

1 YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL
2 SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
3

4 PUBLIC MEETING
5

6 February 25, 2005
7 9:00 p.m.
8 Toksook Bay Community Hall
9 Toksook Bay, Alaska
10

11 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
12

13 Harry Wilde, Sr., Chair
14 Philip Moses
15 Raymond Oney
16 Lester Wilde, Sr.
17 Mary Gregory
18 Willard D. Church, Jr.
19 Beverly Hoffman
20
21 Alex Nick, Coordinator
22
23 Sophie Evan, Yup'ik Translator
24 Joseph "Trim" Nick, Yup'ik Translator
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 9:20 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning. And we want to thank Bob to make it. He had transportation problem like me yesterday for a couple days, but he made it this morning -- yesterday.

Yeah, this morning we're on number.....

MR. L. WILDE: 9.C.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: C.

MR. L. WILDE: 9.C.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: 9.C. Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. Rich Cannon. Oh, before that, Alex Nick.

MR. NICK: Yeah, good morning. For the record, my name is Alex Nick with the Office of Subsistence Management, and we need to take care of one ethics disclosure this morning. Bob Aloysius just arrived this morning, and before we proceed, we need to let him give his disclosures. Mr. Aloysius.

MR. ALOYSIUS: My name is Bob Aloysius.....

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Turn your mike on.

MR. ALOYSIUS: My name is Bob Aloysius. I live in Kalskag. I subsistence hunt and fish in the area under consideration at this meeting. I do not hold any commercial permits or conduct any business activities directly affected by any agenda items before the Council.

MR. NICK: Thank you. Member Bob Aloysius does not have significant financial interest directly related to the matters before the Council at this meeting and may fully participate. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Rich Cannon.

MR. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Richard Cannon. I work with the Office of Subsistence Management, Fisheries Information Services

1 Division. This morning I'm going to give you an overview
2 of the Fisheries Monitoring Program, and in doing that
3 will go back and do some of the training that Alex had
4 started with you yesterday, and will be going back to
5 this training presentation that you worked with yesterday
6 morning. So if you can find that in your packet, we'll
7 be going to that in a minute, and we'll be starting on
8 page 13.

9
10 The information and presentation I have
11 for you this morning doesn't require your action. It is
12 for your information. And I've also handed out two
13 reports for the Council's information about the Fisheries
14 Monitoring program. One is for the Yukon and that's the
15 one with the two salmon on the front, and the other one
16 is for the Kuskokwim, and that has one -- has the chum
17 salmon on the front. And I'll be referring to that a
18 little later in the presentation.

19
20 MR. RIVARD: Rich, wait. They're going
21 to get Philip Moses a hearing pack.

22
23 (Pause)

24
25 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, Council
26 members, if you would turn to page 13 in the training
27 presentation. Are you's numbered the same way?

28
29 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

30
31 MR. CANNON: Okay. Make sure we're on
32 the right page. And it should -- the first little
33 picture, little slide should say Fisheries Resource
34 Monitoring Program. This program has been a part of the
35 fisheries program since 2000.

36
37 The purpose of the program, I'll go to
38 the second slide, is to provide information to support
39 the Federal Subsistence Fisheries Management Program. So
40 I want you to know that this program is providing
41 information to the Federal in-season managers, to groups
42 like the Kuskokwim Working Group, to groups like Yukon
43 Drainage Fishermen's Association, to State managers. And
44 they've been -- this has been going on.....

45
46 MS. GREGORY: Can we get one more,
47 please? This is not complete.

48
49 MR. L. WILDE: Go ahead, we'll share.

50

1 MS. GREGORY: Okay. We're sharing.

2

3 MR. CANNON: All right. The point is,
4 is that this information since the first year of the
5 project has actually been influencing management, and
6 since that time more and more programs have been funded,
7 and more and more products from this program have been
8 developed that are influencing the decisions about
9 fisheries in your regions.

10

11 The other part, the other purpose of the
12 program is a very important part, and that is to build
13 capacity in the rural organizations to participate in a
14 meaningful way in the fisheries program. So as we look
15 at these projects, we have to look both at how much is
16 this information helping us make better decisions, also
17 we're looking at the other -- this other purpose is how
18 our local people, tribal organizations, rural
19 organizations, how -- are they being included in the
20 program. So we're looking at those two things.

21

22 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring
23 Program, our total State budget every year is about \$7.2
24 million, and this funds about 80 projects statewide.
25 They're interdisciplinary. That means that we have both
26 social science as well as the traditional biological
27 studies programs are funded. And we're also making an
28 attempt to blend Western science with traditional
29 knowledge.

30

31 What this means for the Yukon and the
32 Kuskokwim is that on an annual basis about 20 percent of
33 the budget, or about 1.2 million, will be supporting
34 projects in the Yukon, and about the same amount, or 1.2
35 million per year for the Kuskokwim and the Yukon. Each
36 will get about that much, about 20 percent of the budget.

37

38 Turn to the next page. Okay. The
39 Regional Advisory Council involvement. This is where
40 your Council gets involved with this process. Every year
41 a funding plan is developed, and that plan is developed
42 on the issues and the information needs that were
43 approved by the Council their first -- in 2000, during
44 the first year of the program. And we come back every
45 year and ask the Councils about are there other things
46 that we need to look at. So we're updating that on an
47 ongoing basis, what the needs are.

48

49 In addition, the Councils review the
50 funding plan. that's part of your responsibility every

1 year. And you take action on the things that are being
2 proposed. And you can make recommendations about things
3 you like or don't like, and those recommendations then go
4 to the Federal Subsistence Board for the final decision.
5

6 Another part of this process is just
7 starting, is called strategic planning. And what
8 strategic planning is, is that the people, the
9 stakeholders, the people and the biologists and others
10 who are involved in the fishery in a region get together
11 and they really spend some time thinking about what
12 they've learned. What have we learned over the last five
13 years. What's worked. What hasn't worked. What do we
14 need to do better. And those processes have started in
15 two regions so far. In Southcentral region and in
16 Bristol Bay. And they're nearing the end of those
17 processes, and so that plan that will be taken back. And
18 Regional Council members are involved in those groups.
19 They'll select members of their Council to be involved.
20 And that plan then will come back to the full Council
21 when it's completed for their final review and comment.
22

23 In the Yukon and the Kuskokwim, we're
24 waiting to start that process until several things
25 happen. There are planning processes already ongoing
26 here in the Arctic, Yukon, Kuskokwim region. there are
27 several.
28

29 One is the Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim
30 strategic salmon planning initiative. That's headed up
31 by John White from Bethel. It involves Kawerak, AVCP and
32 Tanana Chiefs on the steering committee, as well as
33 Federal and State agencies. They have funds that have
34 been provided by Senator Stevens' office to try to find
35 answers for why the salmon resources in this region have
36 declined. They will look at the big picture, looking at
37 the ocean, out along the coast, as well as up in the
38 rivers.
39

40 In addition to that, we have work going
41 on in the rivers themselves, and those efforts, for
42 example, on the Yukon, are being undertaken by the Yukon
43 Panel and their Joint Technical Committee. The plan that
44 they just -- they just completed their plan for the
45 Yukon.
46

47 There's a planning effort ongoing in the
48 Kuskokwim that will be done this spring. And this was
49 done through the efforts of the Kuskokwim Fisheries
50 Resource Coalition, which is made up of State, Federal

1 managers and biologists, and tribal organizations, AVCP,
2 Tanana Chiefs, KNA. Our program, OSM, has helped fund
3 the Kuskokwim planning effort as well as funds were
4 provided by Togiak and Yukon Delta Refuge, because we saw
5 the value in what they were doing. This is a grassroots
6 planning process where people actually out in the area
7 were going to plan for their own fisheries and decide
8 what was important.

9
10 Okay. We wanted to wait until that was
11 done before we looked at what else might be needed with
12 our program. We didn't want to re-invent the wheel. And
13 many of those things will be done here in the next -- by
14 the next council cycle next fall. So you will be
15 getting a more detailed report on all of the planning
16 that has been going on for the Yukon and the Kuskokwim.
17 This is important. I mean, planning can be really kind
18 of -- you know, may not be all that important sometimes
19 to people, but in this case the emphasis is really to try
20 to figure out what is really important, where we want to
21 put our money for this program.

22
23 I want to go back now to page 14. Our
24 program selects the various projects that are funded
25 through a competitive process. People have to submit a
26 proposal, and then it's evaluated and it has to compete
27 with other proposals. We have criteria that we use to
28 decide which proposals are the most important.

29
30 If you look at that second slide, the
31 four criteria are listed. They're of strategic priority.
32 It has to be important to the region. It has to be a
33 good, technically sound project. It has to be good
34 science. The investigator has to have a proven record
35 and the capability of doing the project, so we evaluate
36 that as well. And, of course, there has to be an attempt
37 to develop partnerships, and each project is evaluated on
38 that basis. Is there a partnership? Are they trying to
39 build capacity in the local area with a tribal
40 organization or a regional organization.

41
42 The last slide on that page 14 is the
43 proposal review process. Again, as I said, each proposal
44 is reviewed. There's a Technical Review Committee made
45 up of scientists from the State and Federal agencies that
46 review each project proposal for its technical merit.
47 The Councils will review it, you know, the funding plan
48 and the proposals during your fall meeting. The general
49 public has an opportunity to comment. The InterAgency
50 Staff Committee will look at each funding proposal. And

1 finally it goes before the Federal Subsistence Board for
2 final approval.

3

4 Okay. I'll stop there, and I know some
5 of you are new to the Council and may have some
6 questions. Do you have any questions about what I've
7 said up to this point? Yes, Willard.

8

9 MR. CHURCH: Yeah, when you talked about
10 strategic planning, you mentioned the Yukon and
11 Kuskokwim. Does that also include the Kuskokwim Bay
12 drainages?

13

14 MR. CANNON: Yes, Willard. When the
15 Kuskokwim Coalition first started, its primary focus was
16 on the river, but it was expanded to include Togiak
17 Refuge as well as trying to involve the bay fisheries as
18 well. So it will look at both.

19

20 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

21

22 MR. CHURCH: Thank you, Rich.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

25

26 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah, the committee headed
27 up by John White is different from the Coalition?

28

29 MR. CANNON: Council Member Hoffman, yes,
30 that's true. It's two different programs. The Kuskokwim
31 coalition is a grassroots group, and you're familiar with
32 it?

33

34 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah.

35

36 MR. CANNON: They're worked with the
37 working group there in Bethel.

38

39 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah.

40

41 MR. CANNON: The AYKSSI that John White
42 heads up is the group that is associated with the
43 National Research Council, and they have their own
44 separate funds that Senator Stevens provided to fund work
45 on trying to answer questions about the salmon declines.

46

47 MS. HOFFMAN: Right. And when were their
48 findings going to be made public? Was that fall 2005?

49

50 MR. CANNON: Where they're at with the

1 schedule is they've received the report from the National
2 Research Council. They got that report in August. They
3 then had their own technical committee, and that
4 technical committee then was charged with developing the
5 plan, the science plan for the AYK area, and they're in
6 the process of doing that right now. And they have to
7 have it done before I think it's the middle of June,
8 because the National Research Council gets another
9 opportunity to review what they essentially have
10 developed. And I think the schedule now is to have a
11 major conference on the plan where stakeholders, everyone
12 essentially will have a chance to talk about and preview
13 the plan, and that is scheduled I think for January of
14 2006.

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Rich, earlier you say
17 that -- wondering how come the fish are getting less in
18 the Yukon and Kuskokwim. I think one of them is in
19 Bering Sea area. I've been keeping this letter -- I mean
20 newspaper that I get. It say that hundreds of thousands
21 of salmons are hauled aboard troll fisheries in the
22 Bering Sea and thrown away. This waste is called by-
23 catch. The pollocks fleet discharge 487,500 salmon in
24 2004. That's enough to provide for the subsistence needs
25 for 23,700 people for an entire year. That thing is
26 something -- it have to be -- we try once, you know. We
27 should do something about it, some kind of word should be
28 put into these people. At least that that's a lot of
29 fish.

30
31 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, there's no
32 doubt that is a lot of fish, and that is something they
33 need to address. I don't have the answers for that, but
34 obviously that's something that this group needs to look
35 at, the AYKSSI group will need to look at is by-catch.

36
37 MS. HOFFMAN: What projects do you have
38 going on? are you going to report on projects that
39 relate to anything that Chairman Wilde is saying?

40
41 MR. CANNON: Actually there -- my
42 presentation wasn't going to go into any detail on any of
43 the projects. What we had planned to do, and it didn't
44 work out, because the person that we had invited to come
45 and speak to you had to cancel at the last minute, but we
46 have some -- a number of projects that this program is
47 funding on doing genetic stock analysis for the Yukon and
48 Kuskokwim. And I know that those of you who worked with
49 these -- you know, many of you have been working with
50 these fisheries for a long time, and you're familiar with

1 this, but the information and the technology has improved
2 dramatically here in the last several years, and that --
3 so specific stocks now that, you know, 10 years ago
4 couldn't be identified can, which is just an amazing
5 accomplishment in terms of the ability of using these
6 techniques. But that technology now is being used
7 offshore. And the report that I had asked Bill Templin
8 from the Department of Fish and Game Genetics Laboratory
9 to come and give you was to talk about that, and the work
10 that they're doing with sea fisheries, and being able to
11 look at stocks now in more detail before they could
12 before. Now, what he was going to talk to you about was
13 sockeye, but the hope is that they'll be able to do this
14 with the other species as well.

15

16 And he promised that he -- he wanted to
17 be here. He just couldn't make it, but he said that he
18 would come and talk to your Council about that kind of
19 work, because I knew you'd be interested in it.

20

21 Mr. Chairman, I'd like to then continue
22 with the presentation, and I'd ask you to turn to page
23 16. I'm sorry, page 15, I don't want to get ahead of
24 myself.

25

26 I just want to go over with you very
27 briefly is sort of the annual schedule that we have for
28 the monitoring plan. We put out our call for proposals
29 in November. You should be looking at this top slide on
30 page 15. There's -- we asked for -- we do a technical
31 review, and that usually occurs from February to August.
32 We develop the draft plan by August, and then we present
33 it to the Councils during your fall meetings in September
34 through October, and then by January it goes before the
35 Federal Board for approval. So there is about a 14-month
36 process every year, evaluation and discussion of these
37 projects before there's actually a decision made as far
38 as funding.

39

40 Now I want to just take a few minutes.
41 We're going to stop right here, because I'm trying to
42 combine several things there, so you kind of see the
43 overview, but I want to now make this relevant to the
44 Yukon and the Kuskokwim, so I want you to look at this
45 report, the one with the two fish on it, because in this
46 annual schedule there is one thing that isn't on this
47 list, and that's what happens at this meeting in the
48 spring.

49

50 We give you in the spring meeting a short

1 status report. It's a written report that talks about
2 the performance of this program over the last year, and
3 so we're going to just take a look at the one for the
4 Yukon, and to give you an idea of what's in this report,
5 because it's something you should be aware of.

6
7 If you look on page 3 of the Yukon
8 report, you will see a list of all the projects that have
9 been completed since 2000. There are 33 projects that
10 have been completed. Now, if you are interested in any
11 of those projects and would like to get the report, you
12 can then ask us for that report. And very soon we will
13 have this on the internet, and you will be able to go to
14 the Office of Subsistence Management website and download
15 these reports. We're trying to get that up and running
16 here in March.

17
18 Okay. The next part of the report which
19 starts on page 5 is a little summary of each of the
20 projects that are ongoing. These are the projects that
21 are essentially being funded this year that will be in
22 the water this summer. And I'm not going to take the
23 time to go through all these with you. This is mainly
24 just so that you have this information if you're asked a
25 question, or for you to look at. But these are little
26 summaries of how those projects are going.

27
28 I can tell you over all on the Yukon
29 things are going well. Projects are getting done. We're
30 getting good cooperation from the investigators. We're
31 seeing good partnerships developed. There are some --
32 you know, there are always going to be a few problems,
33 but they're very few, and that's what our staff does is
34 we work with those problems to try to make sure we get
35 them solved when we don't get reports in and that sort of
36 thing. But generally things are going pretty well. And
37 so I can report to the Council that we're pretty pleased
38 with what's happening with the work.

39
40 The last thing in our report on page 12
41 are the last -- there's a list of five projects that the
42 Federal Subsistence Board approved just last month, in
43 January. And these projects are the ones that your
44 Council reviewed last -- it would have been in October.
45 And those are those are the ones that are now moving
46 forward and will be started this summer.

47
48 So on the Yukon you basically will have
49 25 projects operating this summer that are coming out of
50 your program.

1 I want you to get this perspective. The
2 Yukon is a big fishery. It's probably -- you know, I
3 used to know the budgets when I worked for the State
4 pretty well, but I can give you a ball park. I can tell
5 you that this program is funding over 25 percent of all
6 of the fisheries programs on the Yukon. And when you add
7 US/Canada with the Panel funds, you add the YRDFA funds,
8 which they get their funds as well, and Bering Sea funds,
9 they're all Federal money coming through various
10 stakeholder organizations, including yours, it's more
11 than 90 percent of all of the funds for fisheries are
12 coming from those sources. Okay. That's a lot, yeah.

13
14 The same report for -- the same kind of
15 report for the Kuskokwim, same kind of information, same
16 pages, everything. It's just -- you can see on the
17 Kuskokwim we've got from starting in 2000 31 projects
18 completed. We've got starting on page 5 the ones that
19 are in the water presently. We've got 16. And then the
20 new ones that were approved this last month for 2005,
21 there are eight.

22
23 Okay. On the Kuskokwim, just your
24 program, just this -- the Federal Subsistence Program is
25 funding over 60 percent of all fisheries projects on the
26 Kuskokwim River. And we share funding responsibility
27 with Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, they provide
28 funds, and then the State of Alaska has some general
29 funds. But that's very significant.

30
31 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

34
35 MS. HOFFMAN: What is the split between
36 Bering Sea and the State? If your Federal funds account
37 for 60 percent, what's.....

38
39 MR. CANNON: I don't have that
40 information, Bev. I don't have it for Bering Sea. I
41 know that, you know -- I think the State funds are pretty
42 much flat funded. They haven't -- probably have gone
43 down during the last couple of years. But it was -- I'm
44 guessing that Bering Sea is providing another 15 to 20
45 percent, and the rest is State funds. That's a guess,
46 probably a pretty good guess.

47
48 Some examples of these projects, and
49 again it's in the report, but we're -- in the Yukon and
50 Kuskokwim we're funding a number of important projects.

1 Four weirs on the Yukon, seven in the Kuskokwim region.
2 Tagging projects, genetic projects, harvest monitoring
3 programs, traditional knowledge studies. We're also
4 doing whitefish research, which had never really been
5 undertaken in any real -- you know, in a real focused way
6 before. So all those things. And I'm very pleased with
7 that myself. I hope the Council is. And I've worked a
8 long time in these regions, and i'm really happy to see
9 this information being collected.

10

11 So do you have any questions about the
12 Fisheries Monitoring Program? And then I'll start
13 Partners.

14

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

16

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

18

19 MS. HOFFMAN: You know, not this past
20 November, but the November before I attended an
21 interagency meeting for the first time in Anchorage as
22 part of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Working Group. And
23 the whole process of how you determine these proposals
24 that come in. I remember the disappointment by the
25 tagging people who partner with a lot of different other
26 folks on these weirs on the Kuskokwim. They were -- they
27 didn't receive all the funding that they had expected.
28 And it was a project that had been already started, and
29 then they come around the next year to complete the
30 project or continue the project, and it's a very
31 important project and they partner with other people on
32 the river, the Fish and Game and -- how does this happen?
33

34

MR. CANNON: Well, I'm very much familiar
35 with that situation, Beverly, and that was a situation
36 where the Kalskag mark/recapture study, which was
37 providing for the first time estimates of the total run
38 of chum, sockeye and coho above Kalskag, all the fish
39 that escaped the fishery and were moving past that point
40 in the river. And as you said, the funds were shared.
41 We were sharing funds from AYKSSI, this program and the
42 State of Alaska. And there had been that kind of support
43 when the projects started, but because the AYKSSI program
44 was, you know, it's just getting started, they simply
45 could not fund that project that year. And, you know, I
46 don't if that will be true for the future or not.
47 Hopefully that they will reconsider that, but that's a
48 decision that they'll have to make.

49

50 But even given that, the thing that

1 amazed me is that we had tribal organizations taking
2 their own funds, their own people, we had Federal agency
3 staff, refuge and our FRO staff who were willing to, you
4 know, take people out of their own projects to help keep
5 that going. And I've never seen a level -- that was an
6 incredible level of cooperation, and we were able to get
7 as much out of that project as we possibly could given
8 the circumstances.

9

10 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ray.

13

14 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 Rich, if you're going to be studying the salmon on the
16 Yukon-Kuskokwim and also in the Bay around Willard
17 Church's area, you do need to, you know, take into
18 consideration the whole picture, the whole picture from
19 the time that they spawn up until the time they out to
20 feed and the time that they return. You need to take
21 that into consideration if you're going to be studying
22 the salmon. You need to look at the whole picture.

23

24 And another question I have, I know a lot
25 of the federal funding are going toward the war effort
26 and Iraq and Afghanistan. Do you know what your -- how
27 does the budget look as far as the subsistence
28 management? You know, if we see a drop in the budget?

29

30 MR. CANNON: Well, I'm not in that kind
31 of a role in the Office of Subsistence Management, but
32 maybe Don could speak to that. But we haven't gotten any
33 bad news, so, so far, so good.

34

35 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.

38

39 MR. RIVARD: Thank you. Don Rivard with
40 the Office of Subsistence Management. Mr. Oney, we're
41 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and there is
42 some budget tightening going on, and we're probably going
43 to see a little bit more of that in the next fiscal year.
44 We don't have any specific numbers. But this program is
45 a Congressionally mandated program, so they'll continue
46 to fund it.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any question to Rich
49 from Council? Go ahead.

50

1 MR. CANNON: I just have a few more words
2 to say about the Partners Program and then I'll be
3 wrapping it up, Mr. Chairman.

4
5 Yeah, the last slide on page 15 is the
6 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program, and that's an
7 important part of this overall effort to build capacity
8 in the rural and tribal organizations so they can have a
9 more meaningful role in the management of their
10 fisheries. Since 2000 we have -- over half of our
11 projects have had a partnership of all the projects on
12 the Yukon and the Kuskokwim. This involves 16 different
13 tribal organizations and five regional organizations in
14 the Yukon and the Kuskokwim.

15
16 In terms of the partners, and turn to
17 page 16, I'll just quickly summarize this for you. We
18 have -- the program funds six fisheries biologists and
19 two social scientists in different regional organizations
20 across the State. They're listed there on that slide:
21 AVCP, Bristol Bay Native Association, Council of
22 Athabascan Tribal Governments, and Kuskokwim Native
23 Association. For the Yukon, this program funds three
24 biologists, they're spread up and down the Yukon River.
25 On the Kuskokwim there are two biologists. AVCP has one,
26 KNA has another.

27
28 Each of the biologists and social
29 scientists have -- are asked to also bring on a college
30 intern from the local area, from the region. And that's
31 to mentor them, to prepare them to -- you know, for
32 hopefully a professional job in natural resources in
33 their regions. And so that's an important part of this
34 program as well.

35
36 Another part of this is the funding for
37 programs like the KNA high school internship program,
38 which provides an opportunity for 16 to 20 high school
39 students to be involved in a fisheries project for a week
40 or two weeks during the summer. They actually go out on
41 a weir and they're taught about how to do the work there
42 at a weir and about fisheries habitat and about the life
43 history of the fish, and there's written work as well as
44 field work. And they can get -- they're working towards
45 getting high school credit for this.

46
47 Other funding for youth camps. For
48 example, on the Yukon there's a traditional youth camp
49 that's been held at Fort Yukon, one at Tanana has taken
50 place, and there are more planned. So this is a part of

1 the overall capacity building effort and our partners in
2 the various organizations are very much a part of this.

3

4 I guess that's really all I have to say,
5 and so I'll end there and ask if you have any questions
6 about this part of the program.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

9

10 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Cannon,
11 on page 16 up on the top, you have two social scientists.
12 What is their role in the program?

13

14 MR. CANNON: Okay. The social scientist
15 positions are to help with the traditional knowledge and
16 harvest monitoring projects. And although they're housed
17 within, you know, one is at the Native Village of Eyak
18 and the other one is with BBNA, they can work on projects
19 in any part of the State. I mean, it's -- we wanted to
20 do both social science and the biology, and we felt this
21 would be a start, and so with those two regional groups,
22 they are working on -- with the their organizations,
23 they're working on doing traditional knowledge studies
24 and harvest assessment.

25

26 MR. ALOYSIUS: Well, what's the purpose
27 of them being there? I mean, you know, are they there to
28 monitor the effects of the declining in the fisheries, or
29 what's their role? I mean.....

30

31 MR. CANNON: Well, things like, for
32 example, they might be involved in trying to design a
33 better harvest survey to get better subsistence
34 information about how many fish people are using and how
35 they're using them, the processing of the fish. It could
36 be used, for example, for -- if there's an interest in
37 customary, you know, or traditional use questions come
38 up, or if it has to do with, you know, customary trade
39 issues, then they -- you know, social scientists have
40 special skills and knowledge about how to design a survey
41 that will get reliable information about people -- how
42 people use and interact with their resources. And that
43 kind of training biologists don't have, and so that's why
44 we have the social scientists.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

47

48 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah, and I really think
49 that adding that on actually to speak to elders and
50 people that have been here a long time, a lot longer than

1 these folks have been here, they're the ones that are
2 gathering the knowledge from the elders from what I
3 understand. And, you know, I've only been on these
4 Councils and working groups for the last several years,
5 but what I'm feeling from these reports and the
6 cooperative effort, that it's really improved the
7 relationships between agencies and our people, even
8 though there's a lot of work still to be done. I just
9 want to commend both the Feds and the State for finally,
10 you know, coming to that realization that it's important
11 to include Councils and local working groups and have our
12 input weigh as heavily as your own expertise. But I
13 really appreciate all the data and the knowledge that
14 these projects have brought at least to my attention.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Rich.

17

18 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, Council
19 members, I just have two things I wanted to follow up
20 with you on that have come up here in the last several
21 months since the Federal Board meeting.

22

23 One has to do with the ASL study that --
24 it's an age, sex, length study that the Kuskokwim Working
25 Group had provided a resolution to the Council, and the
26 Council forwarded it to the Federal Subsistence Board
27 about concerns of not being able to fund that study. I
28 know Mary had comments to the Federal Subsistence Board
29 when we represented you there in December.

30

31 The Board did not approve the funding for
32 that, but we were able to talk about it after the meeting
33 with people on our Staff, with Steve Klein, who is our
34 chief of the Fisheries Information Services, and Tom
35 Boyd, and we have a process that will consider out-of-
36 cycle proposals. And the questions that we had with Fish
37 and Game about that project, we are giving them a chance
38 to address those issues, and that process is underway.

39

40 So if those specific issues can be
41 addressed, that we will still have the opportunity to --
42 I can't promise it will get funded, but if we can
43 conclude that successfully, that project could still get
44 funded this year. I thought you'd want to know that.

45

46 And the other thing that came up was a --
47 at the Board meeting was some discussion about the age,
48 sex, length study on the Yukon, and that study was to
49 look at the effects of -- see if there was any effects on
50 older fish or female fish that could be -- over time,

1 that could be seen in the escapement. And the concern
2 has been, of course, about the use of the gillnets in the
3 lower Yukon, and that evaluation was initiated by some of
4 our Staff, and I needed to report -- we were supposed to
5 give a report to you about the results of that study at
6 this meeting, but we had it reviewed by about 25
7 different biologists, some of the university people, and
8 it's gotten a lot of review. And there was a significant
9 amount of comment, technical comments came back, and so
10 we really want to get it right. We really want to get
11 this report as accurate as it can be, so we are not going
12 to be able to give you that information probably until
13 next fall. And we're going to go back and address the
14 comments from the reviewers and do some additional
15 analysis.

16
17 So that's all I had, Mr. Chairman. Thank
18 you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

21
22 MS. HOFFMAN: One more question. You did
23 not fund the Kuskokwim Salmon Working Group, put in funds
24 for that this year, and why was that? Because that's the
25 same funding that allows like, Bob, you to do into that
26 interagency meeting in Anchorage and it allowed us to
27 have the funds to bring our whole group together in
28 Bethel. We feel it's an important group, and we feel
29 it's important to have our people attend some of these
30 things, like interagency meetings. Can you respond to
31 that?

32
33 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, yes, Mrs.
34 Hoffman. That project -- or the support for the working
35 group was funded in 2001, and we were able to stretch
36 those funds up through October of 2004. A proposal for
37 reauthorization of support was never submitted to us for
38 that funding cycle, and I'm not sure what happened. The
39 State simply did not get a proposal to us for it. But it
40 has come in for this funding cycle, so we do have it and
41 are reviewing it for the 2006.

42
43 MS. HOFFMAN: Would it possible that it
44 be an out of cycle of proposal (indiscernible, mike not
45 on).

46
47 MS. DOWNING: Your microphone.

48
49 MS. HOFFMAN: Would it be possible that
50 it be an out of cycle proposal?

1 MR. CANNON: I don't know. I'll need to
2 talk to you about that probably in more detail. There
3 are three criteria that we have to meet, and the proposer
4 has to answer those three criteria, you know, in order to
5 meet that requirement.

6
7 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman.

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ray.

10
11 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 Rich, you mentioned that there's 11 student interns in
13 the fisheries monitoring project. I know the meeting we
14 had in Wasilla, there was one student intern that gave a
15 report to this body here. You know, I'd like to see more
16 of that done either in written form or in person. Thank
17 you.

18
19 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Oney,
20 yes, I think that's an excellent suggestion, and I will
21 pass that on to our chief, and I think we can make that
22 happen in the future.

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Willard.

25
26 MR. CHURCH: I have a question for you,
27 Rich. You know, with the list of projects that you have
28 on the Kuskokwim region, one or two program reports, on
29 page 3, with the projects that you have outlined here and
30 indicating that they are completed, you know, some of the
31 projects like the Kanektok River Weir, you know, they've
32 been operating successfully for three years collecting
33 data. What type of guarantees can we get from OSM that
34 these projects will continue for the duration of their
35 monitoring needs until we can get a base line, you know,
36 over a 10-year period? Or is that something that comes
37 up for review and it's always at risk of being cut?

38
39 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Church,
40 the best that we can do is a three-year commitment, and
41 even at that, if for some reason we would get our budget
42 cut, if, you know, Congress would cut our budget during
43 that period of time, then, of course, we wouldn't have
44 the funds. But as long as we have the commitment to
45 continue this program, we'll give three-year commitments.
46 But at the end of that three years, we really take a hard
47 look at the whole package and each project to see if
48 it's, you know, really providing the information that we
49 hoped it would, and we assess the priorities.

50

1 The other part of this is that we really
2 have -- because there's not enough money in this program
3 to fund everything that's needed. There just isn't.
4 Even some things that are really, really important, like
5 the Kanektok weir, which I feel is a very important
6 project.

7
8 So what we have to do I think, and this
9 is a big part of the strategic planning process I
10 mentioned, is we have to really sit down with other
11 potential partners, like AYKSSI, like coastal villages,
12 with the State of Alaska, and we have to really try to
13 come up with the best solution for everybody to share
14 resources, to get as much of this work done as we can.

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions to
17 Rich.

18
19 (No comment)

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

22
23 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, Rich, I think you did
24 a good job of explaining this, and I thank you for that.
25 Your 2005 projects are -- the last part on page 12, those
26 are ongoing?

27
28 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. Yeah, Mrs.
29 Gregory, they will start this summer.

30
31 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. We're into
34 reports now. After this report, first report, we'll have
35 a 10 minutes break. Alex Nick.

36
37 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For
38 the record, my name is Alex Nick with the Office of
39 Subsistence Management, Regional Council Coordinator.

40
41 As the Council remember, on October 14
42 and 15 in Bethel I was asking for the annual report
43 topics. And at the time, Council members wanted me to
44 poll Council members individually and gather some topics.
45 I did that as early as November, and I was able to work
46 with three Council members, coming up with at least
47 topics.

48
49 And yesterday at the close of the
50 meeting, just before the close of the meeting, I

1 distributed a draft copy of the annual report that I was
2 able to work on. And at this time if you had chance to
3 review that document, I would like to know what changes
4 you would like to make.
5

6 Those were the only topics that I was
7 able to gather by polling Council members, and I had
8 three Council members -- I have feedback from the Council
9 members.
10

11 I did have edits from one of the Council
12 members, but unfortunately he is not here attending this
13 meeting, so maybe we don't need to talk about his edits,
14 because he's not here present.
15

16 When we ask for annual report topics, I
17 would like Council members to give me those topics within
18 a couple of weeks if possible, because, you know, we have
19 deadlines to meet, you know, and we work on these
20 documents. And because we didn't have enough documents
21 to work from, we weren't able to include this draft
22 document into your book this year. So it's only being
23 handed out to you as a handout.
24

25 If you could refer to your Council
26 manual, on your Council manual on page 34 it talks about
27 annual report, and it also talks about it on page 68, and
28 also on page 63 of your annual report -- or rather your
29 Council manual, so you have an idea, you know, what you
30 as a Council member could do with respect to submitting
31 topics to us, you know, for us to work on.
32

33 If there are any questions, I'll be happy
34 to answer.
35

36 MS. HOFFMAN: Alex -- Mr. Chair.
37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
39

40 MS. HOFFMAN: Bev Hoffman. There is no
41 -- is there a date on here? Or do you have a.....
42

43 MR. NICK: There is no date on it,
44 because it's in a draft stage.
45

46 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay.
47

48 MR. NICK: You can change the way you
49 want to see that submitted to the Federal Board.
50

1 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay. But you want us to
2 act on it right now, is that correct?
3
4 MR. NICK: It would help if you act on it
5 with recommended changes, if any, at this meeting, yes.
6
7 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay. Mr. Chair, an any
8 recommended changes have to have the full consent of the
9 Board, or can they be added in by the end of next week?
10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.
12
13 MR. NICK: Excuse me, I was interrupted.
14
15 MS. HOFFMAN: I was asking the Chair, if
16 in reading this over, a Council member feels like there
17 was another issue that they wanted to be added in, could
18 they add it in within the next week or does it have to
19 come back to this full body for approval?
20
21 MR. NICK: Well, if the Council members
22 present here agrees with that, we can add that issue.
23
24 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, Mr. Chair.
25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.
27
28 MS. GREGORY: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)
29
30 INTERPRETER: Since I have not read this
31 draft report, I have no comments at this time. But once
32 I have read it completely and thoroughly I will be able
33 to -- I feel like I may have questions, and the 2004
34 proposals or what Rich Cannon mentioned about a study
35 going -- where the Federal Subsistence Board did not
36 approve the funding. So she wants to include that into
37 this report.
38
39 MR. NICK: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)
40
41 INTERPRETER: Please write it down and
42 submit it. But it would be better if you, the Council
43 members who are here, if you could tell them what you
44 feel should be added.
45
46 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.
47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.
49
50 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

1 INTERPRETER: This winter Mary travelled
2 in place of the Chairman to a meeting, and one of the
3 studies was not funded, and it was moved over to the
4 Bristol Bay region to study whitefish instead, and just
5 completely disregarding one of the studies in our region.
6 It's a problem for us here, and the Board did not -- who
7 did not fund and one of the employees doesn't remember
8 which.....

9
10 MS. GREGORY: I can't remember what his
11 name is, if Rich -- Rich Cannon, who was that guy who
12 told me that you were going to look for monies to finish
13 the project in our area?

14
15 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Gregory,
16 could you ask the question again, please?

17
18 MS. GREGORY: Do you remember that time I
19 tried to fight to get the funding completed for that
20 three-year program, and they didn't. Who was -- one of
21 the workers, the person who was making some of the
22 presentations, I couldn't catch his name. I have no
23 notes here.

24
25 MR. CANNON: Steve Klein.

26
27 MS. GREGORY: Steve Klein. And who is
28 Steve Klein?

29
30 MR. CANNON: Steve Klein is the Chief of
31 the Fisheries -- he's my boss, and he's the Chief of the
32 Fisheries Information Services Division within OSM.

33
34 MS. GREGORY: He promised he'd look for
35 some funds.

36
37 MR. CANNON: And he is.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob. Then Lester.

40
41 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, out of
42 respect for the non-native speakers, I would appreciate
43 it if all the Council members would address the Chair and
44 the staff in English, because there a lot of people here
45 that don't have those translators and they're missing out
46 on what the discussion is. Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

49
50 MR. L. WILDE: In the issues that were

1 discussed in the letter, I apologize for not getting back
2 to you on that, but the issues, was it one and three that
3 were similar to each other?
4

5 MR. NICK: Yes, one and three, there was
6 some -- there was a question whether or not, you know,
7 those should be combined as one, but when I worked with
8 the Council members on this, the people, the Council
9 members that I worked with, at least one council member
10 recommended, you know, to leave the document as is.
11

12 MR. L. WILDE: Well, it would seem that
13 since they're practically the same subject, I don't see
14 why we would need two different issues on that. Just
15 combine those two as one issue. I mean, that's my
16 concern.
17

18 Now, I'm sure that if the rest of the
19 Council members would get together and talk about the
20 issues that we've covered over this last year, that there
21 would be a lot -- it seems like there would be a lot more
22 different issues that we could contribute. And I know
23 I've had an opportunity to contribute to that, but due to
24 unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to get ahold of
25 you for one reason or another.
26

27 MR. NICK: Thank you, Lester. With
28 respect to questions asked by Ms. Hoffman and Ms.
29 Gregory, this document is your annual report for 2004.
30 Some of the concerns that, you know, you have now could
31 be included in 2005 annual report, which will be at the
32 end of the year.
33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
35

36 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair. At our October
37 meeting, one of the concerns that I brought up in a
38 presentation to this Council was the effects of a coal-
39 fired power plant on our subsistence resources, our
40 wildlife resources and the environment. That was a
41 concern that I brought up to this Council, and I don't
42 know if I was in a position to address it as a concern as
43 a Council member, but it still is an issue and a concern
44 that we are going to be developing Donna Creek mine on
45 the Kuskokwim, and the infrastructure to support that
46 that could have incredible impacts on our wildlife
47 resources and our environment and our subsistence ways,
48 our traditional use of our natural resources. And so I
49 guess that is a real big concern for me as a Council
50 person, those effects. And if we can have any say or any

1 expression of concern about these things, that it be
2 watchdogged by the Federal and State agencies, then, yes,
3 I want that to be included. And I see Don Rivard there
4 to maybe address it further.

5
6 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.

9
10 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Ms.
11 Hoffman. Just a couple of things. I've noted that
12 concern, you talked about it yesterday as well, and I
13 noted it.

14
15 I just wanted to remind the Council, I
16 know there's a lot of things that you deal with, and this
17 annual report, what the timing on it all is that you
18 develop your issues, you provide us with your issues in
19 your fall meeting so that we can come to you in this
20 meeting with a draft report for your approval, because
21 this then goes to the Board and they want to have a
22 response back to you by your fall meeting. That's kind
23 of the timing on all of this. So that's why it's
24 important to have this thing pretty much done when we
25 come to your spring meetings right now. And to start
26 adding issues -- we're trying to get the approval of the
27 council for a report right now.

28
29 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay. Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

32
33 MS. HOFFMAN: I guess I didn't bring it
34 up as a concern in our October meeting, or it should have
35 happened at my first meeting I ever was at, that that was
36 a concern, or an issue that I wanted to be in our annual
37 report. And if that's not the case, then I should bring
38 it up as a concern or an issue at our next meeting?

39
40 MR. RIVARD: No, we've noted it, like
41 I've noted that this is a concern, and what Alex would do
42 at the fall meeting, would bring these back up. I mean,
43 the timing was -- the concern is right now, so we will --
44 we can provide that to the Board this time around. If
45 it's okay with your Council, we would have to draft up
46 some language and you would just -- we could maybe run it
47 by you for one review real quick, but you'd have to
48 approve it right now that that's going to be an issue
49 that you want in this annual report.

50

1 MS. HOFFMAN: Well, I guess my concern
2 was is that it was completely left out of the meeting
3 minutes from October, that whole presentation, and I just
4 think that it's an important thing that's happening on
5 the Kuskokwim. And maybe I'm off base, and I'll
6 definitely make sure it's included, but I want it in the
7 meeting minutes, corrected, you know, that this was an
8 issue that was brought up, and that it will continue to
9 be a concern, and the possible effects on our resources,
10 so if this is not the forum, that's okay. Just get it in
11 the minutes and I'll make sure I bring it up as an issue
12 the next time.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.

15

16 MR. RIVARD: Yeah, I've noted that. Also
17 on the first page of the letter, I think there's a very
18 key statement there. It's the second to the last
19 sentence in the first paragraph, and this is an
20 appropriate issue for you to bring up in front of the
21 Federal Board. It allows you to express your concern and
22 addressing long-term planning needs that are not
23 addressed through the regulatory cycles throughout the
24 year that do have some kind effect on subsistence
25 resources or their uses. So it's an appropriate topic
26 you so choose to bring it to the Board.

27

28 I would also add that this is probably
29 something that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
30 is closely involved with. They're the oversight Federal
31 agency I would imagine for any kind of a coal-fired plant
32 and the Donna Creek Mine. I would imagine they're
33 involved in both of those things. I don't know for sure,
34 but that is their responsibility for protection of the
35 environment.

36

37 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

40

41 MS. HOFFMAN: I'm sorry, but I did bring
42 it up in October, and that fit in with we can express
43 concerns that are not addressed through the regulatory
44 cycles throughout the year. And all of these agencies
45 are intertwined, these Federal -- you know, you're all
46 somehow intertwined and affecting the total picture of
47 our life out there or here. And so that's fine, to
48 direct us to -- or direct me to another group, but I just
49 feel like this group is the local -- we're all local. We
50 live here. I don't know anybody on that group, or they

1 don't meet with us like you do. Anyway, those are my
2 comments.

3

4 MR. NICK: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

7

8 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, in addition to
9 what Don mentioned, I would like to let the Council be
10 aware that to deal with something that's in a planning
11 stage is something that we might not be able to do, too,
12 because it has not happened yet. If the effect's already
13 happening by the projects, then it would be easier for us
14 to do that, but I don't know.

15

16 There might be another avenue other than
17 the annual report to deal with the issue.

18

19 And with respect to that part not being
20 in the minutes, there were some concerns on my part.
21 Valerie Thomas, who is NEPA coordinator, is supposed to
22 be answering your questions during the October meeting.
23 Instead, AVCP representative presented her response to
24 your questions at the October meeting. So, you know, I
25 don't know if they presented what you were looking for.
26 They were presenting you the same thing that, you know,
27 we did, you know, on training.

28

29 But, you know, I'll let the Council know
30 that to deal with an issue which has not happened yet on
31 the annual report, I'm not too sure about that. I'm not
32 too sure. Maybe Don can address that.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

35

36 MR. L. WILDE: Alex, one of the things
37 that's happening within the villages that we haven't
38 really touched upon is the pollution by barge carriers
39 that are coming into the villages, and whenever we -- the
40 pollution, and especially in the -- I'm talking about
41 Hooper Bay now, and this happens in all the villages no
42 matter, wherever there's a barge line or a river carrier
43 that comes into the villages, at times when they're
44 pumping their bilges, they seem to forget that there's
45 oil in that bilge sometimes, and it spreads out on top of
46 the water.

47

48 And this happened in the case of Hooper
49 Bay a year ago, even last summer, where there was a barge
50 line that came in, and there was a lot of fish that were

1 affected by their bilge water pump over. And we
2 suspected that there was some acid that was in the water
3 that they pumped over, and it affected our subsistence in
4 the bay right in front of Hooper Bay where we usually set
5 our nets, because in the bay there, the tide comes in and
6 out right where the boats usually unload, and that's
7 where the fish nets. And for a week or two the people
8 that were gathering their subsistence needs in salmon
9 weren't able to fish.

10

11 And I think that might be a concern.
12 It's always been a concern, but nobody's ever noted it.
13 And I think there should be some kind of direction that
14 can be given to the people in the area as to what can be
15 down to correct that, if any, or if there's something
16 that we as Council members might be able to do to see if
17 we can get something to correct those mistakes that are
18 being made by the carriers, you know.

19

20 Because whenever we report it to Fish and
21 Game, Fish and Wildlife, whoever, they -- because of
22 weather and from some other unforeseen natural causes,
23 they're not able to come into the village at the time
24 that this is happening, because everything -- all the
25 information that they've gotten in the past as far as
26 Hooper Bay is concerned has always been -- I don't know
27 exactly what the terms. They've always come in too late
28 to see what the results of that pollution has done to our
29 subsistence resources, especially in Hooper Bay area.
30 And Chevak. Hooper Bay and Chevak area.

31

32 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

35

36 MR. NICK: Maybe at this time it would,
37 you know, be appropriate to call upon the refuge manager,
38 Mike, to say a few words on that first, and then I could
39 add to what he has to say.

40

41 MR. L. WILDE: One of my questions, Alex,
42 is, is that a topic that could be appropriate to be
43 included in this letter?

44

45 MR. NICK: In that case, because it might
46 be within the refuge jurisdiction, we would have to work
47 with the refuge, you know, first, and then, you know, if
48 they think it's a topic that we can add, we can do that.

49

50

1 MR. L. WILDE: Because we've got
2 witnesses and we've got people that work down in the area
3 that have reported this incident on more than one
4 occasion, and that the problem was that there was -- the
5 correct personnel to be able to see this haven't been
6 able to get on site at the time, and the tide -- you know
7 how the tide works, it never waits for anybody.

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mike.

10
11 MR. REARDEN: Mr. Chairman, I was going
12 to cover some of this in my agency report, so if you just
13 want to wait a little bit, then why don't we just talk
14 about it then.

15
16 MR. L. WILDE: Thank you.

17
18 MR. NICK: Yeah, if -- excuse me, Mr.
19 Chair, if the refuge agrees that the topic, you know,
20 should be included in our annual report, we can do that.

21
22 MR. L. WILDE: Well, at this time.....

23
24 MR. NICK: If it could be dealt with by
25 agency, other agency who's responsible to deal with that,
26 then, you know, we probably don't have to, through the
27 Chair, in the annual report.

28
29 MR. L. WILDE: Well, would that be an
30 appropriate subject to be included in the annual report?

31
32 MR. NICK: If nothing is done by whoever
33 is responsible, it would be appropriate.

34
35 MR. L. WILDE: Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Willard.

38
39 MR. CHURCH: Willard Church, Quinhagak.
40 Just for clarification purposes, do we as the Regional
41 Advisory Council have any type of authority to address
42 environmental impact concerns and issues brought up by
43 communities in our Y-K region? Do we have that authority
44 to do that?

45
46 MR. RIVARD: Well, I'm not sure about the
47 word authority to do so, but if it's impacting
48 subsistence resources, or has the potential to impact
49 subsistence resources or users, then yes, you have the --
50 you should bring that to the attention of the Federal

1 Subsistence Board. It may be something that can't be
2 done through regulatory process, you know, like fisheries
3 proposals or wildlife proposals, but that would be a very
4 appropriate topic for the annual report. And if it's
5 urgent enough, it can go right away to the Federal
6 Subsistence Board as well.

7
8 MR. CHURCH: One more question. You
9 know, with some of these concerns being brought up in
10 regards to projects which are going to be impacting the
11 environment within the Kuskokwim region, we also with
12 that authority can submit comments during the EIS
13 process, the environmental impact statement process, that
14 is usually required before any type of a project is
15 completed or started.

16
17 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, Mr. Church, there
18 are two avenues. This is an example of you're providing
19 advice and counsel to the Federal Subsistence Board. So
20 any comments you would have would go to them, and then
21 they would submit them after their review to the other
22 agencies, perhaps it might be the U.S. EPA. But as an
23 individual, you always have the right to respond directly
24 to, and provide your comments to a Federal agency. So
25 you have two avenues or more to go through. Maybe a
26 traditional council or tribal council would also weigh in
27 directly with the Federal agency.

28
29 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

32
33 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Willard, we as the
34 Advisory Council are the regional forum, so therefore we
35 have a vehicle in which the concerns and expressions and
36 the opinions of rural people are brought through. So you
37 are involved.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.

40
41 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
42 discussion, this is a great discussion, and I know you
43 had a very full agenda in your last meetings, and I think
44 that was one of the reasons you didn't get to this kind
45 of a discussion. But this is exactly the kind of thing
46 that needs to go on in your fall meetings so that we can
47 write down all your concerns for that particular year, so
48 that when we come to you at the spring meeting, we've got
49 all this down in this type of draft report, and it's
50 basically hopefully just for your approval. So we're

1 kind of a little out of synch, but this is exactly the
2 kind of discussion that needs to take place during your
3 fall meeting where you can get all your concerns and your
4 issues that you want to get out to the Federal
5 Subsistence Board.

6

7 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chairman.

8

9 MR. RIVARD: So I really appreciate the
10 discussion. It's just that I'm a little at a loss of
11 what to do right now, because we've out of synch with
12 this, and we -- if you want us to try to get all these in
13 here for the 2004 report, we can, but it's going to mean
14 a real quick turn-around time. Somebody's going to need
15 to draft up what you want and then get it to you for your
16 review. And I believe the time is short to get this
17 done.

18

19 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

22

23 MS. HOFFMAN: And I understand that, and
24 I guess I'm willing to hold off, because this project is
25 a ways from getting underway, although there are some
26 things happening. You know, this Council putting forward
27 a motion to accept this draft as the final document and
28 then take up these issues of pollution and concerns of
29 Donna Creek and its impact. I understand that.

30

31 I just -- I guess my frustration was
32 that, and I'm glad you made notes of all of these
33 concerns of mine, and you'll take it forward I'm sure to
34 all of these other people. I'm willing to wait until the
35 fall meeting to include this as an issue in our annual
36 report.

37

38 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other question.

41

42 MR. ONEY: Yeah, I do.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ray.

45

46 MR. ONEY: I don't know if you're
47 familiar with the Yukon River Intertribal Watershed
48 Council. They're going to be meeting next -- I believe
49 the middle part of March in Kotlik, and they're going to
50 be bringing up the subject of the nuclear reactor that's

1 going to be given to Galena by some Tokyo, Japan
2 corporation. And, you know, that's going to be something
3 that should be looked at really closely also. And I'd
4 like to recommend even to the Office of Subsistence
5 Management personnel even to be present, you know, for
6 that presentation. So that's what I want to bring up.
7 Thank you.

8

9

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

10

11

MS. HOFFMAN: Do we need a motion on the
12 floor to accept this draft as final document? And if so,
13 I will make a motion that we accept this draft as our
14 final document.

15

16

MR. L. WILDE: I'll second it, Mr.
17 Chairman.

18

19

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Your motion is to accept
20 the annual report, that's what you mean? And second by
21 Lester.

22

23

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, can I ask
24 Alex, are you going to be combining those two issues,
25 number 1 and 3, or are you going to be able to -- or are
26 you going to send it in as drafted?

27

28

MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman.

29

30

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

31

32

MR. NICK: I was just going to ask Bev is
33 she's making a motion to adopt the draft as written or
34 combining the two issues, which is issue number 1 and
35 issue number 2. I mean, issue number 3, I'm sorry.

36

37

MR. RIVARD: May I clarify?

38

39

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.

40

41

MR. RIVARD: The draft that you have in
42 front of you, Lester is the one that already combined the
43 two issues. So all you have is.....

44

45

MR. L. WILDE: Okay. I had the old one.

46

47

MR. RIVARD: Okay. All you have is two
48 issues.

49

50

MR. L. WILDE: (Indiscernible, mike not

1 on.)

2

3

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

4

5

MR. RIVARD: Okay. I apologize. We should have made that real clear, but I believe it was Greg Roczicka that worked with Alex on kind of combining them a little, and so that's what we've got in front of you. That's the one we're asking you to approve.

10

11

There's two issues here. Let me just read them. Issue 1 is working relationships between the Federal Subsistence Board and the Regional Advisory Councils. And then issue 2 is beaver dams and lodges. So that's the only two issues we have right now for this draft report.

17

18

So that's the one I believe Ms. Hoffman did with her motion. Maybe she can clarify that.

20

21

MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah. I was looking for issue number 3, and I couldn't find it, so anyway, that was my motion.

24

25

MS. GREGORY: You turned your thing off when you talked.

27

28

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

29

30

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

31

32

MR. ALOYSIUS: I call for the question.

33

34

CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question has been called. All who favor it say aye.

36

37

IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39

CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed, say no.

40

41

(No opposing votes)

42

43

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. Then we'll have a 10-minute break.

45

46

(Off record - 10:52 a.m.)

47

48

(On record - 11:07 a.m.)

49

50

CHAIRMAN WILDE: We were looking at our

1 agenda. We're through with the meeting before 5:00
2 o'clock. My understanding that if you want to travel
3 tonight to Bethel by ERA, you're on standby, so put your
4 name on it over there. There's someone over there.

5
6 Next on our agenda is number 11, Office
7 of Subsistence Management reports. You'll find it on 75
8 on your booklet there. Don Rivard.

9
10 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
11 Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management. The
12 next couple items I want to talk to you about are some
13 things that the Council can comment on if they so choose.

14
15 What we've got here as the first one is
16 marine waters jurisdiction, and in your book is the
17 proposed rule. You pointed out that there's a little bit
18 of a briefing on page 75, and then the proposed rule
19 itself is from page 76 through page 80.

20
21 A proposed rule to revise and clarify
22 jurisdiction in coastal waters was published in the
23 Federal Register on December 8th, 2004. That's the one
24 in your book. The rule would amend Federal subsistence
25 management regulations to clarify that the jurisdiction
26 is confined to inland waters and pre-Statehood
27 withdrawals. This amendment would primarily impact
28 coastal areas within the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Bristol
29 Bay, and the Kodiak-Aleutians regions.

30
31 And behind you on the wall are the three
32 maps of those different areas. The map that I handed out
33 to you is just the Yukon-Kuskokwim, basically Unit 18 and
34 then the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge as well.

35
36 In the Katie John decision, the Ninth
37 Circuit Court of Appeals concluded that the Federal
38 Subsistence Program must be crafted to reach waters in
39 which the United States has an interest by virtue of the
40 reserved water rights doctrine. Subsequently regulations
41 were published in 1999 which extended subsistence
42 management jurisdiction, excuse me, to all navigable and
43 non-navigable waters within the exterior boundaries of
44 federal reservations in Alaska. As a result, the Federal
45 Subsistence Management regulations now cover hundreds of
46 thousands of acres of saltwater, or marine, embayments
47 within refuge boundaries that were not withdrawn prior to
48 Statehood.

49
50 The Federal Subsistence Board never

1 intended that its regulations be construed to include
2 marine waters other than the pre-Statehood withdrawals.
3 Its entire focus was on inland waters. The proposed
4 amendment would remove the saltwater embayments by
5 clearly defining the demarcation between marine and
6 inland waters for the Federal Subsistence Management
7 Program.

8

9 The proposed amendment would also
10 specifically identify those pre-Statehood withdrawals of
11 submerged lands underlying marine waters in which the
12 Federal Subsistence Board still exercises jurisdiction by
13 virtue of owning title to the submerged lands.

14

15 So the map you have in front of you does
16 show that those marine waters in your region will still
17 remain under the Federal Subsistence Program. That's
18 what that map is showing.

19

20 The Federal Subsistence Board is now
21 asking for comments from the Regional Councils during
22 these winter meetings. The comment period on this
23 proposed rule has been extended through April 1st. A
24 final rule will be published by the Secretaries of
25 Agriculture and Interior after consideration of public
26 and Regional Council comments.

27

28 So this is an opportunity for you to
29 comment on it. Again, the map you have in front of you,
30 those are pre-Statehood withdrawals, so the Federal
31 Subsistence Program would still have jurisdiction over
32 those marine waters in the Yukon-Kuskokwim area there,
33 and within the boundaries of the Yukon Delta National
34 Wildlife Refuge. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

37

38 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair, so right now --
39 I mean, right now, Don, management is with the Federal
40 subsistence -- or who manages this? Who right now?

41

42 MR. RIVARD: Well, it's been managed
43 under the Federal subsistence Program.

44

45 MS. HOFFMAN: Right.

46

47 MR. RIVARD: What it is is that it's just
48 clarifying which marine waters is still -- is under the
49 Federal Subsistence Program jurisdiction.

50

1 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay.
2
3 MR. RIVARD: There were more waters that
4 were thought to be, but we're just clarifying what really
5 the waters are under the Federal Subsistence Program.
6
7 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay. Yeah, because when I
8 was reading this over, and it was so technical, and I was
9 just a little confused I guess, and just concerned about
10 the jurisdiction and who watchdogs and if there was going
11 to be some changes over the management. But it's just a
12 clarification that you're wanting our comments?
13
14 MR. RIVARD: Rod Campbell here is talking
15 with me a little bit here. What I want to -- let's refer
16 to the -- let's go to page 79, just so we're clear on
17 this. If you look on the right side of the page, it says
18 subpart (a), general provisions. Okay. And then if you
19 go down a little bit -- does everybody have that? If you
20 go down to the small letter (b) under applicability and
21 scope, it says the regulations contained in this part
22 apply on all public lands including all inland waters,
23 both navigable and non-navigable within and adjacent to
24 exterior boundaries of the following areas, and on the
25 marine waters as identified in the following areas.
26
27 Now, if you go to page 80, and you go to
28 the bottom of page 80, on the left-hand side, there's
29 number (4). It says the Yukon Delta National Wildlife
30 Refuge, including Nunivak Island, the submerged land and
31 water of Nunivak Island, together with the adjacent
32 waters of the Bering Sea extending, Federal subsistence
33 management purposes.
34
35 So that in my mind says that those waters
36 are included.
37
38 Okay. I apparently have misspoken here,
39 and we're getting this clarified.
40
41 MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, Council
42 members, I'm sorry for the confusion here. For the
43 record, my name is Rod Campbell, Office of Subsistence
44 Management.
45
46 And the maps that you do have up here do
47 show not only -- so you have the one.....
48
49 MR. RIVARD: This is the one we're
50 working with.

1 MR. CAMPBELL: The one that you're
2 looking at that Don had pointed out for the Yukon-
3 Kuskokwim area within the boundaries of the Yukon Delta
4 National Wildlife Refuge, those bays that are
5 highlighted, including Kuskokwim Bay, Toksook Bay, Hazen
6 Bay, Hooper Bay, on those lines, all the ones that are to
7 be -- are proposed for exclusion from Federal
8 jurisdiction.

9
10 Those are one of the original ones that
11 Don had pointed out that when this ruling was set up,
12 that they used the headland to headland, which actually
13 put several of these saltwater embayments within Federal
14 jurisdiction where they were never intended to be, and
15 Don pointed out that language in the Federal Register.
16 It was never intended for those to be in there. That was
17 what they felt was in error. And this is to come back
18 and change this jurisdiction back the way it was
19 originally intended. And the same for the Alaska
20 Peninsula, which is not in your jurisdiction, but on that
21 other map it shows several of these embayments that were
22 drawn headland to headland, that were never intended to
23 be within Federal jurisdiction. So it's just correcting
24 an oversight that was initially made several years ago.

25
26 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I don't know
27 what headland to headland means. Can you explain that?

28
29 MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, Ms. Gregory,
30 when you're looking at your map, you'll see the bay drawn
31 in here. It will be indented in, and the headland would
32 be the farthest point out here on the coast. So they
33 would draw it for the point, from the coast over. And,
34 you know, the rivers and waters may be in some cases
35 several miles up into there, so it would be from those
36 farthest points where you have an indent and then you go
37 headland to headland right across there.

38
39 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

40
41 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

44
45 MR. L. WILDE: Did I understand you right
46 to say that those are -- those bays are excluded from the
47 Federal jurisdiction? Or am I understanding you in
48 reverse?

49
50 MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Wilde,

1 this is a proposal. Currently they are under Federal
2 jurisdiction. This proposal that's brought before you
3 with the map has not been acted on yet. This is where
4 we're trying to get comments from all the Councils that
5 are affected by these, to see what your thoughts are on
6 that. But currently they are under Federal jurisdiction.
7 The proposal is to put -- yeah, to bring it back into
8 State jurisdiction where it was intended originally. So
9 this was an oversight, to kind of make matters.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

12

13 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair. What do you see
14 -- with this proposal, what do you see are the pros and
15 cons of like, say, the proposal is to put it back into
16 State jurisdiction.

17

18 MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, Ms. Hoffman,
19 you may want to include that in the refuge report within
20 their jurisdiction. I cannot speak for them as far as
21 their management of it. However, there are several of
22 these places that I am more familiar with along the
23 Alaska Peninsula that all the fisheries are managed by
24 the State anyway. The Federal jurisdiction is on paper,
25 but the managers really do not manage any of the
26 fisheries within those boundaries, and really don't have
27 any desire to manage those fisheries. They are being
28 managed by the State. They are consulting with them if
29 there's any concerned. And that's really the way they
30 would like to keep it. And, again, I guess I really
31 can't speak for them either, so.....

32

33 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

36

37 MS. HOFFMAN: I just want to clarify.
38 You think that the State would like for it to stay the
39 same?

40

41 MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, Ms. Hoffman,
42 I suppose I can speak from past experience where I did
43 work for the State, and I did work in the Alaska
44 Peninsula area, and the State is adamant that those
45 should not be in Federal jurisdiction, and that they do
46 want those responsibilities back. And, in fact, they
47 still feel like they have it. There's a dispute there.
48 I don't think it's, you know, totally -- the State has
49 not accepted that this is in Federal jurisdiction,
50 because they did dispute this interpretation I guess I

1 should say 10 or so years ago when these things were
2 addressed.

3

4

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Willard.

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CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: So what you're telling us
is that if it gets back to the State, then everybody
along those, the bay areas will have to get permission
from the State to go after their fish, like we do in the

1 Kuskokwim River? It have to be regulated by the State?

2

3 MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, Ms. Gregory,
4 I think Don Rivard had pointed out in a lot of these
5 instances we're using State regulations anyway, unless
6 there's specific Federal regulations passed by the
7 Subsistence Board. If these waters are returned back to
8 State jurisdiction, then, yes, it would be under State
9 regulations, and the Federal regulations would only apply
10 in Federal waters where -- Federal public waters where we
11 have -- the Board has passed regulations. Otherwise, it
12 would be State.

13

14 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ray.

17

18 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
19 Chairman. Rod, do you know if comanagement has been
20 taken into consideration by those bays, these villages
21 that are affected by this -- by these areas? I know you
22 mentioned earlier that the Feds I mean has no desire to
23 manage those areas, so I was just wondering if
24 comanagement might have been taken into consideration.

25

26 MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Oney,
27 again I think I first said I can't speak for Mike. What
28 we're talking about is all under his jurisdiction. I was
29 speaking at least from past experience from working for
30 the State in the Alaska Peninsula area, where they did
31 the subsistence -- issuing all the subsistence permits,
32 getting all the information from them, and there really
33 wasn't any Federal involvement as far as I'm aware of in
34 the actual subsistence fisheries there besides a sharing
35 of information. So I guess I really -- that's about all
36 I can say.

37

38 MR. ONEY: Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions from
41 Council.

42

43 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair, I think that in
44 front of you is a desire for somebody in the public to
45 comment.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Beverly. I've got
48 Nick want to.

49

50 MR. THERCHIK: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think you come to the
2 microphone here.

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

5
6 INTERPRETER: I am from Toksook Bay and
7 this is the first time that I have heard about State
8 wanting to have jurisdiction over these waters, and he --
9 I used to hear that since the wildlife refuge holds
10 jurisdiction for around here.

11
12 When I heard this information, I did not
13 like it, because we are subsistence users in the bay, and
14 if the State takes jurisdiction over these bays, we may
15 have more of a hard time trying to feed our families.
16 Those of us who live on the coast, not only those of us
17 in Toksook Bay, but other coastal communities, they will
18 also be affected.

19
20 State has no -- they see everybody as
21 white and do not make a distinction for us indigenous
22 people, so if the State takes jurisdiction, we will --
23 they will look at us as citizens, plain old white
24 citizens. So we from the coastal communities, I feel
25 like I want the Federal jurisdiction to continue.

26
27 And since I had not been involved in
28 these discussions or commented on any discussions -- so
29 if he's mistaken or off, he apologizes, but he felt
30 strong enough to express his feelings on the jurisdiction
31 issue. So the State Fish and Game people will be
32 watching us even more closely as we try to fee our
33 families.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, quyana. Joseph.

36
37 MR. HENRY: Yeah. Quyana. Joe Henry.
38 I'm under traditional council. (In Yup'ik)

39
40 INTERPRETER: This is Joe Henry.
41 Traditional council (In Yup'ik). This is the first time
42 that I have heard this jurisdiction issue. He's never
43 heard anything, and he feels like he's in a panic stage
44 right now since the bay is our food, and it is not only
45 us, but other Yup'ik people as well who live off the
46 animals from our bays. Even from the way inland,
47 villages do subsist from our bays. And our ocean.

48
49 Maybe we will lose our subsistence rights
50 under State jurisdiction. But the traditional councils

1 using self-determination, we have that power to champion
2 our people's needs, so in my mind it may be better to
3 have local governments, traditional councils have
4 jurisdiction under our self-determination powers. And we
5 know -- he knows that Yup'ik people do not waste or just
6 go out hunting for fun, or fishing for fun.

7
8 So that is his opinion, how he feels on
9 this issue.

10
11 His friend has an Indian wife who loves
12 seal oil. They do like seal oil. And they add Wesson
13 oil to extend the seal oil consumption. So it does not
14 affect only us people on the coastal communities, all the
15 way from Bristol Bay to the Yukon Bay our people live off
16 the coastal animals. Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Qu yana. Don, you're
19 still on.

20
21 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, I'd like to see
22 if I could make a phone call or two. I think we should
23 wait until after lunch to finish this. There's some
24 clarification that needs to take place. So if that's all
25 right with you, we'll continue this afterwards.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Bob.

28
29 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
30 Chairman. Don, the more I hear of what's going on here,
31 the more I'm getting confused, and in a nutshell, can you
32 describe exactly what this proposal is? Is that -- is it
33 something that -- these two gentlemen really brought out
34 something to me, that they're afraid of State
35 jurisdiction taking over what they believe is Federal
36 jurisdiction right now. And I've been trying to read
37 this thing and make sense, and it doesn't make a damn bit
38 of sense to me, so if you could clarify what this
39 proposal is in a nutshell, maybe everybody can get a
40 better picture of what this proposal is supposed to be.
41 Thank you.

42
43 MR. RIVARD: Well, like I say, I think
44 there's still a little bit of confusion on my part, and I
45 apologize for that. That's why I would like to make a
46 phone call.

47
48 But my understanding is, is it's really
49 -- the Federal subsistence program was intended to be in
50 the inland waters, so for the most part our jurisdiction

1 is only in fresh water and not in marine waters. There
2 are a few places where there still is -- we have
3 jurisdiction in marine waters, but they're very few, and
4 they're usually associated with a national wildlife
5 refuge.

6
7 What I need some clarification on is the
8 way I read the regulation, the proposed regulation, and
9 the map that I provided you seem to be in contradiction,
10 and I just want to get that clarified in my mind. I need
11 to call Bill Knauer. He's not in the office today, but I
12 do have his home phone number, and I intend to call him
13 during lunch and see if I can't get this clarified, and
14 bring it back to you after lunch, because I can't really
15 provide all the clear answers I need to to you guys, so
16 thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. You'll be
19 continue after we have lunch break. Right now we're
20 going to go to lunch break.

21
22 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair, before we go to
23 lunch, I was wondering, I know that right after -- let me
24 see, where are we. Oh, we still have (b) and (c). Never
25 mind.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. We go lunch
28 break.

29
30 (Off record - 11:38 a.m.)

31
32 (On record - 1:04 p.m.)

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don, before you start,
35 we give that gentleman have.....

36
37 MS. GREGORY: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.
38 Before we start, we were asked to have a silent prayer
39 for, or a silence for Annie Laurence, who's going through
40 a scan on her head. Hospital -- (In Yup'ik).

41
42 INTERPRETER: Cat scan.

43
44 (Pause)

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Amen. Okay. Before you
47 start, we give that gentleman chance to make a comment,
48 because he wasn't here, so Thomas Jumbo. (In Yup'ik)

49
50 MR. JUMBO: (In Yup'ik)

1 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)
2
3 MR. JUMBO: (In Yup'ik)
4
5 INTERPRETER: I can speak even Russian,
6 so nobody understands. But my name is Thomas Jumbo. I'm
7 the treasurer for the Nightmute Traditional Council. But
8 since last year he's still serves as the secretary or
9 treasurer. Since they had a lot of turn-over on their
10 council, so since he is involved in his village, he's --
11 and appointed to their council, so on behalf of the
12 Nightmute Traditional Council, or even if he hears
13 something that he needs to speak out on, he speaks.
14
15 And although he has missed previous
16 discussions, he's asking the Council, what are you here
17 for? What is the purpose of your meeting here today?
18 That's his only question.
19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)
21
22 MS. GREGORY: Our Council, he wants to
23 know who we are.
24
25 MR. JUMBO: (In Yup'ik)
26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)
28
29 INTERPRETER: This Council was formed
30 under the Federal Government to champion our subsistence
31 rights from the Kuskokwim and Yukon, and from the coastal
32 villages, but our work, our job, we listen to the people
33 on the Kuskokwim and the Yukon and champion our
34 subsistence way of life. That is who we are, under the
35 Federal Subsistence Board. We act as advisory council.
36
37 MR. JUMBO: (In Yup'ik)
38
39 INTERPRETER: I would like to meet these
40 councilmen, this Council members. Would you please tell
41 me your name and where you're from.
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)
44
45 MR. JUMBO: Yeah.
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)
48
49 INTERPRETER: Would you, please, Council
50 members introduce yourselves to Thomas Jumbo, starting

1 from Ray Oney.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: He want to know what
4 your name is, where you're from. Will you give your name
5 to him, and where you're from.
6
7 MR. ONEY: Yeah, I'd be happy to. My
8 name is Raymond Oney, and I'm from Alakanuk. (In Yup'ik)
9
10 MS. HOFFMAN: (In Yup'ik) Beverly
11 Hoffman. (In Yup'ik)
12
13 MR. CHURCH: My name is Willard Church.
14 I'm from Quinhagak, down along the coast.
15
16 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)
17
18 INTERPRETER: And she is very staunch
19 champion for subsistence.
20
21 MR. JUMBO: (In Yup'ik)
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Harry Wilde.
24 (In Yup'ik)
25
26 MR. JUMBO: (In Yup'ik)
27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)
29
30 INTERPRETER: And I, too, champion our
31 subsistence way of life.
32
33 MR. L. WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Lester Wilde.
34 (In Yup'ik)
35
36 MR. ALOYSIUS: (In Yup'ik) Bob Aloysius.
37 (In Yup'ik)
38
39 INTERPRETER: He lives in Kalskag.
40
41 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)
42
43 INTERPRETER: And you know me. You grew
44 up in the same village, but I want to tell you that these
45 -- we are going to try to finish our business today. So
46 if you don't have anything important to say, we do have
47 -- we do want to get through our business, and people do
48 want to catch flights. So if it isn't too important,
49 please don't waste our time.
50

1 MR. JUMBO: (In Yup'ik)
2
3 INTERPRETER: Well, that's all I have.
4 Thank you for giving me some time. Thank you. 'Bye.
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Quyana. Don
7 Rivard.
8
9 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
10 Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management.
11
12 We were talking about the marine
13 jurisdiction proposed rule before we broke for lunch. I
14 was unable to contact Bill Knauer who is the one who
15 wrote this proposed rule, to get some clarification. But
16 what the Council can do is just provide their comments on
17 what they think ought to be done with the bays on your
18 map, whether they should remain under Federal
19 jurisdiction or not. You can make those comments, and
20 that's really what we're asking for anyway. And we'll
21 clarify the issue and get back with you through Alex so
22 that you have a full understanding then of what it really
23 means, because frankly there is some confusion from what
24 I am detecting here, so we want to get that clarified.
25 Thank you.
26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Willard. Lester.
28
29 MR. CHURCH: With this issue coming up
30 and being put onto the Y-K Regional Advisory agenda, it
31 seems like it's something that needs a little more
32 thorough research on behalf of the villages that are
33 adjacent to these bays and that would be affected by any
34 jurisdictional changes. I think there needs to be some
35 time given, and also notices sent out to the affected
36 communities with the summary explaining what exactly this
37 all means in language that can be easily understood.
38
39 And also with the information that we
40 have, you know, reading through the Federal Register, we
41 might need to go through a little session or something to
42 help us better understand, you know, what exactly the
43 intent is, and what the ramifications could be with the
44 changes to Federal jurisdiction in regards to those bays
45 that have been designated there.
46
47 But, you know, if you wanted an answer
48 very soon or an opinion from each one of us, you know,
49 personally I think it should remain under Federal
50 jurisdiction as it is, because it does protect, you know,

1 people's subsistence rights, and does give them
2 subsistence priority, you know, even within those marine
3 waters that are along the coastline. Thank you.

4

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

6

7 MR. L. WILDE: The comments made by
8 Willard was something that I was going to say, but he
9 echoed my thoughts, so that's the comments I was going to
10 make.

11

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

13

14 MS. GREGORY: Yeah. Me, too. I was
15 speaking to several people during lunch time about that,
16 and they told me, you can't let them happen. You can't
17 let the State take over, because they know how the State
18 treats the Yup'ik people. And I'm sorry to say this, but
19 they're very -- they don't follow our advice or anything
20 like that. They just go in and do their own thing,
21 whether we like it or not. So I'm in consensus with the
22 two gentlemen here.

23

MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

25

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

27

28 MS. HOFFMAN: I also wanted to concur
29 with my fellow Council people. I'd love to see the
30 people of this region listening to Nick Therchik talk
31 this morning. I think that more information needs to get
32 out, and I feel that it should stay the same, unless
33 somebody can Tell me why it shouldn't.

34

CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

36

MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

38

39 INTERPRETER: And me, Philip Moses, I do
40 agree with the previous speakers on the Council, that
41 since we -- this is the first we've heard about Federal
42 jurisdiction on our bays, and he does support Federal
43 jurisdiction, since we have -- our subsistence rights are
44 protected. And it is important for those of us living on
45 Nelson Island. He doesn't want to worry about the
46 younger generation after he has gone, how are they going
47 to hunt seals. So he does not want to worry about our
48 people not getting seals from the bay and the ocean. So
49 he does concur with previous Council member comments.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana.
2
3 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman.
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ray.
6
7 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 I'm also in agreement with all the full Board that it
9 remain with the Office of Subsistence Management. And
10 also.....
11
12 MR. L. WILDE: Excuse me for
13 interrupting, but we have a little problem hearing you.
14 Can you speak up just a little bit?
15
16 MR. ONEY: Yeah. I thought it was.
17 Okay. I'll turn it up. How's that? Better? Okay.
18
19 Yeah, I'm also in agreement with all the
20 Council members here that it remain in Federal hands, and
21 also take into consideration comanagement of those areas
22 that -- with those people in those areas, to work with
23 them, to see if comanagement can be a possibility for
24 those people affected in those areas. Thank you.
25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob Aloysius.
27
28 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. I guess I'm
29 the only guy who is not really close to the areas that
30 are affected by this proposal, but from what I hear, it's
31 not going to do any good for the people who actively
32 pursue a subsistence lifestyle in these areas. And they
33 seem to be happy with the Federal jurisdiction, and like
34 the old saying goes, if it ain't broke, why try to fix
35 it. So I want to go along with the wishes of the people
36 that I heard, and I'm going to back them up and say leave
37 it alone.
38
39 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)
40
41 INTERPRETER: Mary Gregory makes a motion
42 to have the marine waters jurisdiction issue.....
43
44 MS. GREGORY: Let me see, what is this
45 called, marine waters jurisdiction be under the Federal
46 people rather than State.
47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's your motion?
49
50 MS. GREGORY: My motion, yeah. Keep it

1 as is.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's any second to
4 the motion.
5
6 MR. CHURCH: Second. Second the motion.
7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second by Willard.
9 Discussion.
10
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman, would you
12 clarify that motion into a positive motion? Because we
13 run into that problem before and I said, if you're going
14 to make a motion, make a positive motion, and if they
15 don't like it, then you vote in the negative to oppose.
16
17 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.
18
19 MR. ALOYSIUS: I didn't understand her
20 motion at all.
21
22 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair, do we need a
23 motion?
24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think it's my
26 understanding Western Alaska National Wildlife Refuge
27 saltwater area proposal, is that the one that.....
28
29 MS. GREGORY: This is marine waters
30 jurisdiction.
31
32 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, if I may to
33 clarify. It probably would be helpful to have a motion.
34 It would be your Council recommendation to the Federal
35 Subsistence Board on this. You've all expressed your
36 individual opinions and comments, which sound like
37 they're all in agreement, so it would probably behoove
38 you to have it just as a Council motion. And my
39 understanding of the motion was that it was to keep
40 things as they are under Federal jurisdiction. Is that
41 correct? To keep it as it currently is under Federal
42 jurisdiction, those bays in the Y-K Delta region there,
43 in the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.
44
45 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.
46
47 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.
50

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: In other words, the motion
2 does not address the proposal.

3
4 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, my motion
5 reads to keep the marine water jurisdiction under the
6 Federal Government rather than the State.

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

9
10 MS. HOFFMAN: So a yes vote would keep it
11 the same, and a no vote would recommend to change it.

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm very -- I couldn't
14 really understand, even though I know what that mean.
15 But, however, the State or Federal never given chance or
16 opportunity for these villages what the meaning of this.
17 They should have, someone should have write to them, to
18 mostly their tribal is very important to them, some of
19 these villages. Those villages, my understanding, they
20 don't know nothing about it, what's marine proposal.
21 Yeah, go ahead, Don.

22
23 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, I don't know to
24 what extent this notice was sent out as far as actively
25 our office mailing it out to affected villages, but I
26 will check that out. I've written down what Mr. Church
27 stated, that this needs thorough research by the
28 villages, and that notices should be sent out to the
29 affected communities in plain language. So I will
30 research that when I get back and see to what extent
31 that's been done, if at all. And I'll get back to you
32 through probably Alex to let you know.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So, Council, you
35 understand what is motion for, so I'll ask for
36 discussion. Willard.

37
38 MR. CHURCH: Initially you asked for the
39 Council's opinion in regards to the proposal, and by the
40 Council agreeing in the form of a motion, that's
41 basically clarifying what our opinion is. The additional
42 information that you want to gather from the affected
43 communities that live along the coastline and that live
44 adjacent to these bays here, that could be considered
45 additional support for having the Feds retain Federal
46 jurisdiction. I think that's understood.

47
48 MR. RIVARD: Yes, sir, that's the way I
49 understand it. It's not a part of your motion, but it is
50 some follow-up work that our office needs to do, and we

1 will look into that.
2
3 MR. CHURCH: So our motion is what you
4 need right now. Additional support will come from the
5 villages.
6
7 MR. RIVARD: If they chose to.....
8
9 MR. CHURCH: Yes.
10
11 MR. RIVARD:respond, yes.
12
13 MR. CHURCH: Okay. Thank you.
14
15 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.
16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
18
19 MS. HOFFMAN: In addition, you will take
20 the comments that were taken from the public and include
21 that? This morning Nick Therchik and Joseph Henry had
22 comments that I'd like to see included.
23
24 MR. RIVARD: Yes, we'll make sure those
25 comments come -- we'll get them from the transcripts of
26 this meeting and include them as part of the comments
27 from the public.
28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more discussion.
30
31 (No comment)
32
33 MR. L. WILDE: Question, Mr. Chairman.
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question been called
36 for. I'll request for a roll call.
37
38 MS. GREGORY: Beverly Hoffman.
39
40 MS. HOFFMAN: Yes.
41
42 MS. DOWNING: Your microphone, Mary.
43
44 MS. GREGORY: I'm sorry. Beverly
45 Hoffman.
46
47 MS. HOFFMAN: Yes.
48
49 MS. GREGORY: Ray Oney.
50

1 MR. ONEY: Yes.
2
3 MS. GREGORY: Willard Church.
4
5 MR. CHURCH: Yes.
6
7 MS. GREGORY: Lester Wilde, Sr.
8
9 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.
10
11 MS. GREGORY: Robert Aloysius.
12
13 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.
14
15 MS. GREGORY: Philip Moses.
16
17 MR. MOSES: Yes.
18
19 MS. GREGORY: Harry Wilde, Sr.
20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
22
23 MS. GREGORY: Myself, yes. Eight years,
24 zero nays.
25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion carried.
27
28 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
29 next briefing is regarding the rural/nonrural status of
30 Alaskan communities and the Federal Subsistence Board
31 review of those. This is on page 81 is a news release
32 that was sent out on January 31st. I'm just going to
33 briefly go over this. It's just basically a status
34 report, but you also as a Council can also make comments
35 here.
36
37 The Federal Subsistence Board has
38 initiated its 10-year review of the rural/nonrural status
39 of Alaska communities, and is inviting public and Council
40 comment. A news release as I said is provided in your
41 Council book on page 81, and the Councils may provide
42 comments on the review process now. This comment period
43 is open until April 1st.
44
45 As we move through this process over the
46 next two years, there will be additional opportunities
47 for public and Council comment keyed to the specific
48 stages of the review. So this is not the last time this
49 is going to come before you. There's at least two more
50 scheduled times when this issue will come before you.

1 Right now this is basically just letter you know where
2 we're at in the process.

3
4 ANILCA requires that requires that rural
5 Alaskans be given a priority for subsistence uses of fish
6 and wildlife on Federal public lands. Determining which
7 communities are rural determines eligibility for this
8 subsistence priority. The Board initially determined
9 which Alaska communities were rural when the Federal
10 Subsistence Management Program began in 1990.
11 Regulations require that the rural/nonrural status of
12 communities be reviewed every 10 years, beginning with
13 the availability of the 2000 census data. The focus of
14 this review will be on what has changed since 1990.

15
16 The news release that you have in your
17 book describes the approach that will be used in
18 reviewing the status of communities, a schedule of the
19 key steps and how to obtain more detailed information.
20 That detailed information includes the following on
21 methods to be used.

22
23 Key questions addressed in this initial
24 review will begin with consideration of communities that
25 had previously been grouped or aggregated based upon
26 being found to be economically, socially, and communally
27 integrated. Do we now know of reasons to re-evaluate the
28 grouping of these communities. If so, such communities
29 will be considered for further analysis.

30
31 If there are communities not currently
32 grouped for which we now know of reasons to consider
33 grouping, these communities would also be considered for
34 further analysis.

35
36 The criteria previously used to determine
37 if communities are socially and economically integrated
38 included (1) do 15 percent or more of the working people
39 commute from one community to another. (2) Do they share
40 a common school district. (3) Are daily or semi-daily
41 shopping trips made.

42
43 The criteria we now intend to use
44 include, and these are the questions we'll be looking at,
45 do 30 percent or more of the working people commute from
46 one community or place to another. Do they share a
47 common high school attendance area. (3) Are the
48 communities or places in proximity and road accessible to
49 one another.

50

1 These criteria may be further developed
2 as we gain experience in their use. Also, they will not
3 be considered separately, but will be assessed
4 collectively with the recommendation to group communities
5 being dependent upon the collective assessment.

6
7 The review of other changes in
8 communities will focus on changes in population. For a
9 community currently considered rural, we will examine
10 whether the population increased above or further above
11 7,000 people between the 1990 and 2000 census. If so,
12 such a community would be considered for further
13 analysis.

14
15 For a community currently considered
16 nonrural, we will examine whether the population
17 decreased below 2,500 between the 1990 and 2000 census.
18 If so, such a community would also be considered for
19 further analysis.

20
21 For a community with a population between
22 2,500 and 7,000, based on either the 1990 or 2000 census,
23 we will ask whether we know of changes in community
24 characteristics that may warrant a change in status. If
25 so, such a community would be considered for further
26 analysis.

27
28 The characteristics may include, but are
29 not limited to the diversity and development of the local
30 economy, the use of fish and wildlife, community
31 infrastructure, transportation and educational
32 institutions. The latter analysis on the communities
33 approved by the Board for further analysis may include
34 population density as an additional community
35 characteristic.

36
37 So public and Council comment is invited
38 as we initiate this process.

39
40 If you would go to page 82 in your
41 Council book, this lays out the time frame for going
42 through these analyses. Your Council will get this fall,
43 your next fall meeting here, you'll have another chance
44 to comment on the results of the initial review that's
45 being done in our office. As you can see, that's the
46 August/October 2005 time frame. And then I think it's a
47 year later, after we go through some other analyses of
48 this, in the July/November 2006 category there, there
49 will be a proposed rule published in the Federal Register
50 just like we've just done for marine jurisdiction, and at

1 that time you will get another chance to comment on that
2 proposed rule and give your recommendations to the
3 Federal Subsistence Board.

4
5 So we'll keep you informed all along, and
6 there's at least two opportunities where we'll formally
7 ask again for your comments and opinions and your
8 recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board. Thank
9 you, Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

12
13 MS. HOFFMAN: I guess my concern, of
14 course, is the communities out in our region. Are you
15 looking at, say, Bethel, or how do you -- Bethel as being
16 one of the largest hubs, and so many people move from
17 outlying areas to Bethel, is that one of the communities
18 that will be looked at? Is that why this is coming to
19 us?

20
21 MR. RIVARD: Well, it's coming to all
22 the Councils to keep them informed that this is something
23 that's required under ANILCA to reassess the status of
24 Alaska communities. Most of the communities in Alaska
25 are going to remain in the same status that they're in
26 now for the most part, but there are some as I pointed
27 out that have changed somewhat in 10 years. Population
28 is one of the things that they look at. I know Bethel
29 has been growing, but there's been no predetermination
30 for any community right now. They're just starting the
31 analysis process. So, you know, I don't want to
32 speculate, because I don't think it would be fair to
33 anybody.

34
35 MS. HOFFMAN: Well, Mr. Chair, I guess,
36 you know, I just get a little nervous, because, you know,
37 being born and raised in the Bethel area, and know how
38 important it is for lifelong residents to be able to
39 participate in subsistence gatherings. I know there will
40 be a lot of concern about that as we are closing in, if
41 not already. I don't even know what the last census is.
42 So, you know, it's a concern of mine.

43
44 MR. RIVARD: Well, I think if for some
45 reason Bethel were to be proposed to change, and that's
46 what it would be when it comes back to you for comment,
47 then your Council would be able to provide your opinions
48 and comments on why you think it should go ahead and be
49 changed or should not change.

50

1 MS. HOFFMAN: And who does the proposing?

2

3 MR. RIVARD: Well, this will be coming
4 from the Federal Subsistence Board after analysis by
5 Staff. But, again, you'll be getting to see that
6 analysis as it's developed as well.

7

8 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

11

12 MS. GREGORY: I was really concerned
13 about it when I read this letter, when it came to me, and
14 I wanted to find out, because Bethel is a big little
15 town, but I just heard that lady who is now en route to
16 Bethel I think, the lady with the red hair -- I mean
17 white hair that was going to help you present is not
18 here, and I regret that we hadn't moved this up before.
19 Then she moved. But she told us that bigger hubs like
20 Barrow, Bethel, Nome, other places, were going to be
21 considered as native people's villages, and she was
22 trying to reassure that not to worry about it, but I'm
23 still worried about it, because in Bethel we use a lot of
24 our resources from the land. We eat a lot of the fish
25 and the wildlife. Like last week I gave a tea to elderly
26 people, and I took them aged otter, because the elders
27 like to eat aged otter. And we still do that. We still
28 have a lot of Yup'ik functions that are going on, like
29 old ways of traditional knowledge and old ways of doing
30 things. So I am very much interested in this one, and
31 I'd like to go back to my village and say, hey, look at
32 this, it's going on, and I'd like to open it to the
33 public through the radio station, and see if you guys
34 could provide us with more information, what determines a
35 non-Yup'ik village, if so many percentage of what people
36 -- if a certain percentage of people in Bethel are -- how
37 many percentage do we have to be to be determined Yup'ik
38 community. You know what I'm saying?

39

40 MR. RIVARD: I have some sense, Mary, but
41 it's also -- one of the factors is the population, and as
42 it states here on page 81, communities that are 2500 or
43 less are deemed rural right away, and.....

44

45 MS. GREGORY: 500?

46

47 MR. RIVARD: Less than 2,500. And
48 communities that have more than 7,000 have been deemed
49 rural (sic).

50

1 MS. GREGORY: Can you just tell me how
2 you came to arrive at 2,500?

3
4 MR. RIVARD: Well, that was something
5 that was done when the program first started. Those were
6 the criteria that the Federal Subsistence Board used. I
7 don't have all that history, but that's what they came up
8 when they made their initial determinations. And so
9 that's -- they're pretty much going to continue with
10 that, those determinations. In other words, if a
11 community is 2500 or less, it's automatically considered
12 rural.

13
14 MS. GREGORY: Can you -- is there any way
15 of with the trend of native people learning, getting
16 higher education and not finding jobs in the rural
17 communities, they're going into bigger villages, and then
18 can you make accommodations for those people who are from
19 the rural areas and moving into places like Bethel, Nome,
20 and Kotzebue, and Barrow, and make adjustments? There's
21 nothing you can't do. I mean, nothing is set in granite.
22 So you can change that, too, if we request you to do it.
23 Right?

24
25 MR. RIVARD: Well, I think those exactly
26 would be the kind of comments you'd want to give to the
27 Federal Subsistence Board for their consideration, yes.

28
29 MS. GREGORY: I am now doing so.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more on rural
32 determination. Alex.

33
34 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the
35 record, my name is Alex Nick with the Office of
36 Subsistence Management, Regional Council Coordinator. I
37 just want to remind the Council that this is not new to
38 you, you know, to your meetings. We've presented this as
39 a report at one time. I believe that ISER was doing a
40 study, and we would be reporting back to you on this
41 issue. I think some of you remember that, you know, part
42 of this was included in your packet I believe at one
43 time, and it has been presented to you in different form
44 before. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more on the rural
47 determination or do you have, Don, subsistence use
48 amount? You did that already or what?

49
50 MS. GREGORY: We're still under (b).

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're still on (c) and
2 (b). But it seems to me I've been asking twice, and it
3 seems to me nobody answer here.

4
5 MR. L. WILDE: Go to number (c). Yeah.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I try to. Next on
8 agenda, (c), did you go over that, subsistence use
9 amount, written brief. I'd like to hear it, just a
10 brief.

11
12 MR. RIVARD: Well, we had it in your
13 Council book as a written briefing, but Rod Campbell is
14 prepared to speak a little bit on it if you'd like to
15 have that happen. Maybe he can just give you the basics.

16
17 MR. CAMPBELL: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If you could do it
20 brief.

21
22 MR. CAMPBELL: Just very briefly. Again
23 for the record, my name is Rod Campbell, Office of
24 Subsistence Management in Anchorage. And as Don said,
25 this was prepared just as a written notice for you, but
26 I'll just go over the real highlights here.

27
28 Subsistence Use Amounts Protocol has a
29 working group. They've been working for, well, a few
30 years now. It consists of both Federal and State
31 representatives, and they're charged with developing a
32 process for recognizing subsistence use amounts and for
33 Federal Subsistence Management Program. They're trying
34 to coordinate this with established amounts necessary for
35 subsistence that's in the State regulations, and they
36 have a range of numbers of fish of different species that
37 they think would be, in the State terms, reasonable
38 opportunity and to harvest this amount.

39
40 They're trying to work with the Federal
41 agencies to focus on a couple of areas, and those are in
42 your handout on page 83. Key areas that they're working
43 on, developing language that acknowledges amounts
44 necessary for subsistence as a guideline or indicator in
45 the cooperative management of subsistence fish and
46 wildlife harvest, outlining a cooperative process to
47 review existing amounts necessary for subsistence, or
48 develop new amounts necessary for subsistence, or
49 subsistence use amounts, and, finally, establish a
50 program for public outreach and education on these

1 topics. And, again, they are working on this. They have
2 broken up into smaller groups to try to target these
3 goals.

4
5 And the State of Alaska has put this as
6 what they feel is their priority for finishing up the
7 protocols between the State and Federal agencies.
8 Actually some of these other protocols have been put on
9 hold until this one is completed.

10
11 And that's really all the information we
12 have now. They are working together, trying to come up
13 with something. Those goals again are in your written
14 board book. And that's really all the information we
15 have, sir.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council, do you have
18 anything for Rod.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Now we're
23 going to reports. Agency reports. Yukon Delta National
24 Wildlife Refuge. Mike.

25
26 MR. REARDEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
27 Council. I want to first extend my appreciation for you
28 guys taking the time to do this. I am responsible for
29 managing the wildlife refuge, and you guys are
30 responsible for coming up with the rules and regulations
31 that we expect people to go along with. And the time you
32 guys spend doing this and doing it well makes my job a
33 lot easier. And I recognize that each of you are
34 volunteering your time, and we that are doing this as a
35 living truly appreciate the effort you guys are
36 expending. And so I think from all of us that deal with
37 this system, we want to extend our thank you for doing
38 that.

39
40 I want to go over just I think five
41 issues, and I'm not going to take an awful lot of time
42 doing it. And they're all local issues, and a couple of
43 them, obviously you guys don't deal with waterfowl
44 management, but I wanted to give you an update on where
45 we are with waterfowl management since it's an important
46 subsistence species. And the first thing, I want to go
47 over that, and then I want to talk about the moose
48 moratorium just a little bit, our status on the lower
49 Yukon moose survey. Then I want to talk about Kuskokwim
50 fisheries just a little bit, and a little bit about the

1 coal-fired power plant, and the pollution concerns that
2 Lester and others have brought up.

3
4 The first thing I wanted to mention
5 however, is that I've been talking with Don Rivard and
6 Alex Nick, and I've gone to enough of these meetings, and
7 I've heard Chairman Wilde complain about the travel
8 concerns, and I fully understand what he's saying. And
9 I've seen him come to my office wondering when his next
10 ride is to somewhere, because, you know, either the plane
11 was canceled or his ticket wasn't there. So I've offered
12 to work with Don and Alex and try to do the travel out of
13 my office. We've got staff in my office who deal with
14 travel all the time, and I think that we can make things
15 a lot easier for you, so we'll do the best we can. And I
16 may have -- Martha Perry does a lot of our travel, and I
17 may have her call some of you to get ideas that may work
18 the best for you, but -- then I'll be working with Don
19 and Alex on that, too, but we'll try another round of
20 this and see if we can do a better job.

21
22 I know these guys have been trying hard.
23 It's just it's very difficult to do it out of Anchorage.
24 Those folks don't have a clue what they're dealing with
25 in the Bush, and so I think that's the root of the
26 problems.

27
28 You know, Bev keeps talking about this
29 coal-fired power plant, and it was on my list, and I
30 really do think it's something that we all need to pay
31 attention to. I'm not saying that a coal-fired power
32 plant should never be built on the delta, because it's
33 obvious that we need power for people in the villages and
34 in Bethel. However, I think that we all need to be very,
35 very careful what we agree and what we support.

36
37 I've been doing some reading on coal-
38 fired power plants since they brought up this idea, and
39 the potential for pollution, of things like mercury in
40 the environment, is very real. In other areas of the
41 world where we're dealing with coal-fired power plans,
42 they've got serious problems with contamination in fish
43 and wildlife and their plants.

44
45 They're talking about putting this power
46 plant right on the edge of the Kuskokwim River, and
47 that's where a lot of our food comes from.

48
49 MS. GREGORY: Mercury and what?
50 Pollution of mercury and what?

1 MR. REARDEN: Mercury is one of the big
2 ones. When you burn a lot of coal like that, you get a
3 lot of mercury that gets into the environment. Mercury
4 is a very, very dangerous poison, and it ultimately
5 affects people's development of their brains and it
6 particularly affects the development of children.

7
8 The other, there are other things besides
9 the pollution that are coming with this that we need to
10 talk about. One is you're going to have to have a lot of
11 barges running up and down the Kuskokwim in order to
12 provide the materials for the gold mine that's up there.
13 They've already talked about dredging the Kuskokwim River
14 in some of the areas that are shallow up river above
15 Aniak. How is that going to affect the fish and wildlife
16 resources on the delta.

17
18 One of their initial reports and
19 suggestions that they sent to my office, they were
20 talking about 800 miles of power lines across the delta.
21 This is a very important place in the world for
22 waterfowl, and you start putting 800 miles of power
23 lines, you're going to have a serious effect on those
24 birds.

25
26 I'm not going to say too much more about
27 that. I think that it's still kind of in its infancy,
28 and we need to give them a chance to, you know, come
29 through, but I do want to make one more comment, that
30 this is your regional corporation, and I think perhaps
31 you should take the opportunity, you know, because you
32 are members of that corporation, to have your voice
33 heard, because you guys are stalwart supporters of
34 subsistence, and so I think that that's an important
35 comment to make.

36
37 We're also concerned about pollution.
38 Like Lester was talking about, we've got all these barges
39 going to these villages, and I myself have seen it when
40 they're off-loading, you'll see a little bit of oil skim
41 on the water, and you wonder how much is actually spilled
42 during some of these operations.

43
44 A lot of local communities can kind of
45 take that into their own hands. Currently I'm working
46 cooperatively with Scammon, Hooper, Chevak, Newtok, and
47 the Paimiut Corporation on developing a land use plan
48 where we're talking about things like pollution and off-
49 road vehicle use and, you know, where the roads are going
50 to be 100 years from now out there, so we can protect the

1 subsistence lifestyle and the habitat that's out there,
2 so I think independently and as communities we all have
3 the responsibility to start thinking about those things.
4 Our population is growing and pollution is a major
5 concern.

6
7 If anybody ever has questions in the
8 middle, just ask me.

9
10 The next topic I'm going to hit is
11 waterfowl. Every one of you was here during those days
12 in the 80s and early 90s when the good populations were
13 very low and we had to stop hunting cacklers and emperors
14 and brandt. Well, unfortunately right now we're going
15 back toward that direction with both cackling Canada
16 geese and brandt. Our goal for -- at one time we were
17 down to 25,000 cackling Canada geese. Now we're up to
18 141,000, but our goal is 250,000, and we're declining.
19 Our population is going back down right now. About four
20 or five years ago we were at 200,000 and now we're going
21 down. We've got to find a way to reverse that trend, and
22 we want to try to find ways to do that without unduly
23 affecting subsistence hunters.

24
25 Unfortunately, the farmers in Oregon
26 would like to see the population go away, because they're
27 eating their grass and their crops. Unfortunately, the
28 Department of Fish and Game in Oregon has sided with the
29 farmers, because of political pressure, so we have a
30 fight on our hands to try to increase that population.
31 We're working with the Waterfowl Conservation Committee.
32 We met a couple weeks ago, and a group of about 20 of us
33 are headed for Oregon in early April to try to work out
34 this issue.

35
36 But our goal out here on the delta, Fish
37 and Wildlife and the Waterfowl Conservation Committee, is
38 to turn this around and get the population going back up,
39 and that means reducing how many birds are killed in
40 Oregon and Washington. And Myron Naneng and I have
41 submitted a proposal to protect cackling Canada geese and
42 brandt during the entire period of time when they start
43 nesting until their done raising their young, until the
44 birds fly. Kind of like it was under the good management
45 plan for about 20 years. And we're going to propose that
46 that goes into regulation.

47
48 The brandt are another problem. Their
49 population is about 111,000 now, and it's declining.
50 Right now where the level is, we're supposed to cut our

1 harvest in half, 50 percent of what we normally kill.
2 We're supposed to get down to that.

3
4 Myron and I have met with the
5 conservation committee, and discussed it a lot, and we've
6 submitted a proposal that would go into effect in 2006
7 that would close the brandt colonies to hunting during
8 the time the birds start nesting until the young birds
9 start flying in order to protect those birds.

10
11 And the really unfortunate thing with
12 brandt is this is the first time in all these years of
13 problems with geese that the problem's right here in the
14 delta. The production of brandt is way down, and one of
15 the main reasons it's way down is because people are
16 riding four-wheelers right into the middle of the brandt
17 colonies and destroying the colonies. Kokechik Bay five
18 years ago, four years ago actually, was the largest
19 brandt colony on the entire delta. Now Kokechik Bay has
20 the smallest brandt colony on the delta. It's decreased
21 production by 75 percent. We're producing 25 percent of
22 the birds we used to. And that's where the problem is.

23
24 And Myron and I are working very closely
25 with the Sea Lion Corporation in Hooper Bay. They're
26 very concerned about it also. And we're working on ways
27 to keep four-wheelers, a lot of it's kids, out of those
28 brandt colonies, from disturbing the birds. And it's
29 really affecting nesting out there and the habitat.

30
31 So those are the unfortunate good issues
32 that we're dealing with, and you'll be hearing about in
33 the next couple years. I think that we've started doing
34 things now that are going to get these populations turned
35 around so that we don't have these regulations that we
36 had years ago that eliminated all hunting.

37
38 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

41
42 MS. HOFFMAN: What are you proposing in
43 the areas where the colonies are having such a -- there's
44 such a decrease in the population of the brandt? What's
45 being presented to those communities, or what are you
46 working on?

47
48 MR. REARDEN: All we've met is with the
49 Waterfowl Conservation Committee, which is the executive
50 board of AVCP, and then Myron and I and talking with a

1 lot of local folks.

2

3 And our proposal is to close those
4 colonies to hunting and access from the time the birds
5 start nesting in the spring until they're done nesting
6 and the young birds have started flying. And so that
7 will protect them during the time, and it will allow them
8 to reproduce and the young to grow and live, and so that
9 we can get some production.

10

11 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay. And do you have the
12 support -- I mean, are you getting the support that you
13 need from the corporations?

14

15 MR. REARDEN: Yeah. We're just starting
16 going to the villages now and working with them.
17 However, with Sea Lion Corporation, they're actually
18 trying to sell the Fish and Wildlife Service a
19 conservation easement which would allow us to protect the
20 brandt colonies. We'd have law enforcement authority to
21 protect those colonies, and the Sea Lion Corporation came
22 to us with this proposal, because they were very
23 concerned about this brandt colony.

24

25 Any other waterfowl questions?

26

27 All right. I'll go on to the moose
28 moratorium. This was our first year for the moose
29 moratorium on the Kuskokwim River. And generally I think
30 that compliance has been very good. Normally in the fall
31 we'll hear a lot about cow moose being killed up the
32 Kwethluk and the Gweek and all those local rivers, and we
33 had very, very few reports this year. It's going to take
34 us a couple of years before we start seeing any results,
35 but we keep encouraging people and pointing towards the
36 lower Yukon and what happened down there, and so there's
37 a lot of local support for it. I think that we're going
38 the right direction, and I fully expect it to work, and I
39 think in five or six years we'll have a pretty decent
40 core moose population down there on the Kuskokwim.

41

42 The lower Yukon moose, we're in the
43 middle right now of attempting to do our survey to get
44 the moose population down there. We've got bad weather
45 the last couple weeks for surveying, but guys are out
46 right now counting moose, and so as soon as we get those
47 results, we'll make them available to everybody.

48

49 This was the first winter that the moose
50 population was high enough that we allowed a moose winter

1 hunt down there. By all reports we got, that the hunt
2 went pretty well. We didn't hear about too many
3 violations. We had a few violations upriver. We're
4 still seeing some wanton waste, people, generally young
5 people, killing moose and leaving them lay, wasting them.
6 So we need to always keep vigilant about that and try to
7 stop that practice from happening.'

8
9 The last thing I wanted to talk to you a
10 little bit about was Kuskokwim fish. We talked about
11 Yukon fisheries management yesterday. We're fortunate on
12 the Kuskokwim that our runs have been returning fairly
13 strongly, and the expectation is, after looking at the
14 data, that the runs this summer will be very much similar
15 to what they were last summer and the summer before.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

18
19 MS. GREGORY: Yes. Mike, you said there
20 was some young people that were killing moose and leaving
21 it to waste. Can you give us a for instance?

22
23 MR. REARDEN: Yes. There was an
24 individual, actually there were a couple people near a
25 village upriver on the Yukon that killed three moose, all
26 of them cow moose, which were all illegal, and left two
27 of the cow moose lying without taking any of the meat.
28 And they were caught by the State Fish and Wildlife
29 Protection guys.

30
31 MS. GREGORY: Not in the Kuskokwim?

32
33 MR. REARDEN: No. No, those were on the
34 Yukon.

35
36 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

37
38 MR. REARDEN: Anyway, the return we
39 expect on the Kuskokwim is probably very similar to what
40 we've had the last couple years, which should be adequate
41 for subsistence, adequate for escapement, and the
42 Department of Fish and Game expects there to be adequate
43 numbers of fish for a small commercial fishery. We will
44 start out with a schedule to make sure that we have
45 adequate fish returning, but both the State manager and I
46 agree that as soon as we have adequate information, we'll
47 make every attempt to remove the schedule so that
48 subsistence fishermen will have all the opportunity they
49 need to catch fish.

50

1 Those were all the subjects I had for my
2 report. If you have an questions, I'll be glad to answer
3 them.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Counsel, do you have a
6 question or comments to Mike. Beverly.

7
8 MS. HOFFMAN: Mike, can you talk about
9 the caribou, and is that in your area?

10
11 MR. REARDEN: Sure. Sure, I can talk
12 about caribou. The Mulchatna herd is approximately
13 150,000 animals right now. That's the herd that's east
14 of Bethel. It's been as high as a little over -- 150,
15 yeah. It has been as high as a little over 200,000. I'm
16 not sure whether that's because we got incomplete counts,
17 or whether the population is really declining. They did
18 a good photo count this summer, and they haven't finished
19 counting all the photos of caribou yet, but once that's
20 done, we'll have a better idea of what population is.

21
22 Right now there are not many caribou
23 available to hunters on the Kuskokwim. They're down in
24 Willard's country I think, the few that are around on
25 this side. The rest of them are back in the mountains,
26 the Shotgun Hills and over toward Iliamna.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Willard.

29
30 MR. CHURCH: Where did you say you were
31 going on your trip with the WCC group?

32
33 MR. REARDEN: We're going to Salem, which
34 is in the Willamette Valley, and is where most of the
35 farmers are that are having problems with geese.

36
37 MR. CHURCH: And you're taking 20
38 representatives from the villages?

39
40 MR. REARDEN: There are 15 from AVCP and
41 then I'm going and I think three of the RITs are going
42 with me.

43
44 MR. CHURCH: I was wondering how come I
45 wasn't invited.

46
47 MR. REARDEN: You need to get on the
48 executive board.

49
50 MR. CHURCH: A few years ago, you know, I

1 submitted my interest to be on the WCC, you know,
2 representing Quinhagak, Goodnews, Platinum, and Eek, and
3 I did get support letters. And I sent all that
4 information in to AVCP and I never heard anything after
5 that.

6
7 MR. REARDEN: That's because they changed
8 presidents, and when they changed presidents, they
9 changed the way that they have the Waterfowl Conservation
10 Committee. It was a different, separate group for a
11 period of time that you're talking about. Now it's the
12 executive board of AVCP, so if you want to go on this
13 trip, you've got to get on the executive board.

14
15 MR. CHURCH: Okay. Duly noted. Thank
16 you.

17
18 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

21
22 MR. ALOYSIUS: I've got a question on
23 when you talk about the Mulchatna herd, what area are you
24 talking about? You know, from Quinhagak, how far up the
25 -- how far east do you go on the Kilbuck range?

26
27 MR. REARDEN: It covers a huge area. The
28 Kilbuck herd goes all the way from the Alaska range over
29 by Iliamna. We went and found every collar that was out
30 there last year, so I know how far away these things are,
31 because I was flying the airplane looking for them. We
32 found some collars all the way up by Fairwell, just east
33 of McGrath. We found collars that were right behind
34 Dillingham, over by Iliamna, and we found some actually
35 north of the Russian Mountains near Aniak. And then, of
36 course, some around down near Quinhagak. So it covers
37 that entire area pretty much from the Kuskokwim eastward
38 all the way over to the Alaska range, and as far north as
39 Fairwell. That's a huge area.

40
41 MS. GREGORY: Is there any difference
42 between the Kilbuck herd and the Mulchatna?

43
44 MR. REARDEN: There's a lot of discussion
45 about that, but we don't have very many animals right now
46 that just stay all the time in the Kilbuck Mountains like
47 there were 15 years ago. I think what happened is when
48 the Mulchatna herd grew to be so big, that they kind of
49 overwhelmed the Kilbuck herd, because some of the animals
50 that we were seeing in the Kilbucks actually ended up --

1 they had collars on them, and they would leave with the
2 Mulchatna animals, and we'd find them over by Iliamna and
3 stuff like that, visiting relatives I guess.

4
5 MS. GREGORY: How dare they steal our
6 herd.

7
8 MR. REARDEN: I know.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions.
11 Ray.

12
13 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 Mike, you say you're taking a trip down to Salem, Oregon
15 to talk with the farmers there, and I'm thinking that
16 you're going to give us some kind of report back probably
17 in this fall's or even this spring's meeting?

18
19 MR. REARDEN: I'll be glad to do that.
20 Yeah, I'm hoping for good results. What we really hope
21 is that we can get the hunters down there to cut their
22 harvest by half, and then if we close our brandt colonies
23 and not shoot the birds when they're molting, I think
24 we'll be doing our share, and we'd get these populations
25 turned around.

26
27 MS. GREGORY: I just want one more
28 question. How long are we open for caribou this year in
29 the Bethel area?

30
31 MR. REARDEN: I think it's open until
32 April 15th. I'd have to look in the regulation book, but
33 I'm pretty sure.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

36
37 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. Mike, you
38 know, I personally have watched you and kept kind of a
39 track on what's going on in the area that we subsist in,
40 and I personally want to thank you for the time and care
41 that you've taken to make sure the resources are
42 available to the people that are subsisting on them. And
43 I hope you continue doing that, no matter what it takes,
44 and I myself will give you all the help and support that
45 you might need coming from us.

46
47 MR. REARDEN: Thank you very much. I
48 appreciate that. And it's a pleasure to work with people
49 who care about wildlife and subsistence as much as we do.
50 So it's a pleasure. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions.
2
3 MS. HOFFMAN: Just a comment. And thanks
4 for working on that travel.
5
6 MR. REARDEN: We'll do the best we can.
7 At least you'll have somebody closer to home to blame
8 when it doesn't work.
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mike. Next
11 on agenda is (b) in agency report. Togiak National
12 Wildlife Refuge. Is there here from Togiak? (In Yup'ik)
13
14 MR. NICK: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, Alex Nick,
15 Office of Subsistence Management, Regional Council
16 Coordinator.
17
18 Mr. Chair, this year we did not receive
19 any report from Togiak. And also I understand that we
20 don't have a representative from Alaska Department of
21 Fish and Game.
22
23 Tracy Crock-Halford (ph) was going to
24 represent State of Alaska, but she got ill just before we
25 traveled. So she wanted me to let the Council know that
26 she's unable to attend. Doy.
27
28 MS. GREGORY: AVCP (In Yup'ik).
29
30 MR. NICK: And AVCP representative, Tim
31 Andrew, is supposed to be here, but I don't see anyone
32 from AVCP.
33
34 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.
35
36 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.
37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
39
40 MS. HOFFMAN: Had all these people been
41 contacted, AVCP, Togiak, and I know Alaska Fish and Game,
42 but it seems like they should have somebody else in place
43 just in case, you know. Both the Department of Fish and
44 Game and AVCP have a lot of other representatives they
45 could send, and so I would just like to go on, you know,
46 and say that it's important, you know, to have their
47 reports for us to consider and to comment on.
48
49 MR. NICK: Yes, Ms. Hoffman, all of the
50 agencies were contacted beginning as early as December

1 for this meeting, and we were contacting each and every
2 organization that we can contact, and asked them to
3 submit agenda topics to us, so that they would be listed
4 in your agenda. There was a commitment from AVCP that
5 they would attend, but I don't see any representatives
6 today.

7
8 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair, I'd like to see
9 a letter from this Council go to these other folks that
10 come, have been at our other Council meetings, to
11 encourage their participation. I felt that they gave us
12 good information and were part of the process at our
13 previous Council meetings, and I'd like to see a letter
14 going to Council to encourage that, that if one can't
15 come, they have another. A B plan.

16
17 MR. NICK: Unfortunately, Mr. Chair, what
18 AVCP did was they scheduled a conference during this week
19 in Bethel. They have that youth/elder I believe or new
20 generation conference going on right now. And that's one
21 of the reasons why we could not relocate this meeting to
22 Bethel if, you know, we didn't have quorum. Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob Aloysius.

25
26 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. It's important
27 that we hear from all these people, because whatever
28 decisions we make is based on their reports, and, you
29 know, without any information from them, we're always
30 stuck in limbo. And then they would turn around and
31 blame us for not doing anything. So it's really
32 important that we get these people to help out. It's
33 really important. And, you know, I hate to make any kind
34 of decision without knowing all the facts from all the
35 people that are affected, and they represent a large
36 group of people, and 98 percent of those people are
37 subsistence users. Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Nick, Alex.
40 We have representatives from village tribal
41 representatives. Earlier we had some people from here,
42 Toksook Bay. If there's any others. If there's not,
43 we're going to our agenda on 13, Regional Council
44 business. Alex Nick.

45
46 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair, members of the
47 Regional Council, Alex Nick with the Office of
48 Subsistence Management, Regional Council Coordinator.

49
50 Mr. Chair, members of the Council, what

1 we want to know at this time is if there's any changes
2 that you would like to see on your Council manual. We
3 need to know if there's any changes that you'd like to
4 see in the next book that will be printed for you. And
5 we don't want to spend too much time on this, but if
6 there -- if you have any concerns about the Council
7 manual, this is the time we need to know.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

10

11 MS. HOFFMAN: I just had one comment. I
12 noted that Karl Powers was replaced. He never came to
13 this. Was he asked to resign because of the -- oh, on
14 page 29, it says, Council members who miss two meetings
15 in a row without an excuse may be asked to resign. Did
16 he resign, or did we ask him to resign?

17

18 MR. NICK: Ms. Hoffman, members of the
19 Council, Karl Powers' term was only for one year, and he
20 did not attend one meeting during that term.

21

22 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah. Yeah, I think that
23 -- I don't have any revisions myself at this time, but I
24 felt that that was important, that part of it, that it be
25 two unexcused, and then we automatically ask for their
26 consideration to resign.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions Alex
29 Nick. Willard.

30

31 MR. CHURCH: Alex, with what Mike had
32 said earlier with the Y-K Delta office deciding to get
33 involved in taking care of travel arrangements, do you
34 need to make any changes on page 40, item number 9, where
35 it says, after hours or on weekends call Omega Travel.
36 Are you planning on using a different travel agency since
37 you're going to be working out of the Bethel office.

38

39 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair, Mr. Church, that
40 will depend on how the travel policies will be for the
41 refuge. I'm sure it will be on your next manual if
42 travel take over by the refuge from OSM is successfully
43 negotiated, then, you know, it will depend on how they
44 want it written there.

45

46 MR. L. WILDE: Alex, but that is going to
47 be removed from the book anyway, isn't it, because you're
48 going to be changing. If Omega does go out,
49 automatically that item 9 automatically gets off the
50 Council book.

1 MR. NICK: Currently we're in the process
2 of changing travel agency?

3
4 MR. RIVARD: Correct.

5
6 MR. NICK: And until such time Council
7 travel take over is successfully negotiated by the
8 refuge, it will still remain the same as today.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob Aloysius.

11
12 MR. ALOYSIUS: Talking about travel, why
13 couldn't the refuge use a local travel agency in Bethel?
14 Do they still have one? I mean, why can't that be used,
15 because they're more familiar with the ins and outs of
16 delta travel, more so than people in Anchorage.

17
18 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair, Mr. Aloysius, the
19 refuge deals with their travel differently than those of
20 us from Anchorage office, and I think depending on what
21 they want to do, they will be -- they probably will use
22 or will not use a travel agency. It will depend on how
23 they handle their travel.

24
25 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

28
29 MR. L. WILDE: Yeah, my friend Robert
30 wasn't here yesterday when we were discussing travel, and
31 there was a statement made that the Federal Government
32 itself, or the agencies within the government do travel
33 under one travel agency -- or use one travel agency, is
34 that correct? Maybe you could cover that for Bob a
35 little bit. We've still got a couple minutes we could
36 spare.

37
38 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair. Don Rivard
39 with Office of Subsistence Management.

40
41 In the recent past we've been mandated to
42 utilize Omega Travel. Omega Travel has not got their
43 contract renewed, so we're going to be with a different
44 travel agency. It's Carson, Vaga & Leet (ph). But when
45 I talked with Mike Riorden yesterday, we're going to talk
46 with the folks in Anchorage about the refuge being more
47 involved with providing your travel arrangements. So
48 that's preliminary. It's just what we've been thinking
49 about on our own, and so we need to go to the folks that
50 make the decisions on whether that can happen or not, and

1 give them this proposal. And hopefully we can improve
2 the way travel is done in the Delta for you guys.

3

4 MR. L. WILDE: Do you need support from
5 this Council?

6

7 MR. RIVARD: No. Well, we already know
8 we've got your support, that you're the ones that have
9 been asking for it, so we want to do it as best we can,
10 so we're going to look into different ways of doing it,
11 and Mike has got some good ideas that we want to bring up
12 the chain of command and see if they'll allow us to do it
13 that way. Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Don. we go
16 to the next on our agenda, (b).

17

18 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair, excuse me for
19 interrupting. We need to know before we move on to the
20 next agenda item if you want to keep everything the same
21 as it is, or if you need to see the changes, or when you
22 will let us know if you would like to see any changes in
23 this manual.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

26

27 MS. GREGORY: Yeah. (In Yup'ik) If
28 you'd give us time to look, you know, if you want to make
29 changes, and those people tried to ask you a while ago
30 about the Omega and then we got that answered. So if you
31 let us know by then if we need to change something in
32 here, or if we have a request for you to put in here. Do
33 we have a whole year to do that or what?

34

35 MR. RIVARD: Just within the next month
36 let's get some comments.

37

38 MR. NICK: Yeah, we'd like to get your
39 comments within the next month from now. Two months.
40 Quyana.

41

42 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob and you. Bob, go
45 ahead.

46

47 MR. ALOYSIUS: Do you have a deadline,
48 say March 31st? And where do we address the concerns we
49 have about the manual?

50

1 MR. NICK: It would be best to -- for you
2 to send your comments to me, and then I would forward
3 them on to our office in Anchorage.

4
5 MR. ALOYSIUS: Deadline?

6
7 MR. NICK: Deadline, let's say by end of
8 next month I think is best way to put it.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

11
12 MS. HOFFMAN: Did you note though the
13 change that I wanted, instead of saying may be asked to
14 resign, will be asked to resign? If people miss two
15 meetings without an excuse, I think that these meetings
16 are important, and if we're going to be on this Council,
17 if it's -- you know, things come up and people do get
18 excused from meetings for lots of different reasons, but
19 if it's an unexcused meeting, for example, an unexcused
20 absence, for example, Karl Powers who never made it to a
21 meeting, they should be asked to resign, not may. So I'd
22 like to ask the Council if they concur with that, that if
23 Council members miss two meetings in a row without an
24 excuse, they will be asked to resign. And then that
25 gives them the opportunity to respond. Otherwise we
26 don't know.

27
28 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

31
32 MS. GREGORY: Beverly, it's usually three
33 consecutive meetings without.....

34
35 MS. HOFFMAN: It says two.

36
37 MS. GREGORY: Oh, we have a two in?
38 Okay. That's a good idea.

39
40 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

43
44 MR. NICK: Yeah, members of the Council,
45 Ms. Hoffman, your question is in your Council charters.
46 It says in your Council charters that if a member misses
47 two consecutive meetings, then he or she would be -- or
48 may be removed, I think that's what it says in your
49 Council charters.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.
2
3 MR. NICK: Unexcused. Unexcused absences
4 is that I meant to say.
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead and
7 answer. Lester wait.
8
9 MS. HOFFMAN: Well, you were asking if
10 there's any revision, and I guess that's what I was
11 saying I would like to see revised. Instead of may be
12 asked, will be asked. So, you know, that was just my
13 comment. You asked for are there any changes or
14 revisions, and so that's what mine is.
15
16 MR. NICK: It's so noted, Ms. Hoffman.
17 This manual is for you to follow doing your business.
18
19 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, Alex, (In
20 Yup'ik). From may be to will be. Instead of may, she
21 wants to put on will be asked to.
22
23 MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard with the Office
24 of Subsistence Management.
25
26 Just to clarify, what you're asking for
27 now is a change to your Council charter, not to this
28 manual. That's where -- this is just reflecting what
29 your Council charter is saying right now. So I'm just
30 giving the technical part of it.
31
32 The may and the will be, it seems like
33 you still would want to talk with the person and see what
34 their reasons why they didn't come and had two unexcused
35 absences. What you're saying is you're not even going to
36 give them the chance to explain it, you'll just say if
37 you miss two unexcused, you will be asked to resign. All
38 may does is just kind of give you the chance to say, you
39 know, if they can't come up with really good reasons,
40 then you will ask them to resign. What you're saying now
41 with the will be is that if they've missed two unexcused,
42 they will be asked to resign. So, I don't know, is that
43 what you really want?
44
45 MS. HOFFMAN: I guess you -- Mr. Chair.
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Bob.
48
49 MR. RIVARD: Well, that will be put in --
50 when you do go through your review of your charter,

1 that's where that change will be made.

2

3 MR. ALOYSIUS: I was just going to say
4 that we need to have stronger wording than may or should,
5 you know, because those are kind of wishy-washy words.
6 But if you use will or shall, then it means something.
7 Then when you say you will be asked to resign, then you
8 have to come up with an answer to say why you should not
9 be removed from your membership.

10

11 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

14

15 MS. GREGORY: Yeah. Surely that
16 management send notices for meetings, and he hasn't
17 contacted anybody, I mean. And to me he shows he's not
18 interested in it. So we have our own justification for
19 asking the stronger word in there.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

22

23 MS. HOFFMAN: We could review the charter
24 at our next meeting to put -- just do that, that would be
25 fine.

26

27 MR. NICK: Doy, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana.

30

31 MR. NICK: Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're going to have a 10
34 minutes break. We still have time.

35

36 (Off record - 2:31 p.m.)

37

38 (On record - 2:40 p.m.)

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Our next on agenda is
41 (b) nomination for Council officers. Alex Nick, you'll
42 be the Chair.

43

44 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For
45 the record, my name is Alex Nick with the Office of
46 Subsistence Management, Regional Council Coordinator.

47

48 The proper procedure is that the
49 coordinator or the DFO chair the nomination of chair, and
50 then turn the chair over to newly elected chairman. So

1 nominations now are open for chairman for the Y-K
2 Council. Mr. Oney.

3
4 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman. Yeah, I was
5 going to ask if this can be tabled until we have a full
6 board present, would that be possible?

7
8 MS. GREGORY: I thought it was falltime.

9
10 MS. HOFFMAN: If you're not -- Alex, Bev
11 Hoffman. Yeah, if you're not real certain, I sure would
12 like to see a full -- more than just us here if there's
13 no rush to it. And I don't see why it can't happen at
14 the fall meeting, and that will give other people an
15 opportunity to state whether or not they're interested.
16 There might be people not here that might be interested
17 in a seat.

18
19 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair, if that's the
20 Council's wishes, we could take care of this in the fall
21 meeting. Mr. Aloysius.

22
23 MR. ALOYSIUS: Well, I was going to
24 address the present chair. I was going to move that we
25 postpone the election of the officers until the fall
26 meeting.

27
28 MR. CHURCH: Second.

29
30 MR. NICK: There's a motion on the floor
31 to postpone the election of the Council officers until
32 fall meeting. Is there a second.

33
34 MR. CHURCH: Second the motion.

35
36 MR. NICK: Seconded by Willard Church.
37 Any discussion.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MR. CHURCH: Question.

42
43 MR. NICK: The question's been called
44 for. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

45
46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47
48 MR. NICK: All opposing.

49
50 (No opposing votes)

1 MR. NICK: Motion passed unanimously.
2 Mr. Chair, turning the chair over to you. Thank you.
3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Alex. Next
5 now on agenda is (c) resolutions.
6
7 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, Alex Nick. I
8 did not receive any resolutions this year, unless someone
9 has in the audience or Council members.
10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do Council members have
12 any resolution.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's not, we're
17 going to the next one (d), topics of Federal Subsistence
18 Board meeting in May 2005. Council.
19
20 Before we finish meeting, we have one of
21 our Council, because he don't understand and read,
22 yesterday we received this letter here. I would like to
23 see Alex Nick translate this, because one of our members
24 cannot read. I think it's good if you could translate
25 this. It's from Governor.
26
27 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair, what was it from
28 the Governor?
29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, yesterday they
31 pass it. You guys have it yesterday. That's something
32 to do with.....
33
34 MR. L. WILDE: I don't think we have it.
35
36 MS. GREGORY: I don't think we have it,
37 Mr. Chairman.
38
39 MR. L. WILDE: Yeah, I think just Harry
40 got that.
41
42 MS. GREGORY: I don't think we have it.
43 I think you have it only.
44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that the one that
46 they passed out yesterday?
47
48 MS. GREGORY: There's no letter from the
49 Governor.
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It's a letter from the
2 Governor to Secretary of Interior.
3
4 MS. GREGORY: No, we don't have it, sir.
5
6 MR. L. WILDE: We didn't get it. You're
7 the only one that got it.
8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah? Where that come
10 from?
11
12 MR. ALOYSIUS: Governor.
13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Governor.
15
16 MR. L. WILDE: Well, read it anyway,
17 Alex. Mr. Chairman, if I may request?
18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Okay.
20
21 MR. L. WILDE: Since there's only one
22 copy of it, and it's information. It's information that
23 the Advisory Council should be aware of.
24
25 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, Alex Nick with
26 the Office of Subsistence Management. I'm just going to
27 read this as a correspondence, and I would like to read
28 it in English into record, and then translate it into
29 Yup'ik, with your permission.
30
31 MR. L. WILDE: The translator
32 (indiscernible, mike not on) the letter.
33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.
35
36 MR. RIVARD: If I may, I think it would
37 be best if the English is read into the record first, and
38 not interpreted in English by somebody who doesn't have
39 the letter in front of them. We only have one copy, so
40 we really need to make sure we get it in English first,
41 and then Alex can go ahead and translate it into Yup'ik
42 if that's okay with the Council.
43
44 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair, the letter was
45 dated on January 10, 2005 to Honorable Gail Norton,
46 Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street
47 Northwest, Washington, D.C. 20240.
48
49 It says, dear Madam Secretary, we
50 collectively have a growing problem in Alaska related to

1 conflicting Federal and State programs involving the
2 subsistence use of Alaska's fish and wildlife. For 15
3 years there have been major failed efforts to rectify the
4 political, legal and social conflicts between the Federal
5 and State laws relating to subsistence use of fish and
6 wildlife. As a result, there are overriding statutory
7 conflicts. The general public has been ill-served, and
8 major conservation concerns are developing.

9
10 My administration remains concerned about
11 how the Federal Subsistence Program is administered in
12 Alaska. I agree with the policy that Secretary Babbitt
13 clearly espoused to Congress, which was that a Federal
14 Subsistence Program should minimize intrusion into
15 existing State fish and wildlife program, and maximize
16 cooperation with these programs. In this regard,
17 Secretary Babbitt's policy is consistent with your four
18 C's policy.

19
20 Unfortunately, somewhere between
21 Washington, D.C. and Alaska this policy has been changed
22 into a program that continues to be highly intrusive and
23 lacks substantive cooperation. Excuse me. My staff has
24 identified the following primary areas of concern, among
25 others:

26
27 1. Duplication of State regulations.
28 Costly for agencies, confusing to the public, burdensome
29 for all, impossible to enforce, and unnecessary in
30 providing the Federal -- I lost it. I'll read this over.
31 Duplication of State regulations. Costly for agencies,
32 confusing to the public, burdensome for all, impossible
33 to enforce, and unnecessary in providing the Federal
34 subsistence priority.

35
36 Number 2. Lack of standards for adopting
37 Federal regulations. Inconsistencies and lack of clear
38 criteria led to (a) litigation on customary and
39 traditional determinations, (b) unnecessary restrictions
40 on nonsubsistence uses.

41
42 3. Legal delineation of the application
43 of Federal regulations to navigable waters.

44
45 And, 4, insufficiency of Federal land to
46 support Federal regulated harvest.

47
48 State officials have had numerous
49 discussions with Federal leaders in the Office of
50 Subsistence Management, the Federal Subsistence Board and

1 the Alaska Office of the Department of Interior about a
2 need to address these value -- excuse me, these issues.
3 They reluctantly acknowledge that some problems exist,
4 but have taken very few actions to address them.

5
6 In September 2003 the two deputy
7 commissions of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
8 travelled to Washington, D.C. to discuss our concerns
9 about how the Federal Subsistence Management Program was
10 being implemented with the Assistant Secretary of
11 Management Andrew Pierce. He seemed to understand our
12 concerns, but no changes in policy or operation
13 procedures have occurred.

14
15 The one change resulting from these
16 discussions was the addition of a State liaison to the
17 Federal Subsistence Board rather than full membership for
18 the State on the Federal Subsistence Board.

19
20 Many of our concerns can be
21 administratively corrected by changes in Federal policies
22 through the issuance of Secretarial orders. This will
23 need revised Federal regulations and improved cooperative
24 management agreements. To resolve these and other issues,
25 I recommend that we jointly create a high level policy
26 group to consider and resolve current problems at the
27 State level. I would have the Attorney General,
28 Commissioner of Fish and Game, my Director of State/
29 Federal Relations, and the Governor's Office resource
30 consultant serve on this policy team.

31
32 I am convinced that by working together
33 we can ensure the legal mandates of Title 8 of ANILCA are
34 met while providing for minimal intrusion and maximum
35 cooperation in the State's fish and game management
36 programs. Sincerely, Frank H. Murkowski, Governor. Mr.
37 Chair.

38
39 And I am going to go ahead and try to
40 summarize the letter into Yup'ik. (In Yup'ik)

41
42 Mr. Chair, that's the summary of the
43 letter, and for the record, Mr. Chairman, and the members
44 of the Council, I am not quite comfortable reading this,
45 because I'm not -- well, I'm okay with it, but not too
46 comfortable.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

49
50 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair, who received

1 that letter?

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I just got it from
4 someone.

5

6 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, for the record,
7 you know, I received in my office, but because I never
8 get clearance, I didn't bring it.

9

10 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. (In Yup'ik)
11 Can you make copies of that today, because it's something
12 new that we -- the Federal Subsistence Board started out
13 as a board for the indigenous people of Alaska, but as it
14 stands now, there's only two or three people sitting in
15 that group now that are indigenous. All the rest of them
16 are representatives from all over the Forest Service and
17 everything else that works with fish and game. And
18 although the Governor means well, I think the purpose of
19 the Federal Subsistence Board was to make sure that Title
20 8 of ANILCA is carried out, and then that people who sit
21 there should be from those areas. And I agree with the
22 law, although I don't know what the Governor is going
23 after, because he already have a lot of people in there
24 from the State.

25

26 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, members of the
27 Regional Council, the reason why I said that I was not
28 too comfortable reading this into the record is because
29 some of these letters are sensitive, and, you know,
30 before we distribute these, you know, some of the
31 letters, we need to be very careful and get clearance
32 from people who's -- our supervisors rather.

33

34 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

37

38 MR. L. WILDE: There isn't very much we
39 can do about that letter. I think it was just for our
40 information, because it's already been I suppose already
41 written and sent to the Secretary of Interior, so I think
42 that was mainly for our information, and if there's any
43 other comments that we could make concerning this letter,
44 I don't know under what channels that we need to follow
45 to put our two cents into it, but it's addressed to Madam
46 Secretary Gail Norton from the Governor, and it's dated
47 January the 10th, so it's already been sent and there
48 isn't much you could do about it.

49

50 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: A point of clarification
4 on Mary's concern, there are 10 Federal Subsistence
5 Resource Regions, and each of those regions has a seat on
6 the Board.
7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.
9
10 MS. GREGORY: Region 9, we don't have a
11 seat, but the whole Federal Subsistence Board is made up
12 of people from Forest Service, from Oceanic -- all over
13 the place. I only counted two people that are sitting
14 there when I went to their meeting in December. It was
15 that Mr. Shugra is it? Paul Shugra from Pilot Station,
16 he used to live there, who live in Anchorage now. (In
17 Yup'ik) There's another guy. There's only three people.
18 The rest of them are from other areas, other Federal and
19 State people who take care of the environment and Bureau
20 of Land Management have a seat there, and it used to be
21 mostly native people from the different areas of the
22 State, different use areas of the State like up north,
23 southwest and Dillingham, down the Chair. They don't
24 have a seat there. It's just other people, not from own
25 RACs.
26
27 MR. L. WILDE: Point of order, Mr.
28 Chairman. We're working under an approved agenda, and
29 that was not even on the agenda.
30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We'll go to the next,
32 I'll repeat it again, topics for Federal Subsistence
33 Board meeting in May 2005.
34
35 MS. GREGORY: What kind of topics do we
36 want.
37
38 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.
39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.
41
42 MR. NICK: Every meeting we ask you, ask
43 for topics that your representative like your chairman or
44 someone who's representing you at the Federal Subsistence
45 Board meeting. In our case it will be in May. What do
46 you want that representative to talk about when he or she
47 is asked to make some comments. That's what this one is.
48 And Mary and Harry's the two people I guess that has gone
49 to that, so, you know, you know what we're talking about.
50

1 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
4
5 MS. HOFFMAN: Mary, the last time that
6 you represented the Chair, what were the topics again
7 that you brought forward?
8
9 MS. GREGORY: We were trying to get one
10 of the studies that is happening in our area, they cut
11 the money short on us, and that was one of the main
12 things that we talked about, or I tried to talk the Board
13 into funding it, but they wouldn't do it. And like Mr.
14 -- it wasn't you, somebody else that was here, Mr. Cannon
15 I think told me that Mr. Klein. I had said something,
16 and I got mad at them, and did my thing and afterwards,
17 Mr. Klein said, Mary, we read you loud and clear, so
18 they're trying to look for some monies to finish that
19 project, one of the projects in the Bethel area with
20 young people involved.
21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's none, we'll
23 go down to next, future meetings.
24
25 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair, I guess I just
26 -- Mr. Chair.
27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Beverly.
29
30 MS. HOFFMAN: So that we do have a voice,
31 or that they do know that this Regional Council has been
32 busy, I would just like to highlight some of the points
33 and some of the comments from this meeting to be
34 presented at that May 2005 meeting, unless it's already a
35 part of say an agency report from your department, Don.
36 Do you highlight some of the things that are discussed
37 here through your agency report?
38
39 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, Beverly, we will
40 not as a Staff present any concerns that you have as a
41 Council at the Federal Board meeting. That's what the
42 Chair is there for. So this is your opportunity if you
43 would want the Chair to bring up certain topics to the
44 Federal Subsistence Board that are important. That
45 Federal Subsistence Board meeting is really -- it goes
46 over all the wildlife proposals that have -- throughout
47 the State, not just your Council. And in the past there
48 was a more informal meeting that went on between the
49 Council chairs and the Federal Subsistence Board outside
50 of the public meeting, but because of Federal Advisory

1 Committee Act considerations, all interactions have to be
2 in a public meeting setting, so this is now the chance
3 for the Council chairs to come in front of the Board and
4 present any concerns that they have in their regions and
5 talk about that to the Federal Subsistence Board in a
6 public meeting. So again, it has to come from your
7 council Chair what would be brought up. So this is just
8 a reminder that you have that opportunity, and whether
9 you want to do that or not at this time at May Board
10 meeting. Thank you.

11

12 MS. HOFFMAN: Uh-huh. Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

15

16 MS. HOFFMAN: So, for example, at the
17 fall meeting if I asked for a presentation from the
18 Federal ecological services on the possible effects of
19 Donlin (ph) Mine and coal-fired power plants and those
20 sort of things on the Kuskokwim, I could also ask that
21 that be presented as a topic to the Council? I mean to
22 the Board? Is that the sort of thing that -- because I
23 want them to be aware of these type of concerns from our
24 area, waterfowl concerns, that they're aware. But is
25 this not the format for that?

26

27 MR. RIVARD: Those are topics that you
28 could present to the Federal Subsistence Board. But my
29 understanding of what you just said is that you would
30 want the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to come and
31 make a presentation to your Council for the fall meeting?

32

33 MS. HOFFMAN: Well, I would like to
34 request that, because they have been involved in some of
35 the process, and I would like them to do a presentation
36 of what they have come up with. And then I guess it
37 would be more appropriate to present that at the 2006 May
38 meeting.

39

40 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

43

44 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Ms.
45 Hoffman, that could -- Ms. Hoffman, that could be brought
46 to my attention during the call of agenda topics. You
47 could tell me who you wish for me to invite like we did
48 last fall on NEPA concerns.

49

50 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay.

1 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)
2
3 INTERPRETER: Is that letter that Alex
4 read in English and translated into Yup'ik, are we
5 discussing that now?
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)
8
9 INTERPRETER: That letter that was read
10 and translated into English from the Governor is for
11 information purposes.
12
13 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik) Yeah.
14
15 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman.
16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.
18
19 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
20 think the one topic that I'd like to bring up during the
21 fall meeting is the outcome of the Yukon River
22 Intertribal Watershed Council meeting, conference that
23 will be coming up in Kotlik I believe the second or third
24 week of March. Either have them come or someone from
25 this body be there to hear what the concerns might be
26 from those that are involved in the Watershed Council.
27 I'd like to -- because of the nuclear reactor that will
28 be coming up, that is planned for the Village of Galena,
29 and, you know, I'd like to get some feedback from the
30 villages that are present in that conference.
31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.
33
34 MR. RIVARD: I think what would be the
35 best thing we could do is to have Alex contact Mr. Joseph
36 Mike who lives in Kotlik, and see if he'd be willing to
37 attend that meeting, and then report to your Council
38 either right away or in your next meeting in the fall.
39 So hopefully he will be willing to do that.
40
41 MR. ONEY: Okay. Thank you.
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, to let the Council
44 now, without any wording from or written from Councils,
45 even though I try to talk something, they always stop me
46 and they say you've got to follow or do whatever the
47 Council say. That's the main thing, you've got to have
48 some kind of written if you're representing the Council,
49 or otherwise that they wouldn't let you talk, just
50 because you made up your words. Don.

1 MR. RIVARD: Harry, if I may, if I can,
2 if it's okay to clarify a little bit, I think Harry
3 can't, or whoever represents your Council can't be giving
4 his personal opinions at the Board meeting, even though
5 sometime the Federal Board will come close to asking
6 those types of questions. So when he's there, he has to
7 represent the whole Council's views on some particular
8 topic. So that's why you have to be in agreement that
9 all of you wanted to have this particular topic presented
10 to the Board. And I think what would be helpful is to
11 have some -- if you agree on a topic you want to present,
12 to have a written -- something written out for Harry to
13 present at that meeting, and Staff can help with that.
14

15 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, it seems to
16 me we're talking about two things, about the topics for a
17 May '05 meeting of the Federal Subsistence, and also for
18 future meetings agenda. That's what I'm getting at. Two
19 types of things going on here.
20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.
22

23 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think
24 what we're really getting at right now, to make things a
25 little simpler, is something for me to work from, you
26 know, more or like a talking points for your
27 representative who will use the talking points that come
28 from your Council. What do you want him or her to talk
29 about when he or she is asked to give comments on
30 certain, you know, time, you know by the Federal Board.
31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Willard.
33

34 MR. CHURCH: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, as Bev
35 Hoffman stated earlier, have the representative who's
36 going to be attending the meeting present some highlights
37 from previous meetings, because those meeting minutes do
38 indicate, and they are official records of what the
39 Council's decisions are on issues and concerns brought up
40 within the Y-K Delta Region.
41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.
43

44 MR. NICK: So my understanding is that
45 Bev mentioned earlier that whether or not we should use
46 concerns from the Council as talking points, you know,
47 the topics for your representative.
48

49 MS. HOFFMAN: Actually that's on a
50 separate issue, my concerns. But what I thought as that

1 so that our voice is heard at this Board meeting, that we
2 just take some of the highlights from this meeting and
3 the fall meeting, or even just this meeting, and take it
4 forward with our representative. Just a brief, that we
5 were here in Toksook, that we have this agenda, and just
6 high the highlights of our agenda and some of the
7 discussion points that we were involved with.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

10

11 MR. NICK: If that's the Council's
12 wishes, we can do that, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

15

16 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, I think it would be
17 better if we include all the information that we have
18 been working on since the last Federal Subsistence Board
19 meeting.

20

21 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah.

22

23 MR. ALOYSIUS: And let them know exactly
24 what we've been doing, and what the concerns are of the
25 Board and what resolutions they passed and what action
26 they've taken since the last Federal Subsistence Board
27 meeting.

28

29 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's not, we'll go
36 down to future meeting. You'll find it on 85 in your
37 booklet. Don.

38

39 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If I
40 may, I'd like to address this. As you see, basically
41 it's page 85 in your book, it's right towards the very
42 end. Although it's not numbered 85, that's the page it
43 would be if it were numbered.

44

45 For this fall, I would like to request
46 that you meet in Bethel, and there's several reasons for
47 that. A couple of them are that we're looking at our
48 budgets that are tightening somewhat, and meeting in
49 Bethel is a little bit more economical than in some other
50 places. But the main reason for this particular time

1 frame is if you look at the window, meeting window,
2 you'll see that just prior to this meeting is the Eastern
3 Interior meeting in Tanana, and many staff that work with
4 your council need to be at that Eastern Interior meeting
5 as well. And it makes it a lot easier for all of us if
6 we can -- we can get out of Tanana and get back to
7 Anchorage in one night, and the next morning we can fly
8 out here early to Bethel and be ready to go with your
9 meeting. If it's to another village, it might complicate
10 things quite a bit and some folks might not be able to
11 get there the first day. So I would just ask that you
12 have our meeting in Bethel this fall, if you would,
13 please. Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What is the desires of
16 Council. Bob.

17

18 MR. ALOYSIUS: How much time do you need
19 between meetings to really be prepared?

20

21 MR. RIVARD: Well, many times a lot of
22 the topics are similar at both meetings or similar
23 meetings, and so we would be prepared to be able to do
24 back to back meetings pretty much. It's just that we'll
25 be doing quite a bit of concentrated travel there to get
26 from Tanana back to Anchorage and then to Bethel. And so
27 I think it can be done. I've done -- we can leave Tanana
28 late in the afternoon and get to Fairbanks, there's
29 flights late to the night into Anchorage, and then
30 there's that 6:00 a.m. flight to Bethel. So it would
31 just help us with travelwise. And we're also going to be
32 with a new travel agent, and this will be the first
33 meeting. We don't know quite how all that will fall into
34 place, so just keeping things simple as far as --
35 everybody has to go to Bethel anyway usually on the Delta
36 to get to other villages, for the most part. So just
37 making it one trip into Bethel would really help so we
38 don't have to make extra arrangements to get people out
39 to a village. That's -- those are the considerations.
40 Thank you.

41

42 MS. GREGORY: (Indiscernible, mike not
43 on) October 4, 5 and 6 then?

44

45 MR. RIVARD: Well, if I may, we've
46 already got the Western Interior meeting the 4th and the
47 5th, and Staff also would be going to that, so we can't
48 have an overlap. We can never have an overlap of the
49 Eastern Interior, Western Interior, and Y-K Councils,
50 because the Staff, my Staff works with all three of

1 those, and so we have to make sure we've got some
2 separation of time between those three.
3
4 MS. GREGORY: (Indiscernible, mike not
5 on) 12, 13, 14th. (Indiscernible)
6
7 MR. L. WILDE: 13th and 14th.
8
9 MS. GREGORY: 13th and 14th.
10
11 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman.
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.
14
15 MR. NICK: Yeah. Mr. Chair, members of
16 the Council, during your October meeting the Council
17 chose October 13 and 14 and location to be announced.
18
19 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair, do we need it in
20 the form of a motion?
21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
23
24 MS. HOFFMAN: If we need it in the form
25 of a motion, I'll make a motion that we have our next
26 meeting October 13, 14, in Bethel.
27
28 MS. GREGORY: Second.
29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: May I say something, if
31 it is possible.....
32
33 MR. RIVARD: Microphone.
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE:that we could find
36 out when it's AVCP or others they're going to have a
37 meeting. I think we would have more people. No
38 representatives from AVCP or others, because they're
39 topping each other or.....
40
41 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.
44
45 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)
46
47 INTERPRETER: AVCP representatives just
48 come to report, and we will be meeting in Bethel, so it
49 should be easy for them to send a representative to make
50 a report. We settled on these dates this spring for the

1 13th and 14th of October.
2
3 MS. GREGORY: So if we stick with
4 13th/14th, we might get more people to come and make some
5 reports.
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. 13 and 14.
8
9 MR. L. WILDE: Question.
10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question been called
12 for. All who favors say aye.
13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.
15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So we're going to
17 have.....
18
19 MS. GREGORY: 14.
20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. 14.
22
23 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)
24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All who favor way aye,
26 they say aye.
27
28 MS. GREGORY: Yeah. (In Yup'ik) Motion
29 carried.
30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, motion carried.
32
33 MS. GREGORY: Okay.
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Now winter 2006 meeting
36 date and location. Again in Bethel?
37
38 MS. GREGORY: No. No, go to a village.
39
40 MR. CHURCH: Yukon.
41
42 MR. RIVARD: If that was a question
43 directed at me about Bethel, I believe that's always your
44 back up in case something falls through, if you can't
45 make it to other ones. Bethel would be a preferred site,
46 but, you know, that's up to you. I mean, it's essential
47 that we do it in the fall, and I appreciate that you've
48 gone to that.
49
50 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, if remember

1 correctly.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

4

5 MS. GREGORY:somebody at
6 teleconference (ph) asked if we could have a meeting like
7 in Emmonak or Alakanuk area. I mean, you had one in
8 Kotlik several years back, but Alakanuk would be a good
9 place. Or Emmonak. Whichever. I'm game.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I don't know Alakanuk,
12 but Emmonak got a little hotel over there. I think that
13 also they have a restaurant serving in one of the stores
14 there.

15

16 MR. L. WILDE: And they're able to get
17 direct flight out of Anchorage to Emmonak.

18

19 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

22

23 MS. GREGORY: I move that our winter 2006
24 meeting be at Emmonak, and date and time to be announced.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion. If
27 there's any second to the motion.

28

29 MR. L. WILDE: I'll second it.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Discussion. Alex.

32

33 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair, it would help very
34 much if you choose the dates of the meeting as well.

35

36 MR. L. WILDE: Where's our calendar?

37

38 MS. GREGORY: Right on the back.

39

40 MR. RIVARD: The last page. The reason
41 is that you're one of the first councils meeting this
42 cycle, and so you kind of get the first pick of dates,
43 and if you wait, you might not get the dates you want,
44 because they'll be filled up. So I'd just encourage you
45 to choose. Remember, this is a year out, and so they're
46 preliminary dates. We'll confirm them again at your next
47 meeting, but it would be good to choose. You've done it
48 in the past and it's worked out well. You've gone ahead
49 and met on those dates.

50

1 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.
4
5 MR. L. WILDE: If it's all right with the
6 rest of the people, rest of the Council members, today's
7 the 25th. I notice 25th in '05 is on Saturday. If you
8 want it on the weekend, there's 23 and 24. I'd like to
9 suggest for February 23rd and 24th.
10
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bobby.
14
15 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move that we have our
16 spring meeting February 23 and 24 in Emmonak.
17
18 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)
19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, there's a motion
21 and second. We were discussing it. So if you want
22 meeting in those dates in Emmonak, if there's any
23 discussion.
24
25 (No comments)
26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All who favor it say
28 aye.
29
30 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman, I do have
31 discussion.
32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.
34
35 MR. ONEY: More of a comment. Well, it's
36 about this time of the year, the potlatches are held in
37 Emmonak, Alakanuk, Kotlik, so I think about a week ago or
38 so Kotlik -- I mean Emmonak just had their potlatch, so
39 it would be, you know appropriate to notify them way
40 ahead of time, let them know that we're going to be
41 arriving this certain date so that it doesn't interfere
42 with their potlatches. That's all I want to say. Thank
43 you.
44
45 MR. L. WILDE: Question.
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question has been called
48 for. All in favor say aye.
49
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed say no.
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. Closing
6 comments. Beverly.
7
8 MS. HOFFMAN: I just would like to state
9 that I thought this was a real good meeting, and I want
10 to thank Philip Moses for being our most excellent host,
11 and the people of Toksook. I've really enjoyed this
12 meeting here in Toksook. It was far better than I even
13 imagined. Quyana.
14
15 MR. CHURCH: Mr. Chairman.
16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Willard.
18
19 MR. CHURCH: Yeah, Willard Church,
20 Quinhagak. Being my first meeting during my second term,
21 I really enjoyed being here and getting a chance to see
22 all the former Council members that I worked with in the
23 past. And every time I come to a meeting, it's a real
24 learning experience. There's a lot of good information
25 being exchanged between agency staff and the Council.
26 And also we're given opportunities to hear what the
27 residents of these villages feel strongly about in
28 regards to subsistence and the resources. So I think
29 these meetings are very beneficial for everyone all
30 around. And I'd like to thank Philip Moses for hosting
31 us and allowing us to come to his community and have our
32 meeting here. Quyana.
33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.
35
36 MR. ALOYSIUS: (In Yup'ik)
37
38 INTERPRETER: I appreciate the meeting
39 here in Toksook, Philip. I'm wondering where the dancers
40 are.
41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.
43
44 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
45 thank the Staff, the recorders and the Staff from OSM and
46 everybody that gets involved to help us to reach a better
47 -- to make better decisions on our deliberations
48 concerning some of this, some that are pretty tough
49 issues that we have to deal with, and I want to thank the
50 Staff and people that participate for their patience in

1 getting us to understand and be able to make decisions
2 that totally affect our people in our areas. Thank you.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

5

6 MS. GREGORY: Yeah. I'd like to thank
7 our host village and my uncle, Philip Moses for
8 suggesting to have the meeting here, and I really enjoyed
9 the nice weather we're having here, and eating all kinds
10 of fresh seal and fresh foods, because this time of the
11 year, the coastal village people are eating fresh things,
12 and it makes me feel really good, because it remind me of
13 my childhood years when we used to have these things.
14 And I think my host and everybody else that have been
15 here.

16

17 However, I would liked to have seen more
18 people come out and listen to us. So next time if we're
19 going to have a meeting in Emmonak, I'd like for somebody
20 from that area who's representing Emmonak to let people
21 know that we are coming and we'd like to have input from
22 anybody. Households, everybody so that we can truly be a
23 forum for regional opinions and concerns. Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, we thank you. And
26 we have a quorum, we had -- we was kind of worried that
27 we wouldn't get no quorum. And I thank you for stick up
28 with me, what I'm doing, and I appreciate that. Also
29 hope you have a good flight going home, and we'll
30 hopefully see you Bethel next meeting. Philip.

31

32 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

33

34 INTERPRETER: I am very grateful for the
35 good -- that you are here during this good weather.
36 We've been having pretty bad weather and about this time
37 a lot of times flights are canceled. the weather has
38 been very good. There's a lot of fog about this time of
39 the year. I am glad that you're having good, pretty
40 weather out there. To make Toksook your place. Since
41 we've been having real bad weather the last few weeks,
42 and we haven't been having too many planes coming in. As
43 we say -- unseasonable weather right now, because of the
44 occasional (indiscernible) for years, don't think it's
45 always nice here, because the weather's not always like
46 this.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ray.

49

50 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 I also would like to thank the Village of Toksook Bay for
2 accepting us into this village to conduct our meeting.
3 And also I'd like to thank the Council members here who
4 made an effort to be here, and also to the OSM staff, all
5 their reports that we've been getting, and also to Mike
6 and his Staff, and Alex Nick's Staff, and made an effort
7 and have worked really hard to bring us here.

8

9 And I think some type of recognition
10 should be given to those students that were involved in
11 the drawing contest. Like at the beginning of the
12 meeting we heard that there was like a good many students
13 were from this village, so some type of recognition
14 should go out to them, and to the tribal council of this
15 village also.

16

17 And it's good to see everyone here, and I
18 wish you all a safe flight back. Thank you very much.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Bob. Closing --

21 (In Yup'ik)

22

23 INTERPRETER: Benediction by Philip.

24 Closing prayer.

25

26 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

27

28 MS. GREGORY: Quyana for coming, you

29 guys.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Quyana. We're

32 adjourned.

33

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

35

36 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

