendars, salmon calendars. Of course, we  
28 wouldn't ignore it or do the same thing over again,  
29 duplicate, we want to cooperate, use that data, but again, if  
30 you think about some of the fresh water species, the winter  
31 fishing, they don't have a calendar to get information about  
32 that and so maybe some village projects would be good to add  
33 new information. We had a really great project a few years  
34 ago on the fresh water species in the villages of Mekoryuk,  
35 Togiak, the Bristol Bay Native Association worked with the  
36 Subsistence Division to do that project, so that would be an  
37 example of adding new information by working with the  
38 villages.

39  
40 MR. R. NICK: It's mostly a comment. In  
41 reading reports, like on the subsistence surveys, you know,  
42 I've noted in the years that some villages refused to provide  
43 any information on types of fish catches, and some villages  
44 refuse to work with State representatives and some villages  
45 refuse to work with Fish and Wildlife representatives. If we  
46 really mean to conserve the resources then all villages must  
47 cooperate and work together. I just wanted to -- maybe some  
48 effort can be made by the Department of Fish and Wildlife to  
49 have -- to start that cooperative relationship with the  
50 villages. I know five villages in AVCP region that have, for

00033

1 one reason or another have refused to cooperate with efforts  
2 of conservation of resources. So maybe some plan can be  
3 developed using the other villages so that all will come with  
4 our efforts.

5  
6 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, I -- of course,  
7 that's true. When we think back to 15 years ago, before the  
8 goose management cooperation approach, there was a lot more  
9 controversy and disagreement. And over the years people have  
10 really learned some new ways of working together for  
11 conservation, so we hope we can grow in the fisheries area,  
12 too. Take those good examples and use them in fisheries.

13  
14 I'd like to go on and talk about cooperation with the  
15 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Taylor, before you go too  
18 far on cooperative management with the tribal and Native  
19 organization. In the mouth of the Yukon River right now  
20 there's some tribal organizations, and also in Mountain  
21 Village and above, they are test fishing, test the fish with  
22 the nets.

23  
24 MR. BRELSFORD: Uh-huh.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: There under tribal  
27 organizations.

28  
29 MR. BRELSFORD: It's another good example.

30  
31 So we all know that the Federal program can't work  
32 all by itself, and the State program can't work in isolation,  
33 the only way to successfully manage fish when they swim right  
34 by State and Federal waters is to be sure that the State and  
35 Federal governments work together on the ground for fisheries  
36 management. This is necessary because the State will  
37 continue to have management authority over many fisheries  
38 throughout Alaska, the State will continue to manage  
39 commercial fisheries, the Federal program will only focus on  
40 the subsistence fisheries on the Federal lands. With a  
41 mixture of State and Federal jurisdiction, close coordination  
42 and close cooperation is even more important.

43  
44 Since last year in September there have been several  
45 meetings between the Chairs of the Alaska Board of Game and  
46 the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the Commissioner and the  
47 Deputy Commissioner of ADF&G and the Federal Subsistence  
48 Board. We called this summit meetings for the two boards to  
49 talk together about fisheries. Starting in June of this  
50 summer there were two Regional Council representatives, Dan

00034

1 O'Hara from Naknek is the Chairman of the Bristol Bay Council  
2 and Willie Goodwim from Kotzebue is the Chairman of the  
3 Northwest Arctic Council, they sat with the Federal Board in  
4 these summit meetings.

5  
6 Those were difficult meetings because we can agree on  
7 a lot of things, but then there were some areas of  
8 disagreement. On the positive side both the State and  
9 Federal managers place conservation of fish resources as the  
10 priority over all of the other questions, but the Federal  
11 Board is responsible for the rural subsistence priority and  
12 the State is not able to differentiate or separate between  
13 rural and nonrural Alaskans in their management program. The  
14 Federal Board will continue to work closely with the Regional  
15 Advisory Council, whereas the State Boards work primarily  
16 with the Local Advisory Committees and those have commercial  
17 and non-subsistence representatives as well.

18  
19 So in the end we will work closely together in many  
20 areas, but there will be separate programs that maintain  
21 separate identities or distinct identity. Some of the areas  
22 where we want to focus on cooperation include sharing current  
23 information so nobody duplicates, we don't do the same work  
24 twice. We take good advantage of all of the fisheries  
25 information from the State's side and from the Federal side  
26 and we add it together. We want to be sure that during the  
27 in-season management period, the emergency order period,  
28 State and Federal managers are working together not wandering  
29 off in separate directions. Those decisions in in-season  
30 management are often made in 24 hours and there's no time for  
31 arguing, we have to close coordination to be effective for  
32 in-season management. We want to coordinate the schedule so  
33 that the Regional Councils and the Advisory Committees can  
34 make common recommendations to the State Board of Fish and  
35 the Federal Board together, they could act at the same time  
36 together.

37  
38 And we want to find a way to have the Regional  
39 Councils and the Local Advisory Committees work together  
40 better. Some of you are members of Local Advisory Committees  
41 and sometimes we have had chairs from the Local Advisory  
42 Committees come to the Regional Council meeting, we want to  
43 keep working on that, make sure those two groups can work  
44 together.

45  
46 Right now we're working -- there is a task group from  
47 ADF&G and the Federal program and they're drafting a  
48 cooperative agreement. We want to bring the draft agreement  
49 back before the Regional Councils for review and comment in  
50 the winter meetings, so you will see the words on how State

00035

1 and Federal programs will cooperate together. We have to  
2 have that agreement in place before the commercial fishing  
3 starts after March of the year 2000, so it's one of the  
4 highest priorities to get settled before March.

5  
6 Let me stop for just a minute and see if there are  
7 questions or comments on how we could work better with ADF&G.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: John Hanson.

10  
11 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
12 Yeah, taking about cooperative management, I agree with you,  
13 but I'm not too sure if the State is going to be in  
14 cooperative with the Federal, they haven't been cooperative  
15 with the people of AYK or Yukon-Kuskokwim and the Norton  
16 Sound. They haven't been cooperative when I was on the Board  
17 of Fish for six years and I got out before the State ever was  
18 cooperative with us. So I have my doubts if the State  
19 Department of Fish and Game is going to be cooperative with  
20 the Federal Board. They might work the other way, while the  
21 Federal Regional Councils are trying to work towards the  
22 people needs, and I think the best thing is -- well, the  
23 first thing would be to get the conservation back to where it  
24 was seven, eight years ago, instead of having disasters on  
25 the Kuskokwim, the Yukon, and in Norton Sound, which never  
26 rebound. We're going to have to do something. The Federal  
27 has to go out into the Federal waters and start working on  
28 the trawl fishery, as long as that trawl fishery is working  
29 out there the conservation on any river, Togiak, Nushagak,  
30 Kuskokwim, Yukon, Norton Sound, north of Norton Sound, will  
31 never rebound. That's number one.

32  
33 We got to look at it and I think this Regional  
34 Council here, once they start getting into it, they're going  
35 to start pushing for that first, rather than just have the  
36 disaster on the Yukon go forever and the Norton Sound, which  
37 is almost forever going, their stocks never rebound. Yukon  
38 is going down, like this, every year. And talking about the  
39 conservation of the escapement. When I was on the Board of  
40 Fish, I told the Department start going into these other  
41 streams and catching them, because the fish when they go into  
42 the Yukon, take from the Yukon. (Indiscernible) the fish are  
43 going someplace where the Department of Fish and Game isn't  
44 catching. There's a lot of streams that the fish go through  
45 a stream and then they don't go all the way up to their own  
46 spawning grounds. So that's another one I think the Federal  
47 should look into.

48  
49  
50 MR. BRELSFORD: Well, I think your comments,

00036

1 Mr. Hanson, remind us of the great challenge before us.  
2 There's nearly a decade of trouble in the fisheries. Some of  
3 the scientists say that has to do with changes in the water  
4 temperature out in the Bering Sea and the by-catch issues are  
5 also a part of this problem. But, again, we can only go  
6 forward by trying to work together and we hope the new  
7 Federal investment in the science could be a new contribution  
8 to those solutions.

9  
10 I think I want to say, too, that some hard things  
11 were said in the politics about Federal subsistence  
12 fisheries. Some criticisms about Federal management and some  
13 strong criticisms about State management. Some of that is  
14 talk for politics and we need to look over that and think  
15 about how to work together on the ground, how the villages  
16 could work together, how we could all work with the State and  
17 the Federal managers, so I hope that in the next year we can  
18 put the politics behind us a little bit, some of the things  
19 that were swirling around Juneau, and go on and work together  
20 on the ground for better fisheries management.

21  
22 MR. HANSON: Yeah, I agree with you. This  
23 Board here will work with the people in the fishing areas  
24 wherever there's commercial or subsistence, this Board will  
25 work with them. The elders of each village know exactly what  
26 to say about the fish and this Board will work with the  
27 elders wherever they meet or elders can come to each one of  
28 the Board members and talk to them, and that way the Federal  
29 managers from this Board will get the idea how to manage the  
30 fisheries, rather than the biologists just working on their  
31 own, you know, they're biologists, but the elders are more  
32 biologists than a guy that went to school. They're more  
33 knowledgeable because they live with the fish. I live with  
34 the fish, so does everybody on this Board. So if we work  
35 with the people this Board can do a lot of things.

36  
37 MR. CHURCH: Taylor.

38  
39 MR. BRELSFORD: Willard, can we take just a  
40 second, I think we need to give the translators a turn to  
41 trade here.

42  
43 MR. CHURCH: Yeah, when you had mentioned the  
44 different projects that would possibly be funded under  
45 cooperative agreements, as I was going through the list of  
46 test sites, where's sonars, towers, those are primarily for  
47 commercial fisheries. What project do you -- or would you  
48 propose for subsistence fisheries? I've worked with counter  
49 towers and weirs and the reason for those is to inventory the  
50 number of fish that are destined for the river, to hopefully

00037

1 determine in five to seven year the escapement needs. As I  
2 understand it, these projects are for sustaining the  
3 commercial fishery, that's their primary purpose. Have you  
4 identified any subsistence fisheries projects? Like was  
5 mentioned earlier, the salmon -- the subsistence salmon  
6 surveys. Any projects similar to that, that are there in  
7 your planning?

8  
9 MR. BRELSFORD: Well, let me go back a second  
10 and say that there's three big major categories of projects.  
11 Stock assessments is one, resource monitoring, but then  
12 community harvest project would be a second category and a  
13 third category would be traditional knowledge project, a  
14 little bit along the lines that Mr. Hanson was talking about  
15 a moment ago, interviewing elders to talk about the changes  
16 that they have seen over their lifetime, streams where the  
17 fish don't come back or decreases in the size of fish that  
18 people see. Those are things that traditional knowledge is  
19 some of the best historic source of data. So those are the  
20 three categories and I think they each respond to subsistence  
21 needs to managing for the subsistence priority, quite  
22 directly.

23  
24 I guess I'm a little concerned with the idea that by  
25 learning about the fish populations we would be ignoring  
26 subsistence needs. I think, in fact, they work together. If  
27 we know more about the fish populations, if we have strong  
28 scientific data for allocations to all of the users, and our  
29 job, your job, is to look out for the priority for the  
30 subsistence users. So we need to know what the fish are in  
31 order to conserve those runs so there will be fish for future  
32 generations. And I think the more we know the better we can  
33 do our job of protecting the subsistence allocation.

34  
35 MR. CHURCH: Yeah, I think when you put them  
36 into different categories it would help me, for example, to  
37 better understand where some of that Federal subsistence  
38 management money would be allocated to, you know. You're  
39 mentioning tribal organizations, Native organizations, our  
40 involvement, you know. We need to know where our niche is  
41 were we can be actively involved and what projects we can be  
42 a part of, you know, that's my concern.

43  
44 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. Some of the details of  
45 that are still to be ironed out. Generally what we're aiming  
46 at is a statewide program announcement so that organizations  
47 across the state will have an equal opportunity to identify  
48 projects, but they have to meet priorities, they have to  
49 address subsistence fisheries on the Federal waters, they  
50 have to address gaps, we don't want to repeat the same work

00038

1 if it's already being done well. On that basis, we're  
2 estimating that about half of the project will actually end  
3 up on the Yukon and the Kuskokwim River because the big in  
4 river subsistence fisheries occur on the Yukon and the  
5 Kuskokwim within these refuges and parks in the -- up more  
6 towards Canada. So, roughly speaking, we see a lot of  
7 attention directed at the Yukon and the Kuskokwim and in some  
8 of the other systems the Federal effort will be smaller  
9 because we have to work within priorities.

10

11 MR. CHURCH: Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: John Thompson.

14

15 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. The thing that I  
16 want to mention is do forget Andreafsky where -- and play roe  
17 is controlled by Traditional Councils at St. Marys, that's  
18 one good example right there that you could do something with  
19 the Traditional Councils. And the money that is rolled over  
20 to us, so we'll make use of it, that's one way of looking at  
21 it.

22

23 MR. BRELSFORD: I wish I had thought to talk  
24 about the promise, that's a very promising project, very  
25 successful, it's a very good example.

26

27 MR. THOMPSON: It's not the promise, but it  
28 works for our community.

29

30 MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

31

32 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Phillip Moses and then  
33 Fritz George.

34

35 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

36

37 INTERPRETER: He thinks that he's the only  
38 one that's left that hasn't made any comment. When he was  
39 young man -- he'll address a few items -- a few things about  
40 the time when he was young. You know, during the time when  
41 he was growing up there wasn't any Fish and Wildlife Service  
42 or Fish and Game. There was no talk of how the salmon should  
43 be managed in those days, but the elders of those times were  
44 just like the Fish and Game or Fish and Wildlife Service  
45 people. The elders long ago, their instructions were that  
46 they didn't -- that they don't get more than what they need  
47 and what they catch is to be well cared for. The people that  
48 go and subsistence fish is just like the elders telling the  
49 fishermen and it's just like U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
50 or Fish and Game telling fishermen how to manage the fish.

00039

1           In the days, back then, there was no argument about  
2 the amount of fish to be caught and there was no argument  
3 between people that subsisted and the only concern that they  
4 had were that they don't catch more than they need. And when  
5 one individual has more than he can use, the excess are  
6 always distributed to the community. And he, himself, saw  
7 the activities to take place in that fashion, and the salmon  
8 were cut -- were dried mainly and were well cared for. In  
9 this day and age, though, Fish and Wildlife Service and Fish  
10 and Game as well whenever the fish come around it's always  
11 these agencies reporting to the communities how the salmon  
12 are being consumed upon. In those years, some years, the  
13 salmon are a bit leaner than some other years and some years  
14 they're more than the previous year. See, the distribution  
15 of salmon and even birds are the product of the Spirit and  
16 the elders usually tell the young people that not ever to  
17 argue or to have any conflict about what God had put on  
18 earth. So the saying is that some of those species will  
19 disappear, regardless, because if they're not cared for that  
20 certain species will disappear.

21  
22           The young people were strictly told and advised how  
23 their activities should be used. Anything that came on to  
24 this land is not to be taken for granted. So the best thing  
25 for each and every one of the people is to -- for all the  
26 Natives, is to harmoniously share the subsistence caught  
27 products and not argue about them if there's -- he has enough  
28 that they cease to hunt and the ladies that take care of what  
29 the man catches has a capacity to get tired sometimes, when  
30 that occurs, the man cease to hunt.

31  
32           And he has chaired meetings with U.S. Fish and  
33 Wildlife Service whenever they have a meeting and also  
34 sometimes with Fish and Game personnel when they have meeting  
35 as well. These people, the government agents, they're real  
36 informed people and these tend to have a very keen sense of  
37 listen to the elders and he things that sometimes when  
38 they're given advice they don't readily follow the elders'  
39 advice but eventually he do. The elders' directions have not  
40 changed up to this day. Now that we have all of the things  
41 that are looked after, they be fixed. If they have Advisory  
42 Council with similar knowledge, like an elder's, sort of like  
43 advisors, those that can read and write, will be very  
44 valuable people to serve on any Council. So if the  
45 management group use elders for Council, they will go well.  
46 And he had heard that there has been a limited amount of fish  
47 to be caught. So whenever they're told they can only catch  
48 this much, it seems that he feels -- it's kind of scary to be  
49 given a limit as to how many fish he can catch for  
50 subsistence.

00040

1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Fritz George.

2

3 MR. GEORGE: Taylor, one guy back home told  
4 me once that we're not going to fish commercial again because  
5 the Federal government only supports subsistence fisheries.  
6 And then the next one start questioning, and how are you  
7 planning to handle interest of specialist, like Area M and  
8 the foreign fleet out on the high seas?

9

10 MR. BRELSFORD: On the first question, the  
11 Federal Subsistence Program is not going to close commercial  
12 fishing. In Naknek one guy as if the Kijik would opened next  
13 year and the answer is, of course. The Federal program will  
14 not disrupt other fisheries, that's not the purpose, the  
15 purpose is to protect subsistence fisheries. There are some  
16 areas where there will be controversies and changes in the  
17 years to come and the intercept fisheries are an area where  
18 we expect proposals to change the management to allow more  
19 escapement in river. In a few minutes I'll actually talk  
20 about the extraterritorial jurisdiction and the petition  
21 process, but maybe I should hold off on detailed answer until  
22 we come to that item.

23

24 MR. GEORGE: Okay.

25

26 MR. McCANN: Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Bill.

29

30 MR. McCANN: Yeah. I agree with some of his  
31 comment there, like I think it's true, sometimes, like go  
32 through the elders about the fish. Because biologist from  
33 Outside they only know what they learn from the paperwork and  
34 so these Eskimos, these old people are known on their  
35 experience, that should be looked into it, but followed it,  
36 too, also, not ignore it, because they know on their lifetime  
37 about all about the fish. Like -- for example, we were  
38 counting, just a couple of year, 40 chums on commercially,  
39 but I never heard anything about the kings, how many kings  
40 are, but the -- at the subsistence resource fishers fishing,  
41 thy fish king salmon and they say there's lot of king salmon  
42 and the Fish and Game said there's no fish out there. So  
43 subsistence are -- have a lot of fish or king salmon is what  
44 they try to catch, but Fish and Game never say about the  
45 kings, only some chums.

46

47 So that should bring out how many -- because  
48 subsistence fishermen are done way before the kings gone,  
49 there were a lot of fish. But nowadays, these people are not  
50 fishing like used to because they don't have any more dogs to

00041

1 feed, they only catch what they eat, just few. Just like  
2 myself, I don't eat very, I only put up maybe 100 fish this  
3 summer, that's about it, that's plenty. And I got stock in  
4 my freezer from last year. That's why I didn't get too much  
5 because I got enough. That's how the Eskimo do, they don't  
6 throw away any moose, they don't throw away fish, nothing.  
7 They try to keep as much as they can and put up enough just  
8 for the winter, not over. Most of them do that. That's why  
9 you should be looking at the old people about counting --  
10 especially counting the fish.

11  
12 And some of the fish are moving to other spawning  
13 areas. I think that I hear something at Kitsuk (ph) they're  
14 getting the fish in there now, more and more every year,  
15 salmon. So it's probably spawning somewhere down there.  
16 That should be looked at too.

17  
18 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Lester.

21  
22 MR. L. WILDE: Taylor, I've noticed lately,  
23 especially in urban areas where peo -- whenever the subject  
24 of subsistence comes up there's always a misunderstanding of  
25 the people in the urban areas of exactly what the program  
26 under the Federal subsistence fisheries management is going  
27 to be. Is there going to be any education come in --  
28 education monies coming out of the funding that will be  
29 coming into the subsistence to educate the other side of the  
30 program that Fish and Wildlife on Federal lands is going  
31 entail?

32  
33 MR. BRELSFORD: The answer is, yes, now the  
34 time is right. Some of the past two years have been politics  
35 to try and get the State Legislature to move forward and some  
36 exaggerated things were said. I can remember being really  
37 frustrated personally about the attacks that the Federal  
38 managers were unprofessional, they didn't care about  
39 conservation, it was pretty tough to hear about. My boss  
40 said, until October we're going to be quiet, let the politics  
41 run, but when we have responsibilities, after October 1st,  
42 then we have to overcome those misunderstandings, we have to  
43 address them. So now is the time for us to try and do basic  
44 education, like you say, but it's kind of hard to watch a lot  
45 of the exaggerations over some of these past couple of years.  
46 Now, we can move forward.

47  
48 MR. R. NICK: Mr. Chairman.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert Nick.

00042

1 MR. R. NICK: Thank you, Lester, for bringing  
2 that up. Can I address -- I'm going to speak in Yup'ik  
3 because I'd like my fellow board members, especially Mr.  
4 Moses, Billy, you know, to understand our role now today as  
5 of October 1. Somebody will translate for you, Willard. (In  
6 Yup'ik)

7  
8 INTERPRETER: At the time they had an AVCP  
9 convention and they were saying that starting from October 1  
10 the Federal government would take over the subsistence  
11 management from Bethel on down, all over the Federal land,  
12 everything that his fellow Board members had stated prior to  
13 him are very true. All of the directions regarding the  
14 subsistence abilities will be used. You might look for  
15 someone behind you or there is no other way that you can  
16 find, we are the people and we are now delve into which  
17 direction subsistence is going to be headed. We are the  
18 route and again, tomorrow, we will hear some comments,  
19 perhaps from the elders among the audience, like Luke Amick,  
20 John Goode, John Jimmy and perhaps some of those elders who  
21 have comments to give or offer the Board. To we, as Board  
22 members to look elsewhere for direction, we are going to have  
23 to be have to relied on by fellow Natives for direction which  
24 way to go on the subsistence program. We are put on as  
25 members and to believe what we comments and we have the  
26 people of the region and the directions that our elders have  
27 given us, we'll be able to bring about those directions. We  
28 will work as a team, so that staff and management will be  
29 able to work together and we'll work with the animals and  
30 things in Federal lands.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana, Robert. (In  
33 Yup'ik) in the morning in the Bingo Hall, 8:30 in the  
34 morning, at the Bingo. Recess now.

35  
36 (Off record)

37  
38 (TO BE CONTINUED)

00043

C E R T I F I C A T E

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 42 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of VOLUME I, YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING, taken electronically by David Haynes on the 12th day of October, 1999, beginning at the hour of 7:00 o'clock p.m. at the School Gym, Quinhagak, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction to the best of my knowledge and ability;

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 4th day of November, 1999.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph P. Kolasinski  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00