

1 WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2  
3 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
4  
5 PUBLIC TELEPHONIC MEETING  
6

7  
8 Alaska  
9 April 6, 2010  
10 9:14 o'clock a.m.  
11

12  
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14 Jack Reakoff, Chairman  
15 Ray Collins  
16 Timothy Gervais  
17 Micky Stickman  
18 James Walker  
19 Robert Walker

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27 Regional Council Coordinator, Ann Wilkinson

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2

3 (Alaska - 04/06/2010)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have a quorum.  
8 We have Jim Walker, Robert Walker, Micky Stickman, Tim  
9 Gervais and myself and now you, Ray Collins.

10

11 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we're going  
14 to start the call on the record. And, so, Robert was  
15 concerned about Proposal 81 being passed by the Board  
16 of Game to increase the season five days in Unit 21E.  
17 And do you want to talk about that Robert, go right  
18 ahead.

19

20 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Jack.  
21 Robert Walker from Anvik here.

22

23 I am concerned about the issue here  
24 because once we give five days there's going to be more  
25 proposals coming in from the area here that -- no  
26 disrespect towards them, but I'm just kind of curious  
27 here on why it was passed, even though the tribal  
28 entities didn't agree with it, the AC GASH Board didn't  
29 approve it and our board, the Western Interior RAC  
30 didn't approve that either because of the hard set on  
31 it.

32

33 I wanted to ask the Governor a question  
34 at the TCC Convention in Fairbanks but he was not  
35 taking any questions. My question would have been to  
36 him was that if he was to be elected Governor would he  
37 take a hard look at the Board of Game and try to find  
38 somebody who was more conservative in protecting the  
39 caribou and the moose or the big game. I didn't get  
40 that chance, she was swept right out of the convention,  
41 didn't have a chance to ask any questions.

42

43 So getting back to where we were I am  
44 concerned that 30 more days -- I mean 30 more, so the  
45 20 day, 21 days -- 20 days, I am a little bit concerned  
46 about it because right now we have like four wolf packs  
47 right around Anvik here, they killed a moose a half  
48 mile above Anvik on the Anvik River and another pack of  
49 wolves killed another moose just about a half a mile  
50 below Anvik, these are two separate packs.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.  
2  
3 MR. R. WALKER: And there's been a pack  
4 across the river here that's living over there and  
5 there's another one down by (indiscernible - phone  
6 cutting out) and we have another one up at camp. We  
7 got five packs within 20 miles of Anvik. And to have  
8 more hunting pressure on, it's either we do a predator  
9 control really quick or we ask the State to take back  
10 their five days.  
11  
12 There's another thing we did at the TCC  
13 Convention was the Lower Yukon subregion of Holy Cross,  
14 Shageluk, Grayling, Anvik.....  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hey, Robert.  
17  
18 MR. R. WALKER: .....put a.....  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert.  
21  
22 MR. R. WALKER: Yeah. Yeah. Are you a  
23 long way -- are you on a cordless phone?  
24  
25 MR. R. WALKER: Yeah.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, you might go a  
28 little closer to your receiver, you're kind of breaking  
29 up.  
30  
31 MR. R. WALKER: I am right next to it.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay, well, go  
34 ahead then.  
35  
36 MR. R. WALKER: So anyway the Lower  
37 Yukon subregion of the villages of Holy Cross,  
38 Shageluk, Grayling put a proposal in to the State  
39 saying that we want to have a chance to vote on a  
40 subsistence unit. That's the thing that I'm going to  
41 bring down to Polly tomorrow, I'll give her a copy of  
42 the resolution.  
43  
44 So this is just a first step here in  
45 sending the Governor or the State saying that we are  
46 concerned about our moose here.  
47  
48 Any questions, Jack, anybody.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you feel that

1 there's fairly excessive wolf predation, maybe the  
2 biologists, they just completed the census there on the  
3 moose and there was a threshold for predator control at  
4 one moose per square mile in that control area in the  
5 GASH; what did that come out to be then, the moose  
6 density? Did that get close to that threshold?

7

8 MR. R. WALKER: Who are you asking?

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Either Geoff  
11 Byersdorf or the State biologist.

12

13 MR. R. WALKER: Okay, maybe you could  
14 say their names so we'll know who you're talking to  
15 then.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Does any of  
18 the State -- any of the State or Federal biologists on  
19 line.

20

21 MS. WILKINSON: I just.....

22

23 MR. BYERSDORF: Yeah, Geoff, here, I'm  
24 not sure, are you referring to the last years CSP that  
25 we did in 21E?

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, didn't they  
28 just complete the moose census this spring in February  
29 for the.....

30

31 MR. BYERSDORF: No, not for 21E we  
32 didn't. All we did down there was that moose collaring  
33 effort.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I thought there  
36 was some census work being done.

37

38 MR. BYERSDORF: In 19A there is, but  
39 not in 21E or 21A at this point.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, so when's the  
42 latest, what's the last data that you have there?

43

44 MR. BYERSDORF: The last data that we  
45 have is that 2009 spring census which was, I think  
46 6,200 plus or minus 17 percent, so the range that we  
47 got for the population estimate for that area is a  
48 little bit over 5,100 moose to 7,200, almost 7,300  
49 moose. And I haven't heard -- I know that, you know,  
50 Roger and Josh were going to take a look at in regards

1 to whether an intensive management plan was to be  
2 developed and I'm not sure where that stands at this  
3 point. I don't know if Roy knows more.

4  
5 MR. NOWLIN: Yeah, this is Roy. Is  
6 Josh not on the line here?

7  
8 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, Roy, I'm on the  
9 phone here.

10  
11 MR. NOWLIN: Okay. Could you answer  
12 those questions, Josh, please.

13  
14 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, I sure can. Jack,  
15 to answer your question -- well, I guess there are a  
16 couple of questions out there now. The Board, just, at  
17 the last meeting, they did pass an intensive management  
18 plan for 21E and part of that plan was if the moose  
19 population within our moose survey area drops below one  
20 moose per square mile then we would -- that would  
21 trigger wolf control at that time. And we did do a --  
22 like Geoff said, we didn't do any survey this February  
23 and March here, we did it last year and we had 1.2  
24 moose per square mile during that survey. So we've got  
25 three surveys now, one in 2000, one in 2005 and then  
26 just last winter, and those surveys, we can't detect  
27 any decline in the moose population at this time. This  
28 last one, the midpoint was higher, but the confidence  
29 interval's all overlap. So basically from our surveys  
30 that we've conducted we cannot detect a decline or an  
31 increase in the moose population right now.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah, that  
34 was kind of the question I had. You did some trend  
35 work this spring, though, trend counts?

36  
37 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, we did. We've done  
38 trend counts out there the last several years and 21E  
39 is definitely high on our priority list so we have  
40 plans to do, for future surveys, we're going to be  
41 doing spring twinning surveys out there every year,  
42 weather permitting, of course. We'll do fall  
43 composition counts every year, those happen in  
44 November. And then the next survey that we'll do to  
45 come up with a population estimate will be in 2012. So  
46 we're going to survey that area, like I said it's high  
47 on our priority list, we'll be looking at it every  
48 three years to come up with a density and then we'll be  
49 looking at it every fall and spring to look at the  
50 twinning rates which give us an indication of habitat

1 quality and then the composition survey is done in the  
2 fall, which give us an indication of things like bull  
3 to cow ratios and calf to cow ratios; stuff like that.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

6

7 MR. BYERSDORF: And I think, Josh, in  
8 addition to that aren't we going to be doing some --  
9 looking at doing the sightability correction factor  
10 with the counts?

11

12 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, we are. So next  
13 winter, actually, there'll be a bunch of airplanes out  
14 there. We -- I guess to back up just a step here.  
15 Geoff mentioned the collaring effort that we just did.  
16 We were just out there a few weeks ago and we put 54  
17 radio collars out. We did 30 cows and 24 bulls -- are  
18 radio collared now.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

21

22 MR. PEARCE: And they have -- 44 of  
23 those are GPS collars so we're going to be able to get  
24 daily movement on those moose and then we put out 10  
25 VHF collars, which we're going to use for sightability.  
26 So one of the big pieces of information we're lacking  
27 out there or missing right now is that sightability  
28 data, which would give us a correction factor,  
29 basically, for our surveys. So when we go out there  
30 and count moose we know we miss moose but we're not  
31 sure how many always.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

34

35 MR. PEARCE: So these collars will be  
36 pretty critical for that.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that data's  
39 been coming out in the Kanuti and that correction  
40 factor's been very important for various areas where  
41 we're concerned about the moose population.

42

43 So you have any comments on that data  
44 presented then Robert.

45

46 MR. R. WALKER: Yes, I did. And my  
47 other question was that, you know, since the moose  
48 trend is down up in 19 -- 21A, that the wolf packs, the  
49 wolves up there are going to be migrating down to 21E,  
50 they're going to follow the moose. And also the wolf

1 packs that were up there below Kaltag, I talked with  
2 some guys up there, they said they haven't seen any  
3 tracks there this year from Kaltag all the way down  
4 past Eagle Slide, so apparently those moose -- those  
5 wolves that were up there are probably migrating down  
6 to here so we're getting kind of like more and more  
7 wolves here. I mean, Geoff, I mean I know you guy said  
8 you guys didn't see any wolves out there because you  
9 weren't looking for any but I would think that -- you  
10 know, like I asked, what, five years ago to do a  
11 collaring for wolves there up Innoko all the way over  
12 to Unit 21D; I asked somebody for that and they said  
13 they would look into it. But I guess this is probably  
14 -- it was just not in a meeting, it was outside of a  
15 meeting so I think that we're ending up with all the  
16 wolf packs that were up in 21A and 21D are migrating  
17 down to here.

18

19                                 So I would take a hard look at this  
20 here, you know, before you start -- I think we had more  
21 than that, I think we have like five to eight wolves  
22 per mile here. This is getting a little more than --  
23 because if-- if these wolf packs are hanging around the  
24 towns you know that these are new wolves because other  
25 wolves already have their territory and these wolves  
26 that are coming by the communities don't have a  
27 territory, they're new wolves into this part of the  
28 country. You know, every one of you know that once a  
29 wolf has established a territory, nobody comes in so  
30 that's something to think about here Josh.

31

32                                 You know, and take a hard look at this  
33 here.

34

35                                 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, Member Walker, we  
36 were able to -- this is Josh Pearce again with Fish and  
37 Game. And when we did that moose survey last year we  
38 were able to do a wolf survey as well and we did come  
39 up with a high density of wolves. We came up with 18  
40 to 20 wolves per thousand square miles. And that's a  
41 high density of wolves, it definitely is. And when we  
42 were out there collaring I did see some wolves and I  
43 did see signs of those packs around Anvik just up the  
44 Anvik River, in particular, I saw quit a bit of wolf  
45 signs. So I definitely agree with you, there's quite a  
46 bit of wolf predation that is occurring out there and  
47 like I said we're trying to -- we're just starting now  
48 where we're -- this management plan was just passed by  
49 the Board of Game and we are keeping a real close look  
50 at what's happening in 21E, it is definitely a real

1 high priority for our area office here in McGrath.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the next GSPE  
4 survey will be in 2015, or when is -- are they five  
5 years apart of what's -- or what are you going to.....

6

7 MR. PEARCE: No, we'll be doing -- this  
8 is Josh Pearce again, we'll be doing those every three  
9 years. We have three intensive management areas that  
10 we are in charge of here in the McGrath office; we have  
11 19D, 19A and now 21E. So the best we can do is one  
12 survey per year and we're going to rotate between those  
13 three survey areas. So we'll get back to 21E again in  
14 2012. And at that time we'll also have all these  
15 collars on the air now so not only will we be able to  
16 get some sightability correction data over the next  
17 couple of winters but we'll actually be able to get a  
18 survey specific one as well. And like I said that'll  
19 be a real huge improvement in our ability to improve  
20 the precision of our estimates, I guess, you could say  
21 so we can more accurately determine if that moose  
22 population is going up, down, or what it's doing.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

25

26 MR. COLLINS: Jack, this is Ray, I had  
27 a question.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

30

31 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Josh, will those  
32 collars give us any information on predation rate if  
33 you lose some of those wolves? In other words, do you  
34 know what percentage you culled from the area and if  
35 you lose any of those will that tell us anything about  
36 the rate of predation?

37

38 MR. PEARCE: Not unless we actually got  
39 out there and got on the ground. These collars will --  
40 they \*emit a different signal when they are dead so  
41 those moose will emit a mortality signal and the VHF  
42 ones, we actually have to fly to to detect those. But  
43 the GPS collars we can -- that information's going to  
44 get downloaded to us once a week so we'll know as moose  
45 die but unless we actually get out there and fly and go  
46 look at the location where the dead moose is, we  
47 wouldn't be able to determine for certain if it had  
48 died from, you know, deep snow or drowned or wolf or a  
49 bear or a human or what the cause was.

50

1 MR. COLLINS: I see, yeah.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do other Council  
4 members have questions.  
5  
6 MR. R. WALKER: Well, one other  
7 question that.....  
8  
9 MR. STICKMAN: Hey, Jack, this is Micky  
10 in Nulato.  
11  
12 MR. R. WALKER: Oh, go ahead, Micky.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, who's  
15 this?  
16  
17 MR. STICKMAN: Micky.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, Micky. Go  
20 ahead, Micky.  
21  
22 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, I have to agree  
23 with Robert on when it comes to wolves because the guys  
24 look for wolves in Nulato and Kaltag for potlatch and  
25 for Stick Dance, those guys have been going over to  
26 Kaiyuh and in the last couple years they haven't seen  
27 too many wolves over there so they've actually been  
28 going out on the river and going down below Kaltag to  
29 look for the wolves that they need for potlatch and  
30 Stick Dance.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.  
33  
34 MR. STICKMAN: So I tend to agree with  
35 Robert that some of the wolf packs that used to be over  
36 in the Kaiyuh Flats have actually moved to the river  
37 and moved down river.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that makes  
40 sense.  
41  
42 Any other Council comments.  
43  
44 MR. R. WALKER: Jack.  
45  
46 MR. J. WALKER: Jack, Jim -- oh, go  
47 ahead Robert.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, go ahead.....  
50

1 MR. R. WALKER: Jim, go ahead, I'll go  
2 after Jim, Ray -- I mean, Jack.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead, Jim.

5  
6 MR. J. WALKER: Yeah, Jack, this is Jim  
7 Walker. I'd just like to make a comment on what's been  
8 said as far as the wolf increase in this area around  
9 Holy Cross. I definitely see an increase activity,  
10 tracks and patterns of new packs moving in around the  
11 village. I'm pretty sure you guys seen them from the  
12 air, it's pretty hard to miss. I go out to cut some  
13 wood every other day and you can see them tracks, they  
14 go right down the forge, some of them do, and right off  
15 the flats towards Ranger Lake, so they're pretty hard  
16 to miss.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

19  
20 MR. J. WALKER: But there's a definite  
21 increase in the wolf populations in this area. They  
22 have to have an impact on the moose because, again,  
23 where I cut wood they cut down a young calf there, it  
24 looked like maybe a two year old one, ate the whole  
25 thing up in less than three or four days.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Wow.

28  
29 MR. J. WALKER: They move on to another  
30 one and they get it so they're getting moose out there  
31 and that's a definite concern.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was talking to the  
34 Refuge manager, the Innoko manager, Bo Sloan, and he  
35 told me that he was going to start some trapping  
36 clinics and so forth which will help, but, you know, we  
37 do need to keep track on this wolf problem, you know,  
38 wolves will shift their territories with the game  
39 populations. And as long as you got lots of young  
40 dispersal wolves coming into the villages, too, you  
41 know, those younger ones they'll try and hang out in  
42 the dump because they don't want to get killed by the  
43 other ones.

44  
45 MR. J. WALKER: Yeah, Jack, I just had  
46 one more comment on this teleconference call.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

49  
50 MR. J. WALKER: On the extension of the

1 five day issue there it's -- you know, I'm not really  
2 against any side of a user group to use moose or to  
3 have a chance to get moose but the fact remains the  
4 later season, the majority of the bulls are pretty much  
5 in full rut so.....

6

MS. WILKINSON: Who is that.

7

8

REPORTER: Jim Walker.

9

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You want to respond  
to that Roy.

MR. NOWLIN: Yeah, Jack, it certainly  
-- this is Roy Nowlin again. It certainly is going to  
put the season -- or the season is going to go later  
and so the bulls will be in rut, they're going to be  
more vulnerable, there's no doubt about that. And so  
the success of the hunters that are out there will  
probably be higher. But I think one important thing to  
remember here is that -- and, Josh, I think you might  
want to comment on this, too, but this is a drawing  
hunt that we're talking about here. And because it's a  
drawing hunt we have very tight control over it and we  
have established a number of moose that we won't  
exceed. And I believe, and Josh can refresh my memory  
on this too if I'm wrong, but, that during the 21E, the  
planning process which we had out there, when we got  
the moose management plan together there, we had  
decided that we would put a cap, I believe, on the  
number of moose that could be harvested and that's  
unchanged, and we can reach -- we can very closely  
monitor that kill and very closely control that kill as  
well. And the way that drawing hunt was going there --  
it was under subscribed, we weren't getting -- we  
weren't have -- people weren't even picking up permits  
and so I think that was what the Board was -- in large  
part that was what the Board was responding to on that.

And, you know, you might remember, too,  
that when I talked to you -- to the Council at the  
meeting in Fairbanks, the last meeting in Fairbanks, I  
think Robert had a chance to then express his concerns  
about the proposal and so we, that is, Department of  
Fish of Game changed our position on that and we went  
to no recommendation on that one because of concerns

1 that had been expressed. But, be that as it may, as  
2 Robert said the Board decided to pass that proposal.

3  
4 I think it's important to remember that  
5 we do have a cap on the number of moose that can be  
6 taken and that cap was, I believe, determined as a  
7 result of the planning process that everybody  
8 participated in and so there's tight control on that.

9  
10 And, Josh, you may want to comment on  
11 that further.

12  
13 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, I would like to.  
14 What Roy just said is definitely very true. There's  
15 kind of some things that are up in the air right now  
16 with moose hunting in 21E. I guess I'll refer to the  
17 permit first, since that's what we're talking about.

18  
19 But like Roy said, we do have very  
20 tight control on that. We have excellent reporting  
21 from non-residents for that hunt and non-residents who  
22 don't report get a ticket. There's a pretty big stick  
23 out there if they don't report. Like I said we do have  
24 good reporting.

25  
26 So what the Board -- like Roy said, we  
27 did make a no recommendation to the Board but the Board  
28 did decide to extend the season. So just to be clear  
29 the season was September 5th to the 20th and now it  
30 will be September 5th to the 25th, so non-residents got  
31 five extra days. And with that we lowered the number  
32 of permits that we're going to issue this year so we're  
33 only going to issue 50 permits instead of 60 just until  
34 we get a little bit better handle on what success rates  
35 are going to look like with these extra five days that  
36 non-residents now have to them. Right now they're  
37 sitting at 30 percent success. Prior to the permit  
38 system it was up around 50 percent success rates. So  
39 if it goes back up as high as even 60 percent, with the  
40 50 permits, then you still wouldn't go over that 30.  
41 So we're taking a real conservative approach to it this  
42 year in terms of how many permits that we're going to  
43 issue.

44  
45 It's not clear if we'll even be able to  
46 issue all of those permits. Last year we only issued  
47 31 total permits. So even with offering 50, there may  
48 not be the demand there, we're just going to have to  
49 see.

50

1                   Then, of course, a couple other things  
2 that are up in the air right now is, well, there's some  
3 of the proposals on the Federal side. You guys  
4 submitted a proposal to extend the local hunt there by  
5 five days, which would make the season go until  
6 September 30th now. And then, of course, there's this  
7 proposal for the winter hunt, changes to that as well.  
8 And what we're really hopeful for with that one is  
9 we're going to see some real improvement in the  
10 reporting for the winter hunt that goes on with this  
11 registration permit that we're talking about. So the  
12 plan also did identify 40 moose, up to 40 moose and  
13 potentially antlerless moose as well as being able to  
14 be taken out of that population. So the moose hunting  
15 seasons are kind of really in a state of flux right now  
16 and we're just going to have to see how things work  
17 out.

18  
19                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, well, thanks  
20 for those comments.

21  
22                   One of my comments about the Board of  
23 Game action was this proposal and many other proposals,  
24 the Board of Game ignored and the Councils and the ACs  
25 are feeling now at a point where the Board is ignoring  
26 the input of the Advisory Committees. The RAC and the  
27 local AC -- GASH AC was opposed to the five day  
28 extension and felt that the drawing permits and there  
29 was under subscribed, showing a lack of interest, and  
30 so the proposal was written to drive additional  
31 interest in the area, yet local people are concerned  
32 about the wolf predation factor's increasing and the  
33 additional competition is not really appreciated, and  
34 so that's why the Council -- I voted against the  
35 increase once I found out it was not an allocation, but  
36 strictly a cap. And so I'm getting a little -- not a  
37 little, I'm getting very frustrated with the Board of  
38 Game completely ignoring the local Advisory Committees,  
39 basically looking to the urban Advisory Committees as  
40 the grail and the rural Advisory Committees and the  
41 RACs being completely ignored and the whole process  
42 that was developed with the trust of the Innoko Plan is  
43 being, I feel, violated; and that's why I wanted to  
44 have this teleconference.

45  
46                   How are your feelings on that issue,  
47 Robert.

48  
49                   MR. R. WALKER: Well, yeah, that's  
50 another thing, too, in talking with the tribal council

1 from Grayling, I mean there's no more moose over where  
2 they are, they're coming down to Anvik to hunt, see  
3 this is an issue for the last five years, Grayling  
4 people are coming down to Anvik to hunt. I mean before  
5 that they used to hunt up Innoko River, there's no more  
6 moose up there, they -- it cost too much to go up  
7 there, they can't hardly do anything, then the water's  
8 low. So we have to share what little places we have to  
9 hunt with them.

10

11 And you hear Josh just saying there's  
12 moose everywhere, I don't know, but Grayling people  
13 have a different view. There's no moose up around  
14 Grayling. There's nothing up there where they could  
15 get, so they're coming down here and we have to  
16 complete with them for meat.

17

18 And also there is another resolution  
19 that was put into Tanana Chiefs saying that each family  
20 will be paid \$20,000 if they don't get a moose and this  
21 is a resolution I'm going to bring down to Polly today;  
22 and this is going to be a Federal -- and the State --  
23 we're going to put this to the State to pay for it.

24

25 And, you know, things are just going to  
26 get worse. We're going to -- you're going to push us,  
27 we're going to push back and we are going to demand  
28 that we be a subsistence area. We have the right to  
29 vote, I think, I think we're still Americans, yet, I  
30 don't know, but we're just Native people here. But if  
31 we have a chance to vote, we're going to vote for  
32 subsistence Unit 21E. And that's just the bottom line  
33 guys.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I appreciate  
36 your compassion, Robert. I think -- I would hope, Roy,  
37 that you're sensing the frustration of the local people  
38 there. I mean that's -- when I talked to Robert on the  
39 phone I sensed that, you know, there's some real issue  
40 with the Board of Game violating the local Advisory  
41 Committees and the Western Interior RAC's advise to not  
42 encourage additional harvest opportunities and there's  
43 plenty of permits that were under subscribed, they  
44 didn't need to do that, yet they -- and I appreciate  
45 the Department's position of no recommendation, but I  
46 want you to understand that the local people are  
47 feeling completely ignored by the Board of Game  
48 process. The Board of Game is starting to highly  
49 affect a lot of rural places.

50

1                   And so the Governor's writing letters  
2 to the Secretary of Interior saying that there's lots  
3 of subsistence opportunity provided under the State  
4 system; all's I see is ANS amounts reduced and  
5 reallocated away to non-residents.

6  
7                   I listened to that teleconference for  
8 the Board of Game and I was very concerned with the  
9 amount of ANS reductions for dall sheep and all kinds  
10 of various populations. Those are Alaskan residents  
11 resources being taken away and reduced and so I'm  
12 getting very frustrated myself. I'm sensing a deep  
13 frustration from the GASH area and so I wanted to get  
14 this conference call so that we can get this out on the  
15 table and start talking about how we're going to  
16 address some of these issues.

17  
18                   MR. R. WALKER: Yeah, Jack, also Micky  
19 Stickman was there sitting at our meeting when we  
20 brought this resolution to the floor and, you know,  
21 everybody jumped on this resolution. I put it in my  
22 bag right here so I can bring it to Polly, I got a  
23 number on it, too, but it's a resolution for every 42  
24 tribes in the TCC region jumped on this for saying,  
25 hey, you know, a lot of us don't get a moose because we  
26 have to compete with sportsmen, big time guides, have a  
27 lot of money to go around and do all these things and  
28 these guys who don't get a moose, they jumped on the  
29 resolution and said, hey, put our name on there too, we  
30 want our people to be given money for this so they can  
31 buy something to eat for the winter.

32  
33                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

34  
35                   MR. R. WALKER: So there's another  
36 resolution in there. Micky.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, Micky.

39  
40                   MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, Robert, this is  
41 Micky. Yeah, that's right because that's the same  
42 thing we're having a problem with here in Nulato and  
43 even in Kaltag. When there's a low snow like right now  
44 and no rain in the fall time, the people in Nulato and  
45 in Kaltag, we couldn't get to the Kaiyuh Flats where we  
46 traditionally hunt so one of the things that you see  
47 and if you talk to Glen Stout about it, he'll tell you  
48 that he's seen more hunters going up the Koyukuk River  
49 from Nulato and even all the way from Kaltag even  
50 though Kaltag is like 60 miles from the mouth of the

1 Koyukuk River, you'll see more guys from Kaltag going  
2 up to the -- going up the Koyukuk River. And he can  
3 actually show you and tell you that it's been happening  
4 now for a couple of years and we see it here in Nulato.  
5 But the biggest reason is because there's really not  
6 that many moose over in the Kaiyuh Flats to begin with  
7 and even if we can get over there, we still go over  
8 there -- we don't have a very good success rate going  
9 over to the Kaiyuh Flats, not like we -- it's not like  
10 we've done in the past.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. All right,  
13 so another issue that comes to mind is the reliance of  
14 the Department on these non-resident tags and Pittman-  
15 Roberts funds. These excise taxes that all sportsmen  
16 pay for firearms and so forth.

17  
18 I feel that this is becoming the  
19 driving force of a lot of regulatory process with the  
20 state of Alaska and I'm becoming more and more  
21 concerned with huge expansions of various seasons and  
22 allowances for non-residents and in conflict with what  
23 the local people and what the resource can actually  
24 tolerate as far as sustainability.

25  
26 And so I feel that our Council in the  
27 future should address this issue to the Federal  
28 Subsistence Board and to the Department of Interior as  
29 a point -- contact point of conflict with the State  
30 process and in conflict with the resource and the local  
31 users.

32  
33 And so how does the Council feel about  
34 addressing that at our fall meeting?

35  
36 MR. R. WALKER: I'd say, yes, Robert,  
37 Anvik.

38  
39 MR. STICKMAN: I would say yes, this is  
40 Micky in Nulato.

41  
42 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, this is Ray.  
43 Certainly we need to follow this issue, you know, and  
44 have a discussion on it. Maybe by then we'll have the  
45 results of the fall hunt so we'll know what actually  
46 happened.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Any other  
49 Council members. You still on here, Tim?

50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I'm still on. I'm  
2 fine with going through it then. I'm just trying to  
3 think here, you know, what kind of effective actions  
4 could be taken. I'm not -- nothing's coming up  
5 particularly clear.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I got ideas on  
8 how to change the allocations. See the allocation is  
9 tied to the volume of license sales, and I feel that  
10 that's the primary issue. I feel that -- well, I'll  
11 just lay it on the table. I feel that this Proposal  
12 81, the Board of Game is looking at deriving more  
13 revenue off of non-residents hunting these moose, even  
14 though the local Advisory Committees and the Council  
15 voted it down.

16  
17 I feel that this issue, this funding  
18 issue is the driving force of conflicts with various  
19 areas within our region.

20  
21 How to address that would be to  
22 decouple the Pittman-Roberts funds, the wildlife  
23 restoration funds, from license sales. Just allocate  
24 -- take the pool of money and allocate it to the State  
25 on an average of the last three years or some -- just  
26 like they did with IFQs, then the State gets the same  
27 amount of money every year, they don't have to worry  
28 about trying to sell moose to non-residents. The  
29 number of funds continues to increase with expediential  
30 to inflation rates and the general population buying  
31 shells to shoot at targets and stuff. But decoupling  
32 this from the resource would make a huge difference in  
33 how the resource is looked at by the Department and the  
34 Board of Game. And that would be one of the steps that  
35 I would like to see explored at our fall meeting.

36  
37 What do you think about that?

38  
39 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, that sounds fine  
40 but I don't -- I don't think this issue with the state  
41 of Alaska wanting to promote non-resident hunting tag  
42 sales, I don't think that's anything new, it's  
43 certainly not anything unique to Unit 21, I mean that's  
44 part of the main driver of what happened to that  
45 Mulchatna Caribou Herd so, yeah, I'd like to explore  
46 some things. I just -- I don't -- I don't see the  
47 Governor's office being very receptive to going that  
48 direction although I would think different.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see any

1 reason why the Department or the Governor or anybody  
2 else would want to continue to couple the allocation,  
3 an excise tax allocation to license sales. We're  
4 running out of game. We're topping out. And budgets  
5 continue to increase. We need to move away from that  
6 system.

7  
8 This is getting to be all over Alaska,  
9 we're having a lot of different issues, this is just a  
10 pin hole in the dark wall. This is a perfect example  
11 of how Proposal 81, the local Advisory Committees,  
12 everybody was opposed to it but the Board increases the  
13 season to draw more hunters and do you know why it is,  
14 because that moose is worth 2,500-something dollars to  
15 the state of Alaska, between the license and the excise  
16 taxes that's a \$2,400 moose. David James was really  
17 pissed off when Region 3 -- was pissed off when he  
18 found out that the Council was voting against that  
19 proposal because he's looking at the budget part of it.  
20 I think we need to discouple this from the resource,  
21 and so I would like to talk about that.

22  
23 And I feel that the Department of  
24 Interior, who administers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
25 administers that fund can do something about this  
26 issue. So if enough Councils start talking about it,  
27 we can explore various avenues. I feel that this issue  
28 is a big, big factor how our resources get overused or  
29 violate the local, the basic parameters of the Advisory  
30 Committees and the RACs and the Board of Game is  
31 completely ignoring Advisory Committees right and left  
32 because they're looking for non-resident funding; and  
33 we need to go away from that, and that's a big issue  
34 there.

35  
36 So I would like to put that on our  
37 agenda for this next fall meeting, exploring ways, and  
38 I would like the OSM to look at ways of options to  
39 discouple this from -- the allocation from the license  
40 sales.

41  
42 Any other comments from the Council on  
43 this.

44  
45 Ray.

46  
47 MR. COLLINS: Jack, I think at some  
48 point you're going to have to contact Don Young or  
49 someone else back there to see if you could get any  
50 interest in that at the Federal level of introducing

1 something like that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we can't do  
4 that under the Hatch Act, we got slapped down by that  
5 one. We have to work -- we have to bring this issue,  
6 talk it out at the Council level, identify it as an  
7 issue and push it forward to the Federal Subsistence  
8 Board as an action item for annual report and also  
9 letters to go forth. But this is becoming a building  
10 of buildings issue, it -- the resource is not going to  
11 be able to support this methodology any longer. We're  
12 not looking at over 10 years before the budget for the  
13 Alaska Department of Fish and Game outstrips the  
14 resource allocations from non-residents, so we need to  
15 move away from the center and so the -- the Federal  
16 Board and the Executive Branch, they can actually  
17 change this alloc -- this is strictly an allocation  
18 system, the tax is already there, the Delegation  
19 doesn't really need to talk about it, it's strictly how  
20 the excise tax is allocated. That's, I think -- I feel  
21 that the Interior Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
22 administers that fund, they can help us out here. We  
23 just need to highlight the issue and talk about it.

24

25 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, can I make a  
26 comment?

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

29

30 MR. GERVAIS: Would it help our  
31 deliberations or action that we would take this fall if  
32 we could get a letter from Board of Game or from  
33 Chairman of the Board of Game explaining why they're  
34 voting against the ACs on that or that and other  
35 similar situations?

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we could  
38 request that. We could send a letter to the Board of  
39 Game, but they're going to deny that they -- how they  
40 work. But the reality is there were many -- if you got  
41 the voting record of what the Advisory Committee's  
42 advice were, except urban, certain urban ACs got their  
43 way, if you look at what the rural Advisory Committee's  
44 submitted and what was actually adopted by the Board,  
45 many times the rural Advisory Committees were  
46 completely ignored, and this is an example of that,  
47 Proposal 81 here.

48

49 And so we could ask during that --  
50 during our fall meeting we could write a letter

1 requesting why the Board of Game voted in opposition to  
2 the local Advisory Committees and the RAC on many  
3 proposals. If we went down our list of proposals that  
4 I spoke before the Board, many of the proposals were --  
5 the Board voted in opposition, in dire opposition to  
6 the way the Advisory Committee and the RAC positions  
7 were; and that's very frustrating to spend all that  
8 time, all that energy on those proposals and being  
9 completely ignored by the Board process.

10

11 And I think that the.....

12

13 MR. R. WALKER: Jack.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

16

17 MR. R. WALKER: Okay, Jack, I got to  
18 leave here, I got a plane landing in a couple minutes  
19 here. This is Robert here.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. I think  
22 we've explored most of the stuff here for this  
23 teleconference.

24

25 We would like to have another  
26 teleconference on the Allakaket hunts and some other  
27 things.....

28

29 MR. R. WALKER: Right.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....but it wasn't  
32 published correctly and that'll be -- how about May  
33 14th, how's that sound to you, Robert, for a  
34 teleconference, around 11:00 o'clock?

35

36 MR. R. WALKER: Okay, have OSM.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

39

40 MR. R. WALKER: And I'll put it on my  
41 calendar.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

44

45 MR. R. WALKER: Okay.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, have a good  
48 trip, Robert. I really appreciate you representing the  
49 Council at that YRDFA Conference.

50

1 MR. R. WALKER: Well, I just talked to  
2 Chief Jerue and I talked to Gabe Nicholi, who used to  
3 be a chief in Grayling and they were concerned about it  
4 just as much or more than I was, especially the  
5 Grayling crew were more worried about this than anybody  
6 else, I think, because their moose season, hey, you  
7 know, if the water's low -- last year, I had to -- you  
8 know a lot of guys from Anvik did share their moose  
9 with people from Grayling.....

10

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Wow.

11

12  
13 MR. R. WALKER: .....so there goes our  
14 -- there goes our half.

15

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

16

17  
18 MR. R. WALKER: Okay, thanks a lot  
19 guys.

20

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Have a good trip.

21

22  
23 MR. R. WALKER: We'll talk to you soon.

24

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

25

26  
27 MR. R. WALKER: Okay, bye.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we'll end this  
30 teleconference. I want the Council members that are on  
31 line here, what about May 14th to cover the rest of the  
32 game issues. I have to go to the Federal Subsistence  
33 Board meeting and couldn't -- how about May 14th for a  
34 teleconference?

35

MR. GERVAIS: That's fine with me.

36

37  
38 MS. WILKINSON: Who was that, please?

39

REPORTER: Tim.

40

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

43

MS. WILKINSON: Thank you.

44

45  
46 MR. J. WALKER: Yeah, this is Jim  
47 Walker, that's fine with me. But I had one more  
48 question, Jack.

49

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead.

50

1 MR. J. WALKER: And I guess this would  
2 be to Josh or Roy, you know, you mentioned that we got  
3 pretty strict control over the permit system and the  
4 reporting system, but I'm just curious on the  
5 voluntarily side, how many of these permit holders who  
6 bring back the full moose, is there any verification of  
7 that issue?

8  
9 MR. NOWLIN: This is Roy, I -- I'll  
10 make a stab at that. I don't -- you know we have,  
11 under regulation, whether it's State regulation or --  
12 or Federal regulation, of course, we have salvage  
13 requirements. And so if someone doesn't bring them out  
14 of course, that's illegal, and how many of those we  
15 pick -- you know how many of those actually happen, you  
16 know, I'm not aware of the cases that -- that the  
17 Troopers have made out there, if they've made any, and  
18 that's really the only indication that we have of that.

19  
20 But Josh may have some additional  
21 information that he might be able to offer on that.

22  
23 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, I don't really have  
24 any additional information, I guess, it hasn't been  
25 identified to us by the Wildlife Troopers as an area  
26 where there is a problem with that. And like Roy said,  
27 by regulation, they're required to salvage that meat.  
28 But the Troopers are the ones who would enforce that  
29 and the Aniak Trooper, in particular, would work that  
30 area and that hasn't been identified as an issue.

31  
32 MR. J. WALKER: Okay. That's a whole  
33 'nother issue in itself so I wouldn't really want to  
34 get into it but there's definitely some of that that  
35 has been going on. But that's a whole 'nother issue.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks. And  
38 how about May 14th, Micky, for teleconference.

39  
40 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, that will work for  
41 me.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And any other  
44 comments from the Council.

45  
46 MR. STICKMAN: I don't have any. This  
47 is Micky.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Well, I think  
50 that kind of covers the 21E issues that were sort of

1 burning in this area and so I really appreciate  
2 everyone being on line.

3

4                   And I think that it's good for the  
5 Department to hear the frustration so that, you know,  
6 you keep it fresh in your mind what the ramifications  
7 of what the Board actions have on local people's  
8 feelings. And so that's -- the Council's platform is  
9 to let people express their concerns and so that's why  
10 I wanted -- but I do have other issues in other areas  
11 on delineation of Federal proposals for Unit 24 moose  
12 hunting that the Council needs to cover before we go to  
13 our Federal Subsistence Board.

14

15                   Any comments from the Staff or  
16 Department.

17

18                   MR. NOWLIN: Jack, the only thing.  
19 This is Roy.

20

21                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

22

23                   MR. NOWLIN: The only thing that I  
24 would urge you folks to do is, of course, this  
25 allocation issue is up to the Board of Game as you've  
26 mentioned.

27

28                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

29

30                   MR. NOWLIN: I think taking the kind of  
31 political route that you guys are talking about is  
32 where -- whatever solution you may want, that's --  
33 that's really where it lies and so, you know, we -- we  
34 try to confine our -- our comments and activities to  
35 the biological rather than the political so -- and I'm  
36 sure that you recognize that, too, and I just -- to say  
37 that taking a higher level political route with the  
38 Governor or with the Board of Game or legislators is  
39 really the key to working on this issue that you've  
40 identified.

41

42                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, I do  
43 understand the Department's plight and I feel -- I feel  
44 compassion for the Department being put into the  
45 position that they're reliance on license sales and  
46 excise taxes and trying to stay within biological  
47 parameters and I feel that there's a continuous push  
48 and pull with the Board and the resource and the local  
49 users who live closest to that resource.

50

1                   So I would like to move in a direction  
2 that everybody will be happy, it will be good for  
3 Alaskans, good for rural Alaska and good for the  
4 resources, and so I would like to move away from -- if  
5 we've identified an issue I want to bring it out on the  
6 table and so it's coming to a time when we can't keep  
7 beating around the bush on this issue.

8  
9                   Any other comments.

10  
11                  MR. J. WALKER: Jack.

12  
13                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

14  
15                  MR. J. WALKER: I just wanted to thank  
16 the.....

17  
18                  MS. WILKINSON: Who.....

19  
20                  REPORTER: Jim.

21  
22                  MR. J. WALKER: I just wanted to thank  
23 the Department for coming out and doing a moose  
24 collaring that's going to give us some basis to look  
25 migration patterns and whatever else we're having a  
26 problem with the moose in this area and I just want to  
27 say thanks for that issue.

28  
29                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, I do really  
30 appreciate that. And that was a joint project and I  
31 really -- I do want to express -- if Roy's on line  
32 here, I do want to really express my pleasure with the  
33 amount of composition data that we're getting out of  
34 the 21E moose population. That was distinctly lacking  
35 previously. And so I do really, really appreciate the  
36 kind of working together with BLM and the Innoko Refuge  
37 in developing some real good baseline data for this  
38 population. Thank you.

39  
40                  MR. NOWLIN: You're welcome Jack. You  
41 know what really got this launched out there and  
42 brought more attention to 21E was the Moose Management  
43 Plan and what was in there and the agreements that were  
44 reached and that has had a big impact on what we've  
45 done because we have more than -- we probably tripled  
46 the amount of funding that's going into the McGrath  
47 office and to try to address the issues that have been  
48 identified. Not only the Moose Management Plan for  
49 21E, but the plan that was developed for 19A and B, as  
50 it was the same thing, it is -- things are very

1 different now in terms of data collection and the wolf  
2 control program that's ongoing in 19A is showing some  
3 success and we're going to, I think, be in a position  
4 to much better understand 21E and I think that will --  
5 I hope that will help with the frustrations that local  
6 people feel out there.

7  
8 That's certainly my hope, that we can  
9 get some more information and we have the potential for  
10 some control actions if the triggers are reached in  
11 that moose population that were agreed upon during that  
12 plan, and the Board of Game understands that, and they  
13 passed it and they adopted it, and so -- and -- and the  
14 fact that the folks out there, Robert and others who  
15 have participated in the Moose Management Plan and have  
16 wanted to be proactive and to stay out in front of the  
17 situation and not let the 21E moose population go down  
18 and get into the same shape it is in 19A. And I think  
19 that I can speak for this region, we certainly admire  
20 what folks have wanted to do out there and stay out in  
21 front of it and I believe we've been supportive on our  
22 end, too, to the best of our abilities.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that  
27 statement, Roy. I really appreciate the tripling of  
28 the funding, I know your funding is limited, and so I  
29 really appreciate that level of investig -- and then  
30 it's also matched by the other agencies also and I  
31 appreciate their input.

32  
33 Any other comment.

34  
35 MR. STICKMAN: None from me.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

38  
39 MR. STICKMAN: No, I don't have any.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So I think  
42 that covers everything, and I really appreciate  
43 everybody participating and so we'll try and get the  
44 May 14th, which is just previous to the Federal  
45 Subsistence Board and that'll give us time for  
46 notification and it will cover all of our loose ends  
47 for wildlife proposals, State and Federal at that  
48 teleconference.

49  
50 So, okay, thank you very much.

1 MR. J. WALKER: All right, thanks.  
2  
3 MR. STICKMAN: Thanks.  
4  
5 MR. COLLINS: See you guys.  
6  
7 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, bye.  
10  
11 (Off record)  
12  
13 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

