

1 WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING - TELEPHONIC  
5

6  
7 VOLUME IV  
8

9 Anchorage, Alaska  
10 December 11, 2013  
11 8:30 a.m.  
12

13  
14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 15  
16 Jack Reakoff, Chairman  
17 Raymond Collins  
18 Timothy Gervais  
19 Donald Honea  
20 Jenny Pelkola  
21 Pollock Simon  
22 James Walker

23  
24  
25  
26  
27 Regional Council Coordinator, Melinda Burke  
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 12/11/2013)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Cool.

MS. BURKE: Anyone else who I haven't named yet.

MR. CRAWFORD: Drew Crawford, Fish and Game, Anchorage.

MS. BURKE: Good morning, Drew.

And just to remind everyone you can push star 6 to mute yourselves and then if you'd like to speak again you can push star 6, it helps to keep some of that background noise down.

MR. HAVENER: Hey, Melinda, this is Jeremy Havener from Koyukuk/Nowitna.

MS. BURKE: Good morning, Jeremy.

MR. HAVENER: How are you doing.

MS. BURKE: Good. Good. Thank you for calling in.

MR. HAVENER: Yep. Oh, yeah.

MS. OKADA: Hi, Melinda, this is Marcy Okada, National Park Service in Fairbanks.

MS. BURKE: Good morning, Marcy.

MS. OKADA: Good morning.

MS. BROWN: Hi, Melinda, this is Caroline Brown calling from Fish and Game, Subsistence, in Fairbanks.

MS. BURKE: Good morning, Caroline.

MS. BROWN: You, too.

MS. BURKE: Hi, someone else has just joined the teleconference.

1 MR. HONEA: Good morning, Melinda.  
2  
3 MS. BURKE: Hi, is that you Carl.  
4  
5 MR. HONEA: No, this is Don Honea. I  
6 can hardly talk and I don't have much time to be on  
7 this.  
8  
9 MS. BURKE: Okay, Don, thank you for  
10 calling in. We understand there'll be a couple folks  
11 who may be only able to stay on the line for just bit  
12 so we're going to try to work through some of the more  
13 critical items that have a deadline that's coming up  
14 really soon so we'll try to work through a couple of  
15 those deadlines as quickly as we can here this morning,  
16 everyone.  
17  
18 MR. HONEA: All right.  
19  
20 MS. BURKE: Did someone else just join  
21 on the call.  
22  
23 MR. SCHABERG: This is Kevin Schaberg  
24 from Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries, fisheries  
25 research.  
26  
27 MS. BURKE: Wonderful, thank you. Hi,  
28 someone else just joined the teleconference.  
29  
30 MR. WOOFER: Yeah, this is Zack Woofier  
31 with Fish and Game in Anchorage.  
32  
33 MS. BURKE: Hi, Zack, thanks for  
34 joining us.  
35  
36 So here in the room with us we've got  
37 Steve Kessler from US Forest Service.  
38  
39 I've got Trevor Fox, who's the  
40 biologist for this region here at OSM.  
41  
42 And then I think there's some mics down  
43 -- I'm sorry, Trevor.  
44  
45 DR. JENKINS: David Jenkins with OSM.  
46  
47 MR. LIEBICH: Trent Liebich, fish  
48 biologist with OSM.  
49  
50 MS. BURKE: And we will also have Carl

1 Johnson here joining us in a couple of min -- here is,  
2 here in the room, he'll be our LT lead for the day.

3

4                   And we've also got Salena Hile here,  
5 the court reporter. This will be recorded on the  
6 record just like any other meeting would. And when  
7 we're voting we'll need to insure that we do a roll  
8 call vote, Jenny, so we can get a clear record of all  
9 the voting.

10

11                   MS. PELKOLA: Okay. I don't have the  
12 names in front of me, I know it's somewhere but I  
13 can't.....

14

15                   MS. BURKE: Do you have your blue book,  
16 it's in the front of the blue book, Page 4.

17

18                   MS. PELKOLA: Blue. Oh, I grabbed the  
19 wrong blue thing. I just saw blue and I grabbed it.

20

21                   MS. BURKE: No problem.

22

23                   MS. PELKOLA: But I think I can  
24 remember the names, I'll just start.

25

26                   Robert Walker.

27

28

29                   (No comments)

30

31                   MS. PELKOLA: Not on. James Walker.

32

33                   MR. WALKER: Present.

34

35                   MS. PELKOLA: Carl Morgan.

36

37

38                   (No comments)

39

40                   MS. PELKOLA: Pollock Simon.

41

42                   MR. SIMON: Here.

43

44                   MS. PELKOLA: Collins -- Ray Collins.

45

46                   MR. COLLINS: Here.

47

48                   MS. PELKOLA: Tim Gervais.

49

50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 MS. PELKOLA: Tim Gervais, I think  
4 you're on.  
5  
6 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I'm present.  
7  
8 MS. PELKOLA: Okay, Don Honea.  
9  
10 MR. HONEA: Yeah, here.  
11  
12 MS. PELKOLA: Eleanor Yatlin.  
13  
14  
15 (No comments)  
16  
17 MS. PELKOLA: Jack Reakoff.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Here.  
20  
21 MS. PELKOLA: And I believe, Jenny  
22 Pelkola, I'm here, is that it.  
23  
24 MS. BURKE: Yep, it looks like you got  
25 everybody Jenny.  
26  
27 MS. PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.  
28  
29 MR. JOHNSON: And establish for the  
30 record that we have a quorum.  
31  
32 MS. BURKE: And we want to go ahead and  
33 establish for the record that we've got a quorum.  
34  
35 MS. PELKOLA: Okay, we have a quorum.  
36 Sorry about that I'm looking for my book.  
37  
38 MS. BURKE: That's okay.  
39  
40 MS. PELKOLA: Okay.  
41  
42 MS. BURKE: All right, Mr. Chair.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And who else  
45 is one line here, we'll welcome our guests.  
46  
47 MR. STOUT: This is Glenn Stout with  
48 Fish and Game in Fairbanks.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Glenn.

1 MR. BROWN: This is Randy Brown with  
2 Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks.  
3  
4 MR. ADAMS: This is Jeff Adams with  
5 Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks.  
6  
7 MS. BROWN: This is Caroline Brown with  
8 Fish and Game, Subsistence, in Fairbanks.  
9  
10 MR. MATHEWS: This is Vince Mathews  
11 with Kanuti Refuge.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And Marcy Okada and  
14 Clarence, are you still there.  
15  
16 MS. OKADA: I'm still here, this is  
17 Marcy.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Clarence was.....  
20  
21 MR. SUMMERS: Yeah, I'm still here.  
22 Clarence is here, National Park Service.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Is anybody  
25 else on line.  
26  
27 MR. HAVENER: Yeah, Jeremy Havener from  
28 Fish and Wildlife Service, Koyukuk/Nowitna.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Jeremy.  
31  
32 MS. BURKE: Don and Karen.  
33  
34 MR. RIVARD: That's correct, Don Rivard  
35 and Karen Hyer are here.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
38  
39 MS. BURKE: And we've just had Palma  
40 Ingles join us here in the room as well from OSM.  
41  
42 MR. CRAWFORD: Drew Crawford, Fish and  
43 Game, Anchorage.  
44  
45 MR. SCHABERG: Kevin Schaberg, Fish and  
46 Game in Anchorage.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anyone else.  
49  
50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That sounds  
4 like it. Do the Council members have the agenda -- or  
5 correction, we're on review and approval of the minutes  
6 from the previous meeting of March 5th and 6th in  
7 Galena. Have you reviewed the minutes from our  
8 meeting in Galena, have any comments or insertions.  
9  
10 MR. COLLINS: I'll move to approve,  
11 Jack, this is Ray.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Got a motion  
14 to approve.  
15  
16 MS. PELKOLA: I'll second, this is  
17 Jenny.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other  
20 comments on the minutes from the previous meeting.  
21  
22  
23 (No comments)  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of  
26 approval of the minutes signify by saying aye.  
27  
28 IN UNISON: Aye.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, we're going to  
31 go roll call. Go ahead Melinda, you want to call the  
32 roll.  
33  
34 MS. BURKE: Sure. Don Honea.  
35  
36 MR. HONEA: Aye.  
37  
38 MS. BURKE: Pollock Simon.  
39  
40 MR. SIMON: Aye.  
41  
42 MS. BURKE: Raymond Collins.  
43  
44 MR. COLLINS: Yes.  
45  
46 MS. BURKE: Jack Reakoff.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Aye.  
49  
50 MS. BURKE: Tim Gervais.

1 MR. GERVAIS: Aye.  
2  
3 MS. BURKE: James Walker.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: James was having a  
6 hard time hearing. Did you hear Melinda, James.  
7  
8 MR. WALKER: Say again.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Your vote for  
11 adopting the agenda.  
12  
13 MR. WALKER: Oh, yes.  
14  
15 MS. BURKE: Minutes.  
16  
17 MR. JOHNSON: Minutes.  
18  
19 MR. WALKER: Minutes, yes.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're real weak,  
22 Melinda, go ahead.  
23  
24 MS. BURKE: Jenny Pelkola.  
25  
26 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.  
27  
28 MS. BURKE: That's seven members  
29 present and seven aye's, a unanimous vote to adopt the  
30 minutes from the Galena meeting, March 5th through 6th,  
31 2013.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're real weak,  
34 Melinda, can you get a little closer to the mic  
35 somehow.  
36  
37 MS. BURKE: No problem.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: and so review and  
40 adoption of this agenda that we have in our hand, did  
41 everybody get this agenda that was emailed out.  
42  
43 MR. COLLINS: Jack, I'd like to -- the  
44 two points that I brought up in that letter I'd like to  
45 add those to the agenda because I'd like to take some  
46 action on them, the funding of the Takotna Weir and the  
47 closure of the office in McGrath. I think we should  
48 make comments on both.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. We can put

1 that -- well, that Takotna Weir issue will be on --  
2 we're going to review the Technical Review Committee  
3 prioritization list and we'll be commenting on that.  
4 So that's on our agenda for this meeting.

5  
6 And so then we can insert that  
7 discussion on the, let's see.....

8  
9 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. This is  
10 Melinda.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

13  
14 MS. BURKE: Yes, under Item B, under  
15 new business, where we are going to review and adopt  
16 draft Council correspondence, there is a draft letter  
17 that I provided to everyone and it does outline the  
18 concerns that the Council wanted to carry forth to the  
19 Kuskokwim Working Group.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

22  
23 MS. BURKE: And so we'll insert that  
24 under the draft Council correspondence. And I've also  
25 provided to everyone the report that Ray had submitted  
26 prior to his departure to Australia and we an insert  
27 that in there was well, if you'd like, as a discussion  
28 point.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we can -- in  
31 this Section B, I would like to -- wanted to send  
32 comment to the Regional Director's Office on the  
33 closure of McGrath, Innoko office and also the Staffing  
34 loss should at least retain those Staff -- key Staff  
35 members. And so we could letter that -- something like  
36 Staff under that section.

37  
38 MS. BURKE: Any other additions or  
39 changes to the agenda for today.

40  
41 MR. COLLINS: I'll move approval. This  
42 is Ray. As amended.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do I have a second.

45  
46 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Those in  
49 favor of the agenda as amended signify by -- go ahead,  
50 Melinda, roll call.

1 MS. BURKE: Don Honea.  
2  
3 MR. HONEA: Yes.  
4  
5 MS. BURKE: Pollock Simon.  
6  
7 MR. SIMON: Yes.  
8  
9 MS. BURKE: Ray Collins.  
10  
11 MR. COLLINS: Yes.  
12  
13 MS. BURKE: Jack Reakoff.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.  
16  
17 MS. BURKE: Tim Gervais.  
18  
19 MR. GERVAIS: Aye.  
20  
21 MS. BURKE: James Walker.  
22  
23 MR. WALKER: Yes.  
24  
25 MS. BURKE: Jenny Pelkola.  
26  
27 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.  
28  
29 MS. BURKE: Seven members present,  
30 unanimous vote to adopt the agenda as amended for  
31 today.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we should proceed  
34 with the most pressing parts of this agenda, though,  
35 and so what should we take up first, Melinda.  
36  
37 MS. BURKE: We should go ahead and move  
38 into Item F, the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan.  
39 And we've got Don Rivard here to speak to that. For  
40 the folks here in the room I did provide in the packet  
41 of handouts, the list from the Kuskokwim region, TRC,  
42 and also the recommendations of the YK-Delta in the  
43 packet as well. And those are the -- the Council  
44 members should have gotten it via email. Pollock and  
45 Don, it's in the packet I gave you here in Anchorage  
46 last week.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So do you want to  
49 cover this Don.  
50

1 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'm ready  
2 to speak to the Draft 2014 Fisheries Resource  
3 Monitoring Plan.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

6  
7 MR. RIVARD: Okay. For those who have  
8 your books still, if you would go to Page 188. What  
9 I'm going to do is just give a real quick overview of  
10 the whole state and then we'll go into the Yukon region  
11 and then the Kuskokwim region.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

14  
15 MR. RIVARD: So every two years the  
16 Office of Subsistence Management puts out a call for  
17 proposals to do fisheries monitoring projects, in two  
18 different broad categories of stock, status and trends,  
19 for harvest monitoring and traditional ecological  
20 knowledge. For 2014 we sent out -- we did the call for  
21 proposals about a year ago and this will terminate,  
22 finish up with the Federal Subsistence Board meeting in  
23 January when they make their recommendations. The  
24 Councils also have a chance to weigh in on all these  
25 and that's what you're doing today.

26  
27 For 2014 a total of 56 investigation  
28 plans were received for consideration for funding, and  
29 that's on Table 1 on Page 188 if you have that, of  
30 these 43 are stock, status and trend studies; and 13  
31 are harvest monitoring and traditional ecological  
32 knowledge projects. The Technical Review Committee  
33 recommends funding 40 of these investigation plans.

34  
35 Right now, as far as we know, total  
36 funding available from the Department of the Interior,  
37 through the Fish and Wildlife Service, for new projects  
38 in 2014 is approximately 3.7 million. We don't know  
39 what funding may be available from the Department of  
40 Agriculture through the US Forest Service. The  
41 proposed cost of funding all 56 projects that were  
42 submitted would be about 6.6 million. The 40  
43 investigation plans that are recommended for funding by  
44 the Technical Review Committee have a total cost of 4.8  
45 million.

46  
47 So that's just kind of a broad overview  
48 of what we're dealing with.

49  
50 And then we'll go into the Yukon

1 region, that starts on Page 190 in your book, and the  
2 first thing up on that is the issues and information  
3 needs. There's a total of seven -- nine of them --  
4 seven of them. They're listed there on the top of Page  
5 190. Your Council is one of the Councils that are in  
6 the Yukon region helped come up with this list of  
7 priority information needs, I won't read them.

8

9 Of the available funds for this year  
10 for the Yukon is just a little bit over \$1 million.  
11 And if you look at the table on Page 191 you'll see a  
12 list of the projects that were recommended for funding  
13 by the Technical Review Committee and they come up to  
14 probably what is a little bit more than what you see  
15 listed on your book there, but the total comes up to  
16 \$934,000 for the first year of those projects.

17

18 So with that, Mr. Chair, I won't get  
19 into the details, I'm going to assume that people have  
20 read the different projects. I will tell you that the  
21 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Council voted to support the  
22 Technical Review Committee recommendation that you see  
23 on Page 191 and the Eastern Interior Council, their  
24 only action for this was to pass -- they passed a  
25 motion to prioritize funding Proposal 14-205 over 14-  
26 252, they both involve whitefish in some way. And the  
27 TRC recommendation on Proposal 14-205 is do not fund,  
28 and you can see that on Page 194 in your book on these  
29 three projects that were recommended to do not fund.

30

31 So this is an action item now for your  
32 Council to come up with your recommendations on this  
33 Draft 2014 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan for the  
34 Yukon region and I'll take any questions if you have  
35 them.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do Council members  
40 have questions on what Don's got over here on the Yukon  
41 River, informational needs issues.

42

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any comments.

47

48

49 (No comments)

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I hear no comments  
2 on this.

3  
4                   I got an email from one of the Eastern  
5 Interior Council members stating his concern with  
6 whitefish on the Yukon with a commercial fisheries  
7 harvest. I'm not sure if the Council would rather  
8 prioritize towards whitefish sonar spawning projects  
9 over some of these salmon projects. You want to review  
10 that for me, again, Don. They wanted the whitefish  
11 project over which project?

12  
13                  MR. RIVARD: Well, you'll see -- I've  
14 got to make sure I've got this right. You'll see on  
15 the list of projects that are recommended for funding,  
16 14-252, which is lower Yukon River whitefish harvest  
17 monitoring.

18  
19                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

20  
21                  MR. RIVARD: That was recommended for  
22 funding. Another whitefish project that the summary is  
23 on Page 194 was the Yukon River Bering Cisco spawning  
24 using DIDSON sonar, that's Project 14-205.

25  
26                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see.

27  
28                  MR. RIVARD: That was not -- the TRC  
29 did not -- they recommended not funding that this year.  
30 And it shows the reasons -- if you want me to I'll give  
31 you the reasons for that. This project had lots of  
32 implications for the commercial fishery at the mouth of  
33 the Yukon River. In addition the project is premature  
34 and at that the level of subsistence harvest of Bering  
35 Cisco should be determined first. A project of this  
36 nature should have a State co-investigator with a State  
37 of Alaska match involved due to the State sanctioned  
38 commercial harvest of Bering Cisco in the Yukon River.  
39 So that was their justification for not funding it this  
40 year. They didn't -- it's an important project but  
41 that it needs some further development and have the  
42 State of Alaska as a partner in it.

43  
44                  Thank you.

45  
46                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I personally would  
47 agree with the TRC, the middle Yukon River whitefish  
48 harvest monitoring -- knowing the level of harvest for  
49 Bering Cisco would be more -- better information.

50

1 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. If I may  
2 clarify a little bit.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.  
5  
6 MR. RIVARD: What the Eastern Interior  
7 Council did was, they basically implied if you were  
8 going to go with -- if you had to fund one or the  
9 other, that they would prioritize the 205 be funded  
10 before 252.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.  
13  
14 But looking at both projects I would  
15 personally not agree with that -- so any comments from  
16 the Council members.  
17  
18  
19 (No comments)  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none, we  
22 should -- the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt  
23 the TRC recommended funding for the Yukon River  
24 projects that would total 934,000. Does anyone have a  
25 comment or a motion.  
26  
27 MR. COLLINS: This is Ray, I'll move  
28 that we approve.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
31  
32 MR. COLLINS: And that's in line with  
33 the Lower Yukon RAC recommended too.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.  
36  
37 MS. PELKOLA: I'll second, this is  
38 Jenny.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.  
41 Any other comments.  
42  
43  
44 (No comments)  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You want to call the  
47 roll, Melinda.  
48  
49 MS. BURKE: Sure. Don Honea.  
50

1 MR. HONEA: Yes.  
2  
3 MS. BURKE: Pollock Simon.  
4  
5  
6 (No comments)  
7  
8 MS. BURKE: Are you still there,  
9 Pollock.  
10  
11 MR. SIMON: Yes.  
12  
13 MS. BURKE: Ray Collins.  
14  
15 MR. COLLINS: Yes.  
16  
17 MS. BURKE: Jack Reakoff.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.  
20  
21 MS. BURKE: Timothy Gervais.  
22  
23 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.  
24  
25 MS. BURKE: James Walker.  
26  
27 MR. WALKER: Yes.  
28  
29 MS. BURKE: Jenny Pelkola.  
30  
31 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.  
32  
33 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. There's  
34 unanimous consent on the motion.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, proceed, Don  
37 -- Mr. Rivard.  
38  
39 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair. Then  
40 we're going to move to the Kuskokwim region, that  
41 starts on Page 224 in your book. And it would also be  
42 helpful to have in front of you now the spreadsheet of  
43 the TRC committee's recommendation -- Technical Review  
44 Committee prioritization of proposed projects on the  
45 Kuskokwim as well as the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional  
46 Advisory Council's recommendation on these as well and  
47 they are different and we'll talk about that in a  
48 little bit.  
49  
50 If you look on Page 225 in your book --

1 oh, excuse me, let's go back to 224, again, it starts  
2 off with the priority and information needs, which your  
3 Council helped formulate as well. And then on Page 225  
4 are the recommendations for funding by the Technical  
5 Review Committee. Now, that's just a numerical list,  
6 ordered in a numerical list of the projects and then  
7 the spread sheet that you have, that was the actual  
8 prioritization of projects by the Technical Review  
9 Committee.

10

11 MS. BURKE: And, Don, let me interrupt  
12 you there for a second. Council members, it's the  
13 second sheet in the most recent packet provided to you,  
14 right after the agenda. The one that was emailed and  
15 then, Ray, the one that I handed out here this morning,  
16 the stapled packet.

17

18 MR. RIVARD: Yeah, the name is called  
19 Kuskokwim TRC and YKD Council priorities.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have that and am  
22 looking at it.

23

24 MR. RIVARD: Okay. So that's the way  
25 they were prioritized by both the Technical Review  
26 Committee and the YK Delta Regional Advisory Council.

27

28 As you can see for 2014, again, there's  
29 approximately a little more of a million dollars that's  
30 available for funding new projects in the Kuskokwim  
31 region, and just the projects alone that are being  
32 recommended by the Technical Review Committee is over  
33 \$1.5 but all together, with all the projects that came  
34 in, all 14, it's a little over \$2 so there's basically  
35 twice as much request for funding than the amount of  
36 money that we believe will be available for the  
37 Kuskokwim region.

38

39 So those are the priorities for those  
40 two regions and there needs to be some discussion  
41 probably by your Council and come up with your own  
42 priority list. What's happened this time around is  
43 that we've had appeals by some of the investigators,  
44 principle investigators to fund the Tuluksak and the  
45 Takotna Weirs projects that were recommended for not  
46 funding by the Technical Review Committee, and there's  
47 a lot of support letters that have come in to that  
48 fact. You were given a packet at your meeting last  
49 month, it was in a blue folder with all the support  
50 letters.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

2

3 MR. RIVARD: With that, Mr. Chair, it's  
4 your Council's chance to make your decisions on this  
5 Draft 2014 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan for the  
6 Kuskokwim region and I'm here to answer any questions  
7 if I can.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Did you want  
12 to comment on the Takotna weir, Ray.

13

14 MR. COLLINS: Yes, Jack, I would. And  
15 I'd recommend that that be in our priority list.

16

17 As I stated in my report, that that's  
18 the only stream that's being monitored in the  
19 headwaters. They do a flyover on some of the streams  
20 up there which gives them an estimate but it doesn't  
21 give them actual numbers. And we do have a history of  
22 the Takotna weir being in now for, oh, I don't know,  
23 it's eight or 10 years so we've got statistics. And as  
24 I mentioned the numbers are really dropping off. They  
25 were running up around four or 500 average and then  
26 they -- even with the protection two years they dropped  
27 down to 240 and this last year there were no  
28 restrictions on fishing down there and it dropped down  
29 to about 100 fish. So those headwaters fish are really  
30 being impacted by the fishing regime that's going on  
31 now and those headwater fish are fished all the way up  
32 the river and so I think it's very important that we --  
33 if we try to take any action, like closing early in the  
34 season when most -- those are some of the first fish in  
35 the river, we won't know whether our actions are making  
36 any difference unless we have accurate monitoring of  
37 what's actually getting up to the headwaters. So I  
38 think it's a high priority.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those are very good  
41 comments, Ray, I appreciate that.

42

43 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. This is Don  
44 Rivard.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

47

48 MR. RIVARD: Just so you know there may  
49 be some folks on line that also wanted to provide  
50 comments regarding this issue.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Do we have  
4 other -- well, I'll let the Council members talk to the  
5 Takotna weir first. Other Council members discussion  
6 on the Takotna weir.

7

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Others on  
12 line, ADF&G or whoever might want to talk to the  
13 Takotna Weir project.

14

15 MR. SCHABERG: Mr. Chairman. This is  
16 Kevin Schaberg with Fish and Game.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead,  
19 Kevin.

20

21 MR. SCHABERG: I guess I want to kind  
22 of give overview of Fish and Game's perspective on the  
23 prioritization of the projects. Like Don said there is  
24 a lot more projects that are being approved and were  
25 proposed than there is funding for so we've had to kind  
26 of evaluate things from a priority list within the  
27 budget constraints.

28

29 We do agree that both Tuluksak and  
30 Takotna are very important projects. Because we have  
31 to consider other projects and the utility of those,  
32 they do fall lower on our list. The Tuluksak and  
33 Takotna combined monitor less than one percent of the  
34 population so from a cost benefit there are other  
35 projects out there that have a larger benefit for the  
36 same amount of money.

37

38 And kind of jumping ahead a little bit  
39 to some of the other projects that are on the list, I  
40 don't have that list in front of me, but we did review  
41 it before the Lower Kuskokwim meeting.

42

43 The utility for these projects, for  
44 many of the projects for Fish and Game are to manage  
45 the subsistence and commercial fisheries of the  
46 Kuskokwim area, not just the river, but the area  
47 included so that includes the Goodnews and Kanektok  
48 River weirs that are one of those proposals. Those are  
49 -- those two projects, Kanektok and Goodnews are very  
50 important projects for monitoring the subsistence and

1 commercial fisheries in the lower -- in the Kuskokwim  
2 Bay.

3  
4 I also wanted to mention that the State  
5 has provided chinook initiative money to address  
6 concerns of chinook salmon in the state of Alaska and  
7 Fish and Game has received a significant portion of  
8 that to operate a chinook salmon abundance estimate  
9 project using radio tags and in-river weirs are a very  
10 important part of that. And with that being said, the  
11 operation of George and Tatlawiksuk River weir are very  
12 important to the success of those projects.

13  
14 And another one of those projects is to  
15 evaluate the escapement into the lower river and that  
16 would include the Eek River, the Kisaralik River and  
17 the Kwethluk River.

18  
19 So I just wanted to get that out there  
20 from Fish and Game's perspective on our prioritization  
21 on all of those projects and if you have any questions  
22 I'd be more than happy to answer them.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions for  
25 Alaska Department of Fish and Game's perspective on the  
26 projects.

27  
28 MR. COLLINS: This is Ray.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

31  
32 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I understand that  
33 those headwaters fish are only a low percentage of the  
34 run but they are also some of the most important fish  
35 in the river because those ones heading up stream were  
36 the largest salmon and that's a component that's  
37 disappearing and they're really prized all the way up  
38 the river, that's why they get hit so hard, and we're  
39 going to lose that genetic component. So I think it's  
40 important that we know, if we do take any actions, like  
41 early closures, if they're having an impact on it, even  
42 though it's a small number of fish, they're a very  
43 significant fish in the river. And, of course, they're  
44 important to the people at the headwaters up there.

45  
46 But they were the ones that  
47 traditionally were not fished because people didn't  
48 drift in the mid river like they're doing now. They  
49 used setnet and other technologies or weirs or got the  
50 fish when they turned off on the various streams and

1 those headwaters fish just trucked right up the main  
2 river, but now with the fishing methods they're using  
3 those fish are hit heavier than other fish on the  
4 river. So I think it's important that we figure out  
5 what we can do to preserve those runs of those large  
6 fish to the headwaters.

7

8 That's my comment.

9

10 And I don't -- maybe there's a response  
11 from the State on that.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: State response to  
14 Ray's comment.

15

16 MR. SCHABERG: Mr. Chairman. This is  
17 Kevin Schaberg with Fish and Game. I do agree with Ray  
18 on the importance of monitoring Takotna but as I said  
19 we need to prioritize the other projects that are there  
20 as well and Takotna is a small stock and we do  
21 understand the importance of continuing to monitor that  
22 but we do need to monitor the entire Kuskokwim River  
23 more effectively and many of these other projects have  
24 more utility to do that.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments  
27 from the Council members on the State and Ray's  
28 comments on Takotna Weir.

29

30 Tim.

31

32 MR. GERVAIS: Not at this time, Jack.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other  
35 Council member comments.

36

37

38 (No comments)

39

40

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comment is I agree with  
43 Ray on the Takotna and Tuluksak weirs, they're  
44 necessary to monitor these declining runs of chinook  
45 and the largest (ph) fish go to the headwaters,  
46 everybody knows that so we do need to maintain  
47 monitoring that, those stocks for our constituencies,  
48 this is the Western Interior region, and the people  
49 being the most impacted are declining harvest is the up  
50 river peoples. And so my opinion is we need to

1 maintain the Takotna and Tuluksak Weirs so that we have  
2 data to present to the Board of Fish and Board of Game,  
3 or Federal Subsistence Board in regards to declining  
4 fish escapement for chinook.

5  
6 And so I'm looking at what YK-Delta --  
7 I would agree with YK-Delta, they slashed the Kanektok  
8 and Goodnews River salmon weirs and prioritized for  
9 Tuluksak and Takotna Weirs, and so I -- are the Council  
10 members looking at what YK-Delta did, their  
11 prioritization list.

12  
13  
14 (No comments)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They took off both  
17 Kuskokwim Bay chinook salmon natural indicators, they  
18 took off Kanektok and Goodnews River salmon weirs and  
19 upper -- and they also took off the Upper Kuskokwim  
20 River sheefish enumeration to come up with -- to stay  
21 within the funding parameters and to fund Tuluksak and  
22 Takotna. Do the Council members -- do you see that,  
23 the actions of the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional  
24 Council.

25  
26 And my question for you, Don, did their  
27 prioritization list stay within the funding level.

28  
29 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. If you look on  
30 the table, I hope you see that the \$1,014,496 has been  
31 yellow highlighted.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

34  
35 MR. RIVARD: That comes about as close  
36 to what's available for this particular year for the  
37 first year of funding for these projects. That's why  
38 it's pointed it out that way on both lists. And so  
39 they just -- they're still saying to fund these other  
40 projects as well below that if there's money available.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would agree with  
43 that.

44  
45 MR. RIVARD: It's just to show kind of  
46 where the closest is to what the funding guideline is  
47 for 2014.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see, yes. I do  
50 feel that the north Kuskokwim Bay chinook salmon

1 natural indicators, Kanektok, Goodnews River salmon  
2 Weirs and the upper Kuskokwim River sheefish  
3 enumeration are all worthy projects, but I do feel that  
4 what is happening on the Kuskokwim for chinook salmon,  
5 that we need to maintain monitoring these up river  
6 stocks.

7

8 MR. SCHABERG: Mr. Chairman. This is  
9 Kevin Schaberg with Fish and Game.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Kevin.

12

13 MR. SCHABERG: I was just able to get  
14 this table from Don that you guys are speaking about  
15 and one of the things that I'd like to point out, as  
16 Don spoke to, there's that \$.014 million number that's  
17 highlighted, the project that falls just below that is  
18 Tatlawiksuk Weir so based on this prioritization list  
19 that project would not be funded. This kind of comes  
20 back to the recovery (ph) project that I discussed  
21 that's being funded through the State of Alaska Chinook  
22 Initiative Funds, Tatlawiksuk and George River Weirs  
23 are very important to the success of those as recovery  
24 sites for tags to create population estimates. Takotna  
25 River Weir does serve as a recovery site, however, the  
26 number of fish and the number of tags that are  
27 recovered there in the past have not resulted in  
28 inclusion of that project to the end of creating a  
29 population estimate, and likewise the Tuluksak River  
30 Weir is below the study area and so it would not be  
31 included in that as well.

32

33 The reason that I kind of bring this up  
34 is, you know, everyone's aware that there are declining  
35 populations of chinook salmon in the Kuskokwim and  
36 elsewhere in the state and this is a more holistic  
37 approach to evaluating the entire Kuskokwim River stock  
38 and the causes for the -- or identifying declines and  
39 increases in abundance through population estimates.

40

41 So I just wanted to kind of put that  
42 out there that the Tatlawiksuk River Weir currently  
43 would not be funded and that would be a significant  
44 detriment to estimating population in the entire  
45 Kuskokwim River.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any comments  
50 on Kevin's comment there on the State's perspective on

1 the Tatlawiksuk River Weir.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Well, Jack, what if we  
4 just added that to the list above, it would bump that  
5 up to \$1.3 million, but if funding became available for  
6 the State projects, I mean it shows that we're giving  
7 that priority but it -- either that or the Takotna, if  
8 we can get the funds from somewhere else they should go  
9 forward. But I would maybe add that one to the list  
10 even if it bumped that total up.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can do that and  
13 we can push that one into the fund, be fund, it'll  
14 exceed the funding level that we have here of \$1.072  
15 million, but I do feel that there will not be funding  
16 for Takotna and Tuluksak Weirs from the State, I do  
17 feel that the State will fund -- (indiscernible) whole  
18 bunch of money so they will probably fund it -- the  
19 Tatlawiksuk Weir.

20

21 MR. SCHABERG: Mr. Chairman. This is  
22 Kevin Schaberg again.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

25

26 MR. SCHABERG: The funding that's been  
27 identified for the State is for operation of projects  
28 outside of this list of projects. The funding has been  
29 identified for specific projects, so we don't have  
30 flexibility to utilize that funding to cover the lack  
31 of funding through this call. So in the Tatlawiksuk  
32 example, we would not be able to fund Tatlawiksuk Weir  
33 if it's not funded here, which would ultimately  
34 detriment monitoring for the entire Kuskokwim River and  
35 the success of those whole river abundance estimate  
36 projects.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see. Now, you  
39 stated that a whole bunch of money came into the State  
40 to monitor chinook salmon, well, how much money did you  
41 get?

42

43 MR. SCHABERG: For the Kuskokwim area.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

46

47 MR. SCHABERG: We basically got funding  
48 for the two projects that I mentioned there, the up  
49 river abundance, that would be above Kalskag for the  
50 Kuskokwim River and then the lower river escapement

1 project. That total funding level was about \$400,000.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see. So how does  
4 the Council want to proceed. Ray, you feel that we  
5 should push 14-302, the Tatlawiksuk River Weir up into  
6 a fund -- into the funding realm that would exceed the  
7 level of \$1 million -- the funding guideline is \$1.073  
8 million, how does the Council feel about pushing that  
9 one up, it will exceed the funding level but it should  
10 be -- it needs to be funded.

11

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other Council  
16 members.

17

18 MR. GERVAIS: I have a question, Mr.  
19 Chairman.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

22

23 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, this all gets real  
24 complicated on a lot of different projects and lots of  
25 different money. Is it more useful from the  
26 Administration's standpoint if we just -- funding  
27 Takotna Weir, that we just go ahead and approve the  
28 funding priorities such as like the YK Delta RAC did  
29 and then we have some unity on what the RACs are  
30 pushing for and it would help our stance better.

31

32 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. This is Don  
33 Rivard, maybe I can help out a little bit here.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

36

37 MR. RIVARD: I don't think you have to  
38 worry, as a Council, about, you know, the cut off on  
39 money, you just need to come up with your priority  
40 list. So whatever you think ought to be funded in a  
41 certain priority, that's what you come up with. I  
42 wouldn't get too wrapped around the axle there with the  
43 amount of money that's available or not, just come up  
44 with your own list of priorities there.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That being  
47 said, I fully agree with the Yukon Kuskokwim Regional  
48 Council's funding priority list. And so I feel that  
49 we should fund the up river weirs and it will put  
50 Tatlawiksuk Weir next up on the list if any additional

1 fundings come forward. How does the Council feel about  
2 adopting what the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional  
3 Council's priority list.

4  
5 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair. I'll move  
6 approval of that recommendation.....

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

9  
10 MR. COLLINS: .....with the addition of  
11 the Tatlawiksuk Weir under there as one of our  
12 priorities at the bottom of the list.

13  
14 MR. GERVAIS: Second.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You would include it  
17 in the to fund list.

18  
19 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I approve the list  
20 that was approved by the Yukon -- is it Yukon Delta  
21 RAC.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, the Yukon  
24 Delta RAC.

25  
26 MR. COLLINS: With the addition of the  
27 Tatlawiksuk Weir and also on our list.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Ray's got a  
30 motion to basically adopt the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta  
31 Regional Council's list but pushing the Tatlawiksuk  
32 River Weir up to fund for this year's projects. Do we  
33 have a second on that.

34  
35 MR. GERVAIS: I'll second that, this is  
36 Tim.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any further  
39 discussion on that prioritization list for the  
40 Kuskokwim region.

41  
42  
43 (No comments)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none, call  
46 the roll, Melinda.

47  
48 MS. BURKE: Don Honea.

49  
50 MR. HONEA: Yes.

1 MS. BURKE: Pollock Simon.  
2  
3 MR. SIMON: Yes.  
4  
5 MS. BURKE: Ray Collins.  
6  
7 MR. COLLINS: Yes.  
8  
9 MS. BURKE: Jack Reakoff.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.  
12  
13 MS. BURKE: Tim Gervais.  
14  
15 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.  
16  
17 MS. BURKE: James Walker.  
18  
19 MR. WALKER: Yes.  
20  
21 MS. BURKE: Jenny Pelkola.  
22  
23 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.  
24  
25 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. We have  
26 unanimous approval.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Anything else  
29 for us, Don.  
30  
31 MR. RIVARD: No, Mr. Chair, that's what  
32 we were asking for your Council to give us your  
33 recommendation. Appreciate your consideration.  
34  
35 Thank you.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you,  
38 appreciate it, Don.  
39  
40 And, Melinda.  
41  
42 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. The next -- as  
43 far as deadlines go, the next real crucial item we have  
44 is the piece of correspondence that the Council had  
45 discussed in Fairbanks last month to the Kuskokwim  
46 River Salmon Working Group.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
49  
50 MS. BURKE: And that is actually the

1 next handout right after the spreadsheet in the most  
2 recent packet. I went ahead and created a draft of  
3 this letter, thanks to Jack and to Don for giving it a  
4 first quick read yesterday. If the Council has had  
5 time to look over that letter you can reedit as you  
6 wish, and if you'd like to have it carried forth to the  
7 meeting next week we'll need to adopt this with a  
8 quorum today, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, thanks,  
11 Melinda. The only thing I would -- I like the letter,  
12 the only thing I would like to include is a CC to the  
13 Chairman of the Alaska Board of Fish.

14

15 MS. BURKE: Yes, I saw that email this  
16 morning, Mr. Chair, and I've already reflected that  
17 change in the draft.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Council  
20 member comments on the letter regarding our concerns  
21 for the under achievement of escapement on the  
22 Kuskokwim River.

23

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing no  
28 discussion, have people read the letter, can I get a  
29 yes or no.

30

31 MS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny, no, I  
32 didn't read it.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You want to read the  
35 letter quickly, Melinda, so -- some people may not have  
36 gotten the letter or not been able to read it.

37

38 MS. BURKE: Absolutely. What I'll do  
39 is I'll skip the first and the last paragraph which are  
40 kind of boiler plate language and I'll concentrate on  
41 the main points if that's okay with you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, that's good, go  
44 ahead.

45

46 MS. BURKE: Among the topics discussed  
47 at the Council's meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska November  
48 2013 there was a discussion of the Lower Yukon and  
49 Kuskokwim chinook salmon runs. This Council's very  
50 concerned with the under achievement of escapement

1 goals on the Kuskokwim River in 2013 considering  
2 subsistence needs appeared to have been met in the  
3 lower Kuskokwim River. The Council has directed member  
4 Raymond Collins, who is also a member of the Kuskokwim  
5 River Salmon Management Working Group to relay our  
6 concerns about the chinook salmon to the working group  
7 and to strategize on appropriate management actions for  
8 the 2014 fishing season and beyond. Actions must be  
9 taken to maintain adequate escapement enumeration and  
10 to ensure escapement goals are met. This important  
11 salmon run must have escapement met and the public must  
12 understand that the resource will be irreparably  
13 damaged if overharvest continues to occur.

14

15 Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Melinda.

18

19 So I feel this is a very important  
20 letter that Ray needs to have to be empowered at the  
21 Kuskokwim River Working Group meeting next week. The  
22 Chair will entertain a motion to approve this letter  
23 and be transmitted to the appropriate agencies and for  
24 Ray's use at that meeting.

25

26 MR. WALKER: So moved.

27

28 MS. PELKOLA: Second by Jenny.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.  
31 Those in favor of transmitting the letter signify by  
32 saying -- or correction, roll call.

33

34 MS. BURKE: Don Honea.

35

36 MR. HONEA: Yes.

37

38 MS. BURKE: Pollock Simon.

39

40 MR. SIMON: Yes.

41

42 MS. BURKE: Ray Collins.

43

44 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

45

46 MS. BURKE: Jack Reakoff.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

49

50 MS. BURKE: Tim Gervais.

1 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.  
2  
3 MS. BURKE: James Walker.  
4  
5 MR. WALKER: Yes.  
6  
7 MS. BURKE: Jenny Pelkola.  
8  
9 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.  
10  
11 MS. BURKE: Motion unanimously  
12 approved, Mr. Chair.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So another  
15 priority Melinda.  
16  
17 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair, while we  
18 still have a quorum I think we should go ahead and work  
19 on the future meeting dates, Item I.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
22  
23 MS. BURKE: The Council, right now, is  
24 scheduled to meet February 25th through 26th with the  
25 location to be determined for the winter 2014 meeting.  
26  
27 MS. PELKOLA: What were your dates,  
28 February what?  
29  
30 MS. BURKE: February 25th and 26th.  
31 Page 317 of the original meeting book and it's also in  
32 the supplemental packet as well.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So what does the  
35 Council feel about place of meeting. I feel because of  
36 under achievement of the Kuskokwim River on chinook  
37 that Aniak would be a good place, that'd be my personal  
38 feeling. Other Council member's opinion.  
39  
40 MR. SIMON: This is Pollock, I go for  
41 Aniak.  
42  
43 MS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny, that's  
44 fine with me.  
45  
46 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, this is Ray, I  
47 concur.  
48  
49 MR. WALKER: This is Jim, I'm okay with  
50 that.

1 MS. BURKE: Okay, it sounds like Aniak  
2 is the location for the winter 2014 meeting. We'll  
3 take the vote for both the winter and the fall  
4 together,. Mr. Chair, if that's okay.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That'd be  
7 good.

8  
9 MS. BURKE: And if everyone has the  
10 most recent copy in the packet, on the other side is  
11 the fall 2014 meeting calendar. As you can see it's  
12 very full already. It looks like October is basically  
13 already taken up with two Councils meeting each week.  
14 I know it's difficult for this Council to meet in  
15 August/September. Carl did you have something, Carl  
16 Johnson.

17  
18 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, thank you, Mr.  
19 Chair, Council members. This is Carl Johnson, Office  
20 of Subsistence Management.

21  
22 Now, I want to note on your  
23 supplemental materials you'll see that the first week  
24 of October is blacked out. The purpose of that is in  
25 the event of further budget shenanigans in Congress you  
26 wouldn't be held hostage to the possibility of a  
27 government shutdown, however, if there is no absolute  
28 prohibition to scheduling a meeting during that time  
29 and if there is no other week that is suitable for the  
30 Council, we could schedule you during that time with  
31 the understanding that, you know, certainty is not  
32 there, necessarily.

33  
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comment is, we're  
37 still hunting moose and sheep and doing subsistence  
38 things in September. Our seasons go through the end of  
39 September, first of October on sheep and moose. I want  
40 -- because of what happened for shenanigans, how hard  
41 is it for OSM to include an additional window through  
42 the third week -- past the 17th of October.

43  
44 Carl.

45  
46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: See, this is what I  
50 talked about to the Federal Subsistence Board, these

1 fall windows make it too hard for people that are  
2 participating in subsistence to actually comment on  
3 proposals, and that's why I wanted to see a shift in  
4 this meeting dates further back towards November, at  
5 least. And so I feel that OSM can easily adjust for  
6 another week there so that people can continue to  
7 subsistence harvest. September meetings for Western  
8 Interior are not an appropriate meeting time and we got  
9 blacked out because we got stuck -- wound into the axle  
10 on the shutdown.

11  
12 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. Now, if  
13 -- as a brief update on that issue, in response to the  
14 Council's request to reconsider the regulatory cycle,  
15 the Board has taken action to shift it during the  
16 wildlife years to a later fall meeting cycle, but there  
17 has still not been a decision made at this time  
18 regarding fisheries and we're already heading into the  
19 fisheries cycle so I don't think it's going to happen  
20 for this next year. But I do want to note that we did  
21 approve of two meetings the week after the window  
22 closes and those are the Bristol Bay and the Eastern  
23 Interior Councils. I do not know at this time whether  
24 or not it could be approved to have a meeting in the  
25 last week of October, that starts to cut into the time  
26 necessary to prepare the regulatory materials for the  
27 Board's meeting which presumably would be the typical  
28 time in the third week of January on the fisheries  
29 cycle.

30  
31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: See that's why this  
34 Council wanted these meeting dates pushed back, we  
35 wanted that Federal Board meeting pushed back, too,  
36 back into early February at least. I feel that we need  
37 a special action request then to have a meeting date  
38 for this Council after the 17th of October so that we  
39 can continue to subsistence hunt and not -- either I  
40 get a moose or no, I'm not going to go without a moose,  
41 I won't be able to attend a meeting, you can't black  
42 out the first week -- you can't arbitrarily blackout  
43 the first week in October and then not give us another  
44 week. You blacked one out, you got to give us another  
45 one and so we got blanked out here because our Council  
46 didn't meet quorum, we couldn't make a pick and  
47 everybody else jumped on all the dates in October,  
48 well, tough luck, we need an additional week.

49  
50 So what do we have to do, a special

1 action request to the Federal Subsistence Board for  
2 another week there.

3

4 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. An additional  
5 week has been added to the fall meeting cycle but it's  
6 already been taken by two other Councils.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we got screwed  
9 on this one. You blanked one week out, that's -- we're  
10 not getting -- we have subsistence activities, we've  
11 said this over and over, we have subsistence activities  
12 occurring in August and September, this Council needs  
13 meeting dates after that time. You can't push us into  
14 -- we won't have -- we'll be under quorum again if you  
15 do that to us.

16

17 MR. JOHNSON: Well, Mr. Chair, if the  
18 primary concern is activities in August and September,  
19 the dates of October 1st through 3rd are still  
20 available at this time for any Council to meet.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we'll take  
23 those. We'll take those and hope for not a shutdown.  
24 But that's an interim stop gap, I want the Federal  
25 Board to give us an additional week beyond the other  
26 Councils, the first week of November, whatever it is.

27

28 MR. COLLINS: Jack, what if we put  
29 October 9 and 10, even though they contrast with  
30 Northwest Arctic, are the same people going to be  
31 attending those meeting, we're not interested in the  
32 same things they are, would we have people available if  
33 we can't meet on the 1st through 3rd, the 9th and 10th  
34 of October.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

37

38 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. This is  
39 Melinda. I also coordinate the Northwest Arctic Council  
40 so that wouldn't work for my schedule, and for the --  
41 for the other Staff members as well, the travel Staff,  
42 the biological Staff, we're limited to two meetings a  
43 week.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So -- well, let's  
46 put down the first week in October -- I'm still going  
47 to get screwed. I'm still going to have my seasons go  
48 -- I'll have to be in travel status -- it'll still be  
49 occurring in the first part of October, and so I don't  
50 see why OSM has not been listening to this Council

1 about these meeting dates and the other thing that I  
2 was concerned about is that we have people who -- if  
3 they have meeting dates that conflict with the users  
4 that might want to comment on proposals also.

5  
6 So I would like a special action to --  
7 I would put down the first week in October as our  
8 meeting time but I also would want a special action  
9 request to the Federal Subsistence Board to allow a  
10 meeting to occur in the first week in November for this  
11 Council so that we don't get bottled up with our  
12 subsistence activities.

13  
14 How does the Council feel about that.

15  
16 MR. WALKER: Yes.

17  
18 MR. HONEA: Yes.

19  
20 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.

21  
22 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is that clear to  
25 OSM.

26  
27 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah, this is Jenny, I  
28 agree with you Jack. It seems like because of the  
29 shutdown, you know, after that I was already -- you  
30 know I already had another meeting going on and it  
31 seems like -- I didn't want to miss our meeting but I  
32 had to so I think, you know, what you requested is -- I  
33 agree with it.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

36  
37 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, this is Tim.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

40  
41 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I mean we can do  
42 that, the first week of October just as a temporary  
43 date, but we certainly -- October 1st is still our --  
44 our Federal moose hunt is still going on and then even  
45 if you did shoot a moose on the 29th or 30th or the  
46 28th you still got to take care of your meat and what  
47 not and close up your camp so that November -- that  
48 first week in November is much more preferable than the  
49 first week of October but if -- if October's the only  
50 option I would go with it for this one time but I don't

1 think it's something we should -- a meeting week we  
2 should plan on using in the future because it does  
3 impinge on subsistence activities.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

6

7 MS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny.....

8

9 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair, Carl.....

10

11 MS. PELKOLA: .....again. I'd like to  
12 say that it seems like we go through this all the time,  
13 that we're always pushed to a different date and it  
14 seems like our Council is always being pushed around.  
15 There should be something that OSM is doing that where  
16 Western Interior can have their pick of one week or  
17 Eastern Interior or something like that. I don't know  
18 how they're doing it but it seems like we always get  
19 the raw end at the end.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I'm not real  
22 happy with the situation, with this calendar for the  
23 fall meeting. Did I hear another -- did somebody else  
24 want to comment.

25

26 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair, Carl  
27 Johnson.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Carl.

30

31 MR. JOHNSON: I wanted to note a couple  
32 of things. First, it would more than likely to be  
33 approved if the Council chose the last week in October  
34 than it would be for it to be approved for the first  
35 week of November, just simply if the Board is going to  
36 have its meeting in January, having your meeting in the  
37 first week of November makes it more difficult to  
38 prepare the briefing materials necessary to provide to  
39 the Board for its January meeting.

40

41 The second point I wanted to make, and  
42 that is regarding when the Board actually meets,  
43 unfortunately the Office of Subsistence Management does  
44 not control the Board's schedule. We make  
45 recommendations and provide information to the Board  
46 but if the Board does not wish to move its meetings  
47 there's not really much that the Office of Subsistence  
48 Management can do about that. But we have, to the best  
49 of our ability, conveyed this and other Council's  
50 concerns regarding moving -- expanding fall and winter

1 meeting cycles and moving Board meeting dates.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We'll --  
6 let's just change this to the -- instead of the first  
7 week in October, the third week in October, if it  
8 overlaps with other Councils, at that time, OSM will  
9 have to accommodate us. We'll still have Melinda that  
10 will be able to attend our meeting. And so the third  
11 week in October, Aniak, is that good for the Council.

12

13 MS. BURKE: I think you meant to say  
14 the fourth week, Mr. Chair, this is Melinda.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, the fourth --  
17 correction, the fourth week.

18

19 MR. JOHNSON: And Aniak is the winter  
20 meeting.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is that good with  
23 the Council, fourth week of October Aniak.....

24

25 MS. BURKE: Aniak is for winter.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: For the fall  
28 meeting.

29

30 MS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny, is the  
31 fourth week, is that the 21st on or the 27th on.

32

33 MS. BURKE: It would be the 27th on, I  
34 can put down Tuesday Wednesday so we can have Monday as  
35 travel.

36

37 MS. PELKOLA: Okay, this is Jenny, that  
38 sounds good for me because I'm thinking the week before  
39 would be AFN and all the other meetings that goes on  
40 during that.

41

42 MS. BURKE: So we could put down.....

43

44 MS. PELKOLA: So the 27th on sounds  
45 good.

46

47 MS. BURKE: .....the 28th and 29th,  
48 Tuesday Wednesday.

49

50 MS. PELKOLA: Uh-huh.

1 MS. BURKE: Is there a location, we've  
2 got Aniak set for the winter meeting, is there a  
3 location for the fall that's preferred by the Council.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, fall meeting,  
6 McGrath, or what's the Council feel about the fall  
7 meeting.  
8  
9 MR. SIMON: McGrath sounds good, this  
10 is Pollock.  
11  
12 MR. WALKER: Yes.  
13  
14 MR. GERVAIS: I agree with McGrath,  
15 Jack.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
18  
19 MR. HONEA: Hey, Jack, this is Don, I  
20 would agree with McGrath.  
21  
22 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah, McGrath sounds  
23 good.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Sounds like  
26 the Council is pretty firm on McGrath the 28th and 29th  
27 of October.  
28  
29 And so the Chair will entertain a  
30 motion to adopt the meeting -- future meeting dates and  
31 places as Aniak February 25 and 26, for the spring  
32 meeting, winter meeting, and then the fall meeting in  
33 McGrath on the 28th and 29th of October, motion to  
34 adopt.  
35  
36 MS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny, so moved.  
37  
38 MR. GERVAIS: Seconded by Tim.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Call the roll  
41 Melinda.  
42  
43 MS. BURKE: Don Honea.  
44  
45 MR. HONEA: Yes.  
46  
47 MS. BURKE: Pollock Simon.  
48  
49 MR. SIMON: Yes.  
50

1 MS. BURKE: Ray Collins.  
2  
3 MR. COLLINS: Yes.  
4  
5 MS. BURKE: Jack Reakoff.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.  
8  
9 MS. BURKE: Tim Gervais.  
10  
11 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.  
12  
13 MS. BURKE: James Walker.  
14  
15 MR. WALKER: Yes.  
16  
17 MS. BURKE: Jenny Pelkola.  
18  
19 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.  
20  
21 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. Unanimous  
22 approval of the set meeting dates for fall and winter  
23 2014.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And I would  
26 at some point like to talk to Gene Peltola about the  
27 winter dates. OSM has been pushing for this January  
28 fisheries Federal Subsistence Board meeting and talking  
29 the Federal Board into it. I don't feel the Federal  
30 Board is that fixated on it, I think OSM is, and so I  
31 feel that this Council needs to start leveraging OSM  
32 again and the Federal Board to push these dates back.  
33 If it wasn't for this -- or push back to the April --  
34 the shutdown would have really screwed OSM this year.  
35  
36 And, so, Carl, I want you to start  
37 talking to Gene about pushing those dates back. You're  
38 the Division Chief, and I want those dates pushed back  
39 -- you start talking about pushing those dates back, or  
40 should I call Gene myself.  
41  
42 MR. JOHNSON: Well, Mr. Chair, this is  
43 Carl, you know, in -- the January date is driven larly  
44 -- largely by the fact that the fisheries regulatory  
45 cycle begins on April 1st.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, well, we  
48 talked about pushing it at least back a couple more  
49 weeks, into the first week in February, get out of this  
50 January -- give us more leeway in the fall meeting.

1 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, I -- you know, I  
2 have no objection with that, Mr. Chair, but, again,  
3 it's largely driven by how much time it takes for  
4 things to be processed in order for the regulations to  
5 be published for the April 1st regulatory cycle. I  
6 will do what I can to investigate, if there is any  
7 leeway, talk to our regulation specialist, and, again,  
8 you know, there's no one I know of here at OSM that is  
9 particularly invested in a third week of January Board  
10 meeting.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Previous  
13 administration was and I got a big push back with Pete  
14 on that one. But I do feel that it's advantageous for  
15 the program and the Councils.

16  
17 Okay, so we'll move forward, Melinda.

18  
19 MS. BURKE: All right, thanks for your  
20 patience, everyone. It sounds like we still have a  
21 quorum and if we can stay on a little bit longer with a  
22 good count we're going to cover the statewide proposal  
23 and we're going to try to check off some of these  
24 crossover Federal proposals as well so I'll turn it  
25 over to Trevor Fox.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead,  
28 Trevor.

29  
30 MR. FOX: All right, thank you, Mr.  
31 Chair. Can everybody hear me okay.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

34  
35 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.

36  
37 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

38  
39 MR. FOX: Okay, great. So we'll start  
40 with the statewide, which is Proposal WP14-01 and this  
41 begins on Page 43 of your meeting book. And with all  
42 these I'm going to try to be as brief as I can and if  
43 anybody has questions I'll just address those later on  
44 to try to get through these.

45  
46 Proposal 1 was submitted by Kevin Bopp  
47 of Nome and it requests the establishment of new  
48 statewide provisions for Federal trapping regulations.  
49 These include requiring trapper identification tags on  
50 all traps and snares, establishing a maximum allowable

1 time limit for checking traps and also to establish a  
2 harvest/trapping report form to collect data on non-  
3 target species captured in traps and snares.

4  
5 The proponent states that these  
6 requirements could lead to more humane trapping methods  
7 under Federal regulations, however, these regulatory  
8 provisions would not likely be manageable on a  
9 statewide basis due to differences in land ownership,  
10 population concentrations and habitats.

11  
12 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
13 oppose WP14-01.

14  
15 And we're basically saying that these  
16 regulations would be better suited in response to  
17 issues on an area specific basis, such as some other  
18 restrictions under State and Federal regulations. The  
19 alignment issues would require substantial increases in  
20 law enforcement and public education. Also requiring  
21 trappers to check traps during inclement weather could  
22 lead to health and safety issues and in many instances  
23 Federally-qualified subsistence users could simply  
24 choose to trap under State regulations to avoid these  
25 additional restrictions under Federal regulation.

26  
27 And then as far as the harvest report  
28 form, we thought it was an unnecessary requirement that  
29 could -- would be a burden to Federal users and would  
30 require additional time commitments for Federal Staff,  
31 and it's just currently unwarranted.

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Trevor.

36  
37 Any questions from the Council on the  
38 proposal.

39  
40  
41 (No comments)

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You know I don't  
44 have the list of, Melinda, the list that has -- it  
45 would be State comments, or what would be the next one.

46  
47 MS. BURKE: Yeah, you know, I honestly  
48 don't have it in front of me, either, but, yeah, let's  
49 make sure we cover State comments and I also have the  
50 -- I've got the book here in front of me, we can cover

1 the written public comments as well after the State.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. State have  
4 any comments. Are you still on there, Glenn Stout.

5

6 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is  
7 Drew Crawford from the Department of Fish and Game,  
8 Federal subsistence liaison team in Anchorage.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

11

12 MR. CRAWFORD: Regarding wildlife  
13 proposal 14-01. The State also opposes this proposal.  
14 We agree with the Federal assessment and their  
15 conclusion not to support it.

16

17 Over.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other  
20 State comments. You'll be speaking for the State on  
21 all the comments, Drew.

22

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We generally would  
27 give opportunity for Native organizations, do we have  
28 any Native organizations on line.

29

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none. There  
34 was written comments, Melinda.

35

36 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair, there were  
37 three written public comments in opposition to this  
38 proposal.

39

40 The first from Miki and Julie Collins  
41 from Lake Minchumnia.

42

43 There's also one from the AHTNA  
44 Customary and Traditional Use Committee.

45

46 And one also from Don Woodruff in  
47 Eagle.

48

49 Page 51 of the original meeting book.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And then  
2 Advisory Committee comments.  
3  
4  
5 (No comments)  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Gates of the  
8 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission took this  
9 proposal up and opposed the proposal.  
10  
11 MS. OKADA: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is  
12 Marcy Okada.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead,  
15 Marcy.  
16  
17 MS. OKADA: I have comments from the  
18 Gates of the Arctic SRC.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.  
21  
22 MS. OKADA: Okay. The Gates of the  
23 Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission  
24 unanimously opposes the proposal because it makes it  
25 more difficult for trappers to continue trapping. It  
26 would also be difficult for agencies to administer this  
27 regulation because of their declining budgets.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you. We  
30 have that on the record.  
31  
32 The Koyukuk River Advisory Committee  
33 did not take this proposal up.  
34  
35 Was this proposal visited by the  
36 Kuskokwim River Advisory, Ray, upper Kuskokwim.  
37  
38 MR. COLLINS: No, we hadn't taken a  
39 position on that.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Anything  
42 else. Any other boxes to check, Melinda.  
43  
44 MS. BURKE: No, Mr. Chair. I think you  
45 covered all of them and I'm emailing you that  
46 presentation procedure as well, the comment procedure.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, appreciate  
49 that.  
50

1                                   And so the Chair will entertain a  
2 motion to adopt and I intend to oppose this proposal.  
3  
4                                   MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'll move to adopt  
5 but plan to vote against it.  
6  
7                                   (Laughter)  
8  
9                                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A second.  
10  
11                                  MS. PELKOLA: Second, by Jenny.  
12  
13                                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any further  
14 discussion on the proposal.  
15  
16                                  MS. PELKOLA: I have a question, this  
17 is Jenny. If you vote yes, you're voting against it.  
18  
19                                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, if you vote yes,  
20 you'll be voting for the proposal. I'm going to vote  
21 no against the proposal.  
22  
23                                  MS. PELKOLA: Okay, yeah, I just wanted  
24 to know.  
25  
26                                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So hearing no  
27 further discussion those in favor of Proposal WP14-01,  
28 signify by saying.....  
29  
30                                  MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. We'll do a roll  
31 call vote.....  
32  
33                                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Roll call vote.  
34  
35                                  MS. BURKE: .....to ensure we've got  
36 quorum.  
37  
38                                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead,  
39 Melinda.  
40  
41                                  MR. JOHNSON: And, Mr. Chair, this is  
42 Carl Johnson. It might be helpful for the record if  
43 there may be some discussion as to why the Council is  
44 in opposition to this proposal.  
45  
46                                  Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
47  
48                                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Before the  
49 vote I'll state my opposition to the proposal.  
50

1                   This is addressing a specific issue by  
2 the proponent in a specific area, it has no bearing on  
3 statewide Federal public lands and it would be an  
4 extreme burden to the Federal subsistence users and  
5 would not -- subsistence users would revert to even  
6 State regulations and so this proposal is unwarranted  
7 for the subsistence users in the Western Interior  
8 region.

9  
10                   That'd be my reason for opposition.

11  
12                   Any other comments from the Council for  
13 justification on the proposal.

14  
15                   MR. HONEA: Yeah, Jack.

16  
17                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

18  
19                   MR. HONEA: Yeah, this is Don. I'm  
20 opposed to it primarily because I think it's going to  
21 be really burdensome for Federal subsistence users and  
22 I think this is an urban issue where they may have some  
23 of these incidences where like outside of Fairbanks or  
24 any place where they may have to have their trap line  
25 registered or at least marked or something like that so  
26 I'm going -- that's my justification.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that,  
29 Don. Any other comments.

30  
31                   MR. SIMON: Jack, this is Pollock.

32  
33                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Pollock.

34  
35                   MR. SIMON: Yeah, I'm opposed to this  
36 proposal because there's times of checking your trap  
37 line regularly, sometimes it's 30 or 40 below and you  
38 can't go check your traps. So this proposal, it's just  
39 -- it's more work for us trappers, not trapping that  
40 many furbearing animals, so I'm opposed to this  
41 proposal.

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good comments,  
44 Pollock. 50, 60 below zero it's too dangerous to go  
45 out, and that kind of weather would typically kill  
46 every animal in the trap anyway so -- other comments  
47 from Council members.

48  
49                   MS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny. I just  
50 agree with what Pollock and Don said, it's just a lot

1 of hassle and, you know, it seems like we're getting  
2 over regulated in everything and this would just add  
3 more headaches. So that's my opposition.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other  
6 comments.

7  
8  
9 (No comments)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All the roll,  
12 Melinda.

13  
14 MS. BURKE: Don Honea.

15  
16 MR. HONEA: No.

17  
18 MS. BURKE: Pollock Simon.

19  
20 MR. SIMON: No.

21  
22 MS. BURKE: Ray Collins.

23  
24 MR. COLLINS: No.

25  
26 MS. BURKE: Jack Reakoff.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No.

29  
30 MS. BURKE: Tim Gervais.

31  
32 MR. GERVAIS: No.

33  
34 MS. BURKE: James Walker.

35  
36 MR. WALKER: No.

37  
38 MS. BURKE: Jenny Pelkola.

39  
40 MS. PELKOLA: No.

41  
42 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. Unanimously  
43 rejected statewide Proposal 14-01.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,  
46 Trevor.

47  
48 MR. FOX: All right, thank you, Mr.  
49 Chair. And I think I forgot to state my name on the  
50 record last time, I'm Trevor Fox, I'm a wildlife

1 biologist with OSM.

2

3                   The next proposal is Proposal 14-22,  
4 which begins on Page 53 of your meeting book. It was  
5 submitted by the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council  
6 and requests two changes to Federal caribou hunting  
7 regulations for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

8

9                   The first change is to request the  
10 establishment of permit requirements for all of the  
11 units within the herd's range. This includes Units 9A,  
12 9B, 9C, 17A, 17B, 17C, 18, 19A and 19B. The proposed  
13 change would align with recent changes to State  
14 regulations, which require a State registration permit  
15 to hunt caribou from the Mulchatna Herd, rather than  
16 the previous regulations using a general harvest  
17 ticket.

18

19                   The second requested change is that the  
20 to be announced season just in Unit 17A remainder and  
21 Unit 17C remainder be shortened from its current season  
22 of August 1 through March 31st, to August 1st through  
23 March 15th, which would align with the potential dates  
24 of that season with other seasons within the herd's  
25 range.

26

27                   The proposed regulations are currently  
28 in effect this year as the Federal Subsistence Board  
29 approved temporary special action WSA 13-02 in July of  
30 2013. So this State registration permit requirement is  
31 currently in effect this year, this would be to  
32 continue it into permanent regulation.

33

34                   The regulatory history affecting the  
35 Mulchatna Caribou Herd included liberalizing State and  
36 Federal regulations as the population increased in the  
37 1990s, and then as it began to incline regulations have  
38 slowly become more and more conservative. For  
39 instance, in 2009 the Alaska Board of Game eliminated  
40 the non-resident harvest on the Mulchatna Herd to  
41 insure subsistence opportunity was being provided.

42

43                   I'm not going to go too much into the  
44 details of the biology. If anybody has questions I can  
45 address those.

46

47                   But in general the herd increased to  
48 about 200,000 animals in 1996 and has declined down to  
49 30,000 at the last population estimate which was in  
50 2008. There is some preliminary data showing that the

1 herd may still be around 30,000 animals, that's based  
2 on some preliminary results from a 2012 photo census.

3

4                   The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
5 support Proposal WP14-22 with modification.

6

7                   The modification is on Pages 69 and 70  
8 of your book, but include deleting the regulatory  
9 language found in that portion -- or in portions of  
10 Unit 17A and 17C and to issue a delegation of authority  
11 letter to the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge for  
12 specific in-season management authorities. So, in  
13 general, we're supporting the addition of -- the  
14 requirement for a State registration permit throughout  
15 the herd's range and then in this smaller portion of  
16 the range, within 17A and 17C, that we delegate the  
17 authority to the Togiak Refuge Manager to open and  
18 close the season and set the harvest limit.

19

20                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Trevor.

23

24                   Any questions from the Council members  
25 on the proposal.

26

27

28                   (No comments)

29

30                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing no Council  
31 question. Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments.

32

33                   MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair. Drew  
34 Crawford, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Federal  
35 subsistence liaison team in Anchorage.

36

37                   Regarding wildlife proposal 14-22, the  
38 Department supports this proposal. Adoption of this  
39 proposal would reduce confusion for subsistence caribou  
40 hunters and support field enforcement efforts by  
41 realigning State and Federal caribou hunt regulations.

42

43                   Over.

44

45                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.

46

47                   Federal agencies. Was there comments  
48 from any Refuge Staff on this proposal.

49

50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none, Native  
4 tribal, village, or other comments.  
5  
6  
7 (No comments)  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: InterAgency Staff  
10 Committee comments.  
11  
12  
13 (No comments)  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is there neighboring  
16 Regional Council actions. Wsa there actions taken by  
17 YK-Delta on this proposal, or comments.  
18  
19 MR. FOX: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is  
20 Trevor. Let me look that up really quick, I've got my  
21 list here.  
22  
23 The YK-Delta Regional Advisory Council,  
24 they supported with modification and let me find it in  
25 our list here to make sure I have it right. So they  
26 supported with modification using language from the  
27 Council's book on Page -- well, you don't have their  
28 book, but to incorporate some of the same language  
29 found in WP14-26. Proposal 14-26 affects only Unit 18  
30 and it included getting rid of the one bull harvest  
31 restriction and I think that's the only main difference  
32 there. Other than that the Council agreed with the OSM  
33 conclusion and justification for 22. So they supported  
34 adding in the State registration permit and then just  
35 wanted to modify by getting rid of that one bull  
36 harvest restriction.  
37  
38 Thank you.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So what did  
41 they do on WP14-26, did they take action on that or  
42 what.  
43  
44 MR. FOX: Let me look that up really  
45 quick.  
46  
47 (Pause)  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If they're  
50 incorporating.....

1 MR. FOX: And we're going to address  
2 14-26 next, I recommend, because it's also with  
3 Mulchatna. With 26 the Yukon Delta Council supported  
4 with modifications excluding the language, no more than  
5 one caribou may be a bull, no more than one caribou may  
6 be taken August 1 through January 31st.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

9  
10 MR. FOX: And the other thing that 26  
11 did is a portion of Unit 18 had a split season, whereas  
12 the rest of the seasons within the range are a  
13 continuous August 1st through March 15th, so 26 also  
14 got rid of the split season and made that season within  
15 Unit 18 consistent with the rest of the range.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We'll deal  
18 with this 14-22. Advisory Committee comments on this  
19 proposal, or Lake Clark Subsistence Resource Commission  
20 comments. Do you have any record of that Melinda.

21  
22 MS. BURKE: I'm sorry, was that -- did  
23 you ask about the SRC.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The SRC or the local  
26 Advisory Committees, is there any record of their  
27 comments on this proposal.

28  
29 MS. BURKE: Let me review the email  
30 that Marcy sent along. Carl did have one to cover from  
31 the Bristol Bay region first.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead,  
34 Carl.

35  
36 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I just  
37 wanted to note how the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory  
38 Council voted on this.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

41  
42 MR. JOHNSON: The Council action  
43 supported the proposal as modified by OSM.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. The Lake  
46 Clark Subsistence Resource Commission may have made  
47 comments on it but if they didn't transmit them to OSM  
48 then.....

49  
50 MS. BURKE: Yeah, I don't see Lake

1 Clarks and I see the Gates of the Arctic didn't take up  
2 that proposal.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, that's way  
5 outside the Gates of the Arctic.

6

7 Any written comments, Melinda.

8

9 MS. BURKE: No, Mr. Chair, there were  
10 no written public comments for this proposal.

11

12 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. Carl Johnson  
13 again. And I'll add that the Seward Penn Regional  
14 Advisory Council also took action on this and voted to  
15 support the proposal as it was originally submitted.

16

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So at this  
20 point the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt WP14-  
21 22.

22

23 MS. PELKOLA: So moved, this is Jenny.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

26

27 MR. COLLINS: I'll second, if that  
28 includes the words following the recommendation of OSM  
29 with that change in wording.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: With modification.

32

33 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Do you concur  
36 with that Jenny.

37

38 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, okay. Any  
41 further discussion by the Council.

42

43 MR. COLLINS: The reason I support that  
44 modification is that I think that's something we've  
45 wanted before to give Refuge managers more authority in  
46 opening and closing because they can be more responsive  
47 rather than having to go through a change at the  
48 Federal level in the regulations and so on. So if the  
49 herd -- if it warrants it there they'd be able to  
50 locally extend the season or even perhaps increase the

1 bag limit, but it would be based on the local  
2 situation. And I like that approach.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I appreciate  
5 alignment to go with State regulations to maintain an  
6 ease for the subsistence users, if we can do that.

7

8 Any further Council comments on the  
9 proposal and discussion.

10

11 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Jack.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

14

15 MR. HONEA: Yeah, this is Don. I -- so  
16 if we are going to entertain a motion, are we  
17 supporting this proposal then, because a lot of these  
18 -- most of these proposals on here are -- as I was  
19 going through them, look like they had to do with moose  
20 harvesting in Unit 18 and this one falls right in the  
21 middle of Unit 19 or something that has to do with Carl  
22 Morgan's area and I'm kind of sorry that he's not on  
23 here to express his opinions on this because I have no  
24 idea what the population or anything -- so are we in  
25 essence supporting this.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I intend to support  
28 the proposal as modified, that's the motion on the  
29 floor.

30

31 MR. HONEA: All right, thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Mulchatna Herd  
34 has had some real problems and continues tweaking of  
35 regulations over the last several years, so I intend to  
36 support the proposal as modified.

37

38 Any further Council comments.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, I would  
43 appreciate hearing Carl Morgan's input but  
44 unfortunately Carl's been ill lately.

45

46 Hearing no further comments, call the  
47 roll, Melinda.

48

49 MS. BURKE: Certainly, Mr. Chair. And  
50 also just wanted to give everybody the head's up, James

1 Walker has signed off a couple of minutes ago, he's  
2 still recovering from a surgery himself and gave us as  
3 much time as he possibly could this morning so we  
4 appreciate him staying on for as long as he could.

5  
6 Roll call vote for 14-22.

7  
8 Don Honea.

9  
10 MR. HONEA: Yes.

11  
12 MS. BURKE: Pollock Simon.

13  
14 MR. SIMON: Yes.

15  
16 MS. BURKE: Ray Collins.

17  
18 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

19  
20 MS. BURKE: Jack Reakoff.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

23  
24 MS. BURKE: Tim Gervais.

25  
26 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.

27  
28 MS. BURKE: Jenny Pelkola.

29  
30 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

31  
32 MS. BURKE: With six Council members  
33 present, we still have a quorum, Mr. Chair, and  
34 Proposal 14-22 unanimous approval.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,  
37 Trevor, you want to take up 14-26.

38  
39 MR. FOX: Yes, Mr. Chair, I think that  
40 would make the most sense so we don't have to go over  
41 any of the biology and stuff again later on.

42  
43 Proposal WP14-26 begins on Page 93 of  
44 your book.

45  
46 This is another crossover proposal as  
47 residents of Upper Kalskag have a C&T use determination  
48 for caribou in the area. The proposal was submitted by  
49 the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge and requests  
50 that Federal caribou regulations in Unit 18, that

1 portion to the east and south of the Kuskokwim River be  
2 changed to require a State registration permit to  
3 eliminate the one bull harvest restriction, to  
4 eliminate the split season and have a continuous season  
5 from August 1 to March 15. And then additionally the  
6 proponent asked that the Yukon Delta National Wildlife  
7 Refuge Manager be given delegated authority -- or be  
8 delegated authority to close or reopen Federal public  
9 lands to all users for this hunt, if needed, for  
10 conservation concerns after consultation with the  
11 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Togiak National  
12 Wildlife Refuge Manager and the Chair of the Yukon  
13 Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council.

14  
15                   Again, so on 14-22 that was the entire  
16 range of the Mulchatna, this is just in that portion of  
17 Unit 18 to the east and south of the Kuskokwim River.

18  
19                   Let's see, the harvest has declined as  
20 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd has declined. In Unit 18  
21 harvest by Federally-qualified and non-Federally  
22 qualified hunters has declined since 2003 when reported  
23 harvest for the unit was at its highest, and then  
24 harvest went up a little bit in 2010, the last year  
25 that we had data available. The use of the  
26 registration permit will allow managers to better track  
27 harvest, be more responsive to in-season management  
28 needs and allow harvest opportunity for Federally-  
29 qualified subsistence users to be maximized.

30  
31                   One of the big things about the State  
32 registration permit is that it has a requirement to  
33 report harvest within five days of taking a caribou,  
34 whereas general harvest tickets have a requirement to  
35 report harvest within 15 days of taking your bag limit,  
36 or the close of the season.

37  
38                   With that, the OSM preliminary  
39 conclusion, is to support WP14-26 with modification to  
40 administer the hunt via State registration permit only,  
41 retain the one bull harvest limit restriction and  
42 delegate the authority to open or close the season via  
43 delegation of authority letter only and a draft of that  
44 letter is on Page 96. The whole modified language can  
45 be found on Page 94 of your book.

46  
47                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's a lot of  
50 noise on line, is somebody shuffling papers and not on

1 mute.

2

3 MS. BURKE: If everybody could please  
4 remember to push star six to mute yourself, we're  
5 hearing a lot of paper shuffling.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And do you want to  
10 state again OSM's position on the bull harvest.

11

12 MR. FOX: Yes, Mr. Chair. So our  
13 modification is on Page 94.

14

15 Our modification was to have that State  
16 registration permit but to retain the one bull harvest  
17 limit restriction and then to use that delegation of  
18 authority letter for the Yukon Delta National Wildlife  
19 Refuge Manager.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I'm concerned  
24 about the bull/cow ratio on Mulchatna and my biological  
25 question for you there is the age class of the cows,  
26 isn't it primarily older cows in that population or are  
27 those pretty much died off now, are we back down to  
28 middle age cows there on Mulchatna.

29

30 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
31 believe that the cow age is improving. As you kind of  
32 mentioned there's been concern about bull ratios with  
33 the Mulchatna herd and that's why that one bull  
34 restriction was put on, to reduce harvest on bulls and  
35 push the harvest more to cows. OSM is recommending  
36 keeping that in place. The bull to cow ratios have  
37 improved a little bit in 2011 and 2012, including the  
38 percentage of large bulls. The herd composition counts  
39 and population estimate data can be found on Page 99 of  
40 your meeting book.

41

42 So we're not as concerned.

43

44 The Yukon Delta National Wildlife  
45 Refuge, they did speak at the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta  
46 Regional Advisory Council meeting and they recommend  
47 getting rid of that one bull harvest restriction and  
48 just making it two caribou. One of the reasons was  
49 that later on in the season, in the winter, when a lot  
50 of the bulls have dropped their antlers that it's very

1 difficult to tell the difference between a bull and a  
2 cow so that was part of their rationale for getting rid  
3 of the restriction.

4

5                   Hopefully that helps, Mr. Chair.

6

7                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Trevor.

8

9                   Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
10 comments.

11

12                   MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is  
13 Drew Crawford, Alaska Department of Fish and Game in  
14 Anchorage.

15

16                   Regarding Wildlife Proposal 14-26, the  
17 State's recommendation is not adopt. We support  
18 elements of this proposal but feel they are best  
19 incorporated in Wildlife Proposal 14-22 and the  
20 amendment. Wildlife Proposal 14-26 aligns the Federal  
21 season in Unit 18 with the Federal hunt in other  
22 portions of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd's range with the  
23 State's season in Unit 18, they support these changes.  
24 Wildlife Proposal 14-26 requires a use of a State  
25 registration permit in Unit 18, we support this and  
26 recommend adopting this component in Wildlife Proposal  
27 14-22.

28

29                   Wildlife Proposal 14-26 increases the  
30 bag limit to two caribou in Unit 18. We are not  
31 opposed to this change. Although we normally recommend  
32 taking action throughout the Mulchatna Caribou Herd's  
33 range when possible.

34

35                   Justification. The original bull limit  
36 was based on poor calf recruitment and a declining bull  
37 ratio. The bag limit restriction was imposed to  
38 increase bull survival, increasing the bull ratio, and  
39 allowing additional harvest of older cows that were  
40 prevalent in the population based on the population's  
41 composition and age structure.

42

43                   Calf recruitment and the fall bull  
44 ratio have increased to 48 (ph) calves per 100 cows and  
45 29 bulls per 100 cows in the western portion of the  
46 herd that is hunted in Unit 18. Even though the bull  
47 ratio is still below the management objective, the  
48 State feels that it has improved enough to give  
49 deference to the challenges faced by hunters during the  
50 season when they attempt to distinguish bulls from cows

1 in an effort to avoid exceeding the one bull bag limit.  
2 Given the current recruitment rates, we believe that  
3 the bull ratio will continue to increase to objectives  
4 even if the bag limit is liberalized. Additionally,  
5 more liberal bull harvest limit may serve to reduce the  
6 cow harvest which is increasingly focused on younger  
7 cows based on changes in the population age structure,  
8 and aid in our efforts to increase population size and  
9 harvest potential.

10

11                   However, Wildlife Proposal 14-26  
12 delegates authority to close and open caribou hunting  
13 season on Federal lands to the Refuge manager without  
14 consultation with the Federal Subsistence Board. We  
15 opposed this delegation of authority for two reasons.

16

17                   The current system provides adequate  
18 measures to close Federal lands on wildlife special  
19 actions should a conservation concern exist.  
20 Delegating this authority to the Refuge manager does  
21 not improve the Federal Government's ability to respond  
22 to conservation concerns, and further remove local  
23 subsistence users from the decisionmaking process.

24

25                   Number 2. Additionally, the improved  
26 performance of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, which are  
27 acknowledged by these proposals in the form of season  
28 and bag limit liberalizations, argues against the point  
29 that additional conservation measures are needed at  
30 this time.

31

32                   And the third reason for opposing this  
33 portion of the proposal is closure of Federal lands  
34 without a similar closure of State lands increase the  
35 complexity of the hunt for local users and likely  
36 result in an increase in the number of violations as  
37 locals attempt to differentiate State and Federal  
38 lands. The State has no intention of opening State  
39 caribou hunting seasons due to recent herd performance.

40

41                   Over.

42

43                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the State's  
44 opposition would basically -- is to -- the primary  
45 opposition to Proposal 26 is this letter of delegation  
46 but the modified OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
47 strike that language -- would you be more in agreement  
48 with the OSM's support with modification.

49

50                   MR. FOX: Mr. Chair. This is Trevor

1 Fox with OSM again. Just to clarify, the OSM  
2 preliminary conclusion is to strike that language but  
3 to still keep that delegation of authority through a  
4 letter only.

5  
6 We're sort of moving in this direction  
7 with a number of these delegations and removing them  
8 from the actual language, regulation language and  
9 putting them into letter form, and that way we can more  
10 explicitly state what those delegations are instead of  
11 putting it into -- or trying to cram that into  
12 regulatory language.

13  
14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So the way  
17 the Refuge Manager would work, if there was a  
18 biological concern, of course, the Refuge Managers are  
19 always -- not specifically stated, but they typically  
20 are in consultation with the Regional Councils, the  
21 Advisory Committees and the State of Alaska, that's the  
22 way most delegated authorities have been, either co-  
23 management, all inclusion, in other areas, is that  
24 language specifically needed, Trevor.

25  
26 MR. FOX: Yes, Mr. Chair. On Page 104  
27 we kind of have an example, a draft letter which talks  
28 about some of the guidelines.

29  
30 Basically with the delegation of  
31 authority it skips a step whereas, you know, normally  
32 if there's going to be some change to a season it has  
33 to go through the special action process and there's  
34 different levels of review, they go with that, and then  
35 being voted on by the Board. Through these delegations  
36 of authority, the Board delegates that authority  
37 specific to the Federal manager. So it's a quicker way  
38 to make adjustments within the season but they still  
39 have to follow guidelines and those are more  
40 specifically stated on Page 104, that second to the  
41 last paragraph specifically.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So if you want to  
44 read that into the record, that second to the last  
45 paragraph.

46  
47 MR. FOX: Yes, Mr. Chair. So this is  
48 under Section 4, guidelines for delegation, the second  
49 to last paragraph.

50

1 You will notify the Office of  
2 Subsistence Management and coordinate  
3 with local ADF&G managers, the Togiak  
4 National Wildlife Refuge Manager, and  
5 the Chair of the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta  
6 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
7 regarding special actions under  
8 consideration.

9  
10 You will issue decisions in a timely  
11 manner before the effective date of any  
12 decision. Reasonable efforts will be  
13 made to notify the public, the Office  
14 of Subsistence, affected State and  
15 Federal managers, law enforcement  
16 personnel and Council representatives.

17  
18 If an action is to supersede a State  
19 action not yet in effect, the decision  
20 will be communicated to the public, the  
21 Office of Subsistence Management,  
22 affected State and Federal managers and  
23 the local Council representatives at  
24 least 24 hours before the State action  
25 would be effective.

26  
27 If a decision to take no action is made  
28 you will notify the proponent of the  
29 request immediately.

30  
31 That's it, Mr. Chair.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. I think  
34 that that letter, guidelines for delegations, is  
35 inclusive of the State and the Regional Councils and so  
36 I think that sort of would allow the State more comfort  
37 with the letter of delegation. Has the State reviewed  
38 this letter, the guidelines for delegation of authority  
39 to the Refuge manager.

40  
41 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, sir, we still  
42 oppose it.

43  
44 Over.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right, so  
47 that's the State's comments. I wanted to cover that  
48 clearly for the record.

49  
50 Is there Refuge Staff to speak to this

1 proposal, Federal agencies.

2

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. Native, tribal  
7 or village comments.

8

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: InterAgency Staff  
13 Committee comments.

14

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any Advisory Group  
19 comments, neighboring Regional Councils.

20

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What actions were  
25 taken by YK-Delta and Bristol Bay.

26

27 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. Carl Johnson,  
28 I'll cover that.

29

30 The Bristol Bay Regional Advisory  
31 Council supported it with the OSM modifications except  
32 the Council does not agree with delegating authority to  
33 open or close to the Yukon Delta National Wildlife  
34 Refuge manager.

35

36 I believe Trevor already read for you  
37 the YK-Delta Regional Advisory Council's actions but  
38 I'll just state that again. The Council recommended to  
39 support with OSM modifications excluding the language  
40 no more than one caribou may be a bull, no more than  
41 one caribou may be taken August 1 to January 31st.

42

43 The Seward Penn Regional Advisory  
44 Council took no action for lack of motion.

45

46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So if there  
49 any -- we didn't have any Lake Clark comments on the  
50 other proposal, Advisory Committee comments, State

1 Advisory Committee comments.

2

3

4

(No comments)

5

6

7

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any written  
comments, Melinda.

8

9

10

MS. BURKE: No, Mr. Chair, no written  
public comments for this proposal.

11

12

13

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any public  
testimony, I don't know of anybody on the call.

14

15

16

(No comments)

17

18

19

20

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Chair will  
entertain a motion to adopt Proposal WP14-26 with  
modification, do we have a motion.

21

22

23

(No comments)

24

25

26

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's no motion to  
adopt. Any Council comment on the proposal.

27

28

MR. GERVAIS: Jack, this is Tim.

29

30

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

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48

49

50

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My position is to  
support the proposal as modified. It aligns more with  
the State, it has a State registration permit, tracks  
the harvest. The Mulchatna Herd ranges into 19A and  
19B and so this action -- this proposal act -- the  
harvest on that herd actually affects 19A and 19B,  
inside of this region and so I feel that this proposal  
does have bearing on this region and I would feel that  
-- I would like to vote on this proposal but if the

1 Council wants to defer the proposal that's what the  
2 Council wants to do so do you feel -- do you feel like  
3 we should defer, Tim.

4  
5 MR. GERVAIS: Can you hear me, I can't  
6 remember if I'm muted or not.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're on.

9  
10 (Laughter)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're on.

13  
14 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. If this is --  
15 thank you for reminding us that it is affecting the  
16 overall harvest on that herd I see where that's  
17 relevant, our input so I'll make a motion to vote on  
18 the proposal as amended, with the OSM modification on  
19 it.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Motion to  
22 adopt.

23  
24 MS. PELKOLA: I'll second.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Second.

27  
28 MS. PELKOLA: By Jenny.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: By Jenny. Any  
31 further discussion by the Council.

32  
33 MR. HONEA: Jack.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

36  
37 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I'm hoping you guys  
38 still have a quorum, I've really got to get out of  
39 here, I've been away from my job for over a week and  
40 I've got to get -- also -- I've got to leave here but I  
41 hope you guys still have a quorum to conduct action  
42 items.

43  
44 MS. BURKE: No, we're not going to have  
45 a quorum after you sign off Don. Let's go ahead and  
46 get the vote on this proposal and then we'll proceed  
47 from there.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can you hang on for  
50 just one minute and give us a vote, Don.

1 MR. HONEA: Sure. Sure.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I'm  
4 supportive of this proposal. I feel that aligning with  
5 the State registration permit and season adjustment is  
6 beneficial to the harvest of these caribou, for the  
7 Mulchatna Caribou Herd in general.  
8  
9 Any further discussion by the Council.  
10  
11  
12 (No comments)  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Call the roll,  
15 Melinda.  
16  
17 MS. BURKE: Don Honea.  
18  
19 MR. HONEA: Yes.  
20  
21 MS. BURKE: Pollock Simon.  
22  
23 MR. SIMON: Yes.  
24  
25 MS. BURKE: Ray Collins.  
26  
27 MR. COLLINS: Yes.  
28  
29 MS. BURKE: Jack Reakoff.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.  
32  
33 MS. BURKE: Tim Gervais.  
34  
35 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.  
36  
37 MS. BURKE: Jenny Pelkola.  
38  
39 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.  
40  
41 MS. BURKE: With six votes, Mr. Chair,  
42 Proposal WP14-26 has unanimous approval.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right,  
45 well, thanks for staying on line as long as you did  
46 Don.  
47  
48 MR. HONEA: Okay. Hey, Jack, I had a  
49 question I mean since I'm not going to be in the  
50 audience here, can I still comment on WP14-40 and the

1 one by Robert Walker just so that you can have my vote.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can take those up  
4 now. Can we get a proxy vote like that, Melinda.

5

6 MS. BURKE: No, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You have to be on  
9 line with us to vote with us on those, we can take  
10 those up right now if you would like, Don.

11

12 MR. HONEA: Okay, I'd like to be able  
13 to -- if we could jump down to 14-40.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure. We'll jump  
16 right to that one right now, go ahead, Trevor.

17

18 MR. FOX: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 Proposal 14-40 was submitted by the  
21 Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
22 and it requests that the requirement for a State  
23 registration permit to harvest brown bears in Unit 23  
24 be eliminated.

25

26 The proponent requests eliminating the  
27 requirement for a State registration permit in order to  
28 align State and Federal regulations. Additionally, the  
29 proponent states that removing the permit requirement  
30 would ease confusion about hunting regulations for  
31 communities that hunt on Federal lands in the unit  
32 allowing for more opportunistic harvest without having  
33 to possess a State permit for such harvest. However,  
34 removal of the State registration permit requirement  
35 for subsistence harvest of brown bears in Unit 23 would  
36 actually cause Federal and State regulations to become  
37 misaligned as harvest under State subsistence  
38 regulations requires the use of a State registration  
39 permit.

40

41 In 1992 the Federal Subsistence Board  
42 adopted regulations mirroring the State with regard to  
43 the use of subsistence registration permits for brown  
44 bear in Unit 23. The issue of whether or not a State  
45 registration permit is required for brown bears in Unit  
46 23 has been raised in the past. In 2005 and in 2007  
47 proposals were brought before the Federal Subsistence  
48 Board to eliminate the requirement for the registration  
49 permit. Retention of the subsistence registration  
50 permit was considered necessary to allow managers track

1 and monitor harvest to prevent future conservation  
2 concerns.

3

4                   And this gets to be a little confusing  
5 but I think the best way to look at this is in the  
6 materials that Melinda passed out there's a two page  
7 handout of some slides that talk about the brown bear  
8 regulations, hunting regulations and this just breaks  
9 it down pretty easy and what the difference between the  
10 subsistence hunting and the general hunting regulations  
11 are and so in general the subsistence registration  
12 permit has been put in place so that when harvesting a  
13 brown bear in Unit 23 the meat must be salvaged for  
14 human consumption, whereas, with the general hunting  
15 meat does not need to be salvaged. With the  
16 subsistence regulations no tag is required but you must  
17 register to hunt. But with this the hide and skull do  
18 not need to be sealed unless they're to be removed from  
19 the subsistence area or presented for commercial  
20 tanning. So it gets rid of the requirement for people  
21 to seal hides and skulls if they're going to harvest  
22 brown bears for meat. Under the general hunting the  
23 hide and skull must be sealed by an authorized sealing  
24 agent statewide.

25

26                   And then on the second page there's a  
27 list of, you know, the three main effects of this  
28 proposal if it were to be adopted.

29

30                   If the State registration permit was  
31 removed, as requested, there would be no brown bear  
32 harvest reporting mechanism and that's because under  
33 the subsistence regulations you wouldn't have to seal  
34 the brown bears. It would also mis-align State and  
35 Federal regulations. And then the third point is  
36 Federally-qualified subsistence users would only be  
37 able to harvest brown bears under the State general  
38 harvest regulations which would require sealing of the  
39 hide and skull.

40

41                   The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
42 support Proposal WP14-40 with modification to insert  
43 the word, subsistence, and to clarify the permit  
44 requirements. And you can see the modified regulations  
45 on Page 182.

46

47                   So this one's a little bit weird in the  
48 way that we address it at the end because in essence  
49 we're opposed to eliminating the permit, but the only  
50 way to modify is to do a support with modification.

1 And so the OSM preliminary conclusion is to keep the  
2 State registration permit, but to add some  
3 clarification about what those requirements are and  
4 then this analysis describes the differences between  
5 the subsistence permit and the general hunting.

6

7 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. A question  
10 for Don, why did you want to see this proposal, Don,  
11 14-40.

12

13 MR. HONEA: Oh, well, actually I wanted  
14 to discuss this one and the one submitted by Mr.  
15 Walker, Mr. Robert Walker, before I left here because I  
16 actually oppose -- I actually support this and I don't  
17 think that -- you know a lot of times that we're  
18 required to get the license and we don't use it or  
19 whatever. I mean I just like the elimination of having  
20 to get the tag -- I'm fine with tags for -- and when we  
21 don't need them.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This would be a  
24 State registration permit and in Unit 24 and 21 there's  
25 -- for subsistence hunting for brown bears there's no  
26 -- the State tag, the \$25 tag has been waived so -- but  
27 we can move through this proposal.

28

29 Alaska Department of Fish and Game's  
30 comments on this proposal.

31

32 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is  
33 Drew Crawford, Alaska Department of Fish and Game in  
34 Anchorage.

35

36 The State's position on Wildlife  
37 Proposal 14-40 is that we support it as modified by  
38 OSM.

39

40 Over.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so any  
43 Federal agency comments.

44

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Native, tribal,  
49 village comments.

50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Advisory Committee  
4 comments.  
5  
6  
7 (No comments)  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Koyukuk River didn't  
10 take this one up.  
11  
12 Neighboring Regional Council comments.  
13  
14 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, Mr. Chair, Carl  
15 Johnson.  
16  
17 The Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory  
18 Council supported this with the OSM modifications.  
19  
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so any  
23 written comments, Melinda.  
24  
25 MS. BURKE: No written comments, Mr.  
26 Chair, but there was -- it did look like the Gates of  
27 the Arctic SRC took up this proposal, they unanimously  
28 support it. The proposal would make it less burdensome  
29 for the subsistence user as they would not have to seek  
30 out a State registration permit. For some of these  
31 communities there are no State agency personnel  
32 available to issue those permits.  
33  
34 Mr. Chair.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Melinda.  
37 So the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt Proposal  
38 WP14-40 and it would be the Council's discussion  
39 whether to adopt it with modification.  
40  
41 MR. COLLINS: I'll move to adopt with  
42 the OSM recommendations.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to adopt,  
45 second.  
46  
47 MR. GERVAIS: Tim will second it.  
48  
49 MR. HONEA: Second.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded. Any  
2 further discussion by the Council in it's  
3 justification.

4  
5 MR. COLLINS: For Don's input, I think,  
6 clarify. This does not require buying a permit, it's  
7 just that you'd need to register that you want to hunt  
8 brown bears; is that correct.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Trevor.

11  
12 MR. FOX: Yes, that's correct. So  
13 basically this subsistence permit is there to relieve  
14 some of the burden where you can harvest a brown bear  
15 that you're going to use for food and you don't have to  
16 go through the process of sealing the hide and skull.  
17 If you go through the regular State season, the non-  
18 subsistence season then you have to seal the hide and  
19 skull.

20  
21 Thank you.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

24  
25 MR. HONEA: Jack.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

28  
29 MR. HONEA: Yeah, this is Don again. I  
30 just wanted to kind of lessen the burden on it. I  
31 realize that in our actual game unit that's already  
32 forfeited, we don't have to do that but I thought it  
33 would be less burdensome in the Northwest territory for  
34 them. So I guess if I was to sort of defer it to  
35 region or we could support it and I support.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we'll just  
38 bring it to vote then, go ahead and call the roll,  
39 Melinda.

40  
41 MS. BURKE: Okay. Don Honea.

42  
43 MR. HONEA: Yes.

44  
45 MS. BURKE: Pollock Simon.

46  
47 MR. SIMON: Yes.

48  
49 MS. BURKE: Ray Collins.

50

1 MR. COLLINS: Yes.  
2  
3 MS. BURKE: Jack Reakoff.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.  
6  
7 MS. BURKE: Tim Gervais.  
8  
9 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.  
10  
11 MS. BURKE: Jenny Pelkola.  
12  
13 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.  
14  
15 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. With a vote of  
16 six there's unanimous approval for WP14-40 as.....  
17  
18 MR. JOHNSON: As modified by OSM.  
19  
20 MS. BURKE: .....modified by OSM.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Melinda.  
23 And what other proposal did you want to look at Don,  
24 was that 14-28.  
25  
26 MR. HONEA: I wanted to look at the one  
27 that was submitted by Robert Walker.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Which one is that  
30 Trevor.  
31  
32 MR. FOX: Yes, Mr. Chair. That would  
33 be Proposal 14-32, it's not on the agenda as we were  
34 just trying to get rid of the crossovers but I'm  
35 prepared to discuss it if the Council wishes.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. If Don wants  
38 to talk about that we might as well do that.  
39  
40 MR. HONEA: Okay. I'm sorry, Mr.  
41 Chair, but I wish Robert was in the audience so that we  
42 can -- I'm kind of unclear as to what he's asking for  
43 here.  
44  
45 MR. FOX: Mr. Chair, this is Trevor  
46 with OSM again. We had planned to bring these up again  
47 during the winter meeting, all the regional ones, but  
48 like I said if the Council wishes I can go over that  
49 right now.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If we're going to  
2 visit this in the winter meeting most likely Robert  
3 will be present and James. I would prefer to have them  
4 present at the Council meeting before we look at this  
5 one, Don.

6  
7 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair. I think that's  
8 a good idea. I appreciate -- is there any other action  
9 items that are pressing that we need to take care of  
10 right now.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we have  
13 several more proposals to go here. We have -- any  
14 proposals that would affect Unit 21B, Trevor, for  
15 Don's.....

16  
17 MR. FOX: Mr. Chair. Most of those  
18 regional ones we were -- the idea was to try to get  
19 through the crossovers during this knowing that we were  
20 time limited and then keeping those regional ones to  
21 the winter meeting.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Okay. Where  
24 should we proceed from here since we've got Don by the  
25 towel hanging here, Melinda.

26  
27 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. The ones that  
28 we have left here on the list for today are 14-23, 14-  
29 24/25, 14-27 and 14-28 so if Don has time for one more,  
30 if there's a preference from the Council, any of those  
31 we could take care of here before he has to leave.

32  
33 MR. FOX: Yes, Mr. Chair, and all of  
34 these are Unit 18 moose proposals, so they're all  
35 crossovers.

36  
37 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead, Don.

40  
41 MR. HONEA: Yeah, looking through all  
42 of these, WP14-23 through 14-28 all have to do with  
43 Unit 18 and I would just as soon defer to the region or  
44 whatever, because I mean it sounds like they have a  
45 healthy moose population down there and under the OSM  
46 comments they support them.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don's opinion is to  
49 defer these moose proposals to -- 14-23, 14-24/25 and  
50 14-26 and 14-27 and 14-28, those are all moose

1 proposals for 18, Trevor.

2

3 MR. FOX: That's correct, Mr. Chair.  
4 But we did have them up as a crossover so there are,  
5 you know, communities within the Western Interior  
6 region that have C&T for moose in these areas, that's  
7 why they're up for crossover. But, yes, they're all  
8 for different hunt areas of Unit 18 for moose.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Actually I agree  
11 with Don. Those all would be advantageous for our C&T  
12 eligible users in the Western Interior region and due  
13 to the limitations to the shutdown and our RAC meeting,  
14 I would like to take a vote to defer those proposals to  
15 the region, YK-Delta region.

16

17 The Chair will entertain a motion to  
18 defer those Unit 18 moose proposals to region.

19

20 MR. HONEA: I so move.

21

22 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

23

24 MR. SIMON: Second by Pollock.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded.

27

28 Discussion by the Council.

29

30 MR. COLLINS: I assume that means that  
31 we would support their decisions on these  
32 recommendations, we're deferring to them, we're saying  
33 that we support their action on these.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. So we'll have  
36 Carl -- for the record, I'll have Carl read the  
37 decision for the YK-Delta on these proposals.

38

39 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair, I will do  
40 that for you.

41

42 Let's see starting with WP14-23, the  
43 Council supported it with a modification to incorporate  
44 WP14-28 into the proposal, which would include Unit 18  
45 remainder with Lower Yukon hunt area with a season of  
46 August 1st through March 31st, retain language that  
47 antlered bulls may only be harvested from August 1 to  
48 September 30th. That was on 23.

49

50 For Proposal 24/25, the Council agreed

1 with the OSM modifications, so it supported it with  
2 those modifications.

3

4 The next moose proposal is WP14-27, the  
5 Council voted to support as modified by OSM.

6

7 And then, finally, for WP14-28, the  
8 Council too no action because its vote on WP14-23 wraps  
9 language from WP14-28 into that proposal.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. And so I agree  
14 with YK-Delta's action on those and so I'm in support  
15 of a deferral to their actions.

16

17 So any other comments by the Council on  
18 deferral.

19

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none, call  
24 the roll, Melinda.

25

26 MS. BURKE: Don Honea.

27

28 MR. HONEA: Yes.

29

30 MS. BURKE: Pollock Simon.

31

32 MR. SIMON: Yes.

33

34 MS. BURKE: Ray Collins.

35

36 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

37

38 MS. BURKE: Jack Reakoff.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

41

42 MS. BURKE: Tim Gervais.

43

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MS. BURKE: Are you still with us Tim.

48

49

50 (No comments)

1 MS. BURKE: Jenny Pelkola.  
2  
3 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.  
4  
5 MS. BURKE: Tim, are you still with us,  
6 you might be on mute, push star six.  
7  
8 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I vote yes on the  
9 deferral.  
10  
11 MS. BURKE: Okay, got it, thank you.  
12 With six votes, Mr. Chair, unanimous approval of the  
13 motion.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I do  
16 appreciate all the work that Trevor has done, or OSM  
17 has done on the proposals but I do feel that that  
18 deferral enforces the YK-Delta's position to the  
19 Federal Board, and it's advantageous to our customary  
20 and traditional users that would have C&T in Unit 18.  
21  
22 And so can you stay with us a little  
23 bit longer, Don, or you have to go.  
24  
25 MR. HONEA: I have to go, Jack, I'm  
26 sorry.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
29  
30 MR. COLLINS: Jack.....  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate you being  
33 on there that long, I really appreciate that.  
34  
35 MR. COLLINS: Jack, this is Ray.....  
36  
37 MR. HONEA: Merry Christmas everyone,  
38 thank you.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Merry Christmas Don.  
41  
42 MR. COLLINS: Where does this leave us  
43 on the closure of McGrath, can we take any action or  
44 have a letter or comments or.....  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Innoko office  
47 closure.  
48  
49 MR. COLLINS: Yes.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can you hang on.....  
2  
3 MR. COLLINS: Because I was hoping we  
4 could take a position>  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....for that one  
7 Don.  
8  
9 MR. HONEA: Call her back and tell her  
10 I'll see her later.  
11  
12 MS. BURKE: Hey, Don, can you stay on  
13 for one more quick vote.  
14  
15 MR. HONEA: Sure.  
16  
17 MS. BURKE: A super-quick one.  
18  
19 MR. HONEA: Sure, okay.  
20  
21 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I do have -- I  
22 have provided for everyone Ray's report that he  
23 submitted, if you'd like I can use that as the base of  
24 the information for the letter. It looks like Ray's  
25 covered a lot of the points and work on a draft if you  
26 all would like to direct me to work on that  
27 correspondence.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Chair will  
30 entertain a motion to draft a letter using Ray's  
31 comments as templates to be submitted to the Regional  
32 Director, Region 7, US Fish and Wildlife Office  
33 concerns about closure of the Innoko Office in McGrath.  
34  
35 MR. HONEA: So moved.  
36  
37 MS. PELKOLA: Second.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Further  
40 discussion, a letter will be drafted, and reviewed by  
41 -- I would like the Council to look at the draft as we  
42 go through it, but I would like approval to transmit  
43 the letter at this time.  
44  
45 Those in favor of transmitting that  
46 letter signify by saying -- or correction, roll call  
47 vote, Melinda.  
48  
49 MS. BURKE: Don Honea.  
50

1 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Yes.  
2  
3 MS. BURKE: Pollock Simon.  
4  
5 MR. SIMON: Yes.  
6  
7 MS. BURKE: Ray Collins.  
8  
9 MR. COLLINS: Yes.  
10  
11 MS. BURKE: Jack Reakoff.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.  
14  
15 MS. BURKE: Tim Gervais.  
16  
17 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.  
18  
19 MS. BURKE: Jenny Pelkola.  
20  
21 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.  
22  
23 MS. BURKE: Roll call vote of six, Mr.  
24 Chair, unanimous approval of the motion.  
25  
26 Thank you, Don.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much Don.  
29  
30 MR. HONEA: All right, thank you, Jack.  
31 Just a quick question here, so are you going to -- is  
32 someone going to fax that letter that we're going to --  
33 we're going to see before -- because I totally agree  
34 with Mr. Collins here with the elimination of the  
35 McGrath office without sufficient notice to the  
36 villages that they are serving. I just have to  
37 disagree with that totally. I don't feel that they  
38 should pull out. I think maybe that if it was an  
39 action item at our meeting in Fairbanks that we should  
40 have addressed that but I realize that we didn't have a  
41 quorum but I think that's a great idea.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we wanted to  
44 address it then but could not.  
45  
46 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. To answer Don's  
47 question, I can have the draft of that letter finished  
48 by the end of the day and sent out for preliminary  
49 review by the Council. I can send it via email and  
50 fax.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
2  
3 MR. HONEA: I appreciate that, thank  
4 you.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Merry  
7 Christmas Don.  
8  
9 MR. HONEA: Okay, you guys, too, have a  
10 good one.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, bye.  
13  
14 MR. HONEA: Bye.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we just lost  
17 quorum and so where should we proceed, Melinda.  
18  
19 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I think we've  
20 covered all of the real time critical items. The only  
21 thing that we didn't get to that is going to have a  
22 deadline pass before our next meeting is the State  
23 proposals. This Council always cares to weigh in on  
24 State proposals that affect your regions. I did  
25 provide copies of that packet for everybody in  
26 Fairbanks. It doesn't look like we'll be able to  
27 transmit recommendations as a Council but feel free to  
28 share that packet of information I provided and if you  
29 would like to comment as individuals or communities or  
30 ACs the floor is your to do that.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.  
33  
34 MS. BURKE: And that deadline is  
35 December 27th, just to remind everyone.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sadly the Council  
38 won't be able to comment on those proposals, there's  
39 several that affect this region. But the Federal  
40 shutdown really affected the workings of this Council.  
41 I would like to send a letter to the Board of Game  
42 stating that we would like to have commented but due to  
43 the budget shutdown we were not able to meet on the  
44 proposals but do have -- look forward to their actions  
45 on those proposals affecting this region. Something to  
46 that effect.  
47  
48 MS. BURKE: We wouldn't be able to take  
49 a vote to do something like that today, Jack, but the  
50 next time we do have a quorum we can.....

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.  
2  
3 MS. BURKE: .....make sure that's  
4 submitted.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They should be in  
7 session while we're in meeting and so if we can have  
8 that letter ready to be transmitted immediately during  
9 our Council meeting that would be appreciated.  
10  
11 MS. BURKE: Definitely. And OSM does  
12 comment on those proposals as well, so just to  
13 reiterate that point.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There may be -- I  
16 mean the -- I don't want the Board of Game to think  
17 that we don't care, or boycotting them or anything, I  
18 want them to be totally aware that we're engaged with  
19 the proposal process on the State side and I want the  
20 State liaison to understand that also.  
21  
22 MS. BURKE: Understood, Mr. Chair.  
23  
24 And the remaining action items, the  
25 rural determination review, and the C&T use  
26 determinations will -- any action items left on today's  
27 agenda will be pushed to the winter meeting as well as  
28 the regional specific proposals.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
31  
32 Okay, I guess we've gone about as far  
33 as we can today and.....  
34  
35 MR. JOHNSON: You have one thing you  
36 can still.....  
37  
38 MR. COLLINS: Jack.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead, Ray.  
41 I want closing comments from Council members, go ahead,  
42 Ray.  
43  
44 MR. COLLINS: Well, we approved the  
45 submittal of that letter, I wonder if we could just  
46 discuss that closure a little bit so that information  
47 will be available in drafting that so there's comments  
48 from the members around here. I would like to discuss  
49 that a little bit if we could do that.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure, go right  
2 ahead.

3  
4 MR. COLLINS: Okay. I think this is  
5 really critical for a number of reasons.

6  
7 One of them was interesting, after I  
8 had drafted the initial letter, we ran into Jerry  
9 Strobel, who was in charge of Fish and Wildlife here in  
10 time that it was actually implemented.....

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

13  
14 MR. COLLINS: .....and he mentioned  
15 that he was surprised that the closure was -- there's  
16 been two previous attempts to take an action like this  
17 and on both of those accounts the local people were  
18 consulted, the people that were in McGrath, the  
19 managers and so on, and they gave reasons why they  
20 didn't think that was a good idea and, therefore, the  
21 idea was dropped. This time we had a new manager come  
22 in and a decision was made, I don't know the details in  
23 the Anchorage office, they came out and announced to  
24 the Staff in McGrath that it would be closed and there  
25 was no discussion, even with the Staff in McGrath,  
26 there was no consultation with any of the villages  
27 affected, and, of course, the Regional Council didn't  
28 give comment.

29  
30 When they initially established the  
31 Refuge there was over a year of meetings in DC that had  
32 heavy Native input that defined the boundaries of the  
33 Refuge and they also designated, according to Jerry, at  
34 that time, where the headquarters would be for those  
35 Refuges. So there was a lot of input at that level at  
36 that time. Now, there's a unilateral decision to close  
37 it and I think it's a very bad precedent and I gave in  
38 my letter, then, a number of the reasons why I think  
39 it's a bad idea.

40  
41 The Staff were told that they would be  
42 offered another position somewhere else and some of  
43 them are local hires, of course, but they just get one  
44 offer which would mean they would have to leave the  
45 area. And there would be no additional Staff placed in  
46 Galena, so the work for carrying on at the Refuge would  
47 all fall on Galena, they'd just have more to do with  
48 their jobs there. And I think as a result we would  
49 have poorer management of Innoko.

50

1 Plus I'm really concerned with the loss  
2 of history there, and the fact that most of the non-  
3 resident hunters come through McGrath and they're a big  
4 issue out there on, you know, salvage of meat and so  
5 on, and now they consult with the Refuge and they talk  
6 to them when they go through McGrath and they get  
7 input, the meat comes back and is distributed in  
8 McGrath for those people and the Refuge Staff there has  
9 assisted in that, maintaining local lists and so on so  
10 there's good coordination.

11  
12 The State biologist that serve the area  
13 are also in McGrath so they can coordinate with him and  
14 cooperate on moose surveys and other -- and enforcement  
15 actions and so on, and now it would come out of Galena,  
16 that would be much more difficult.

17  
18 So there's a whole list of reasons why  
19 -- plus all the facilities are already in place in  
20 McGrath, and Galena's were destroyed and they have to  
21 rebuild them there, and they're talking about selling  
22 McGrath and as I mentioned they're not going to receive  
23 full value on those because it's going to glut the  
24 market in McGrath for the properties that they've  
25 already built at considerable expense.

26  
27 So there's a whole number of reasons  
28 why I think it's a very bad precedent, especially when  
29 there was no consultation or allowed to have any input  
30 on the decision.

31  
32 So I'll stop with that.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Ray.

35  
36 MS. PELKOLA: Jack, this is Jenny. I  
37 also disagree with the move.

38  
39 I believe that Galena, our village  
40 council is supporting McGrath in their efforts to keep  
41 it there. And I believe that there should have been a  
42 government to government meeting with the village  
43 council and I don't think that was done. I think  
44 that's -- it's stated somewhere that if there's any  
45 kind of change that there needs to be a government to  
46 government meeting before any action can be taken.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, I agree with  
49 that.

50

1 Other Council comments on the letter.

2

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My concern is that  
7 the biological projects that Innoko has in progress is  
8 -- they're going to lose that integrity of that data  
9 because there's no transitioning with Staff, they want  
10 to move everybody out of McGrath, just shift all those  
11 projects to people -- biologists over in Galena that  
12 aren't familiar with the area or the projects or  
13 anything that's going on there. And then this whole  
14 working relationship that's been built with the State  
15 management and the BLM, you know, that's the southern  
16 part of the BLM area and so there's -- Innoko has got  
17 this huge working relationship with the State area  
18 biologist and the BLM through that Innoko area, and I  
19 think that it's just too much for Koyukuk to deal with.

20

21 I just think that Innoko's going to be  
22 pushed to the back burner and that's going to be a huge  
23 travesty for this Council because we have winter moose  
24 hunts there, we have radio collared moose there, we've  
25 got all kinds of projects going on and I think that  
26 Innoko -- moving Innoko -- to shutting Innoko down in  
27 McGrath is going to be a travesty for not only the  
28 community of McGrath but also for the Refuge itself.

29

30 Any other comments by Council members  
31 for the letter.

32

33 MR. COLLINS: Well, the one I guess I  
34 already emphasize in there is the loss of history  
35 because my wife had worked for the Refuge for a number  
36 of years and when new people come into town, they're  
37 oriented, plus there have been people from Holy Cross  
38 that have been hired, they know the GASH villages, and  
39 they can orient those new people. They can't serve  
40 that function in McGrath. So new people come in from  
41 out of state who know nothing about subsistence or the  
42 area, they can't get the education that they would get  
43 in McGrath from people who have already worked with the  
44 Refuge and know what's gone on in the past and I think  
45 that's a critical role in bringing new managers up to  
46 speed, or biologists up to speed on what's going on.

47

48 So, yeah, some of those points need to  
49 get across.

50

1 I think it's really critical and it  
2 will really set us back in the management of that area  
3 if this goes through.

4  
5 I've said enough now, I'll stop there.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Does that  
8 give you enough to incorporate, Melinda.

9  
10 MS. BURKE: Absolutely.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So where should we  
13 go from here now.

14  
15 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair, this is Carl  
16 Johnson. I want to interject something that I thought  
17 of as the Council was discussing this letter.

18  
19 Now, the Board's correspondence policy  
20 requires that any correspondence sent by the Council  
21 needs to be either discussed on the record or approved  
22 on the record, and in some circumstances both, so  
23 there's no reason why the Council cannot, today,  
24 discuss the specific State proposals that are coming up  
25 for the December 27th deadline that was discussed  
26 earlier, there's no reason why the Council can't  
27 discuss them today and provide information stating  
28 specific concerns so that Melinda could draft a letter.  
29 That letter could be reviewed by OSM and then approved  
30 for release so that when the Council meets at its  
31 winter meeting it could approve a letter that's already  
32 been approved at OSM and then it could get out much  
33 faster than waiting -- drafting a letter at your winter  
34 meeting and then waiting for OSM approval before it  
35 could be submitted, transmitted to the Board of Game.

36  
37 So that's one thing I wanted to add.

38  
39 And I also want to note for the record  
40 that I did, during this meeting, receive, via email  
41 comments from the Aniakchak National Monument SRC and  
42 the Lake Clark National Park SRC on some proposals and  
43 I'll just note them for the record so that the Council  
44 does know that these SRCs did provide input.

45  
46 First on WP14-01, the Aniakchak SRC was  
47 opposed to that.

48  
49 And for 14-01 the Lake Clark SRC was  
50 also opposed to that.

1                   14-22 the Lake Clark SRC provided input  
2 saying that they supported it provided that the State  
3 registration permits could be easily obtained by local  
4 subsistence users.

5  
6                   So I'm going to incorporate these into  
7 the record of this meeting and then the Council can be  
8 provided copies of these letters.

9  
10                  Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11  
12                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

13  
14                  Well, thanks, Carl.

15  
16                  So the Council can cover State  
17 proposals but we wouldn't actually be taking a vote on  
18 them, we'd be kind of like commenting on the proposal.

19  
20                  MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair.  
21 Essentially if the Council could develop its comments,  
22 Melinda could draft a letter that could undergo review  
23 here and it'd be ready for the Council's approval at  
24 its winter meeting. Similarly, as to how you will  
25 handle your -- identifying issues for your annual  
26 report. Again, your Council would not formally approve  
27 that and take action on it until its winter meeting  
28 anyway but you can still identify what those issues are  
29 so that Melinda can draft an annual report that the  
30 Council could then approve at its next meeting.

31  
32                  Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33  
34                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

35  
36                  MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair.

37  
38                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

39  
40                  MR. MATHEWS: The Board of Game meeting  
41 is February 14th through the 22nd or 23rd, so you're  
42 meeting after that.

43  
44                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I see. For some  
45 reason I thought they were meeting at the end of  
46 meeting and lapping into the first part of March.

47  
48                  MR. MATHEWS: I'll check the website  
49 but according to Lisa earlier this week, the 14th, but  
50 I'll check while you.....

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I got my Board of  
2 Game book here, let me look.  
3  
4 MR. FOX: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is  
5 Trevor with OSM. I'll be attending that Board meeting  
6 and it is right before your Council meeting, yeah, so  
7 those dates were correct.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that is right.  
10 Well, that shoots us down on making any comments to the  
11 Board of Game.  
12  
13 MR. JOHNSON: Not necessarily, Mr.  
14 Chair. This is Carl Johnson again. I'm going to read  
15 for you, paragraph four, from the Board's  
16 correspondence policy.  
17  
18 It states:  
19  
20 As a general rule, Councils discuss and  
21 agree upon proposed correspondence  
22 during a public meeting. Occasionally,  
23 a Council Chair may be requested to  
24 write a letter when it is not feasible  
25 to wait until a public Council meeting.  
26 In such cases, the content of a letter  
27 shall be limited to the known position  
28 of the Council as discussed in a prior  
29 -- a previous Council meeting.  
30  
31 However, this is a public meeting and  
32 the Council can discuss on the record what, you know,  
33 at a public meeting what it's concerns are. My  
34 recommendation, Mr. Chair, would be just to go ahead  
35 and discuss your letter, get it done at this public  
36 meeting and then I will check and see, you know, I'll  
37 check with our solicitor and see if the action taken of  
38 the Council today would be sufficient to authorize  
39 correspondence on the Council's behalf prior to its  
40 next public meeting because this is still a public  
41 meeting today even though there's no longer a quorum  
42 for the normal portion -- part of taking a motion.  
43  
44 Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. How do people  
47 -- how does the Council members feel, normally we have  
48 breaks and so forth, how should we proceed, Melinda.  
49  
50 MS. BURKE: That's up to the Council,

1 Mr. Chair. I don't think we -- I know Ray's going to  
2 have to get going to a doctor's appointment here pretty  
3 soon, I'm not sure what the time limits are of the  
4 other Council members on the phone.

5  
6 Have Council members had time to review  
7 the packet that was sent out with the original  
8 materials, with the State proposals.

9  
10 MS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny, I did  
11 glance through it but I didn't really, you know,  
12 because I thought I'd have more time to sit down and  
13 read it but I didn't really.

14  
15 My suggestion would be if, you know,  
16 Jack does a lot letter writing and he seems to be well  
17 in tune with everything, I would just like to see a  
18 letter from Jack to the Council to see -- you know,  
19 maybe we can add or subtract, and since we don't have a  
20 quorum and we have some good speakers that are not on  
21 line I would just go with what Jack would have to say.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I would like  
24 Council support. I wonder how many Council members we  
25 have left on the call, are we still at five.

26  
27 MS. BURKE: I believe so. I haven't  
28 heard anybody else leaving so -- Pollock, are you still  
29 on the line.

30  
31 MR. SIMON: I'm still here.

32  
33 MS. BURKE: So I think we're still at  
34 five, Mr. Chair.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah, there's  
37 a -- the State proposals would take -- actually there's  
38 so many different proposals that it would take like at  
39 least a half a day meeting to really cover all these  
40 proposals. I would take them out of order if certain  
41 Council members have proposals that they would feel are  
42 a real high priority.

43  
44 Does anybody have any proposals that  
45 they feel -- one of the main proposals that is a  
46 proposal that would reauthorize the winter moose hunt  
47 for Game Management Unit 21B and C, it actually was --  
48 it should have B and C for the winter moose hunt around  
49 Allakaket and I'm having a hard time finding that  
50 proposal right now. That's a fairly important proposal

1 to this Council.

2

3 It's Proposal -- it's a redundant  
4 proposal there's a State proposal to the Federal Board,  
5 but the Board of Game is going to see a proposal to the  
6 same effect.

7

8 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chair, this is Glen  
9 Stout. That's Proposal No. 70.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, yeah, here it  
12 is, 70.

13

14 And so this Council should affirm,  
15 that's our proposal, that we want to retain the winter  
16 registration hunt for 24B and amend the language to  
17 include 24C the original hunt area without a sunset.  
18 And the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee supported that  
19 Proposal 70. And if the Council members feel that we  
20 want to continue to support our proposal the inclusion  
21 of that area in Game Management Unit 24C, how do the  
22 Council members feel about that.

23

24 MR. COLLINS: This is Ray, Jack. Yeah,  
25 I think that's in line with our previous action. We've  
26 always supported that kind of effort. And in terms of  
27 these reauthorizations, I know they expire at a certain  
28 time and you have to reauthorize them, and the local  
29 Advisory Committees, like the McGrath one, has to watch  
30 -- make sure that they get in support for the ones in  
31 their area. So I think we've already established that  
32 we're in favor of those, then they take place when  
33 population and so on allows but we have -- we go on  
34 record as being in support of reauthorization of those.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This proposal would  
37 eliminate the sunset and so just maintain the RM833  
38 registration hunt under State regulations for the --  
39 basically down river from Henshaw Creek as described as  
40 we adopted previously in 2010. So that should be  
41 included in the letter of support of that Proposal 70.

42

43 Any Council members have other  
44 proposals that they feel are burning issues that the  
45 Board of Game should visit dealing with the proposals.

46

47

48

(No comments)

49

50

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Have the Council

1 members looked at the proposals.

2

3

4

(No comments)

5

6

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There were.....

7

8

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair.

9

10

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

11

12

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MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I think it's important to keep all those on there, the controlled use areas, because there's always pressure to reduce those. I know they've gone through that in our area, in the Upper Kuskokwim area. And I think the reason for originally establishing them has not changed so we should support the maintenance of those areas. This is Ray.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

So is the Council agreeable to support Proposal 71.

MR. SIMON: Yes.

MR. GERVAIS: Yes.

MS. PELKOLA: Yes, Mr. Chair, yes, I would support that.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There is one  
2 proposal that is Proposal 50 which is to review the  
3 customary and traditional use worksheet for the  
4 Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd to determine where the  
5 customary and traditional use is. This proposal, the  
6 Board is requesting amounts necessary for the Teshekpuk  
7 Herd, and where customary and traditional -- the  
8 Teshekpuk Herd has been migrating into the Game  
9 Management Unit 24, around Anaktuvuk Pass and to the  
10 south into Unit 24 and I feel that the Board of Game  
11 Proposal 50 should be aware that there are customarily  
12 and traditional users of the Teshekpuk Herd in Unit 24  
13 and so do I have the Advisory Committee's support of  
14 transmitting that comment to the Board of Game, that  
15 the caribou are migrating into Unit 24 and Unit 24  
16 should be included in the ANS analysis.

17  
18 How does the Council feel about that.

19  
20 MR. GERVAIS: That would be  
21 appropriate, Mr. Chair.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Other  
24 comments.

25  
26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There was a proposal  
30 reauthorization of the grizzly bear tag fee, that was  
31 supported by the Advisory Committee. There was a  
32 proposal to lengthen the wolf season in Units 12, 19,  
33 20, 21, 24 and 25 August 5 to June 15th, the Advisory  
34 Committee did not adopt that proposal, they felt the  
35 fur was getting too bad in June, the season goes  
36 through May 31 now.

37  
38 Do the Council members have comments on  
39 extending the wolf season, that's State Proposal 51  
40 into June 15th, is there comments on that.

41  
42 MR. SIMON: Jack, this is Pollock.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead,  
45 Pollock.

46  
47 MR. SIMON: Yeah, the wolves in the  
48 late season, at least I see in the fur, the Koyukuk  
49 River don't trap the wolves because the fur's  
50 (indiscernible) that's too late, the fur's not good

1 that late.

2

3

That's my comment.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. The Advisory Committee was opposed to that. Is the general feeling of the Council opposed to that Proposal 51 to increase the season to June 15.

10

11

MS. PELKOLA: Yeah, this is Jenny, I would oppose it just for the reasons of the fur not being, you know, prime or, you know, good to use.

14

15

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments from the Council members.

17

18

MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, Jack, this is Tim. This proposer is a hunting guide and why he's probably proposing this is so when he has black bear clients in the field he can hunt -- or harvest wolves if the opportunity arises and anyways he's trophy hunters would be -- he wouldn't be harvesting these wolves for ruffs or anything like that, they'd just be harvesting as a mount as part of their Alaskan hunt. So that's a user group under State regs, it's not a subsistence reg, it's a State reg, and -- but trophies is a use of game for certain user groups so I don't feel like -- unless the Council said that there was not enough wolves around that -- say because the wolves -- the fur is not good enough for ruff, it still is good enough for uses that would fall under the general hunting regs.

34

35

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

36

37

MR. GERVAIS: I'm not opposed to what this guide is offering here and it does provide a benefit in a different way than to the subsistence users here. There's still a lot of young moose in the -- in this -- young moose trying to survive that first month and stuff so if there was some amount of harvest and I don't -- I don't expect it'd be very much, I don't know hardly anybody other than black bear hunters that would see much opportunity for harvesting a wolf in early June. I don't think the harvest is going to be too out of hand and they could just be a -- have an indirect effect to predator control.

49

50

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those are valid

1 points, Tim. And so the Council is sort of divided on  
2 that proposal so we'll just -- we can't vote it up or  
3 down so we'll just move down the list here.

4  
5                   There's a Proposal 56 to remove the  
6 salvage requirement for brown bear meat taken at bait  
7 stations in the Interior region. The Advisory  
8 Committee felt it was very important that, you know, if  
9 they're going to bait bears, that they salvage the meat  
10 from the bears, and so to remove the salvage  
11 requirement was opposed by the Koyukuk River Advisory  
12 Council.

13  
14                   How does the Council feel about that  
15 proposal.

16  
17                   MS. PELKOLA: This is for brown bears,  
18 you say.

19  
20                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's for brown  
21 bears. You want to explain that hunt regulation Glen.

22  
23                   MR. STOUT: Yeah, Mr. Chair. There's a  
24 bit of a conflict essentially in the regulation where  
25 in the fall hunt we recently implemented bear baiting  
26 in those fall hunts. Well, typically in the fall hunt,  
27 hunters had a choice to either salvage either the meat  
28 or the hide and then in the spring hunts for those  
29 black bear seasons they were required to just salvage  
30 the hide.

31  
32                   So when they adopted grizzly bear  
33 regulations, the current grizzly bear regulations just  
34 under the normal hunting season only requires the  
35 salvage of the hide and skull in the fall hunt and so  
36 it created a bit of a confusion over -- in the same  
37 fall hunting season where a hunter would be required to  
38 salvage just the hide and skull if he was not hunting  
39 on a bait station, whereas if he was hunting on a bait  
40 station he would have to also salvage the meat.

41  
42                   And so that's kind of the difference in  
43 the regulation that is created, and it's only kind of  
44 really come to light because we only recently have  
45 started allowing the bear baiting in the fall and then  
46 more recently grizzly bears at bait stations.

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right, yeah, that  
49 clarifies that.

50

1                   What are the Council's feelings on  
2 Proposal 56 to remove the salvage requirement.

3  
4                   MS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny. Do they  
5 do that mostly around the villages, I mean not the  
6 villages, the city or no, because I haven't heard of  
7 bear baiting around the villages.

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Glen.

10  
11                   MS. STOUT: Yeah, Mr. Chair, Glen  
12 Stout.

13  
14                   Out in the Galena area we do have a few  
15 guides that have taken advantage of the recent black  
16 bear fall baiting opportunities in the fall and it's  
17 basically they had some moose hunters up there in the  
18 fall and opportunistically they put out a few bait  
19 stations to provide that opportunity. My understanding  
20 is that there have been very few bears, like one or two  
21 bears taken on that opportunity.

22  
23                   Now, there has been more spring bear  
24 baiting conducting, you know, throughout the area in  
25 Galena and Ruby, I know I issue several different bear  
26 bait permits in those areas, so they are certainly  
27 taking some bear there.

28  
29                   So I suspect, you know, with this  
30 grizzly bear opportunity there's eventually going to be  
31 a bear or two that gets taken but I think it's going to  
32 be very limited.

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Any  
35 other comments on that Proposal 56.

36  
37                   MR. GERVAIS: Jack, this is Tim.

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

40  
41                   MR. GERVAIS: My opinion on it for the  
42 Council would be that we should still support the  
43 salvage of meat on these animals just in being a waste  
44 of the resource to be harvesting and not utilizing that  
45 meat. So I feel if these hunters are going to be  
46 making efforts to take these animals they should be  
47 salvaging the meat also.

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. You know we  
50 had our Advisory Committee meeting, the Koyukuk River

1 Advisory met in Fairbanks and so the Alaska Department  
2 of Fish and Game actually brought over sausages made  
3 from black bear and grizzly bear meat that was  
4 processed and made into sausages and so forth from that  
5 control project they had down in Game Management Unit  
6 19A and so do you want to speak to that Glen.

7

8 MR. STOUT: Yeah, Mr. Chair. We did,  
9 and I'll be bringing some to the Middle Yukon AC and we  
10 tried to just kind of highlight that bear meat is  
11 really good and, you know, particularly some of the  
12 processing that they're doing, I think it's a real  
13 valuable resource.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This proposal, the  
16 Advisory Committee opposed Proposal 56, I oppose the  
17 removal of salvage requirements from bait stations  
18 because I don't think a lot of people understand that  
19 grizzly bears, if they're not eating fish, they're  
20 actually not that bad eating, they're pretty good  
21 eating, in fact if they're eating roots, they're  
22 excellent eating. And so I'm opposed to Proposal 56  
23 myself and I feel that we should support salvage of the  
24 meat.

25

26 MR. SIMON: Jack, this is Pollock.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Pollock.

29

30 MR. SIMON: .....grizzlies years ago  
31 but it's not a meat source right now, because grizzlies  
32 are brown bears, but if accidentally do then we salvage  
33 all the meat so that should be done across the state,  
34 you know, meat should be salvaged for personal use.  
35 I'm not -- peoples don't like to waste meat.

36

37 That's my comment.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I mean at some  
40 point I would like to see a proposal that you could  
41 feed it to domestic animals. If you get a bad bear,  
42 you know, sometimes they just have a bum flavor you  
43 should be able to at least feed it to your dogs, but it  
44 shouldn't be wasted. But that's not a proposal.

45

46 But I do feel that bear meat is a very  
47 valuable resource and actually it's been squandered by  
48 leaving these bears laying around.

49

50 And so is the Council is generally

1 supportive of opposing Proposal 56.

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, this is Tim. Yeah,  
4 I would be opposed to 56 and 57, which is similar, a  
5 similar one trying to remove salvage requirements.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right, okay.

8

9 MR. GERVAIS: I think 58 also, all  
10 three of them.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

13

14 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chair, this is Glen  
15 Stout.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead, Glen.

18

19 MR. STOUT: I just wanted to point out,  
20 too, you mentioned that the Koyukuk River AC brought up  
21 this proposal and they did vote to oppose the proposal.  
22 Just as a point of information, the Department's  
23 preliminary recommendation on this is neutral because  
24 it's an allocation issue but we did -- we do plan on  
25 pointing out to the Board that it would be at least  
26 beneficial to align the seasons wherever we do have  
27 these bear baiting regulations and make those  
28 consistent throughout the region.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So.....

31

32 MR. COLLINS: Jack, this is Ray.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

35

36 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I concur. I think  
37 that we should encourage the utilization of meat  
38 wherever and so you're not just shooting an animal for  
39 nothing, or just for the hide or something else. And  
40 maybe by having this in place more people will start  
41 utilizing it and realize that it is a good resource.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

44

45 I was working off the Advisory  
46 Committee's minutes here.

47

48 Is there other State proposals that,  
49 and, you know, somewhere I've lost my proposals that  
50 Melinda had sent out in the packet and I've searched

1 all over here and all I have is my Advisory Committee  
2 comments, does the Council have other proposals they  
3 would like to speak to.

4

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Have you read  
9 through the proposals -- has the Ruby Advisory  
10 Committee met, Tim, do you know.

11

12 MR. GERVAIS: No, we had trouble with  
13 -- we had quorum troubles because some of our members  
14 were out at camp for freeze up so we weren't able to  
15 get a quorum together, so we don't have any official  
16 positions on these proposals at this time.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

19

20 MR. GERVAIS: We will probably get it  
21 done on the third week of December.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

24

25 MR. COLLINS: And the same is true,  
26 Jack, of McGrath, we haven't had a chance to have a  
27 meeting this fall, there's too many conflicts that have  
28 come up.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

31

32 So I would, you know, as a Council  
33 member, I would like to have the AC's input into the  
34 Council process, that's part of .805 of ANILCA, is for  
35 the Councils to work with the ACs, and so does anybody  
36 have any proposals that stand out to them that they  
37 would like us to comment on in our letter.

38

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Melinda.

43

44 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. There is one  
45 other item we can discuss quickly, if we want to review  
46 so far the running list for the FY2012 annual report,  
47 if there's any new items that have come up we can add  
48 them to the list I started in Fairbanks and then we can  
49 vote and wrap it up at the February meeting.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

2

3 MS. BURKE: So the first item that I  
4 had from the Fairbanks meeting was relaying concern  
5 from the Council regarding the Innoko Refuge closure,  
6 projects and Staff that are affected, the effects to  
7 the community of McGrath, we've covered a lot of those  
8 points already.

9

10 The second item I had was a note to  
11 encourage the Federal Subsistence Board to advocate for  
12 Title VIII and subsistence users with regard to the  
13 workings of the North Pacific Fisheries Management  
14 Council.

15

16 And those were the two that I had on my  
17 list from Fairbanks, if any Council members have any  
18 more to add to this list I'm prepared to add them  
19 today.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you have any  
22 additional annual report items, Ray. You weren't at  
23 the meeting, and Jenny.

24

25 MR. COLLINS: Right. No, I think the  
26 critical one would be the closure of McGrath, from my  
27 standpoint. And that was the main thing that would  
28 come to my mind.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. You know  
31 include a chronic concern with the chinook escapement  
32 on the Yukon and Kuskokwim. I'm really concerned about  
33 100 percent subsistence needs being met for chinook on  
34 the Kuskokwim River, and the drainage is at an all time  
35 low escapement. I'm a little concerned that the in-  
36 season managers are not looking to the resource as a  
37 priority, you know, the politics down there are stiff  
38 but we do need to have continued escapement and the in-  
39 season managers are going to have to toughen up and  
40 have some windowed closures and we need to assure  
41 escapement, and so I feel that the Federal Board should  
42 be aware of the concerns on the Kuskokwim River and  
43 Yukon River for escapements.

44

45 You know Yukon had very little bycatch  
46 in the directed chum fishery, they had tried to meet as  
47 many escapement fish as they could with what they had  
48 to work with, there was huge closures, people on the  
49 Yukon across the board took huge cuts whereas the  
50 Kuskokwim, everybody had their cake on the Lower

1 Kuskokwim, so I feel that the Federal Board, it should  
2 be one of our action items, that we feel that  
3 subsistence needs are secondary to the resource's  
4 health, long-term health for all users on the Kuskokwim  
5 River.

6

7 And so I feel that that needs to be an  
8 action item. How does the Council feel.

9

10 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'll concur with  
11 that Jack, I'm sorry, I hadn't commented on that. But,  
12 yes, there has to be some control over subsistence  
13 harvest in that lower river because that's where the  
14 majority of the fish are harvested. And part of the  
15 problem is the Bethel community, which is a growing  
16 community, partly growing because of people moving in  
17 from the villages around, but you can't continue to  
18 allow harvest of all they want. They've got new people  
19 coming in that take fish that they don't even need then  
20 because the river starts narrowing down there and so  
21 the harvest is -- they really hit those up river fish  
22 through there. So, yes, we do have to have some  
23 management issues and they can't allow them to continue  
24 to just harvest unrestricted down there.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's been a shift  
27 on the Yukon to fall chum and coho, and people are  
28 moving towards -- away from the harvest of chinook  
29 salmon and so I feel that the Lower Kuskokwim is not  
30 bearing any of the management burden, conservation  
31 burden. They have a lot of stocks there, they got  
32 pinks, they got reds, they got fish that the Yukon  
33 doesn't even have. So there's only three species on  
34 the Yukon basically for the majority of the drainage,  
35 whereas the Kuskokwim's got five species of salmon and  
36 there's no reason to keep pounding away on the kings  
37 when they're in a hardship like this. And so I think  
38 the Federal Board needs to understand that there's a  
39 real need for conservation and it should be one of our  
40 action items.

41

42 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah, this is Jenny. I  
43 agree. It seems like the upper end always gets the  
44 bottom of the barrel and, you know, I agree with more  
45 management in the lower river.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I'm sure that  
48 should be well discussed at your meeting, Ray, this  
49 coming week.

50

1 MS. BURKE: Okay, Mr. Chair, I think  
2 that captured all of those points for that issue number  
3 3 for the fiscal year 2012 annual report.

4  
5 MR. GERVAIS: I had one more comment  
6 for that Jack.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

9  
10 MR. GERVAIS: I talked with one of the  
11 North Pacific Management Council members, Duncan  
12 Fields, in the middle of November about this habitual  
13 under escapement on the Kuskokwim and the Yukon, and  
14 told him that I didn't feel like Amendment 91, which is  
15 the salmon bycatch hardcap reg that was put into place,  
16 said that that wasn't strong enough, we're still not  
17 getting the salmon to rebuild and he specifically told  
18 me that he felt that the problem with the king salmon  
19 in Western Alaska is in-river problems and it's not out  
20 in the Bering Sea or Gulf of Alaska. So I feel -- I'm  
21 still working on the language of this letter that the  
22 Council has agreed to transmit a letter to Eric Olson,  
23 Chairman of the North Pacific Management Council and  
24 Cora Campbell, Commissioner Campbell, but I think our  
25 annual report should include that we need to get better  
26 cooperation from the Federal regulatory bodies on what  
27 can be done to just continue reducing bycatch because  
28 they're not -- really extreme conservation measures as  
29 subsistence users on the rivers and we're not seeing  
30 the rebound in the stock so we're -- we need more  
31 cooperation from the North Pacific Council regulation  
32 body.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, that's a good  
35 point Tim.

36  
37 MR. GERVAIS: And then on an unrelated  
38 item, I don't know what the status is because I haven't  
39 been to a Board of Fish or Board of Game meeting for  
40 about three years, but at one point, I believe it was  
41 two years ago, we were going to look into the fact that  
42 -- when I was representing Western Interior at a Board  
43 of Fish meeting in Fairbanks, they didn't recognize the  
44 proposal votes for the Regional Advisory Councils, they  
45 only took the State ACs, you know, they do an executive  
46 summary and it shows all the Councils for and against,  
47 they had all the State ACs for and against, but Eastern  
48 Interior, Western Interior, they didn't -- they're not  
49 included in that summary process and I thought we had  
50 conversation where the Board of Fish and Board of Game,

1 they would have to administer -- that the Regional  
2 Advisory Councils should have some equal footing with  
3 the State sanctioned ACs on getting in the record as  
4 supporting or not supporting proposals.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That should be. We  
7 had an issue with time allotment for the Councils to  
8 present to the Board of Game and Board of Fish, they  
9 were trying to -- the Board of Game was trying to cut  
10 us down to five minutes and basically, you know,  
11 treating us as just an ordinary member of the public  
12 when in reality we're a management body that utilizes  
13 -- has -- well, many times many AC members on it, on  
14 the Council, and so I feel that the State record should  
15 reflect affirm our position on State proposals, it's a  
16 double-edged sword. The State has overwhelming  
17 opportunity to comment at the Regional Council level  
18 and at the Federal Subsistence Board level. And so the  
19 record -- the State records should reflect the position  
20 of this Council on State and Board of Game and Board of  
21 Fish proposals.

22  
23 So you're exactly right, I don't know  
24 if they changed that currently or not but we were --  
25 they had reallocated 15 minutes to the Councils, but  
26 now we -- we're apprised of our budgetary constraints  
27 I'm not sure if we'll have funding for Council members  
28 to attend Board of Game or Board of Fish. What's the  
29 word on that Carl.

30  
31 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At  
32 this point in time there can be travel for Council  
33 members to represent its Council at different wildlife  
34 or fisheries resource related meetings but it's on a  
35 case by case basis. We did just recently fund somebody  
36 from the North Slope Council to attend the Western  
37 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group meeting in Anchorage  
38 and that is something that we have done in the past.  
39 And, again, the Council Coordinator will just need to  
40 submit a request for review and approval by the ARD,  
41 again, on a case by case basis.

42  
43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Well, again,  
46 Carl, what would be the process. This Council is  
47 concerned that we go through a lot of trouble to make  
48 comments and then if they're not reflected in the  
49 letter -- or in the record, the State's record of the  
50 Board when they look at the -- when they look at what

1 the Advisory Committees stated on a proposal, the  
2 Council's position should be there also and I would  
3 like our liaison, the State liaison, whoever they may  
4 be, George Pappas for Board of Fish, that they assure  
5 that our Council positions are stated for the Board.  
6 And how do we assure that.

7

8 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair, Carl again. I  
9 will check with George about that process and what we  
10 do, I do know that we have wildlife biologists who  
11 attend the Board of Game meetings or the Division Chief  
12 himself and I have to confess ignorance as to the Board  
13 of Game or Board of Fisheries process regarding input  
14 from the Regional Advisory Councils. I do know that  
15 they don't have it systematically as part of their  
16 process like we do with the ACs but I can check and see  
17 what we can do on our end to ensure that your Council  
18 comments are incorporated into the record at the Board  
19 of Game or Board of Fisheries meetings.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would.....

24

25 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, I just had a quick  
26 question.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

29

30 MR. GERVAIS: And I would like to make  
31 sure I get this communicated properly if that's all  
32 right.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim, yes.

35

36 MR. GERVAIS: So, yes, here's an  
37 example on how this works.

38

39 The Board of Fish is moving through a  
40 series of proposals and they're taking votes and the  
41 members, you know, from all parts of the State, they're  
42 not -- they can't -- they don't know everything in each  
43 region so they're deferring to the ACs, they look at  
44 the voting record of the ACs in front of them and they  
45 see so many ACs support, so many oppose and then -- but  
46 the regional ACs that took action on these and actually  
47 have a pretty -- a lot of times a better view because  
48 they have members from such a larger region, those  
49 comments aren't -- and what is a really important tally  
50 of what the Board of Fish or Board of Game members are

1 looking at when they're -- when they're getting a sense  
2 on an issue and they just want to defer to what the ACs  
3 say so that's why I feel it's really critical that the  
4 Regional Advisory Councils have -- are specifically  
5 noted as Advisory Councils in the Board of Fish and  
6 Board of Game meeting process.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I feel that  
9 it's an issue that the Federal Subsistence Board should  
10 be aware of that the -- the Federal Subsistence Board  
11 has a lot of accommodation for the State inclusion in  
12 the deliberation process. If these Councils, statewide  
13 10 Regional Councils make all these comments and  
14 they're not even being incorporated into consideration  
15 that's a problem. And I think that the Federal Board,  
16 they work with a memorandum of understanding with the  
17 State, that should be one of our annual report issues,  
18 you know, we're concerned that our comments are not as  
19 weighted or looked at as an Advisory Committee because  
20 we're an advisory body and our comments and position  
21 should be looked at by the State Boards.

22  
23 So does the Council feel including that  
24 issue to the Federal Board in our annual report.

25  
26 MS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny, I would  
27 agree, you know, with that because it seems like, you  
28 know, like you stated, our Board, the RACs are, you  
29 know, regional and whereas the -- I mean not regional,  
30 you know what I mean, different villages and whereas  
31 the AC is just dealing with maybe one or two or three  
32 villages.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

35  
36 MS. PELKOLA: So, I agree, yeah.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I do think that  
39 the Federal Board should be aware that, you know, we  
40 want -- we've discussed this before but, you know, in  
41 the deliberation process there should be a written  
42 record of our position on various proposals.

43  
44 So they need to -- you know they work  
45 with the State liaison all the time so the Federal  
46 Board needs to enforce this -- they fund the liaison  
47 coming to our meeting and if the Boards are not going  
48 to take into account the Regional Council's comments  
49 it's a one sided deal and so that should be in our  
50 annual report.

1 Any other annual report topics.  
2  
3 MR. COLLINS: Jack.  
4  
5 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, also like you  
6 mentioned, the Board of Fish and Board of Game, we need  
7 to have the equal amount of time that a State  
8 sanctioned AC would have to testify, because we don't  
9 currently.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.  
12  
13 MR. GERVAIS: It depends on the -- I  
14 guess it depends on who's the Chair is how I see it  
15 handled.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You know, whatever  
18 the Advisory Committee allotted time, the Regional  
19 Council should have the same allotment.  
20  
21 And so any other.....  
22  
23 MR. COLLINS: Jack, this is Ray.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....annual report  
26 topics. Go ahead.....  
27  
28 MR. COLLINS: This is Ray, Jack.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.  
31  
32 MR. COLLINS: Well, in line with what  
33 we're discussing now, I think it should be pointed out  
34 in the letter that we play a very important role in  
35 trying to reconcile State and Federal regulations so on  
36 our side, you know, we're working to keep ours  
37 shadowing theirs and in their process it's important  
38 that they reciprocate by looking at our views when  
39 they're initially adopting proposals, too. I think  
40 that would be an important point to make in that  
41 letter, is that role that we play in trying to make the  
42 two mesh as closely as possible and the effort should  
43 be on both sides.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. That should be  
46 annual report topic, but we also, like you're saying,  
47 we may want to transmit a letter to the Chair of the  
48 Board of Game and Chair of the Board of Fish on what  
49 our concerns on being heard are so we can review that  
50 issue when we're on our annual report topics in our

1 spring meeting.  
2  
3 MR. COLLINS: Yes.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other.....  
6  
7 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair, this is Carl.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....annual report  
10 topics.  
11  
12 MR. GERVAIS: And, Jack, if you  
13 transmit that letter to the Executive Director of those  
14 respective Boards, they're actually the -- really on  
15 top of what the protocols are.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. But that's  
18 something that we can do at our spring meeting. I  
19 would like to have the full Council discussion on that  
20 issue. So we're looking for annual report topics right  
21 now. We've hashed out quite a bit of language there  
22 that Melinda's taking down.  
23  
24 And so we'll adopt our annual report at  
25 our spring meeting but usually typically we want to  
26 have all the topics on the paper.  
27  
28 Any other topics.  
29  
30 MR. SIMON: Jack, this is Pollock.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead,  
33 Pollock.  
34  
35 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I'm going to have to  
36 go, I got things to do pretty quick.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So, yeah,  
39 we're pretty much done, Melinda.  
40  
41 MS. BURKE: Yeah, Jack, I think it  
42 looks like we have hit all of the crucial items that we  
43 wanted to hit and I've captured some really good  
44 rationale and have a good basis for my to do list.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I did want  
47 the Council -- I was transmitted a letter from an  
48 Eastern Interior Council member. The Eastern Interior  
49 is either developing a fishery proposal or submitting a  
50 proposal to close drift gillnet fishing on the Yukon

1 River in light of the impacts to under achievement of  
2 escapement of chinook salmon. I wanted the Council to  
3 be aware that that proposal is being contemplated. I  
4 can see in the future that gear oriented to beach only  
5 drift gillnet in the Kuskokwim and Yukon may be  
6 necessary and so I wanted the Council to be aware of  
7 that, that that's the direction the Eastern Interior  
8 Council is considering.

9

10 And so at this time I think we've  
11 covered a lot of issues, so any final comments from the  
12 Council members on line.

13

14 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Jack. We've  
15 covered a lot of things, a lot of critical issues and  
16 got to voted on some proposals I think we're going  
17 ahead -- thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, thanks a lot  
20 Pollock. Merry Christmas.

21

22 MR. SIMON: Merry Christmas.

23

24 MS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny. I just  
25 wanted to say thank you to everyone that's on line and  
26 I think we did get a lot done, and I just want to  
27 apologize for missing the other meeting but I was  
28 already committed to another meeting.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

31

32 MS. PELKOLA: So that was my reason for  
33 not attending that.

34

35 I did have one concern still from some  
36 locals, concerning -- I don't know if I take this up  
37 with Glen Stout but the moose hunting, you know, we  
38 have to get moose hunting tickets or hide -- hide --  
39 hunt on the Koyukuk Refuge, we have to run all the way  
40 up to the 15 miles above Koyukuk and the people from  
41 the other villages, you know, with the high price of  
42 gas and everything, they don't really like that and if  
43 there was a place where we could have it closer to all  
44 the villages that would be more -- better for everyone.  
45 It seems like we've been hashing -- you know, I  
46 expressed this concern and other people have but it  
47 seems like nobody is listening and, you know, I don't  
48 know what to do about it.

49

50 And, also, while I have -- I would like

1 to thank everyone for the -- whoever extended the moose  
2 season here in Galena. I believe a few people used it,  
3 but everyone was still busy with flood detail and not  
4 everyone got to, you know, use that opportunity but I  
5 just want to thank you for that.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we talked  
8 about that at our meeting in Fairbanks and Trevor Fox  
9 worked with the State in trying to get that hunt pushed  
10 through really quickly, that really was ben -- we were  
11 told at that meeting that there were about 12 moose  
12 that were harvested on that hunt, so 12 moose is a lot  
13 of meat and so we were very appreciative to OSM and  
14 Trevor Fox and the State on providing that additional  
15 hunting opportunity.

16

17 MS. PELKOLA: Yes, thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks a lot, Jenny.  
20 Merry Christmas.

21

22 MS. PELKOLA: You too.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments.

25

26 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Jack, this is Ray.  
27 I'm just glad I was able to make the meeting. I just  
28 got back from travel last night so I've been traveling  
29 for two days but this meeting turned out to be very  
30 opportunistic and I'm glad I was able to be here in  
31 town and attend and I think it was a good meeting and  
32 we covered some important topics.

33

34 I've got to check out now I've got  
35 medical appointments this afternoon that I need to take  
36 care of.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

39

40 MR. COLLINS: So thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good to have you  
43 back again Ray. Merry Christmas.

44

45 Tim.

46

47 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Yeah,  
48 I'd just like to thank everybody, the Members, and  
49 State and agencies and the public here going through  
50 this meeting through the teleconference after we

1 already had a time up in Fairbanks anyways, and  
2 especially like to thank you Jack, you're always -- you  
3 just have better knowledge of a lot of the issues and  
4 parameters that are happening than myself and I just  
5 appreciate you bringing your knowledge and your time,  
6 you work a lot harder than most anybody in making this  
7 RAC happen, so thank you for being a great Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that Tim.

10

11 MS. PELKOLA: Ditto. Ditto.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can't do it  
14 without OSM and the Council's help though. I rely on  
15 the Council -- that's why I like the full Council then  
16 we get all the input for the various parts of the  
17 region, so I appreciate that.

18

19 Merry Christmas.

20

21 MS. PELKOLA: Uh-huh.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so any final  
24 things, Melinda.

25

26 MS. BURKE: No, Mr. Chair, I think  
27 that's everything.

28

29 I really appreciate everybody's time.  
30 It's been a challenging couple of months for the  
31 Western Interior Council, I appreciate all the  
32 teamwork, both on the Council and with the Staff here,  
33 and thank you everybody for being patient and flexible  
34 and, yeah, thank you so much.

35

36 MS. PELKOLA: Thank you, Melinda.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I really appreciate  
39 all you've gone through scheduling and  
40 rescheduling.....

41

42 MS. PELKOLA: Uh-huh.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....and conference  
45 calls and OSM support for the Council, I really  
46 appreciate that.

47

48 MS. BURKE: And, Jack, if you're going  
49 to be around a little later, we need to go ahead and  
50 get that Koyukuk River Working Group letter finished

1 up. I'll make it in the proper format and if we can  
2 have you sign it today after we -- or if we -- after we  
3 finish reviewing it that would be great, we're going to  
4 start the review process here in the office. I think  
5 it might be maybe a couple days, was that -- we're  
6 going to move it through as quickly as we can so.....

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

9  
10 MS. BURKE: .....stay tuned for that so  
11 we can have it officially ready for Ray to transmit it  
12 next week.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah, I'm  
15 home. I'll check email and as soon as it comes in I'll  
16 print it and sign it.

17  
18 MS. BURKE: Okay, thank you.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. So, all  
21 right, well, Merry Christmas everybody and thanks for a  
22 great teleconference and so we'll look forward to  
23 seeing you at our spring meeting.

24  
25 MS. BURKE: Thanks, everybody.

26  
27 MS. PELKOLA: Okay, same to you, thank  
28 you and Merry Christmas to everyone.

29  
30 MS. BURKE: Merry Christmas.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, good-bye.

33  
34 MS. PELKOLA: Okay, good-bye.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Bye.

37  
38 (Off record)

39  
40 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
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STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public, State of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 257 through 360 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME IV taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters on the 11th day of December Anchorage, Alaska;

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 20th day of December 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 9/16/14

□