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1 WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3

4 VOLUME I

5

6 McGrath, Alaska

7 March 19, 2002

8 11:00 o'clock a.m.

9

10

11 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

12

13 Ronald Sam, Chairman

14 Raymond Collins

15 Angela Demientieff

16 Emmitt Peters

17 Jack Reakoff

18 Michael Stickman

19 Robert Walker

20

21 Regional Coordinator, Vince Mathews

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1 PROCEEDINGS

2

3 (McGrath, Alaska - 3/19/2002)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I would like
8 to call the Western Interior Regional Subsistence Council
9 meeting to order. At this time I would also recognize
10 the fact that for everyone here to know that we do have
11 newly appointed members to the Western Interior Council.

12

13 Way off to my right we have Robert
14 Walker, would you stand please. Robert Walker, Holy
15 Cross/Anvik.

16

17 And off to my left we have a new member
18 from Ruby Emmitt Peters.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 And at this time Vince, I would like a
23 roll call to establish a quorum.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Emmitt Peters.

26

27 MR. PETERS: Here.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Michael Stickman.

30

31 MR. STICKMAN: Here.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Robert Walker.

34

35 MR. WALKER: Here.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones. Angela
38 Demientieff.

39

40 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Here.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Carl Morgan is in session.
43 He sent a letter saying that he could not get away from
44 his committee assignment so he's absent. Jack Reakoff.

45

46 MR. REAKOFF: Here.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Ray Collins.

49

50 MR. COLLINS: Here.

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1 MR. MATHEWS: Ron Sam.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Here.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you have
6 seven of nine members so you do have a quorum.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I would be
9 honored to ask our vice-Chair for an invocation. Ray,
10 please.

11

12 (Invocation as follows:)

13

14 MR. COLLINS: Heavenly Father, you have
15 provided the resources that people have been living off
16 of in Alaska for thousands of years. We, today are
17 benefiting from the past stewardship of those resources
18 and, now, it's our responsibility to advise in the
19 management of them to provide for the needs of people
20 today and also to provide for the needs of our children
21 in the future. We ask for your guidance, your blessing
22 and your wisdom in our deliberations so that we might
23 make the right choices. These things we ask in Jesus'
24 name.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, could you introduce
27 all our guests, the one on the Federal side, please. And
28 then I'll ask Dave Andersen to introduce State Department
29 people. And I would also ask Ray to introduce our local
30 people. I'd like to recognize everyone here, Vince.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, you
33 always challenge me so I hope I know -- but if I don't, I
34 know enough. I'm Vince Mathews, the Regional Coordinator
35 for Western Interior.

36

37 To my left is Laura Jurgensen, she's the
38 anthropologist for the Yukon-Kuskokwim region.

39

40 Next to her is Donald Mike, who's the
41 coordinator for Eastern Interior.

42

43 George Sherrod, who's the anthropologist
44 for Western Interior.

45

46 Dan LaPlant is our liaison with the Board
47 of Game, so he'll be on deck today on those.

48

49 Tom Kron is the fisheries biologist on
50 the Western Interior Team for the Yukon River.

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1 And let's see Rich Cannon is with the
2 Fisheries Information Services Office, and you'll be
3 talking more about that.

4
5 Next to him is Cliff Schleusner. He's
6 also with that program covering the Yukon. Rich covers
7 the Kuskokwim.

8
9 Let me go up to the front, Jerry Berg is
10 the other fishery biologist on the Western Interior for
11 the Kuskokwim.

12
13 To his left is Rod Simmons, who is the
14 Staff Committee person.

15
16 The reason I'm going through these title
17 is because of the new people, so they understand. I
18 talked about some of you last night on the training. So
19 anyways, Rod Simmons is one of the Staff Committee people
20 that Robert and Emmitt and I talked about.

21
22 Next to him is Greg McClellan who is the
23 Assistant Refuge Manager for Koyukuk/Nowitna.

24
25 Next to him is Fred Andersen who is the
26 Park Service in-season fishery biologist, if I got that
27 right.

28
29 And then way to the left is Bob Schulz,
30 Refuge Manager for Kanuti.

31
32 And then Ingrid McSweeny is the fishery
33 biologist for BLM, Bureau of Land Management.

34
35 Next to her right, I believe it is, is
36 Roger Kay, who flew in a lot of these people.

37
38 And next to him is Mike Spindler, Refuge
39 Manager for Koyukuk/Nowitna.

40
41 Further over is Jeff Denton, who is the
42 biologist for Bureau of Land Management.

43
44 And next to him -- no, can't introduce
45 you.

46
47 Back next to Cliff is Wennona Brown, who
48 is the subsistence coordinator for Yukon/Delta, Kanuti
49 and -- Yukon Flats, excuse me, Kanuti and Arctic National
50 Wildlife Refuge.

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1 And I don't know Shelly's last name so
2 she'll have to introduce herself.

3
4 MS. SIEKANIEC: I'm Sandra Siekaniec, I'm
5 with Innoko.

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Sorry, I even got that
8 wrong. And maybe you ought to introduce your staff there
9 because I don't know the -- Bill, you may want to
10 introduce your staff I haven't met all of them.

11
12 MR. SCHAFF: Okay, I'm Bill Schaff,
13 Refuge Manager of the Innoko Refuge.

14
15 And this is Clara Demientieff, who is our
16 newly hired Refuge Information Technician and Innoko.

17
18 Toby Boudreau, the area wildlife
19 biologist right here.

20
21 That's it for my staff.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And then behind
24 there is Dave Wiswar, who's with the Fishery Resource
25 Office in Fairbanks.

26
27 And then -- oh, there's Ray, Ray
28 Handers, who's going to be a very popular person at this
29 meeting. He's the in-season manager for the Yukon River
30 for the Federal.

31
32 And then Tim Craig is next to him,
33 wildlife biologist for Bureau of Land Management.

34
35 Behind Tim is Orville Huntington. He's
36 from Koyukuk/Nowitna.

37
38 Hollis Twitchell with Denali National
39 Park.

40
41 I don't know the camera man, so.....

42
43 MR. SIEKANIEC: I'm Thomas Siekaniec for
44 the Innoko Refuge.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And then over to
47 your left is Bob Gerhard with the National Park Service.
48 He's another Staff Committee person for those that were
49 in training.

50

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1 And then next to him is Pete Probasco,
2 who is the counterpart to Dan LaPlant on the fisheries --
3 liaison with the Board of Fisheries. And he's going to
4 be going to the Board of Fisheries right after this
5 meeting.

6
7 Did I miss any other Federal -- oh.....

8
9 MR. BEYERSDORF: Geoff Beyersdorf,
10 subsistence coordinator for the Koyukuk/Nowitna.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: I'm sorry, he looked
13 familiar but I wasn't sure. He is the coordinator for
14 the Koyukuk/Nowitna and I apologize for that.

15
16 So with that I'll turn it over to Dave
17 Andersen to see if he can do better.

18
19 MR. ANDERSEN: Well, I got a lot smaller
20 job. I only see five State people here. I'm Dave
21 Andersen with the Division of Subsistence in Fairbanks.

22
23 Fred Bue, with Commercial Fisheries
24 Division in Fairbanks.

25
26 Randy Rogers, wildlife planner in
27 Fairbanks.

28
29 Toby's already been introduced but he's
30 the area biologist and his assistant Shelly Zypanski.

31
32 That's it.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Dave and Vince.
35 I would also acknowledge our subsistence person from
36 Tanana Chiefs, Stanley Ned; stand please. Thank you.
37 Did we miss anybody?

38
39 I'm very honored to see a crowd of this
40 size and I would like to thank you for your presence here
41 today. And with that, I would like to go into Regional
42 Council member concerns, topics, to begin that. I would
43 like to start with my concerns and a brief report on all
44 the meetings I've been hitting.

45
46 One of my main concerns, again, is the
47 State legislature or the head department, Alaska State
48 Department of Fish and Game trying to do away with the
49 Subsistence Division who have been very good friends of
50 ours. And I'd like to address this issue at some point

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1 in this meeting trying to keep the Subsistence Division
2 in place.

3

4 And the other report I have is I attended
5 the focus group. I don't know how much it has to play
6 with this meeting but I know they held meetings statewide
7 and the meeting I attended was at Fairbanks. And this
8 focus group meeting was trying, again, to define
9 subsistence, urban versus rural. And because people that
10 were involved in this small focus group at Fairbanks, we
11 didn't define anything. We just redefined our anger or
12 feelings against each other. One of my close friends got
13 up and started hollering at me so I hollered back at him
14 and he walked out of the meeting. So much for defining
15 urban versus rural. That's about all I can tell you
16 about the focus group meeting.

17

18 The coordinators didn't like it because
19 the people that were there, all of us had too strong of
20 feelings on which side we were. Micky was always there
21 and I would acknowledge that. And he knew what happened
22 there.

23

24 Recently I had the pleasure of attending
25 the YK-Delta Council meeting down at Tuntutuliak, spent
26 two or three days there. We got there late in the
27 evening the first day. We took care of all the small
28 stuff, we met to about 9:30, 10:00 o'clock that first day
29 and the second day we started about 9:00 o'clock in the
30 morning and we kept going until about 11:30 until
31 everybody got out of the gym. The next day we just
32 barely finished the agenda. And had about 10 minutes to
33 catch the plane. We changed a lot of passengers to make
34 the plane. But what I got out of there was that --
35 another concern of mine, I just wanted to put this on the
36 floor, we have some strong letters and some strong
37 feelings and three or four Councils have already taken a
38 stand on the customary trade. At that meeting at
39 Tuntutuliak, the Council couldn't come to a decision and
40 I can't blame them. The AVCP president was there and
41 they had a special meeting set up and that's why our two
42 invited guests from YK-Delta isn't here. They were
43 calling for five people from every village in that area
44 to try and come to a position on customary trade. At
45 this time we do not know where it stands, they are still
46 meeting. And it was awful tough attending that meeting,
47 because we had to use a translator and people were
48 shooting off from English to Yup'ik and I was about five
49 minutes behind all the way through that meeting but I
50 enjoyed my stay there and met a lot of new friends.

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1 Once again, if you were in Anchorage last
2 night you noticed that on the local news that the poll
3 that KTUU polled, 64 to 68 percent favored putting the
4 subsistence issue on the ballot. Whether they do that or
5 not is another story. Because out of those 68 percent
6 that favored putting it on the ballot, I think 78 percent
7 said they couldn't see the State legislature putting it
8 on the ballot. So you know where we stand there.
9

10 And that's about the last meeting I went
11 to. And one of my projects or something that I want to
12 share with is sharing the Chair because I will start
13 working nine hours a day, six days a week starting next
14 month sometime, so I would like to see Ray and Jack take
15 a lot of the workload off. You know, I get a lot of
16 calls at all times of the day from all kinds of people
17 and I do a lot of work at home. But if I go to work I
18 don't think I will have the time to do that. And with
19 that, I'd like to put that on the agenda at some time
20 during the meeting, maybe at the end.

21
22 With that, Regional Council member
23 concerns. Ray, did you have something?
24

25 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I think most of my
26 concerns are on the agenda. The one that, in terms of
27 coming from this area, the closest is the one in the YK
28 area -- or in the Innoko Flats area there and we have
29 Robert and Angela here to speak to that but it's
30 concerning moose management in that area of the state. I
31 think it's a very important resource, it's been healthy
32 so far and we need to make sure that the planning efforts
33 go forward to keep that healthy. And so that's my
34 concern and I think we'll be discussing that further on
35 the agenda, what's happening in that area.
36

37 I was on the Customary Trade Task Force
38 and I know we're at a critical time in that of what kind
39 of regulations we're going to go forward with. We're
40 getting a lot of input, I understand, from around the
41 state. But I'm concerned that we work that out, that we
42 allow that to continue in the appropriate manner so that
43 people can continue to sell part of their subsistence
44 catch in customary trade. But at the same time we have
45 to protect the resources, so it's going to take some real
46 wisdom to figure out how we're going to do that.
47

48 Those are my two areas of concern.

49
50 I'd also like to mention that you're all,

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1 the Staff and members are all invited to my house for
2 supper this evening. It's two houses down, it's the log
3 house right behind the purple house and it will give us a
4 chance to visit in a more informal setting. It's kind of
5 a -- it's a new house and this will be kind of the first
6 open house we've held here so you're welcome to come to
7 that and I hope that most of you can make it. It's at
8 6:00 this evening.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. We'll go
13 on down the line. Micky.

14

15 MR. STICKMAN: I have one, I guess you
16 would call it specific concern on -- you know, on the
17 Koyukuk River, you know, when they choose the guides for
18 the guide areas. I was wondering, you know, if there was
19 a way for the public to be involved in the process
20 because, you know, it seems like, you know, the people in
21 the local area don't have a say in who gets to guide in
22 their traditional hunting grounds. And I know the people
23 back home have a preference or they have some comments
24 but, you know, the last time I asked, you know, who's
25 involved in the process, nobody ever answered my question
26 about who gets, you know, how do you choose a guide for a
27 certain area.

28

29 You know, I know Virgil Umphenour's two
30 guide areas are up in the Koyukuk River, so, you know, I
31 would like to have a public process for that kind of a
32 deal, you know, give the local people an opportunity to
33 speak their mind because it is their traditional hunting
34 lands.

35

36 And the other one that I had was the
37 extension of the controlled use area, further up on the
38 Koyukuk River and that's about it.

39

40 That's the only two I have.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. Emmitt.
43 I know you're new but if you.....

44

45 MR. PETERS: Thank you. I'm new to this
46 Board here so I just got one thing I want to talk about
47 in Ruby area, that is the wolves. We'd like to see if we
48 can get control of these wolves. Get a firm hand on it.
49 If we can figure out a way to up the bounty hunt or
50 anything that will get these local people -- have

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1 something to do. That's one way of getting them to trap
2 these wolves or hunt them and I think that's a good idea.

3

4 And that's my main topic right now, is we
5 got to get an upper hand on these wolves. They're taking
6 a toll on a lot of moose in the area and I'm sure it's
7 like that all over. It's kind of hard to limit it -- get
8 a firm hand on these things -- animals, because they're
9 out there doing their thing. I know they got to survive
10 but we got to survive, too. And we'd like to see
11 something done about this.

12

13 That's about all I have to say. Like I
14 say, I'm new to this and there will be a lot more down
15 the road, I'll have more to bring up. But right now
16 that's all I have. And I want to thank you all for
17 coming here, it's a new thing for me to get into besides
18 dog-mushing. And I'm going to try my best to try to
19 cooperate with you guys and understand what you guys have
20 to say.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Emmitt. Jack
25 Reakoff.

26

27 MR. REAKOFF: I attended this last Game
28 Board meeting and what came up as a big concern that I
29 seen was that the Board of Game has to weigh the game
30 against what the game is worth to the non-resident
31 hunters a lot of the time. What was told at that Game
32 Board meeting was that the State legislature only gives
33 236,000 to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game of a 27
34 million dollar budget. What they told us there was that
35 license sales attract Federal funding from Pittman Robert
36 funds at a rate of -- for every \$1 of license sales they
37 get \$5 of Federal funding, Pittman, Roberts and Dingle
38 Funds. I feel that that's painting the Board and the
39 Alaska Department of Fish and Game into a corner on
40 trying to maintain high sport use, otherwise they have no
41 funding to do surveys and all that kind of stuff.

42

43 And I feel that this is a tremendous
44 problem for management in Alaska on State lands. And I
45 feel that this Council should, through the Federal Board,
46 transmit to the State of Alaska Legislature -- I feel
47 that the legislature should have a little more feeling of
48 worth of the game than to appropriate \$236,000. I know
49 it's a time of budget restraints and so forth, but the
50 State of Alaska is very instrumental in managing a third

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1 of the lands in Alaska. And that's a concern of mine.
2 So when it gets down to who's going to make the cuts,
3 they don't -- you know, the Board really has to wrestle
4 if they want to stop non-resident use.

5
6 Another concern is that there's no
7 commercial service board and guides basically have no way
8 of being controlled. So this is another aspect that
9 affects rural people, you know, guides are hunting
10 heavily in certain areas and there's really no control by
11 any board on those guiding. On Refuge land that's not an
12 issue.

13
14 Under the Advisory Committee system, the
15 Federal and State -- the Federal Board and the State
16 Board both benefit from the Advisory Committee system.
17 It brings people from Advisory Committees together and
18 they talk about on a wide range of individuals about the
19 issues that affect many villages. With the State
20 Legislature cutting funding way down, I feel that the
21 Advisory Committee system -- I know on the Koyukuk River
22 Advisory Committee, which I'm on, we've had -- we've been
23 -- on the off-cycle years we have zero meetings and on a
24 cycle year, when the Interior was visited we had one
25 meeting. So we couldn't even have a meeting to
26 promulgate regulations, proposals. So I feel, you know,
27 that the Federal system should look at possibly funding
28 at least one Advisory Committee meeting to facilitate
29 this -- it's a necessary process in how people -- is more
30 public forum, the Advisory Committee's then bring things
31 into this Federal management.

32
33 The positive things that happened at that
34 Game Board meeting was that 21 and 24 had meat on the
35 bone, salvage for moose and the ribs regulations put on
36 the books. I felt that that was very critical -- rural
37 users have really been offended by boned out meat coming
38 in in a spoiled condition. I know there are people who
39 bone their meat and they do a good job but that's not the
40 majority of the meat that I've been seeing. The majority
41 of the meat that I've been seeing boned out is all thrown
42 in game bags and some person gave me some last fall that
43 was 24 hours in game bags all stuck together, and it was
44 almost ready to sour. So this meat on the bone issue is
45 really going to help out with the vision between the way
46 rural people and urban people handle meat. This will
47 bring a lot of wanton waste under control. So I applaud
48 the Game Board on passage of that.

49
50 Those are some of the issues that I have,

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1 but I won't go on all day. I wanted this Council to be
2 aware of those things.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to introduce you
5 to Gary Edwards, one of our Federal Subsistence Board
6 members. Gary, would you stand up.

7

8 MR. EDWARDS: It's good to be here.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: And would you
11 introduce.....

12

13 MR. PRUSZENSKI: Good morning. My name
14 is Stan Pruzenski, I'm with the US Fish and Wildlife,
15 Division of Law Enforcement in Anchorage. Good morning.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Angela.

18

19 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 Most of my concerns are going to be addressed on the
21 agenda. But we're still having a lot problems with
22 people going out on the ice to go ice fishing. They're
23 being targeted by someone out of Aniak and they'll stop
24 them right there on the river and ask them where's your
25 fishing license. And when you go to get your supper on
26 the river you don't carry your license with you, I mean,
27 who does? I mean, I don't. If I want to go out and a
28 couple fish for dinner, I don't look all over my house to
29 find a fishing license, I'm going to go out and get some
30 dinner, just to eat. They've been harassed quite a bit,
31 the boys who are going out getting some fish for the
32 elder people.

33

34 And then we're also being targeted as
35 wolf hunters by Fish and Game, even though we're not wolf
36 hunters. Some of our boys are out cutting a dog trail,
37 because of all the snow and they were stopped by Fish and
38 Game and said, why, are you hunting wolves and they were
39 not hunting wolves, they were cutting a dog trail.
40 Another person was coming to a funeral and got stopped by
41 Fish and Game and said, why are you hunting wolves and he
42 was not, he was attending a funeral in our village. He
43 was so hurt by this person that stopped him, he turned
44 around and he did not attend the funeral for an elder in
45 our village. People are wondering what is happening with
46 Fish and Game, why are they targeting our area?

47

48 The other concern is the fish. We're
49 going to be cut again this year and people are not too
50 happy about the new fishing schedule for 2002. They'd

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1 like to see it open more if the fish do come in.

2

3 That's all my concerns. Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Angela.

6 Robert.

7

8 MR. WALKER: Yes, thank you, Mr.

9 Chairman. I'm a new board member here. I'm originally

10 from Holy Cross but I live in Anvik. And a lot of this,

11 I'm going to listen and try to learn what I can from all

12 the other board members and plus all the other people

13 that work here for the Federal and the State. I've known

14 Toby for a long time, I'm glad you could make it Toby.

15

16 You know after all these years of bending

17 the rules, maybe I could learn how to help to straighten

18 the rules out.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert. With

23 that, I'd like to go into the review and adoption of the

24 agenda. Again, for all our guests, if you are under time

25 constraints or time limitations, please let Vince know so

26 we can try and fit you on the agenda before you leave.

27 And also do we have those blue forms?

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: We do have forms around

30 here, but I'm not sure they've been put out. That's for

31 testimony but I think if you raise your hand we'll be

32 able to get them and then -- yeah, there are blue forms

33 back there if you'd like. What that means is you fill it

34 out, put down what issue you want, if you do have a time

35 constraint, which Ron mentioned, please put it on there.

36 It's more for general public but if Staff also want to

37 use the blue forms, that's fine. And that way we keep

38 track of who needs to testify but it's not always

39 necessary.

40

41 And for many of the managers here, that's

42 why we got this big round table, as the issues come up

43 we're going to try to get most up at the table if need be

44 so we can keep the discussion going instead of going back

45 to the chair and back up again. You'll sense that or Ron

46 or I will pull you up to the table. But it's a lot

47 easier to keep the topic fresh and moving if we have

48 people at the table.

49

50 Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, we are user friendly
2 or try to be. Is there a motion to adopt the agenda or
3 any corrections or additions to the agenda?

4
5 MR. PETERS: I make a motion to adopt
6 agenda.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

9
10 MR. COLLINS: I'll second that.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further discussion.

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we have a little bit
19 of rearranging on the agenda. It became apparent at the
20 YK meeting that it would be best for Rod Simmons to talk
21 about the streamlining of Federal fisheries, i-season,
22 which is F on -- I have so many copies here -- it's F on
23 Page 3, to move that over to under the Yukon River
24 section where he's going to speak. It worked out a lot
25 better at Tuntutuliak to do that.

26
27 Okay, that's one suggestion. The other
28 suggestion is, Ron, you remember that Robert Nick, the
29 vice-Chair of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Council
30 requested this Council take a look at his draft special
31 action that he's still working on. And that, I thought,
32 would be best to discuss right after we deal with the
33 Kuskokwim River under fishery topics.

34
35 And for Staff and Council, we have copies
36 of that draft special action. It's not been submitted
37 yet from Robert Nick. Council members you'll have it in
38 this blue file and I haven't had time to find the extra
39 copies for Staff but we'll -- it's in one of the boxes.
40 So we would put that underneath, after we cover the Yukon
41 and Kuskokwim River, because the action is requesting
42 both those drainages. So it would go right at the end of
43 X(D), right before you go to X(E) on Page 3, I think it
44 is.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this all still
47 scheduled for tomorrow?

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Yes, it's all
50 scheduled for tomorrow.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that fine with everyone
2 so far?

3
4 (Council nods affirmatively)

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. There is a motion
7 on the floor, any further discussion. Corrections.
8 Additions.

9
10 MR. STICKMAN: Excuse me, Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

13
14 MR. STICKMAN: Before we adopt the
15 agenda, I was hoping somewhere in there we could put my
16 concern of who gets to be chosen for a guide in your
17 area.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. Would
20 this come under today's discussion on our proposals,
21 Vince?

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Well, not -- it may detract
24 from the proposals, Mr. Chair. It might be better, I
25 know it's later on the agenda, but it might be under
26 agency reports. That would give time for Refuge Staff to
27 put together a presentation on it, on how that process
28 works. We got quite a few Refuges here, I assume they
29 follow the same process but it would give them more time
30 to prepare. So that would be tomorrow afternoon under
31 agency reports, which is XVI, that might be the best
32 place.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that okay, Micky?

35
36 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, thanks, Ron.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any further
39 additions or corrections? Go ahead, Jack.

40
41 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to know what
42 the appropriateness of the Council and Federal Board
43 process requesting the legislature to require non-
44 resident hunters to be guided. I feel that that's a
45 paramount issue in the Western Interior. Non-resident
46 hunters being flown out by air taxis and hunting
47 extensively on their own, there's wanton waste and
48 conflicts with rural users in a lot of areas because
49 they're floating rivers and so forth. I feel this is a
50 major issue statewide but specifically for rural

00016

1 residents having to have conflicts with non-resident
2 hunters. I feel that guided hunters generally -- or the
3 guides usually try to stay away from the local people.
4 Non-resident unguided hunters are a big problem and 90
5 percent -- one officer told me that 90 percent of his
6 wanton waste cases are non-resident hunters hunting on
7 their own for moose.

8

9 And I would like to know the
10 appropriateness of this Council writing to the State
11 Legislature to make a statute to require non-residents to
12 be guided. This is an issue statewide, but specifically
13 in the Western Interior region. And I would like to put
14 that on the agenda if we can do it.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Would this come under
17 proposals?

18

19 MR. REAKOFF: It's just a letter of
20 recommendation basically.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, since
23 it is addressing Alaska Department -- addressing the
24 State of Alaska management, the way I would see the best
25 place to put it would be right after you talk about
26 update of Board of Game actions, which is on Page 2
27 towards the top. You asked also the legality of it, you
28 are an advisory group set up by the Secretary of
29 Interior, you can submit information to various groups
30 based on Section .805 of ANILCA, I'm not a lawyer but I'm
31 just saying that, as Staff we'll assist you with that.
32 The jurisdiction question would be addressed by the
33 legislature itself. And as you know, you have a member
34 who is a State representative that may be able to assist
35 you in how to plug that into the system on that. So that
36 is -- I mean if that's what you're looking for, Jack, I
37 mean we've never restricted you to just deal with Federal
38 issues. I would caution you if it was going to take a
39 lot of time away from your full charge here, that's all.

40

41 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, go ahead.

44

45 MR. REAKOFF: These non-resident hunters
46 are eligible to hunt on all Federal lands, they're under
47 the State jurisdiction, we cannot restrain them under the
48 Federal program, the State of Alaska is the authority to
49 constrain them and I feel that it's in the best interest
50 of the people of the Western Interior to address this

00017

1 issue. And I feel that a letter should be written and
2 I'll try to draft something up that should be submitted
3 to each. And I found out from the past Chair of the Game
4 Board that they sent it to the leadership, that that
5 issue was basically dead-headed. I think that all of the
6 representatives and senators should be sent a letter,
7 specifically to each one to bring it to their attention
8 that this is very statewide and specifically conflicting
9 with rural residents. And so I would like to have that
10 on the agenda, at least, maybe after -- in Section VII,
11 under (D), after Board update. So I'll try and work on
12 that tonight.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Jack.
17 Any further additions, corrections. If not, we have a
18 motion on the floor and it has been seconded to adopt the
19 agenda as revised. Further discussion.

20

21 MR. STICKMAN: I'll call for the
22 question, I guess, if there is no further discussion.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: The question has been
25 called for. All those in favor of the motion signify by
26 saying aye.

27

28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

31

32 (No opposing votes)

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings
37 us up to the minutes. There's two things I need to ask
38 you about the minutes -- well, three things actually. I
39 know they're quite lengthy but you did cover quite a bit
40 of topics at your joint Regional Council meeting. And,
41 again, we'll try to bring the new Council members up to
42 speed. Basically because of the fishery concerns on the
43 Yukon and Kuskokwim River, the three Regional Councils of
44 the Yukon-Kuskokwim, Western Interior and Eastern
45 Interior met last October in the Millennium Hotel. So
46 those are in front of you. With those I need to point
47 out some corrections that were submitted by the State.
48 They're in your packet but I just need to note for the
49 record because you received copies without those
50 corrections.

00018

1 So on Page 2 I failed to put down there
2 that Tom Vania was present at the meeting so it has been
3 corrected and it is in front of you.

4
5 The other thing is on Page 4, the second
6 paragraph down, it starts with the chinook salmon, based
7 on post season sonar.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, Tab B?

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: I'm sorry, Tab B as in
12 Bethel.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: What page?

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Page 4, second paragraph.
17 That's on Page 4, Tab B. I'm bringing these up because
18 the topics that were discussed were quite sensitive and I
19 want to make sure we get the minutes to reflect it as
20 correctly as possible.

21
22 So under the second paragraph that starts
23 with the chinook salmon, down where you see it says,
24 precision of their in-season tools, the area biologist
25 requested that the word, small, be put in there. So it
26 now reads, due to the precision of their in-season tools,
27 small surpluses beyond escapement are difficult to
28 detect. The copy I sent you did not have small in it
29 before.

30
31 Okay, these are small corrections but we
32 want to get it as best as we can.

33
34 Further down under the bullated items,
35 those are those black dots there under questions and
36 answers, the third one, it says, George asked how they
37 dealt with -- the second sentence, it should read, they
38 use both setnets and driftnets and they pick a time just
39 after high tide to drift. The words added were to drift.

40
41 Okay, the last sentence in that bullated
42 item, the area biologist requested this be put in there.
43 He requested that the setnets give them relative, he
44 asked the word relative to be put in there, give them
45 relative abundance data and then, parenthesis, below
46 average, average or above average. So he requested the
47 words, relative and above, below and et cetera be added.

48
49 Final edit that they requested and it's
50 on Page 6 and it's paragraph number 3 and it starts with

00019

1 US/Canada salmon agreement. The sentence down about a
2 little over half way that starts the fall chum salmon
3 agreement portion, the transcript has the fall chum
4 salmon agreement portion has 51 to 71 percent Alaskan
5 harvest of the total allowable catch. The area biologist
6 says it's 65 to 71 percent. So I'm bound to go to the
7 transcript so that's why I put in there, parenthesis and
8 question mark.

9

10 Those are the only corrections that were
11 submitted for both minutes of the tri-Council and then
12 when you met separately as a separate council of the
13 Western Interior. So those are there for corrections.

14

15 The other question I have to ask you, is
16 this style still the style you would like to follow and
17 so I need input on that.

18

19 So that's all I have and I do appreciate
20 that Tom Vania of Alaska Department of Fish and Game did
21 go through the minutes and provided those corrections.
22 Because we go back to these minutes later when issues
23 move along. So I, in no way want to reflect that I'm, you
24 know, disappointed or whatever. I do appreciate any
25 edits that come in because it makes the best record so
26 we're in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee
27 Act.

28

29 With that, I'll stop.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I got one question,
32 Vince. Which one is correct, 51 to 71 percent of 65 to
33 71 percent?

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I didn't get
36 a chance to talk to other Staff on that so if someone
37 here knows the current agreement amount we can correct it
38 at this moment. Because I know Tom Vania's involved with
39 that but, again, the transcript.....

40

41 MR. ANDERSEN: 65 to 71.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, so Fred Andersen,
44 you're saying it's 65 to 71?

45

46 MR. ANDERSEN: I believe so.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Yep?

49

50 MR. ANDERSEN: (Nods affirmatively)

00020

1 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I think what we're
2 having here is that it's in the process. So I don't want
3 to make a big deal out of this but he is the area
4 biologist and I -- again, I'm bound to the transcript and
5 the transcript clearly had 51 to 71 percent.

6
7 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair, could we approve
8 them with the understanding that the correct amount will
9 be verified and put in the official minutes that way we
10 don't have to sit here and debate about what it is?

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that in the form of a
13 motion?

14
15 MR. COLLINS: Well, we got a floor on the
16 motion, I don't think we need an amendment. But if
17 that's our understanding, I think we could pass it with
18 that understanding.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have a motion on the
21 floor?

22
23 MR. COLLINS: We have a motion to adopt
24 these minutes that he's now amending.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you sure?

27
28 MR. COLLINS: Or did we?

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tina?

31
32 REPORTER: (Shakes head negatively)

33
34 MR. PETERS: We already did, no?

35
36 MR. COLLINS: Oh, that was the agenda,
37 I'm sorry. Okay, we don't have a.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: That was the agenda.

40
41 MR. COLLINS: The agenda, you're right.
42 I stand corrected. Mr. Chairman, I'll move that we adopt
43 the minutes with the understanding that the correct
44 amount will be verified and inserted.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

47
48 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Angela.

00021

1 MR. STICKMAN: Ron, can I say something?

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

4

5 MR. STICKMAN: Before we adopt the
6 minutes, you have me in there as absent, actually I was
7 in Anchorage but I was there for Alaska Inter-Tribal
8 Council and, you know, one of the things when I first got
9 on the Western Interior, we said that we're not going to
10 set up any meetings during any major conventions, you
11 know, because we all wear different hats, you know. I
12 sit on the Tribal Council, so I have a problem when
13 there's -- when we're having meetings to discuss issues
14 important to the people and, you know, there's two
15 conflicting conventions at the same time. You know, we
16 need to keep on track with the policies that we set.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. I think
19 that your absence was discussed and I think it was more
20 or less excused. I just don't think we put it in a
21 motion of any sort. But I'd like the record to reflect
22 what Micky said about Council members trying to attend
23 all the conventions and all the meetings that we have in
24 the state. With the consent of the Council, I would like
25 that reflected in the records.

26

27 (Council nods affirmatively)

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further additions.
30 Corrections. Just for your information, these minutes
31 were passed, with what little revision that we had at
32 Tuntutuliak and I believe it's already passed by the
33 Eastern Interior, too. Any further additions,
34 corrections.

35

36 I know these minutes are long and they're
37 always time consuming, but we did send them out to --
38 without the corrections, as Vince stated. Further
39 additions. Corrections.

40

41 MR. STICKMAN: Hearing none I call for
42 the question, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Question's
45 been called. All those in favor of the motion, signify
46 by saying aye.

47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

00022

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings
6 us up -- I got to watch the clock here, that brings us up
7 to the regulatory proposal review and recommendations. I
8 think at this point, if the Council agrees, I usually use
9 overheads to bring them but this room is not real
10 conducive for that. So unless you want me to set up an
11 overhead section here, it's up to you on that, we can do
12 that real quickly. I just got deterred trying to get
13 some stuff for this meeting. Because you see down there
14 we have a process to make sure you have a clean record.
15 So if you want to use overheads you can, if not, I'll
16 just introduce the proposal. You have the material in
17 front of you.

18

19 The audience, many of them have the book
20 and have the same materials. If we start having more
21 public here they won't have the same material. That's
22 the real reason why I have the overheads is when we have
23 public present. So we need your advice on that, if we
24 need to use overheads or not.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the pleasure of the
27 Council? Any feelings one way or the other? I know Pete
28 DeMatteo couldn't make it, he's having trouble with his
29 legs and not quite well enough to come here. Any
30 direction from the Council? Do you want to go directly
31 into the proposals?

32

33 (Council nods affirmatively)

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Is that a
36 consensus?

37

38 (Council nods affirmatively)

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, the
43 process we got set up here and it will get flexible as we
44 move along but it creates a good record is, I'll
45 introduce the proposal and the analysis will be presented
46 by whoever has the lead on it, which could be -- like
47 Tom's going to do Proposal 1 and then they'll bring up
48 the analysis which is under Tab C. And then agency
49 comments, I'll need direction from the State, if they're
50 going to present those or should I summarize them. So I

00023

1 think the State will present those, those are in the
2 book. Then it's open for public debate, public comments,
3 if there's public that want to testify. Then we go back
4 to written public comments, which I'll present. And then
5 you guys deliberate and make recommendations and
6 justification.

7
8 It sounds a little stiff here right now
9 but you've done it for years and once we get in this
10 rhythm, then that way we create a good record. That way
11 anybody who wants to public comment on the proposal knows
12 the process and can get your attention.

13
14 So, if you would like, that's how we're
15 going to proceed.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. What's the
18 feeling of the Council? You know, when we introduce
19 these proposals, we usually make a motion to adopt at
20 that time, do you want to go through that same procedure?

21
22 (Council nods affirmatively)

23
24 MR. PETERS: It's okay with me.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Statewide Proposal
27 1.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
30 Proposal No. 1 is submitted by Craig Fleener of Fort
31 Yukon. It is to include brown bear and black bear in the
32 furbearer definition and allow parts to be sold. And
33 that's Proposal 1. I will be passing out, while Mr. Kron
34 will give the analysis, the summary of Regional Council
35 recommendations. This is a statewide proposal so I don't
36 know how many Councils have commented so far, it looks
37 like eight. So it looks like eight. So I think Tom will
38 give you a summary of those recommendations as well.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time the Chair
43 will entertain a motion to adopt Proposal No. 1.

44
45 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.

46
47 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved by Micky and
50 seconded by Jack for discussion purposes. Mr. Kron.

00024

1 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, members of the
2 Regional. My name is Tom Kron from the Federal
3 Subsistence Management Office. Information concerning
4 this proposal can be found under Tab C starting on Page 1
5 in your notebook.

6
7 Both brown and grizzly bears are the same
8 species whether they live along the coast or in the
9 interior of Alaska. In this analysis and presentation,
10 both brown and grizzly bears are generically referred to
11 as brown bear.

12
13 With the exception of an article of
14 handicraft made from the fur of black bears, the
15 purchase, sale or barter of any part of a bear is
16 prohibited. The sale of brown bear hides has been
17 illegal since 1925. And this species has never been
18 classified as a furbearer in Alaska.

19
20 Black bear was originally classified as a
21 furbearer until 1938 when it was reclassified as a game
22 species. The sale of black bear hides of the black,
23 brown or chocolate color phases was allowed in Alaska
24 prior to 1971. The sale of blue glacier color phase
25 hides of black bear species was allowed prior to 1964.

26
27 Both black and brown bear populations are
28 generally healthy across most of Alaska. There are
29 concerns for several relatively small isolated
30 populations of brown bears. Bears have the lowest
31 population growth rates of North American land mammals.
32 Significant population declines tend to be long and
33 difficult to reverse. Current harvest levels of black
34 and brown bears in Alaska appear to be fairly high when
35 compared to the historic record.

36
37 Native Alaskans have harvested bears and
38 competed with them for subsistence resources for at least
39 14,000 years. Both black and brown bears have
40 traditionally been very important in Alaska Native
41 cultures. In certain areas of the state the harvest and
42 handling of bears is subject to cultural requirements.
43 In the Koyukuk Athabascan culture, for example, it would
44 be inappropriate to consider selling bear hides and
45 parts.

46
47 There is a commercial market for bear
48 hides, claws, skulls, teeth and gallbladders. Commercial
49 sales of legally taken bear hides and parts are allowed
50 in parts of Canada and the Lower 48 states. Despite

00025

1 legal trade in some areas there remains a strong
2 underground market for bear parts. There are concerns
3 that legalize sale of bear hides and parts taken on
4 Federal land in Alaska would provide incentives for
5 illegal hunting and illegal sales.

6
7 This proposal seeks a major change in the
8 approach to black and brown bear management in Alaska.
9 Such a change could be expected to impact a wide variety
10 of related programs and regulations.

11
12 Given the commercial aspects of this
13 proposal and the legal and jurisdictional issues it may
14 be most appropriate for the proponent to work with the
15 Alaska Board of Game to address his concerns.

16
17 Due to the cultural, biological and
18 jurisdictional concerns associated with this broad
19 statewide proposal, the preliminary Staff conclusion is
20 to oppose the proposal. It is recommended that Federal
21 regulations be aligned with the State regulations
22 concerning the sale of handicraft items using black bear
23 fur.

24
25 This concludes the summary of this
26 analysis. I welcome your comments and questions. Thank
27 you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The
32 next thing would be agency comments, unless you have
33 questions for Tom. But this is going to get a lot of
34 people up to the table so I think we'll have Fish and
35 Game present their comments and then I can cover -- well,
36 we'll just go with that, agency comments.

37
38 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chair, since this is
39 the first one, let me say that Terry Haynes usually
40 provides the Department comments. He couldn't be here at
41 this meeting. Our Division usually takes the lead in
42 consolidating the comments on the Federal proposals from
43 the other divisions, we get comments from Wildlife and
44 the Fisheries divisions and bring to you a State position
45 on these. And what I'll basically do is refer you just
46 to the page number where we have detailed comments
47 already. There are a couple of proposals that we didn't
48 get comments in so I'll have more to say about those.

49
50 But on this one, Proposal 1, I'd refer

00026

1 the Council to our comments on Page 20, Tab C. And the
2 Department continues to oppose this proposal. But we
3 support the preliminary conclusion which would allow the
4 sale of handicrafts made from the fur of black bear which
5 is consistent with State regulations.

6

7 That's it.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Vince.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, there is one
12 other agency report -- two agency reports, I'm stumbling
13 here, is anybody here from the State of Alaska,
14 Department of Public Safety? I don't want to give their
15 comments if they're present. Okay, I don't see any here.
16 It is on Page 20.

17

18 It's from Colonel Joel L. Hard, Director
19 State of Alaska, Department of Public Safety. They
20 oppose this proposal because they believe that allowing
21 the sale of bear parts will increase illegal take and
22 waste of bears and will exacerbate the Black Market
23 issues and will go against the North American trend that
24 is more restricted concerning the sale. And it is not
25 consistent with the customary and traditional practices.
26 So the Department of Public Safety is proposed to
27 Proposal No. 1. That's the other agency.

28

29 I believe Stanley Ned for Tanana Chiefs
30 would like to speak.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Stanley Ned.

33

34 MR. NED: Good morning or afternoon,
35 whatever time it is. My name is -- for the record, my
36 name is Stanley Ned, I work for Tanana Chiefs as the
37 wildlife Staff researcher.

38

39 This proposal has been going around for
40 some time and it surfaces once in awhile and tests the
41 waters, I suppose. But we do have really strong feelings
42 on it and Tanana Chiefs is opposed to the sale of bear
43 parts. Especially in the Koyukuk River, we strongly
44 believe and have high respect for the games that feed us
45 since time and memorial. So for that reason and for the
46 reasons that the Department Wildlife Protection gave,
47 we're opposed to it.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Stanley.

50 Anybody else? Yes, Hollis. State your name and agency

00027

1 please.

2

3 MR. TWITCHELL: Hollis Twitchell, I'm
4 with Denali National Park. I'd like to bring a letter to
5 the Council from the Denali Subsistence Resource
6 Commission which met February 22nd. It didn't get into
7 your record in time because of the shortness between the
8 two meetings.

9

10 The Commission did review several
11 proposals and one of them was Proposal 1 and if I may,
12 I'll read you their recommendation. The Denali
13 Subsistence Resource Commission unanimously opposed
14 Proposal 1 which was to include brown and black bears in
15 the furbearer definition and to allow bear parts to be
16 sold. The Commission therefore approves the Staff
17 analysis, preliminary conclusion for the reasons stated
18 in the justification.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Hollis. Any
21 further public comments, Vince?

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, since we're
24 also training the new members, I'll just take 10 seconds
25 here. For Robert and Emmitt, we talked about last night
26 that you make appointments to different commissions.
27 Hollis Twitchell just presented the recommendation of
28 your kind of sister advisory group for the National Parks
29 which are called Subsistence Resource Commissions. That
30 happens to be the Denali one. Ray Collins serves on
31 that. You have no [sic] appointments to the Denali SRCs,
32 it's called SRC, when we move along. And then you do
33 make appointments to Gates of the Arctic and I don't know
34 if there'll be reports later. So just so you understand
35 why you're hearing from this Commission, they deal with
36 all the subsistence issues that are on Park lands and you
37 have a very long good working relationship with both of
38 those Commissions.

39

40 So I appreciate the moment to bring the
41 two members up to speed because these things start moving
42 and it does get a little confusing.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Thanks,
45 again, Hollis. Any further public testimony. Summary of
46 written comments or was that handled already?

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there is
49 one and Tom is going to give you a summary of the seven
50 or eight other Regional Councils. And if Staff know of

00028

1 others just interrupt me. Production of the books happen
2 before the meeting so things can come in that don't make
3 the book. But to my knowledge there's just one letter
4 submitted and it's from Glen Alsworth, Sr., of Port
5 Alsworth, Alaska. He's in favor of this proposal because
6 the new wording -- he's in favor of the proposal, excuse
7 me. His belief is that any time that a subsistence user
8 can derive more benefit from legally taken subsistence
9 resources, the better.

10

11 So with that, that's the summary of
12 written comments that I am aware of.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Kron.

15

16 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, I've prepared
17 written copies for you to look at and passed them out,
18 but I'll very quickly go through the draft summary of the
19 Regional Council comments. Again, this is a statewide
20 proposal, it is being reviewed by all 10 Regional
21 Councils. And seven of those have met up through the end
22 of last week and this paper provides a draft summary of
23 their recommendations.

24

25 First of all, Eastern Interior Regional
26 Advisory Council, this is the home Regional Council,
27 deferred the proposal and supported allowing the sale of
28 handicraft made from black bear fur.

29

30 The North Slope Regional Council opposed
31 the proposal and supported allowing the sale of
32 handicraft made from black bear fur.

33

34 The Bristol Bay Regional Council opposed
35 the proposal and supported allowing the sale of
36 handicraft made from black bear fur.

37

38 The Seward Peninsula Regional Council
39 opposed the proposal.

40

41 The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional
42 Council opposed the proposal.

43

44 The Southcentral Regional Council
45 supported the proposal with modifications.

46

47 And last week the Southeast Regional
48 Council supported the proposal.

49

50 So you have the full range from support

00029

1 to opposition. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mr. Kron. For
4 our new members benefit it's always been our mode of
5 operandi or the way we operate that we make all our
6 motions to adopt these proposals. But if you know what
7 side you stand that's the way your vote will reflect.
8 And I'd like to let all the new Staff members, make all
9 the new Staff members aware of how we operate. But we
10 put everything on the floor for discussion first and then
11 we vote on this.

12

13 Any further, Vince?

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, just to help,
16 Tom, would have probably pointed it out later is that the
17 YK Regional Council, Yukon-Kuskokwim requested that a
18 proposal be submitted on the regulations that would align
19 with the State. So you could probably take that they
20 support the Federal adoption of those regulations because
21 they directed Staff to submit a proposal next round. So
22 that concludes all I know from the Regional Councils.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack Reakoff.

25

26 MR. REAKOFF: I trap in the wintertime
27 and I sell fur to tourists. And I got lots of tourists
28 coming to my house wanting to buy bear claws and stuff
29 and I had to go so far as to put a sign on the front of
30 my house that says, no bear claws, no bear parts. These
31 people -- there's a real high demand for bear parts. I
32 mean practically every other person that comes to my
33 house is wanting -- when they see I'm selling fur they
34 want to buy bear parts. So this thing could really take
35 off if it was approved and I'm opposed to that sale of
36 bear parts because it would drive this -- it would fuel
37 this -- throw gas on the fire for the sale.

38

39 I don't mind aligning with the State on
40 pieces of black bear fur incorporated into a handcraft.
41 But I don't think that full-blown sale of bear parts or
42 hides would be a wise thing to do.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: So in effect, you are
45 opposed to this proposal?

46

47 MR. REAKOFF: Yes, I am opposed to this
48 proposal as written.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

00030

1 MR. COLLINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. It's
2 kind of ironic, I probably end up opposing this too, but
3 I want to speak a little bit about the other side. I was
4 on the moose management team for looking at building up
5 our moose numbers in this area and one of the reasons are
6 moose are not growing is because of predation by black
7 bears and grizzly bears. So when the group met, one of
8 the discussions was how do we increase bear harvest? And
9 there was even proposal to set a limit of 10 bears in the
10 area so it would increase harvest.

11
12 But one of the reasons, I think, that
13 some local people don't get involved in that is what are
14 they going to do with the bear once they've taken it?
15 They don't need it for eating, they don't like to kill it
16 for nothing. And it's kind of ironic that in some cases
17 we need to increase bear harvest and yet, you can't do
18 anything with the fur except if somebody's going to make
19 it into something when there is a market for sale. And
20 the fact that they can be sold in Canada and I think even
21 gallbladders are sold in Canada and it doesn't seem to be
22 creating problems over there. We do have the ability to
23 seal something so that you would have to seal it before
24 you sold it. So I think there would be ways of putting
25 some checks on that.

26
27 I just wanted to bring that out and then
28 I noticed in the paper the other day that now they've
29 identified that there's something in gallbladder that may
30 held in Alzheimer's Disease and other diseases. Did you
31 see that, there was support that the Chinese have
32 probably been right in using that in medicine. They've
33 identified something in that gallbladder that has
34 significant use.

35
36 So if I, as a hunter, go out and take a
37 bear and eat that bear, I got to throw that gallbladder
38 away and if I don't -- well, I suppose I could use it
39 myself. Yeah, and I know that was used in the past,
40 that's true, that's true.

41
42 But, yeah, overall, I can see the reasons
43 for opposing it. But I just wanted to mention that it
44 seems -- it's a resource, in part, being wasted because I
45 got a black bear hide over in my shed over here now that
46 is just sitting there.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. I did
49 modestly testify down at Tuntutuliak on this proposal and
50 what I stated there -- well, how did I put it anyway, I

00031

1 forgot how I put it.

2

3 Any further discussion?

4

5 MR. STICKMAN: Hearing none, I guess I
6 call for the question, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. Are you
9 requesting a roll call vote, too?

10

11 MR. STICKMAN: Not necessarily.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. All those in favor
14 of the motion, signify by saying aye.

15

16 (No aye votes)

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

19

20 IN UNISON: No.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: The nays have it.
23 Proposal 1 goes down. Vince.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that
26 brings us up to Proposal 30. This is your proposal, you
27 submitted it.

28

29 (Pause)

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: We got to get up to speed.
32 Mr. Chairman, we understand your motion that you oppose
33 Proposal 1, but we need clarification, what is your
34 feelings on the alignment portions of that Staff
35 recommendation to align with State regulations dealing
36 with the use of fur. I'm not getting it right but you
37 know what I'm getting at. Does the motion preclude you
38 from looking at that or do you want to take action on
39 that?

40

41 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I'll move
42 that we support the alignment with the State and allow
43 the sale of black bear, handicraft items made from black
44 bear fur.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

47

48 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further discussion. If I

00032

1 understand this right then we would only be aligning with
2 the State with something that's already in regulations?
3 Tom.

4

5 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, that's correct.
6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further discussion. If
9 not, all those in favor of the motion, signify by saying
10 aye.

11

12 MR. REAKOFF: Aye.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: All those opposed, same
15 sign.

16

17 (No opposing votes)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Hearing only one vote, the
20 Chair will request a roll call vote on this to align with
21 the State to align the sale of bear fur.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Emmitt
24 Peters.

25

26 MR. PETERS: What?

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: The motion on the floor is
29 to support the alignment of regulations to allow the sale
30 of handicraft made from black bear fur and I've been
31 asked to do a roll call vote.

32

33 MR. PETERS: I personally think I need
34 more time on this because I'm confused at this time. I
35 need more explanation and I think I will oppose.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, can I....

38

39 MR. PETERS: I don't quite understand. I
40 just need somebody to explain a little better.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tom, would you try again.
43 Just explain what this motion to align with the State
44 means?

45

46 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. The State of
47 Alaska, Board of Game approved a regulation, I believe it
48 was in 1998 that would allow a person to use the fur from
49 black bear in handicraft items. There have been a number
50 of requests over the years to use various bear parts.

00033

1 After a review of those issues, the State Board of Game
2 approved a regulation that allows you to use only the fur
3 from black bear, you can't sell claws, you can't sell
4 skulls, you can't sell teeth, you can't sell hides, but
5 the one part that they did go along with was, you know,
6 the making of handicrafts with black bear fur and the
7 sale of those.

8

9 And, again, based on their review of the
10 situation, that is currently in State regulations. It is
11 not in Federal regulations. And in order to facilitate
12 communication, enforcement and conservation issues, the
13 preliminary Staff conclusion was that it would seem
14 appropriate to support the current State regulation in
15 this regard, which is, again, to allow the sale of
16 handicraft made from black bear fur with regulatory
17 wording as follows, and it's on Page 13, under Tab C in
18 your book, you can see exactly what the words would be to
19 bring them into exact alignment.

20

21 So under utilization of fish and wildlife
22 -- I'll give people a chance to find Page 13 under Tab C.
23 In the middle of the page, again, is the draft regulatory
24 language, if you were to choose to do this. But under
25 utilization of fish and wildlife, shellfish, Section (6)
26 would say that you may sell handicraft articles made from
27 fur of black bear. And then under definitions, currently
28 in Federal regulations we do not, as yet, have a
29 definition for handicraft. So the suggestion here is to
30 essentially take the State definition of handicraft and
31 insert it within our own definitions but link it directly
32 to the sale of black bear fur. You know, it may be in
33 the future that people will want to use the definition
34 for other purposes and it would allow the Councils and
35 the Board to consider that issue as it comes up. In this
36 case it would be only related to black bear fur. So
37 again, this would be a direct alignment with current
38 State law.

39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tom. For our
43 new Board member's concern, you'll notice throughout the
44 years and throughout our deliberations that we have a lot
45 of alignment that we just go automatically because it's
46 already in place by the State, in State regulations and
47 if we do not concur or do not agree with some of these
48 proposals or regulations already in place it would leave
49 our subsistence users a little bit short-handed. So a
50 lot of times we'll just be aligning with the State and

00034

1 that's all we're doing with this one right now.

2

3 Vince, roll call vote.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think
6 Emmitt may have a question, I'm not sure.

7

8 MR. PETERS: What was the possibility of
9 -- see this is all new to me, I'm just trying to figure
10 it out for my people in the village and I just -- what's
11 the question, the question is we going to sell this
12 product, I mean this -- make bear claws and all that
13 stuff?

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tom.

16

17 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Peters.
18 It's up to individuals, whether they choose to do any of
19 these activities. In this case, again, under State law,
20 what is allowed is the sale of handcraft, you know,
21 whether it be an earring or brooch or some kind of a pin,
22 it would be allowed to make a handcraft using black bear
23 fur and then to sell it. It doesn't require people to
24 sell it. But it provides them an option that they can do
25 that legally.

26

27 This would not allow the sale of bear
28 claws, for example. You know, there are many things that
29 would not be allowed but the one part that would be
30 allowed from bears would be the sale of handicraft items
31 from black bear fur only.

32

33 Does that clear it up, Mr. Peters?

34

35 MR. PETERS: Yeah, okay, so you want my
36 yes or no on this, Vince?

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, if we're back to the
39 -- yes.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
42 the last time? If not, the Chair will request a roll
43 call vote.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, thank you, Mr.
46 Chairman. Emmitt Peters, your vote on the motion.

47

48 MR. PETERS: Yes

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: Micky Stickman.

00035

1 MR. STICKMAN: I'm not real clear on the
2 proposal process but, you know, I thought we had a
3 deadline for proposals and it seemed like we just killed
4 this proposal with the State language in there so I was
5 just wondering if we'd have to make a new proposal, you
6 know, because we already voted no and no means no, you
7 know. I mean I don't see a -- unless you come up with a
8 new proposal I don't see how we can change our vote.
9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: You are correct, Micky on
13 that. But what we were trying to do since this has been
14 reviewed by -- you'll be the eighth Regional Council, all
15 Regional Councils have seen this language to support
16 aligning with State regulations. Also someone will
17 correct me if I get this wrong, unless we have different
18 regulations on Federal lands, this is now in effect. So
19 this would just be adding language to the Federal
20 regulations. It's already in effect, it's -- for a lack
21 of better term, it's kind of a housekeeping component
22 here that's just adding this into Federal regulations.
23 It already is enforced on all lands across the state,
24 unless I have this wrong.

25
26 So I'm not saying it's not a productive
27 to support it, it's just already there.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

30
31 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, it's already there
32 on State land and that's it, but not on Federal lands.
33

34 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman, it's on
35 all lands. That's where I thought we may want to regroup
36 on this one. Basically unless the Federal Board, the
37 Federal Subsistence Board takes action to restrict uses
38 on Federal lands, all State regulations apply to Federal
39 lands and waters. So right now it's in effect
40 everywhere, 100 percent. So when this proposal was
41 brought forth and analyzed, the thinking of the program
42 was it would be an opportune time to see if the Regional
43 Councils and public would like to have aligning
44 regulations on the Federal. And maybe Tom can explain
45 further.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tom.

48
49 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, you know,
50 possibly for clarification, I think your process is in

00036

1 order. You know, the other Regional Councils that I have
2 discussed this with, the YK Council and the Eastern
3 Interior Council, in both case, they first of all took
4 action on the main proposal. In both cases then they
5 came back afterwards and addressed the black bear fur for
6 handicraft issue, just as you are doing. So I think your
7 process is in order. It would seem, if you choose to,
8 you could proceed with the vote and I think we'd be okay.
9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Roll call vote, Vince.

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Micky.

15
16 MR. STICKMAN: No.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Ray Collins.

19
20 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Ron Sam.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff.

27
28 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Angela Demientieff.

31
32 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Abstain. Because I am
33 a woman and in my culture I don't talk about these
34 things. Thank you.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Robert Walker.

37
38 MR. WALKER: Yes.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we had five
41 supporting the motion, one against the motion and one
42 abstain so the motion passes to support alignment of
43 regulations with the State on this issue.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Are we all
46 clear on this Proposal 1 then?

47
48 (Council nods affirmatively)

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, okay, Proposal 1

00037

1 passes.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, that
4 brings us up to Proposal 30 which is on Page 22 in your
5 book under Tab C. And this was submitted by your
6 Regional Council. It's to establish a funerary and
7 mortuary potlatch Federal regulation similar to the one
8 in State law.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair will entertain a
13 motion to adopt Proposal 30.

14

15 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

18

19 MR. PETERS: Second it.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved and seconded.

22 Discussion. Proceed, Vince.

23

24 MR. SHERROD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As
25 Vince indicated, this proposal was submitted by this
26 Regional Council at your last meeting and what it's
27 requesting is that for Units 21 and 24, that the Federal
28 program adopt a Federal regulation for funeral and
29 mortuary potlatches similar to that that is in the
30 current State regulations. The proposed regulation can
31 be found at the bottom of Page 23 and carried over to the
32 top of Page 24.

33

34 Throughout the Federal process, which
35 began in 1922 [sic], the Board has dealt with a number of
36 proposals requesting for communal, cultural, ceremonial
37 and other religious harvest of game outside of existing
38 Federal regulations. In fact we have a Federal
39 regulation in place that allows the Board to do that
40 under Subpart A, I believe it is.

41

42 In the past, since 1992, the Board has
43 made several determinations that have provided for the
44 harvest of moose outside of the regulatory seasons when
45 they were not accommodated for under State regulations.
46 A short chronology of those can be found on Page 27. As
47 you know there's a long strong cultural heritage of
48 harvesting moose for funeral and mortuary potlatch
49 purposes and that is basically summarized on Pages 28
50 through 29.

00038

1 There is not expected to be any
2 additional biological impact to the resource as this
3 activity is currently authorized under State regulations.
4 Adoption of this proposal would allow individuals with
5 customary and traditional use determinations for Units 21
6 and 24 to harvest resources for food in the traditional
7 religious ceremonies that are part of a funeral and
8 mortuary cycle including memorial potlatches. Adoption
9 of this proposed regulatory change would have no impact
10 on local wildlife populations. The practice is ongoing
11 and authorized under State of Alaska hunting regulations.
12 Adoption of this proposal might improve harvest reporting
13 in areas where Federal Staff is more accessible than
14 ADF&G personnel.

15

16 The preliminary conclusion is to support
17 with modification to ensure that principles of wildlife
18 management conservation are adhered to.

19

20 And we see on the middle of Page 30,
21 basically the proposed regulation. There are two changes
22 from the regulation that was provided by the -- the
23 proposal that was provided by this Council. Under
24 condition three at the bottom, basically -- and this is
25 not in your book, this came in after the fact -- we have
26 to scratch Native religious ceremonies and make it Alaska
27 religious ceremonies as this program has not the
28 authority to distinguish between different rural users.

29

30 Additionally, there is a fourth
31 qualification and it reads the taking does not violate
32 recognized principles of wildlife conservation. This was
33 added but to some degree is already covered in the saving
34 clauses of Title VIII, the last saving clause basically
35 says that the Federal Board cannot authorize actions that
36 are in violation of principles of wildlife conservation.

37

38 The justification. Federal regulation
39 allowed for similar practices in other parts of the state
40 including post harvesting reporting in Units 1 through 5.
41 No additional biological impact is anticipated as the
42 practice is allowed under State of Alaska regulations.
43 The addition of provision four is the same precaution
44 applied to the potlatch regulations in one through five
45 and ensures the conservation mandate of ANILCA is
46 fulfilled.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

00039

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think Dave
2 Anderson will cover agency comments. I don't know if
3 Tanana Chiefs has comments on this. And then I'll bring
4 up the Regional Council recommendation that has already
5 been submitted.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Dave.

8
9 MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
10 have a paragraph of comments on Page 31, Tab C. And we
11 continue to support a Federal regulation that is
12 consistent with the corresponding State regulations
13 governing harvest of big game for ceremonial purposes.

14
15 The only other comment I have on this is
16 there was -- our comments in the book make reference to a
17 proposal that the Board of Game was going to be
18 discussing regarding potlatch and that proposal was
19 deferred, again, to the fall meeting. So there was no
20 potlatch regulation change made by the Board of Game that
21 met last week.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Dave. Vince.

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, there were no
26 written comments. And the Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional
27 Advisory Council took this proposal up and, for the new
28 members I need to explain why they took up this proposal,
29 the species that may be utilized with this regulation
30 would be moose and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional
31 Council has a positive qualification to hunt moose in
32 Unit 21(E), that's Russian Mission so the Yukon-Kuskokwim
33 Regional Council took it up in Tuntutuliak. They support
34 the proposal as written. And what that means is they
35 support all that George talked about in the original
36 proposal but they just supported it that way. So there's
37 no -- they made no comment on adding number 4, the
38 recognized principles of wildlife conservation. And at
39 that time the word, Native, was not advised to be
40 removed. So your Regional Council down river from you
41 supports the proposal as written.

42
43 And that's all I have, Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: One question, would that
46 hurt our proposal if we left that Native religious
47 ceremonies there?

48
49 MR. SHERROD: Mr. Chair, the regulatory
50 people advised us that we cannot distinguish between

00040

1 rural residents based on that. However, to the best of
2 my knowledge, only Athabascans, or Alaska Natives have
3 funerary or mortuary potlatches so I don't think it -- I
4 don't think we can have it in there for regulations but I
5 think the effect and the purpose is clear.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: So what's the pleasure of
8 the Council, do you want to make a friendly amendment to
9 delete the word Native or just leave it as is?

10

11 MR. STICKMAN: I guess I would have to
12 delete it because, well, you know, we have -- well, we
13 don't just have only Native people in the villages. You
14 know, when we have -- well, you know, like -- well,
15 there's some people that came from outside of Nulato and
16 when they get buried in Nulato we treat them as if they
17 were one of us, we still -- we have the same wake service
18 we have for people of any race, if they choose to be
19 buried in Nulato we honor them the same way we honor
20 everybody else.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky, is that
23 an amendment to delete?

24

25 MR. STICKMAN: Yes.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second to the
28 amendment?

29

30 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved and seconded.

33

34 MR. STICKMAN: I'd like to -- well, if
35 we're still under discussion, you know, when this
36 proposal went through my area, some of the people had
37 concerns with having the name of the hunter and the name
38 of the dead person, they thought that was irrelevant.
39 They figure, well, for biological purposes they just --
40 they figured all they needed was just the sex and the
41 area where it was shot. But they had serious concerns
42 with, you know, putting who killed and who died, you
43 know. I mean why does -- why would -- what would they do
44 with that information?

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. Vince,
47 you had a question?

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, your motion
50 was to -- that was seconded, was to approve the proposal

00041

1 as written which does have the word, Native in it; is
2 that correct? So that's what's on the table. I don't
3 know if you need that amendment to work with that.

4

5 MR. SHERROD: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: George.

8

9 MR. SHERROD: Probably the cleanest way
10 is to vote down the proposal as written and then adopt it
11 as modified by Staff and that would deal with the term
12 Native and the fourth provision in there.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: So the correct action now
15 would be to just ask for a withdrawal from the maker of
16 the motion and the seconder, the quickest way?

17

18 MR. SHERROD: That would be one way of
19 handling it, yes.

20

21 MR. REAKOFF: I withdraw my second.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: The second withdraws. The
24 maker of the motion.

25

26 MR. STICKMAN: I withdraw.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, now, the Chair will
29 entertain a motion to adopt Proposal 30 as amended.

30

31 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.

32

33 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Jack Reakoff.
36 Discussion. If not all those in favor of the motion,
37 signify by saying aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

42

43 (No opposing votes)

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: So Mr. Chairman, for the
48 record then, the motion that passed was to support the
49 proposal with the removal of the word Native and not to
50 take up number 4 in the preliminary conclusion. Thank

00042

1 you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we have five
6 minutes before I think we need to start getting people
7 ready to take you to lunch. Proposal -- the next
8 proposal is Proposal 31, which I think will take more
9 time than the five minutes or 10 minutes. I did tell the
10 lodge staff that we would be back around 1:00. I just
11 don't know how long it will take to get everybody back
12 over there.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the pleasure of the
15 Council? I've got 20 minutes to 1:00. Any feelings?
16 You want to break? If not, we'll just all take a break
17 until, what, 1:45.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Ask Ray, what do you think?

20

21 MR. COLLINS: You mean for a lunch break?

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I don't know how long
24 it takes at the lodge.

25

26 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, if they've been given
27 a time they can get it out pretty timely but you probably
28 better allow an hour and a half to make sure, I would
29 assume.

30

31 Vince, also, if the lodge wants to know
32 if you're planning to come to my place they need to let
33 them know that. And I don't know whether we want a raise
34 of hands now to get some idea of what's appropriate.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think the easiest
37 way is if you are planning to eat dinner at the lodge
38 tell the lodge staff you're doing that.

39

40 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: And that's what I'll convey
43 to the Tuskusko House. I don't know where other people
44 are staying, but Ray has graciously opened up his house
45 so just let the lodge staff know if you're going to eat
46 dinner or not or if you're going to eat dinner, period.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: So we'll take an hour and
49 a half for lunch, what time would we come back?

50

00043

1 MR. MATHEWS: That would make it 2:00,
2 2:15.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, and then dinner at
5 6:00?

6
7 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, then we'll go to
10 6:00 tonight. Break. Lunch break.

11
12 (Off record)

13
14 (On record)

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to reconvene the
17 Western Interior Subsistence Council meeting. We have a
18 special request from the school and the students, they
19 wanted to participate by teleconference on Proposal 31 so
20 if it's -- with the pleasure of the Council, I'd like to
21 get into Proposal 32. Vince.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I need
24 to apologize to Mike McDougall, I didn't recognize him
25 earlier when we did introductions so Mike may want to
26 introduce himself. He's representing the Yukon River
27 Drainage River Association. I apologize for that, I got
28 most of the names right. But anyways, Mr. Chairman,
29 we're going to go to Proposal 32 and I'm kind of
30 scrambling here, it's on Page 73 under Tab C. Is that
31 the right one, is it 32 that you wanted to go over, Mr.
32 Chair, first -- no, you wanted to go over 29, I'm sorry.
33 It's 29 -- 32 -- I'm sorry.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the wish of the
36 Council?

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, sorry, that was my
39 mistake there. We're looking at Proposal 29. Okay,
40 Proposal 29 is on Page 84 under Tab D, this is to open a
41 moose season earlier in Unit 18.

42
43 For the new Council members, the reason
44 this is before you is back to what's called customary and
45 traditional use determinations. You have a positive
46 customary and traditional use determination for a part of
47 -- or for Unit 18, so that's why this is before you.
48 Yes, I know, it hit me, too, but I believe it's Lower
49 Kalskag or one of the Kalskag's is within Western
50 Interior and that's why this is before you. So if you

00044

1 would turn to Page 84.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: 84, yeah.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Introduction of Proposal

8 29, Tom.

9

10 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair, again, this is Tom
11 Kron from the Federal Subsistence Management Office.
12 This analysis was prepared by Mr. Pete DeMatteo and as I
13 think was noted earlier, he wasn't able to come to this
14 meeting so I'll be pinch-hitting for him.

15

16 Proposal 29 was submitted by Mr. Pete
17 Peterson of Mountain Village and requests a change in the
18 existing moose season for Unit 18 remainder.

19

20 The proposed regulation would change the
21 existing September 1 through 30 moose season to an August
22 20 through September 20 season. And, again, within your
23 Council books, go ahead and refer to the map on Page 87.
24 So again, the main issue here is when the moose season
25 occurs. Should it occur in the month of September or
26 should it occur during the latter portion of August and
27 the first 20 days of September. That's the issue.

28

29 Federal regulations for Unit 18,
30 remainder, moose with a September season have been in
31 place since 1995. In addition there's a 10 day to be
32 announced winter season. The current total population
33 and this is based on an winter estimate of the affected
34 area is 2,000 and 2,500 moose based on work done by Mr.
35 Savoy n 2001. This population is not meeting its
36 potential for herd growth and size. The bull to cow
37 ratio for the affected population is estimated at 20 to
38 25 bulls per 100 cows. The estimated total number of
39 bull moose in the population is 400 to 625.

40

41 Next I'll be looking back on Page 90 in
42 the effects of the proposal section. Adoption of the
43 proposed season change would not provide additional
44 opportunity for Federally-qualified users. While the
45 proposed regulation change would provide a 12 day August
46 season it fails to consider that the existing season
47 dates evolve from the practical needs of local residents.
48 The majority of the users are reported to favor the
49 existing season because it provides opportunity for those
50 who prefer to hunt during the last 10 days of September.

00045

1 Considerable effort has been made by the management
2 committee, the Council, local residents, Federal and
3 State agencies and Federal and State Boards to establish
4 aligned seasons that support management and harvest
5 guidelines.

6
7 Adoption of the proposed season change
8 could jeopardize harvest guidelines and management
9 objectives of the affected moose population.

10
11 Adoption of the proposed change would
12 also require Federally-qualified moose hunters to
13 determine jurisdictional boundaries in certain areas in
14 order to assess Federal lands during the proposed Federal
15 only season.

16
17 Generally, hunters favor a late September
18 season over a warmer August season. As cooler
19 temperatures trigger the moose rut and the movement to
20 the rivers and streams where they are more accessible to
21 hunters. Late August can provide for less opportunity
22 due to standing foliage, warmer temperatures that hinder
23 hunters sightability and access to moose. Because of
24 this harvest success is generally low in late August
25 compared to late September. The successful realization
26 of any cooperative planning effort requires regulations
27 that support subsistence needs and management and harvest
28 objectives of the resource. Currently, the aligned State
29 and Federal regulations and the management of the harvest
30 objectives are the achievement of a cooperative planning
31 effort. Moose issues and related public concerns
32 directed towards these advisory groups that have
33 participated in the process would allow the
34 representatives to work cooperatively and to develop a
35 consensus needed to gain the support of the public and
36 State and Federal Boards.

37
38 The preliminary conclusion by Staff on
39 this particular proposal is to oppose it. And the
40 justification, again, is provided at the bottom of Page
41 90. Basically adoption of the proposed season change
42 would not provide additional opportunity for Federally-
43 qualified users in our opinion. While the proposed
44 regulation change would provide a 12 day August season it
45 fails to consider that the existing season dates evolved
46 from the practical needs of local residents. The
47 majority of the users are reported to favor the existing
48 season because it provides opportunity for those who
49 prefer hunting during the last 10 days of September.
50 Adoption of the proposed change could jeopardize harvest

00046

1 guidelines and cooperative management objectives of the
2 affected moose population. Adoption of the proposed
3 season change would also require Federally-qualified
4 moose hunters to determine jurisdictional boundaries in
5 order to assess Federal lands during the proposed Federal
6 only season. Generally, hunters seem to favor a late
7 September season over a warmer late August season as
8 cooler temperatures statistically favor harvest success.
9 Harvest success is normally low during the late August
10 season because of low hunter effort, standing foliage and
11 warmer temperatures.

12
13 The Y-K Council reviewed this proposal
14 two weeks ago at Tuntutuliak and deferred action on this
15 proposal. This concludes my comments. Thank you, Mr.
16 Chairman.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Where does this overlap
19 with us then, again?

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I was just
22 looking that up, it's the community of Kalskag is within
23 Western Interior and that's why it's being brought up.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

26
27 MR. COLLINS: A question, Mr. Chairman.
28 It's not that map, why isn't it? The map stops in short
29 -- the map on Page 87 is dealing mostly with the Yukon
30 River and there's nothing shown on the Kuskokwim?

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: You're correct, Ray. The
33 customary and traditional use determination is for the
34 remainder of Unit 18. Let me find it here. For the
35 remainder of Unit 18, it says residents of Unit 18 and
36 residents of upper and lower Kalskag. And the remainder
37 -- I know it's confusing is that area described in the
38 map there. So it's a little bit confusing why upper and
39 lower Kalskag was separated out -- I mean why both were
40 listed there.

41
42 (PHONE RINGING)

43
44 (PAUSE)

45
46 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I think this
47 came up, it's because of residents in Aniak, who are
48 within our area, I think, do hunt that way and that's why
49 it's included as coming in ours. Some of them from Aniak
50 hunt down river into that Kalskag area there and that's

00047

1 where the overlap occurs. I don't think it occurs -- I'd
2 defer to Angela, but I don't think it occurs on the
3 Yukon. I don't think there's any people from Holy Cross
4 hunting down around Paimuit, are there?

5

6 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: (Shakes head
7 negatively)

8

9 MR. COLLINS: No. And I would oppose
10 this for a couple reasons. One was, if you change it so
11 that they stop hunting in the lower Yukon, which is also
12 in our area there on the 20th, it's going to put more
13 pressure on 21(E) after the 20th, people coming up
14 hunting up around Shageluk, Holy Cross and so on. So the
15 later season down there would be better to keep their
16 open concurrent with ours and not to be closing theirs
17 off and just putting more reason for them to go up river
18 further.

19

20 Also I would like to see if -- I'll defer
21 to Robert and Angela, something to the effect that the
22 residents on the Yukon do not customarily hunt down in
23 that area. Because if we say that they do, according to
24 the proposal, they're coming in now asking for customary
25 and traditional hunting in your area. And it might be
26 good to say that we don't use your area down there, we're
27 not concerned about that. But I know Carl is not here to
28 represent Aniak area, they do hunt in the lower Yukon,
29 some of them go down below there a ways to hunt. So we
30 don't want to change the finding in that area but at
31 least on the Yukon River, it might be good to have in the
32 record a statement that you don't customarily and
33 traditionally hunt down there.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, where are we on our
36 normal operating procedures?

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the next step
39 would be the agency comments. There are no written
40 comments, so then you would go right into deliberation.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: We haven't put it on the
43 floor anyway. Dave.

44

45 MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On
46 Proposal 29, the State has almost a full page of comments
47 on Page 92 under Tab C. We continue to oppose this
48 proposal for the reasons stated in our comments and we
49 support the preliminary Staff conclusions.

50

00048

1 The Department recommends the Federal
2 Board make no changes to the current seasons without
3 adequate dialogue and discussion among the various
4 agencies and committees that have, for years, worked
5 cooperatively to rebuild the moose population along the
6 Yukon River in Unit 18. We believe that allowing these
7 groups to work cooperatively and develop consensus will
8 result in a proposal that would gain support from both
9 State and Federal Boards, a regulation that serves the
10 needs of subsistence users and a fall hunting season that
11 helps ensure the continued growth and health of the Unit
12 18 moose population.

13

14 That's it.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Next step, Vince.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the next step
19 is if anybody has any testimony that wants to testify.
20 There are no written comments on this proposal.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any public testimony.
23 You'll notice I didn't put it on the floor yet, it was a
24 slight oversight, but I was down at Tuntutuliak when they
25 had -- when Harry Wilde, the Chairman of YK-Delta
26 Subsistence Council abstained, which immediately created
27 a tie, they voted twice, nobody broke so they just moved
28 o table it and for that reason I haven't put it on the
29 floor. So what's the wishes of the Council, do you want
30 to take action on this?

31

32 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

35

36 MR. WALKER: I have a question to ask the
37 gentleman here.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Dave.

40

41 MR. ANDERSEN: I'll try.

42

43 MR. WALKER: Dave, as to your questions,
44 how much do the Federal biologists note that moose
45 migrate down into Unit 18 from Unit 21? Is there any
46 kind of documentation or something that you can let us
47 know when you have a moose count there versus our moose
48 count in Unit 21(A)? I mean, do you know that the moose
49 are migrating through our area?

50

00049

1 MR. ANDERSEN: You want to know the
2 movement of moose between 18 and 21?

3

4 MR. WALKER: If there is documentation,
5 yes.

6

7 MR. ANDERSEN: Toby, do you want to try
8 that one?

9

10 MR. BOUDREAU: Jeff can.

11

12 MR. ANDERSEN: Okay. I'm going to let
13 Jeff Denton try it.

14

15 MR. WALKER: Good.

16

17 MR. DENTON: Jeff Denton with the
18 Anchorage BLM. And I can go back close to 15 years ago
19 we actually had some radio-tagging studies done in your
20 country out of Holy Cross and up and down the river there
21 and the results of that study had a tremendous variation
22 of how moose moved in that country. There were animals
23 that never moved, you know, at all off the river. There
24 were other ones that moved primarily from the river back
25 into the mountain country to the west as well as to the
26 east. But there wasn't a movement up and down the river
27 per se. It was mostly into the summer country in the
28 hills and the mountains, back towards Bonasila Dome and
29 up the Koserasky, Bonasila River and the Anvik River, in
30 those areas. That was the -- the movement was from the
31 river bottoms to the summer range in the mountains. And
32 up and down the river movements were not -- those radioed
33 animals, there was not a lot of up and down river
34 movement at all.

35

36 MR. WALKER: Okay. Then you're stating
37 to us that you have no knowledge of anything moving to
38 our area down to Unit 18. A few years back I read a
39 report here from the Federal -- from the Refuge up in
40 Innoko River that a lady wrote that you had tagged a
41 moose up there and it had walked from there, from the
42 mouth of Lonesome River all the way down to Bonasila Dome
43 to calve. That's a long ways for a cow moose to walk.

44

45 MR. DENTON: Well, in a lot of these good
46 healthy moose populations -- it's actually a sign of a
47 real healthy population because you've got animals that
48 move virtually no distance to almost virtually every
49 distance between there and long distances, they're
50 occupying all the available habitats in that ecosystem.

00050

1 That's telling you you got real healthy moose situations.
2 When you start getting areas within those distances that
3 are getting blocked out that means you actually got a
4 problem developing.

5
6 And we've had radioed animals, say, from
7 Aniak Slough go clear up to Flat to calve, you know, to
8 make that move in about three days. Those are not the
9 rule but those are just a segment of the population that
10 just happen to make those long movements. And those
11 aren't unusual but those are not also the rule. What
12 they are is just part of that healthy population and how
13 it disperses. And you're not having mass movement of a
14 major segment of the population making that kind of a
15 move. That's -- you know, based on the numbers or radios
16 we have, those are, you know, low percentages of the
17 numbers of radioed animals that are making those kind of
18 moves.

19
20 MR. WALKER: So what you're telling me is
21 that the moose is not a migrant animal?

22
23 MR. DENTON: They migrate mostly between
24 summer and winter ranges. The ones that are making these
25 long moves are wintering in the Innoko/Yukon Bottoms area
26 and they're summering, a lot of them, in the -- more in
27 the mountain country and up the side drainages. That's
28 mostly the extent of the migration movements is a
29 winter/summer type of migration

30
31 MR. WALKER: Okay, thank you.

32
33 MR. DENTON: Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Turn the mike off. Thank
36 you. Any more comments from the Council? Any
37 preferences?

38
39 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I reiterate
40 my comments that I made before. I think it's a bad move
41 to have a shortened season in an adjacent unit to part of
42 our unit because it creates pressure. I know on the
43 Kuskokwim, we've always tried to look at the downriver
44 season and up here and keep them in tune so that you
45 don't have that movement of hunters. You have some
46 movement anyhow but at least it's not brought about by
47 the seasons that you're setting.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray.

50

00051

1 MR. COLLINS: I'll move to oppose then
2 for that reason.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

5
6 MR. WALKER: I'll second it.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion to
9 oppose, seconded by Robert Walker. Further discussion.

10
11 MR. STICKMAN: The motion was moved to
12 oppose?

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

15
16 MR. COLLINS: Well, I'll move to adopt
17 then and plan to vote against it.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: With the consent of the
20 second?

21
22 MR. WALKER: Yes, I'll second that.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, there's a motion to
25 adopt with a second. Further questions or comments on
26 this Proposal 29?

27
28 MR. STICKMAN: Hearing none, I call for
29 the question.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called.
32 All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye.

33
34 (No aye votes)

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Hearing none, all those
37 opposed, same sign.

38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion to oppose -- oppose
42 29 -- no, wait, Proposal 29 fails. Okay, 32 is next, is
43 that the one?

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Sure, we can go with 32
46 next, Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: It doesn't look like we'll
49 get the school involved yet but I'd like to go through
50 Proposal 32.

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1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Proposal 32
2 was submitted by.....

3

4

5 MR. STICKMAN: Well, excuse me, Vince. I
6 think we need a motion to adopt and a second before we
7 begin discussion. I think that's the proper order.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, we've used that in
10 the past, if you want to put it on the floor, Micky.

11

12 MR. STICKMAN: I move to adopt Proposal
13 32.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion to adopt
16 32, is there a second?

17

18 MR. PETERS: Second it.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion to adopt and
21 seconded by Emmitt Peters. Introduction of proposal,
22 Vince.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chair. Proposal
25 32 was submitted by Jack Wholecheese of Huslia. It is to
26 establish the Huslia/Dakli River controlled use area.
27 And George will be presenting the analysis.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: George. What page is it?

30

31 MR. SHERROD: Page 73. Mr. Chair, as
32 Vince pointed out this proposal was submitted by Jack
33 Wholecheese of Huslia and it requests the establishment
34 of a Huslia/Dakli River Drainage control area in Unit 24.
35 The proponent's intent is to protect traditional harvest
36 of moose within the proposal area.

37

38 This proposal is identical to a proposal
39 that you considered last year which was Wildlife Proposal
40 01-30. If you look on Page 78 under Tab C you will
41 notice in the upper left-hand corner of the map in sort
42 of diagonal cross marks is the proposed area which would
43 be closed if the controlled use area were to be
44 established.

45

46 I'm going to focus on the information
47 presented on Page 79, adoption of the State and Federal
48 regulations were achieved through public agency
49 consensus. That is the current regulations which are
50 almost identical. Because of the complexity of dual

00053

1 management the effectiveness of any management plan
2 that's realized through coordinated State and Federal
3 hunting regulations that adhere to harvest guidelines.
4 One important component of the existing Koyukuk River
5 Moose Management Plan is the realization of the
6 prescribed harvest regimes that align Federal and State
7 regulations for the Koyukuk controlled use area. The
8 Alaska Board of Game and Federal Board adopted nearly
9 similar regulations for the proposed area at the request
10 of the working group and the Council, being this Council
11 last -- it says in 2000.

12

13 At its May 2001 meeting, the Board
14 rejected Proposal WP01-30 which was the identical request
15 that was submitted by the proponent of Proposal WP02-32.
16 Proposal WP01-30 also requested the establishment of the
17 Huslia/Dakli River Drainage controlled use area. The
18 proponents request was based on local concerns of user
19 conflicts and law enforcement issues occurring in the
20 proposed controlled use area. The same premise for
21 Proposal WP02-32. The Council, this Council opposed
22 Proposal WP01-30 because the creation of the controlled
23 use area did not address the issues of increasing public
24 use. Also the Council opposed Proposal 01-30 because it
25 would threaten the permit portion of the Koyukuk River
26 Moose planning effort and because State harvest data
27 would not support the need to restrict aircraft access
28 within the proposed control use area. The Board rejected
29 Proposal 01-30 and the Council's recommendation on the
30 basis -- oh, excuse me, the Board rejected Proposal 01-30
31 on this Council's recommendation and on the basis that
32 the proponent's concerns could be rectified through
33 regulatory process.

34

35 As a voting member, the proponent
36 presented his concerns stated in Proposal, this proposal,
37 02-32 to the other members of the working group at their
38 January 2002 meeting. Based on ADF&G presentations on
39 the status of the moose population and fall 2001 harvest
40 levels, the working group did not support the proponent's
41 request to support of a similar proposal submitted by the
42 working group to the Alaska Board of Game. The working
43 group stated that it intends to continue to support the
44 Koyukuk River Management Plan and current harvest
45 guidelines.

46

47 I now turn to Page 80, the effects of the
48 proposal. No new information is available. At
49 previously stated -- in Proposal 01-30 -- in other words,
50 there's been no new information brought forward since

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1 this Council considered this similar proposal last year.
2 The creation of another controlled use area or expansion
3 of the Koyukuk Control Use area may fail to resolve local
4 residents concern with non-local hunting effort. Most
5 hunters, both local and non-local access the proposed
6 controlled use area by boat. A restriction on aircraft
7 would have little effect on non-rural users to the
8 proposed use area and is not necessarily -- to manage for
9 sustained yield.

10

11 Furthermore, expansion of the Koyukuk
12 Controlled Use area would include the Huslia and Dakli
13 River Drainages could have an undesirable effect of
14 increasing hunter congestion and user conflicts with the
15 affected area where most of the moose harvest by local
16 residents occur. User conflict concerning the other
17 Koyukuk River Moose Management issues should be
18 challenged through members of the working group or
19 through appropriate Federal and State agencies.

20

21 Staff has worked closely with the
22 proponent concerning the request and his concerns. Staff
23 thoroughly examined, explained to the proponent that an
24 analysis of Proposal 02-32 lacks new information that
25 would support his request. Staff also reiterated the
26 Board's rejection of Proposal 01-30 and the
27 recommendation to the proponent that additional proposals
28 concerning Koyukuk River moose issues should be channeled
29 through the working group.

30

31 The preliminary conclusion is to oppose
32 the proposal.

33

34 Justification. There is no new
35 information available at this time previously stated in
36 Proposal 01-30. User conflicts concern identified by the
37 proponent should be considered by the working group. Law
38 enforcement concerns should be directed towards the
39 appropriate State and Federal agencies.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: The next is agency
46 comments and there are no written comments.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Dave.

49

50 MR. ANDERSEN: Okay, thank you, Mr.

00055

1 Chair. On Proposal 32, the Department has comments on
2 Page 82 and 83, Tab C. We continue to oppose this
3 proposal for the reasons stated in our comments and
4 support the preliminary Staff conclusion that it not be
5 adopted. The exact boundaries of the proposed controlled
6 use area are not adequately defined in the proposal. Use
7 of the Dakli River Drainage specifically is very limited
8 and while there is evidence that residents of Huslia have
9 traditionally used some portions of the Huslia and Dakli
10 Rivers for moose hunting, given the low levels of harvest
11 occurring there, the hunting pressures in this relatively
12 large and remote area do not provide sufficient
13 justification for creating a new controlled use area.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does that conclude -- is
16 that your conclusion?

17

18 MR. ANDERSEN: Yes, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Other agencies.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I don't know
23 if Tanana Chiefs has a position on this proposal or not.
24 I don't think so but I'm....

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did Orville Huntington
27 submit....

28

29 MR. HUNTINGTON: You had a question?

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you want to testify?

32

33 MR. HUNTINGTON: I wasn't asked to, no.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Further public
36 testimony. Summary of written comments.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, there were no
39 written comments submitted on this proposal.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Well, coming back to the
42 Council, we do have a motion on the floor to adopt and it
43 has been seconded. Council deliberations. Jack.

44

45 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I was at the
46 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee meeting in Huslia on
47 February 7th and we discussed this proposal. And when we
48 got into that this has danger of actually expanding the
49 Koyukuk Controlled Use area and actually making more
50 permits, a lot of people became reluctant about that so

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1 we basically -- my notes here on that proposal we delayed
2 action for further work to be done on that proposal.

3

4 But the dangers of this proposal are that
5 this additional area would include a whole bunch of
6 additional moose that people can't get to but they would
7 have to issue more permits in the controlled use area and
8 that was one -- the boundary description wasn't real
9 clear and so that was a delayed action at the Koyukuk
10 River Advisory Committee level.

11

12 I don't know that this will accomplish,
13 you know, the hunters that are hunting up there are
14 hunting by boat and there's not very many fly-in hunters
15 so I don't really know that this will accomplish
16 elimination of the hunters that this -- that Jack wants
17 there. If it was its owned controlled use area, it may
18 and had its own permitting system it might do something
19 but it's not really -- hasn't really been laid out yet.
20 So the Koyukuk River Advisory took no action on that one.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you know if the State
23 Board of Game took any action on this?

24

25 MR. REAKOFF: As far as I remember, the
26 State Board of Game, I don't have -- I'd have to find my
27 road map but they didn't take any action on that. They
28 didn't adopt that.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Dave.

31

32 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chair, there was an
33 exact copy of this proposal before the State Board of
34 Game, they took it up and the proposal failed.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Dave. Further
37 discussion. Micky.

38

39 MR. STICKMAN: Ron, I think this proposal
40 came about because some people were flying in and getting
41 dropped off above the controlled use area and drifting
42 into the controlled use area, you know, doing float trips
43 and they were landing outside the controlled use area but
44 they were drifting into the controlled use area. I think
45 that's how this whole thing got started.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further discussion.

48

49 MR. COLLINS: Just one comment, while I'm
50 not in the area so I don't have immediate information on

00057

1 that but I think in principle, it would be good to oppose
2 it because we worked for a long time to establish that
3 working committee up there to hash out these local issues
4 and I would like things to go through that route if there
5 is going to be changes in the area; let it go through
6 that working committee because I think that brings
7 everybody to the table to discuss it. So I would oppose
8 it for that reason.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. It has
11 always been my contention that we do not mess with what
12 the little controlled use area that we have because for
13 the simple reason that it might jeopardize what we have.
14 And that's why I haven't really been behind proposals of
15 this type even though they've been introduced up in the
16 Kanuti area, too.

17

18 Further discussion. Jack.

19

20 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, I plan to oppose
21 this proposal because I feel that it will increase the
22 area and make a lot more permits available which will
23 bring more competition for the local subsistence users in
24 that area. I don't feel that it will accomplish exactly
25 what the proponent wants and the use levels have been not
26 -- the benefits don't outweigh the detriment. So I plan
27 to oppose this proposal.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. That was
30 part of the work that Pete DeMatteo put up. It started
31 out as a small piece of area to be included in the
32 Koyukuk Controlled Use area and they expanded to
33 something like 900 square miles with moose at 1. -- 1.5
34 moose per square mile, it would add about 63 to 95
35 permits, is that....

36

37 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: It would add another 95
40 permits to this area. I see Tanana Chiefs is here, so
41 did you want to comment on -- make public testimony on
42 Proposal 32, controlled use area?

43

44 MR. NED: No comment.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I just wanted
47 to make sure. Further discussion from the Council.

48

49 MR. PETERS: I also oppose it too.

50 That's the only thing I can think of at this time.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
2 comment from the Council.

3

4 MR. STICKMAN: One last one, Ron.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

7

8 MR. STICKMAN: You know, it seemed like
9 -- well, it seems like this proposal's not going to be
10 adopted but, you know, I just want to go on record you
11 know, seeing how we're going to address the issue further
12 on down the road you know, the issue of people landing
13 outside of the controlled use area and then drifting into
14 the controlled use area, how are we going to address
15 that? Because you know, this is a valid concern from the
16 subsistence user and that's our job, we're supposed to be
17 doing those things. And I'm just wondering, you know,
18 once it fails, what are we going to do to address these
19 concerns?

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. One of
22 the ways we could do it is work through that Koyukuk
23 River Moose Working Group, for one. And have KRAC
24 readdress this issue and see if we could come up with
25 anything.

26

27 Jack.

28

29 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to have the
30 Koyukuk Staff observe this area and keep this track of
31 this Dakli proposed area on the usage, aircraft usage and
32 to -- so that if it gets to building up into something
33 worthwhile, then we may be able to address that. But the
34 Koyukuk Staff has not really noted very much aircraft. A
35 lot of the usage there is by boat that are coming in on
36 the river, so that's kind of the problem with this --
37 this controlled use really wouldn't -- there's not a lot
38 of aircraft use so far that I'm aware of.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further comments.

41

42 MR. SPINDLER: Do you want a report on
43 what we saw this past fall.

44

45 MR. REAKOFF: I would like.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that a request?

48

49 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, go ahead, a request
2 from Council member, Jack Reakoff.

3

4 MR. SPINDLER: For the record, I'm Mike
5 Spindler, Refuge Manager, Koyukuk/Nowitna National
6 Wildlife Refuge. Greg McClellan, my Deputy Manager and I
7 flew up there in mid-September and we conducted a routine
8 law enforcement patrol of that area. There were reports
9 of use of aircraft within the controlled use area. We
10 landed at a guide's camp located just outside the
11 boundary of the controlled use area and the guide said he
12 used the aircraft to go back and forth between Huslia and
13 his camp and did not use it for hunting purposes.

14

15 There was conflicting reports from people
16 in the village of Huslia that that airplane was seen in
17 support of moose hunting activities inside the controlled
18 use area. State Fish and Wildlife Protection Officer
19 Brett Gibbons did go up there and investigate. There was
20 no direct evidence available to pursue further
21 investigations.

22

23 We believe that most of the use of that
24 area is along the Koyukuk River and then accessing up
25 into the Huslia River and then along the Koyukuk River
26 and then accessing up into the Dakli River by boat. We
27 think there may be a few fly-in hunters that go northwest
28 of that area. We had hoped to get up there a second and
29 a third time during the moose season but the events of
30 911 caused us to leave our airplanes on the ground and we
31 never did get back up there this past moose hunting
32 season.

33

34 But your point is well taken. We will
35 conduct at least weekly patrols of that area this coming
36 moose season.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

39

40 MR. REAKOFF: Can you require your
41 permittees for the air taxis to report where they're
42 dropping off those people inside that controlled use --
43 or in this proposed controlled use area, I mean to note
44 that?

45

46 MR. SPINDLER: The special use permittees
47 that control -- that operate in the area on the National
48 Wildlife Refuge are required to report to us on an annual
49 basis the number of clients that they take in there and
50 the locations where they're dropping -- not exact

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1 locations but, you know, the river that they're dropped
2 on and so we do have that information available.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.

5

6 MR. COLLINS: Does that information
7 include information of whether they're using a raft to
8 float down, and my question's on the guide, does he use
9 anything like that, he's just outside the area, does he
10 have rubber boats available that can allow him to go in
11 and out of the area and to drop off people, is there any
12 information on how those hunters are hunting? Are they
13 floating down the rivers or just.....

14

15 MR. SPINDLER: All I can answer to that
16 is what I saw directly when I was there at that camp.
17 And what I saw was a large wall tent and several hunters
18 in camp. And I saw some hard outboards, not rafts.
19 There were two -- I think they were aluminum boats that
20 would be typically used on the Huslia River. One was a
21 jet boat suggesting to me that it might be used to go
22 further up the Huslia River than where they were located
23 at that time.

24

25 But we don't have information indicating
26 that there's a large number of people being dropped off
27 and then floating down the Huslia River. We do have
28 reports from Huslia village people that that is occurring
29 and we have made efforts to monitor that as best as we
30 could and we will continue to do so at least on a weekly
31 basis in those areas in the coming moose season.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further comments.

34

35 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

38

39 MR. STICKMAN: One last comment to share.
40 You know, just reading through the book here for
41 additional information it says that illegal activity was
42 documented. I wonder why those documents weren't given
43 to us as information.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Does anybody
46 have an answer to that?

47

48 MR. SPINDLER: I believe that was an
49 investigation by Fish and Wildlife Protection. You know,
50 I've reported to the Council here what our Refuge had

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1 conducted and that's what we saw. But the further
2 investigation conducted by Trooper Gibbons, I don't know
3 what the outcome of that is.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: This proposal stated that
6 it was documented by them, how come we don't have it in
7 front of us?

8

9 MR. SHERROD: Well, Mr. Chair, I didn't
10 draft this, Pete did. But Pete and I have been in
11 conversation concerning this and I believe the
12 information was requested from the proponent but was
13 never supplied to our Staff.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, George.
16 Further discussion. Go ahead, Robert.

17

18 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 Just one question here, I was going to ask the thing what
20 Micky asked here but don't you document anything with
21 video cameras, is that part of your inventory to use?

22

23 MR. SPINDLER: Normally we have still
24 cameras that we take in our packs and just notebook --
25 our procedures are mostly to visit the hunters and do a
26 typical check of the hunting license and tags and if we
27 see some things, you know, we may take some pictures,
28 photographs. But no, we normally don't carry a video
29 camera with us.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any more
32 comments.

33

34 MR. STICKMAN: One last comment, Ron.
35 You know, the indiscretion here, well, you know, you hear
36 rumors and you hear talk and, well, just from talking to
37 local people they believe that things got washed over
38 because it was a guide and one of the State commissioners
39 that was involved. So this thing kind of got washed
40 over.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any more
43 comments. If not the Chair will request a roll call.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The
46 motion on the floor is to adopt the proposal. Robert
47 Walker.

48

49 MR. WALKER: I'll vote yes.

50

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1 MR. MATHEWS: So you're against it, okay.
2 Angela Dementieff.

3
4 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: So you support the
7 proposal?

8
9 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: No.

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

12
13 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, wait, wait,
14 wait here.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Whoa, whoa, whoa. Yes.
17 Robert.

18
19 MR. WALKER: You got me mixed up here, a
20 yes vote means no?

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's what I'm trying to
25 figure out here. Vince.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair, the motion was
28 to adopt the proposal as written.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: And it was seconded. The
31 motion was to adopt it and it was seconded. So a yes
32 vote would adopt the proposal.

33
34 MR. WALKER: Okay, my vote is still yes.
35 Yes.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: So your vote was yes?

38
39 MR. WALKER: Yes.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Angela.

42
43 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: No.

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Jack.

46
47 MR. REAKOFF: No.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Ron.

50

00063

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Ray.

4

5 MR. COLLINS: No.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Micky.

8

9 MR. STICKMAN: Yes.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Emmitt.

12

13 MR. PETERS: Yes.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, if I got this
16 right, four against, three for, so the motion to adopt
17 fails. The proposal is rejected.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the school
22 has called in. Ray, when do they usually recess from
23 school?

24

25 MR. COLLINS: I'm not sure.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, do you want me to
28 pursue calling them to get them on line, they did call
29 back?

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Somebody could call them.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, I'll try it here but
34 it will take a few minutes though.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Last proposal? Last
37 proposal, right?

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Give them a call.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: And then we'll take a five
46 minute break.

47

48 (Off record)

49

50 (On record)

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: If we could find our way
2 back to our seat we can get started. I'd like to call
3 the meeting back to order Proposal 31 and the Chair will
4 entertain a motion to adopt.

5
6 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to adopt
7 Proposal 31.

8
9 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion to adopt by Jack
12 Reakoff, seconded by Angela Demientieff. Introduction of
13 the proposal, Vince.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this is
16 Proposal 31 under Tab C and I'm trying to find the page
17 number, Page 32. This was submitted by Pete Peterson of
18 Mountain Village. This is to revise the C&T use
19 determination for moose in Unit 21. So for the new
20 members, when we use the word, C&T, we're talking about
21 who qualifies to hunt for moose in Unit 21(E). And with
22 that, I believe Laura will be presenting the analysis on
23 Proposal 31. And we do have some public comments on that
24 that we'll summarize later.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Laura Jurgensen.

27
28 MS. JURGENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
29 members of the Regional Council. My name is Laura
30 Jurgensen and I'm an anthropologist with the Interior
31 Division with the Office of Subsistence Management. I'll
32 be presenting the Staff analysis for Proposal 31 and,
33 again, it's on Page 32 in your Council books. Mr. Pete
34 Peterson of Mountain Village seeks to revise the
35 customary and traditional use determination for Unit
36 21(E) and to include -- he has included the nine
37 remaining lower Yukon River villages in Unit 18 that were
38 not originally included. At this time Russian Mission is
39 the sole community from Unit 18 to have a positive
40 customary and traditional use determination for Unit
41 21(E).

42
43 For customary and traditional use
44 determinations, for the new members, we go through eight
45 criteria which the Federal Subsistence Program followed
46 on the ways the State had done it in certainly a lot of
47 their track records so we go through the eight
48 distinguishing characteristics and so, therefore, the
49 analysis is long and detailed, especially given the
50 sensitivity of this region, this area and that this has a

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1 long history in this area as you all know.

2

3 Between the years 1983 to 1999 many
4 communities on the Delta reported harvesting moose during
5 the State moose hunting season in Unit 21(E). This was
6 mostly in the extreme southern edge or the Paimuit area,
7 Innoko, but again, we're talking about this southern
8 extreme edge of 21(E). The Federal conservation units
9 for this area that would be affected include the Innoko
10 National Wildlife Refuge which is 11 percent land
11 holdings and the BLM having 44 percent.

12

13 Now, as far as some background, according
14 to Russian Naval Explorer Zagoskin and later American and
15 British explorers, they noted that moose populations on
16 the Lower Yukon appeared to have fluctuated even wildly
17 or more greatly than even caribou, and this is according
18 to their journals.

19

20 By 1880, according to their records,
21 moose were increasing in numbers moving down the river
22 and spreading or reoccupying headwater areas.
23 Culturally, the Central Alaska Yup'iks and the Deg Hit'an
24 or Ingalik Athabascans shared many practices in common.
25 The Yup'ik people who, often times, traveled to or lived
26 in the southern edge of Unit 21(E) adopted similar forest
27 river inland habit traits and one which includes the
28 somewhat recent harvest as moose have slowly migrated
29 past Anvik and Holy Cross over the 20th Century. These
30 different regional cultures generally shared a mutually
31 beneficial trading relationships with some intermarriage
32 occurring.

33

34 For the natural history of the moose,
35 they moved into Alaska from Asia during the Placetcin era
36 so discussing natural history fluctuations of moose, I
37 think we have to take, as we do with human beings, a
38 long-term distant past look as you all know and as we all
39 know, the Athabascan Deg Hit'an have habited this region
40 for thousands of years and the neighboring Central Yup'ik
41 for many thousands of years.

42

43 The inland range of the Yup'iks was as
44 far east as Paimuit on the Yukon and the vicinity of Crow
45 Village on the Kuskokwim River. Some evidence also shows
46 a long-term and consistent pattern of use of moose as a
47 subsistence resource by residents of the Kuskokwim River,
48 the lower and middle Kuskokwim River when they had luck,
49 or when they were opportunisticly harvesting during trade
50 and travel.

00066

1 For a customary and traditional use
2 determination Federal Subsistence Management has
3 typically tended to go toward to include patterns as
4 recent as 10 years ago all the way to thousands of years
5 past.

6
7 In 1993, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional
8 Advisory Council requested that all residents of Unit 18
9 should be given a positive customary and traditional use
10 determination for moose harvest in Unit 21(E). One
11 reason cited in the proposal was at the Kuskokwim River
12 drainage people have hunted moose in that unit, 21(E), in
13 the south for generations and should have been included
14 in the original Federal regulations. The Federal
15 Subsistence Board deferred this issue at the suggestion
16 of both the Yukon-Kuskokwim and the Western Regional
17 Advisory Councils. Other local agencies and villages in
18 Unit 18 have also requested a positive customary and
19 traditional use determination for moose harvest in Unit
20 21(E) over the past 11 years.

21
22 Prehistoric, historic and contemporary
23 trails have been used between these areas for trade,
24 harvest, ceremonies and religious occurrences. And these
25 trails include the Paimuit Portage linking up upper
26 Kalsgak on the middle Kuskokwim to the now abandoned
27 village of Paimuit on the Yukon. Residents from one
28 area, such as the lower Yukon River villages traveled
29 north to St. Michael and east to trade with their
30 neighbors, the Deg Hit'an. Opportunistic harvesting
31 occurred during these travels and can be expected to
32 still be occurring.

33
34 If this proposal was adopted, 17 more
35 villages from Unit 18 would be included -- are being
36 proposed for inclusion in Unit 21(E) for moose.

37
38 In my analysis, I looked at all the
39 information I could find that we have and certainly
40 there's a lot of data gaps and we always need to get a
41 lot more of elders knowledge and TEK or called,
42 traditional ecological knowledge documented so that we
43 can use it in these analysis, these forms, but from State
44 harvest ticket reporting, subsistence land use maps that
45 were collected during between 1985 and 1987 with
46 conservation -- excuse me, Refuge implementation plans,
47 many communities have been mapped and Unit 28 shows that
48 they harvest moose in, again, the Paimuit area, the
49 Innoko, again, the extreme southern part of Unit 21(E).

50

00067

1 So my preliminary conclusion was to
2 support this proposal with modifications. And the
3 modifications would be to add these additional 17
4 communities. In addition it is also recommended that
5 both the Yukon-Kuskokwim and Western Interior Regional
6 Subsistence Advisory Councils discuss and cooperatively
7 seek solutions for this long-term situation between the
8 regions.

9

10 The current Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk,
11 Holy Cross or GASH Cooperative Working Group is a
12 potential avenue for the two Regional Councils to resolve
13 this issue.

14

15 Another option is a separate meeting or
16 other venue bringing together leaders from the affected
17 regions to discuss their viewpoints and to work towards a
18 solution that addresses the concerns of both regions.

19

20 So the proposed regulation would read,
21 customary and traditional use determination for moose in
22 21(E), residents of 21(E) and residents of Alakanuk,
23 Emmonak, Nunan Iqua, Kotlik, Marshall, Mountain Village,
24 Pilot Station, Pitka's Point, St. Mary's, Andreafsky Town
25 Site would like to be included as a separate village,
26 town site, Bethel, Kasigluk, Nunapitchuk, Lower Kalskag,
27 Quinhagak and Mekoryuk.

28

29 This concludes my presentation, thank
30 you.

31

32 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I have a
33 question. Can you show us on the map where 21(E) is?
34 You're talking about the Paimuit area, is that divided
35 somewhere off from 21?

36

37 MS. JURGENSEN: Paimuit is right on the
38 edge of Unit 18, 21(E) and so when they're talking about
39 the Paimuit area, the Paimuit Slough and they go up north
40 into the -- the accounts that have been written from
41 elders discuss, in going up the Innoko, Iditarod River
42 drainages but the Paimuit area, it's just -- again,
43 because it's bordering both regions, I believe.

44

45 MR. COLLINS: Okay, I'll save my
46 comments.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince. Okay, Jack you got
49 a question for her?

50

00068

1 MR. REAKOFF: Is there -- was this usage
2 primarily in open water season or into the winter season
3 or is there a time frame of when this usage occurred?
4

5 MS. JURGENSEN: It was more in the fall.
6 Apparently, in the '50s and '60s when airplanes were
7 still allowed to go in that unit and hunt in airplanes,
8 people from the Kuskokwim have used airplanes and then
9 once that was prohibited, they now visit or fly up there
10 to stay with family and go out with boats with family on
11 the Yukon, primarily in the fall.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
14 Laura?

15
16 MR. WALKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

19
20 MR. WALKER: Yes, Laura. Robert Walker.
21 I am from Holy Cross to tell you the truth, that's where
22 I was born and raised. I listened to what you have to
23 say here, you know, these people -- some of them did take
24 part in -- to fly into our area in the early '60s, late
25 '60 before the controlled use area came into, you know,
26 but after the controlled use area came into, now, you
27 can't fly in there and the only people that ever came up
28 into our area were the people from Russian Mission. You
29 know, these -- all these other towns are completely new
30 to me.

31
32 So this is one of the things that I'm
33 going to say that they're not -- and I want to be careful
34 on how I want to say, traditional hunting. I talked to
35 some elders before I came here and I asked them that, you
36 know, how are we defining our moose hunting, is it
37 traditional or is it -- how is it? And they said, well,
38 I don't know, it's not traditional because they moved
39 into our country only 40 or 50 years ago. The first
40 moose actually did come into our area people went after
41 them and shot them for dog feed, you know, this is how
42 much they knew about them. So the word, traditionally, I
43 want to be careful on how I say this, you know. And if
44 they're going to say traditional -- you know, fishing is
45 a tradition because it's been there for hundreds of
46 years.

47
48 That's all I had Mr. Chairman.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's next, agencies?

00069

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Dave, go ahead.

4

5 MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 On Proposal 31, this was one that the Department did not

7 provide written comments on originally. We wanted to

8 review the Staff analysis before stating our position.

9

10 And now having reviewed the analysis, the

11 Department does not support the original proposal. And

12 we do have some differences with the preliminary Staff

13 conclusion as well.

14

15 Information is very limited for some

16 communities that were or should have been included in the

17 Staff analysis. We believe data are available to support

18 adding the following communities to the list of those

19 having traditional -- customary and traditional use of

20 moose in 21(E) and I'm going to name 12 communities here.

21 Marshall, Pilot Station, St. Mary's/Andreafsky, Mountain

22 Village, Kotlik, Emmonak, Alakanuk, Nunan Iqua, Scammon

23 Bay, Aniak, Akiak -- or Akiachak, sorry, and Bethel. The

24 Department also recommends that additional work be done

25 on the Staff analysis to determine:

26

27 A. If the communities included in a

28 revised finding should be found to have C&T use of all or

29 only a portion of 21(E) and, B, if a reviewed C&T finding

30 should apply to either the fall season or the winter

31 moose season or both.

32

33 The large number of communities included

34 in the Staff analysis of this proposal and differences in

35 the quality and quantity of information available for

36 these communities leads us to recommend that the analysis

37 discussed basis for determining why some communities were

38 considered to have a long-term C&T pattern of use of

39 moose in 21(E) and other communities were not.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any questions

42 for Dave? Jack.

43

44 MR. REAKOFF: Is that what your data

45 shows that primarily the usage was in the fall hunt and

46 not in the winter hunt?

47

48 MR. ANDERSEN: I must confess that this

49 information was put together by Mike Coffing in our

50 Bethel office who covers this area and I'd be reluctant

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1 to answer whether or not -- what season people are
2 hunting in there. I suspect it's the fall but I don't
3 know that for sure.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions?
6 Thank you, Dave. Oh, Robert.

7

8 MR. WALKER: Can I ask you, you came all
9 the way here to this meeting to bring this up and discuss
10 this with us, you know, shouldn't you come with a little
11 more information here for some answers like what Jack
12 asked?

13

14 MR. ANDERSEN: Well, I came with the
15 official State position that I was provided with. I
16 would be more than happy to call Mike Coffing and try and
17 get an answer to that question, about the seasonal
18 hunting pattern and I can do that this evening and
19 provide it to the Board tomorrow, if you'd like.

20

21 MR. WALKER: Thank you.

22

23 MR. ANDERSEN: Okay.

24

25 MR. COLLINS: Do you have a map of the
26 proposed -- you were saying that it be found for just a
27 portion of the area, do you have any mapping that would
28 show the area? If we separate 21(E) into two areas, do
29 you have a map that might relate to your comments about
30 using part of the area?

31

32 MR. ANDERSEN: We don't have a compiled
33 map that shows -- we -- typically when we do a
34 subsistence study it involves land use mapping and we
35 would have individual land use maps for those communities
36 where we've done work. And what Mike told me is that all
37 of the use, and as Laura alluded to, it's all taking
38 place in a very small portion of southern Unit 21(E), and
39 I guess our comment there was that the Council should
40 probably address, since it is just sort of slipping into
41 a portion of 21(E), whether the C&T additions would apply
42 to that whole subunit. I don't have the map with me to
43 show it but Mike did say that the use from these down
44 river communities is in a very small corner of Unit
45 21(E).

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
48 Dave?

49

50 MR. STICKMAN: I have a question.

00071

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

2

3 MR. STICKMAN: How far away is the
4 furthest village on the list from 21(E)?

5

6 MR. ANDERSEN: I would say that Bethel is
7 probably the farthest away and we can measure it on a map
8 if you want to know miles.

9

10 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. But aren't we
11 talking about a portion of the Yukon River or is it a
12 portion of 21(E) that's on the Kuskokwim River? Because
13 Bethel is on the Kuskokwim.

14

15 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chair, Micky. Yes,
16 actually four of the communities I listed in our 12 are
17 not on the Yukon. Scammon Bay is a coastal village.
18 Aniak, Akiachak and Bethel are Unit 18 communities.

19

20 MR. STICKMAN: Well, I was just wondering
21 when the Staff was doing the analysis, did they contact
22 elders like in Russian Mission and in Holy Cross, you
23 know, to make a determination?

24

25 MR. ANDERSEN: I guess I'd throw that
26 back to the Staff that did the analysis.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Laura.

29

30 MS. JURGENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Council
31 member, Mr. Stickman. I didn't get to talk directly with
32 elders from the villages and I agree that that's very
33 much needed and there are a lot of data gaps. I sent out
34 copies of the earlier analysis to all the village tribal
35 councils and would have appreciated comments from the
36 State before the meeting because it is hard to make these
37 type of determinations and you look at all the evidence
38 there is and as you know a lot of it has been taken --
39 documented through Western ways and according to what I
40 found, I agreed, that there probably could have been more
41 communities added from 19(A), but adding more to me just
42 seemed to be throwing more fuel on the fire and I tried
43 to be as careful and sensitive as I could. But I also
44 felt that there was a lot of evidence according to the
45 directions given from our office on what is C&T.

46

47 But again, any more information, I see
48 the statement from the elder, definitely I will put into
49 my next copy that will go before the Staff Committee.

50

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1 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, thank you, Laura.
2 Because you know if -- well, Robert, he just mentioned
3 that the only people he ever saw was from Russian
4 Mission. And as everyone here sitting at the table
5 knows, we all have a fair idea of our traditional hunting
6 grounds and of the people that come into our hunting
7 grounds, we have a fair idea of where they come from. I
8 mean it seems like it would be crazy for us to include
9 them if it isn't their traditional hunting grounds.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more questions for
12 agencies? If not, we go into public comments.

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we did
15 get a letter that Robert Walker brought in. I think
16 Robert agreed that I could summarize it. You have copies
17 of it in front of you, it is quite lengthy. I'm just
18 going to try to get the highlights of it.

19
20 Marvin Deacon did call me before this
21 meeting but at that time he was talking about coming to
22 the meeting so he didn't share with me any of his
23 comments. But anyways, his letter is here. I'm not
24 going to read every part of it, I'm just going to hit the
25 high points.

26
27 This is from Marvin Deacon. He's lived
28 in the village of Grayling on the Yukon River since he
29 was born. He has talked to local elders on this subject.
30 They told him that since they can remember, Holy Cross,
31 Anvik, Shageluk -- I think it's Holachuk; is that it?

32
33 MR. WALKER: Holichuck.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Holichuck, which is now
36 Grayling hunted in their own areas and each had their own
37 traditional grounds. He goes on to talk further about.
38 He kind of portrayed it, that it was like traplines, is
39 the way I understand it. That each knew where they were
40 supposed to hunt and stayed in their own areas.

41
42 He goes on to say that in the late '50s
43 to the early '60s, at that time he had never seen any
44 boat from down river hunting in the area, not even in the
45 Shageluk area. He goes on to explain that the motor --
46 boat motors 40 years ago were so small that it was a big
47 thing to see a boat, even from Shageluk in the area where
48 he hunted.

49
50 Again, he goes on in the 1960s they saw

00073

1 no river boats in the area, a few boats from Holichuck
2 out hunting and gathering berries and birds. Now, when
3 we go hunt we always have to be -- we always see strange
4 boats in our areas. If we don't go out on the first day
5 of the moose hunting, someone will be in our spot to
6 hunt. This did not happen until the big money from
7 commercial fishing came about in the late '70s and early
8 '80s. When people from down river could buy big boats
9 and travel up there.

10

11 He goes on to share his concern that the
12 big motors on those boats running up and down the river
13 are washing away the banks and destroying habitat.

14

15 He says here that people say that the
16 moose is stable -- moose population, I should say, is
17 stable, but with all this extra pressure for 20 villages
18 and wolves, how long do you think the moose will be
19 stable?

20

21 He ends with, I will say it again, this
22 is Indian country, all was and has been -- always was and
23 has been and will continue to be so. If this was their
24 traditional hunting area, where is their claim to the
25 land to show where they hunted 40 years ago? And the
26 rest of the letter covers those points.

27

28 So you have copies of that, that's from
29 Marvin Deacon. (ATTACHED)

30

31 The Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Advisory
32 Council did take this up in Tuntutuliak. They supported
33 the preliminary conclusion that's in your book and they
34 modified it to add the communities of Hooper Bay, Chevak
35 and Scammon Bay. So this is what the Yukon-Kuskokwim
36 Delta Regional Advisory Council did.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any other written public
41 comments?

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: No, that's the only ones
44 that I know of.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: We do have a motion on the
47 floor and it was seconded. Further discussion. Yes,
48 Angela.

49

50 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Mr. Chair. Angela

00074

1 Demientieff, for the record, of Holy Cross. As far back
2 as I can remember we never saw anybody coming into our
3 country to go hunting. When they did come, they were
4 invited, maybe. They might have been a relative from
5 someplace. Way back in the '50s it was wide open, all
6 kinds of people started flying in. My dad and several of
7 his friends got together and they established the
8 Paradise Controlled Use area. At that time they thought
9 they would cut down on all these outsiders coming in to
10 hunt. It did for awhile until big money came down river.

11

12 So these are things I know.

13

14 So I went to the oldest man in the
15 village, he's only 85, and another older guy, he's only
16 about 76 and I asked them, in all your lifetime, I know
17 you were born and raised here, when did all these people
18 start to come here? Were they always here and we never
19 saw them? They said, no, they only come after the big
20 money came down river to commercial. Before that you
21 never saw nobody. We had smaller boats, we didn't go
22 very far. And when we only got our moose when it was
23 cold enough to get it. We never got it when it was warm.
24 You never saw no waste of meat in our area.

25

26 All the people I talk to are against this
27 proposal because this is our country. We don't go down
28 and hunt in their area. And they're saying, that --
29 they wiped out their moose in their area and now they're
30 coming up to take what little moose is left in 21(E).

31

32 21(E) used to have a lot of moose but
33 we're seeing the numbers going down. You can fly between
34 Holy Cross and Shageluk and you'd count like 40 moose,
35 now, you can fly between those two towns and you can
36 count maybe 10, if you're lucky.

37

38 Pilots have told me that from Paradise on
39 down, that's where the moose are, on up, you hardly see
40 any tracks. And you can go fly out there any time and
41 look around for tracks and you will see that there is no
42 tracks so that means there is no moose there. And this
43 is before the snow started to melt.

44

45 So our village, in Holy Cross, I know, is
46 opposed to 21 -- this Proposal 31. They will not support
47 it and they asked me not to support it when I come to the
48 big meeting.

49

50 Thank you.

00075

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further discussion.

2 Robert.

3

4 MR. WALKER: Yes, that goes for the same
5 for -- my name's Robert Walker for the record. Anvik
6 opposes this and so does Grayling. And Shageluk, I
7 talked to the tribal chief there and he said they oppose
8 this also.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

11

12 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. I think this
13 is one of the more serious issues that we have to take up
14 is the customary and traditional findings. Because what
15 we're doing here is setting a precedent for the future.
16 It's going to be very difficult once you've granted one
17 of these customary and traditional to change it. Elders
18 are passing away. We're losing that knowledge base from
19 the past and I think we have to go very cautious.

20

21 Even under State management, I saw this
22 as a growing issue and this is one of the areas where it
23 first started coming up. That eventually, as populations
24 grow and as game numbers often fall for various reasons,
25 you're going to have to distinguish between even
26 subsistence users, and when you do that, one of the tools
27 for doing it is the customary and traditional findings.
28 Who has the most dependence on those resources.

29

30 When this issue came up before, a few
31 years ago, I was designated to meet with some
32 representatives from Western and Henry Deacon was also
33 named to that, we met over in Aniak and we sat down with
34 the people over there and we looked at a map and the
35 reason for their concern and I still hear it in the
36 comments was, that they were saying well, just about
37 Paimuit, about up to Holy Cross there was use and there
38 was use even from Kalskag and those coming through the
39 portage over there which again comes in around Paimuit
40 for hunting over there. So there is some use in the very
41 bottom of the area. But this request is for opening up
42 all of 21(E). And I think one of the best maps that
43 we've got that jives with what I've been hearing over the
44 last 20 years is this one Marvin showed us, where he
45 says, even those villages -- each have their own area and
46 he's designated this lower area around Holy Cross down
47 Paimuit as one, Shageluk had their own area, Anvik had
48 their own, Holichuck had their own and they normally
49 didn't go in except to hunt with relatives and so on.
50 They kind of respected each others operation.

00076

1 And I think we need very careful analysis
2 of this and I could only support this if we actually had
3 a map and just cut off that lower part of the area and I
4 think if you did maps from those villages, you'd find
5 that most of their hunting is in that area except for
6 some who flew in, which hasn't been recognized by
7 subsistence earlier or have come in in recent years with
8 the larger boats because they're going clear up the
9 Innoko and so on with those big boats now. But it was
10 not traditional, at least, in any definition by the local
11 people. And that's what I've heard -- I've been involved
12 with the communities over there on the school board,
13 traveling in and out, talking to elders in Shageluk and
14 people like Henry Deacon in Grayling and so on and these
15 increased uses are not traditional in their definition.
16 And I think I would have to oppose this unless we were
17 just mapping out a small area based on actual maps of use
18 with some history that goes back before the last 20 or 30
19 years when the big boats came in. Because I don't think
20 that's traditional.

21
22 And if we make that finding that means
23 that any future decline you'd have to open up the whole
24 area, clear up the Innoko River to all of those villages
25 out on the coast. How would someone get from Scammon Bay
26 around there, clear around to the head of -- up to the
27 Iditarod? It just does not make sense. Maybe in the
28 fall with a big boat using friends in Russian Mission or
29 somewhere over there they can go up there now but they're
30 burning an awful lot of gas in order to do it. So I
31 would urge us not to find that it's customary and
32 traditional and have the groups involved sit down with
33 the elders from all the communities affected and actually
34 do some mapping and pin down a more finite area. So I
35 oppose this.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further discussion. Jack.

38
39 MR. REAKOFF: I rely on the people who
40 live down in that are for discussion on this issue. So I
41 take your comments to heart and we'll vote with you that
42 there needs to be considerable more work done on actual
43 mapping into that 21(E), the lower boundaries. So I'll
44 vote with you guys here.

45
46 MR. WALKER: Thank you.

47
48 MR. REAKOFF: So I oppose this proposal.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further comments. Emmitt.

00077

1 MR. PETERS: Yes. I think it's very
2 important that we, sister and brotherhoods along in the
3 regions must realize our district area is one we have to
4 stand by and we stand by our brotherhood and sisters and
5 see. The game and fish, well, in this case it's moose, I
6 think they're right, you know, they come a long way to go
7 hunt up in our area and a lot of that is planned by the
8 people you know, planned ahead of time. I know it's got
9 to be done that way. And I would oppose and I don't
10 think it's right but I'm against it.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Emmitt.

15 Further discussion. Micky.

16

17 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, I, too, am going to
18 oppose the resolution there. Because the last three or
19 four meetings we had, there was some concerns with the
20 Grayling, Anvik, Holy Cross, Shageluk area with all the
21 new hunters moving in and the changing of the regulations
22 on the Koyukuk River kind of forcing people into their
23 area. So you know, if we make this determination here
24 it's just going to add more people to the area so I'm
25 going to have to vote against it.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. Again,
28 I was down at Tuntutuliak. And for your information Mike
29 Savage abstained on this. He said there was relatives up
30 there so he abstained and that's for your information.
31 We sat down and talked and I told him that whatever Holy
32 Cross, Anvik, Grayling, Shageluk, whatever move they made
33 I intended to support them, too, so it looks like we've
34 got almost a unanimous consent so far.

35

36 Further discussion.

37

38 MR. STICKMAN: Hearing none, I call for
39 the question.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question has been called.
42 All those in favor of adopting Proposal 31 signify by
43 saying aye.

44

45 (No aye votes)

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: All those opposed adopting
48 Proposal 31 say aye.

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

00078

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: It sounds like we got a
2 unanimous consent. I vote along with Robert and Angela.
3 Proposal 31 is shot down. Vince.

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I understand
6 your motion. I would like to explore that when this goes
7 before the Federal Subsistence Board, you have one
8 Regional Council in support of the proposal and one
9 against it. This would be a good time to give your
10 feelings or direction to the Board as to how you would
11 like them to handle it. Now, I'm not saying that you
12 want them to go with your recommendation, but to give
13 them some avenues to address this conflict of
14 recommendations.

15
16 So I did kind of hear Ray talk about some
17 additional work with elders to mapping. Also looking at
18 carving our or cutting out portions of 21(E). We also
19 have a planning process out there that's kind of
20 evolving. I just bring up these points of information
21 because you've got to give some latitude to the Board to
22 work with you. So maybe you want to discuss some options
23 there.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

26
27 MR. REAKOFF: One issue I can see is the
28 time frame that it took place in, you know, between
29 summer and winter hunts and I think that that should be a
30 consideration. Those marginal areas of usage in 21(E)
31 and the distances and the time frame when they came in.
32 You know, it was -- was it in the last 10, 20 years when
33 the fish prices were high and the distances and how many
34 people from those villages. You know, was it just one
35 person from each village? I mean Mekoryuk is a long ways
36 away from there and was it just one family going in
37 there. Those are questions that I would have about this
38 issue.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further comments. Ray.

41
42 MR. COLLINS: Yes. There is a planning
43 process that's starting to look at that whole area over
44 there about those conflicts and I think that we should
45 urge the planning effort to go forward, for the State and
46 Federal to look at how it's going to be managed in the
47 whole area. And then as I had suggested earlier, I think
48 there does need to be specific mapping and maybe
49 representatives of the different areas sit down, of those
50 villages, both in the GASH area and out on the coast,

00079

1 sitting down with maps and talking. Because when you get
2 the elders down they usually work those things out. And
3 it's true that there are family connections with some,
4 where there's individuals, but it's not a whole community
5 that's coming in and doing it. It's people that have
6 ties to the area that may come up there to hunt.

7
8 But to make a broad finding now when
9 there's no reason to right now. There still are fall
10 seasons and people are allowed to hunt. And you can
11 always make a determination later, but once you've made
12 that you probably won't be able to change it. So I think
13 we ought to move very cautiously and, I guess, just allow
14 a planning effort to go forward. And I'd like to see
15 more money spent on research and mapping on the Federal
16 side. Going into the communities and this would be an
17 example of something that needs documentation. How long
18 has that use been? How many people? Who's doing it?
19 Where are they going? Seasons? Those kind of things.
20 Winter, summer?

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Jack.

23
24 MR. REAKOFF: At that Game Board meeting
25 there was questions about usage into 19 from down river
26 also and it was pretty grey on that usage. So there's
27 big data lapses in this down river usage into the up
28 river area.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any more
31 comments. Robert.

32
33 MR. WALKER: Robert Walker for the
34 record. Going back to what I said earlier, about
35 migration of the moose, you know, in the last three years
36 we had -- right in town here we had something like 120
37 cows and the last two years they kind of like
38 disappeared. Now, I only count like 20 or 30 moose here,
39 you know, and we don't kill cows in our areas. So the
40 cow moose has kind of like moved on somewhere. You know,
41 it's like I asked this guy over here, I asked him to give
42 me some answers here, you know, are we going to have to
43 spend more money on tagging moose here, you know, not
44 only one or two, how about 10 or 20 and find out like
45 where they really go. The only time we ever kill moose
46 is like September 25th when the bulls are -- really,
47 really rank, you know, but don't quote me, whoever is the
48 protection officer here, whatever, but, you know, that's
49 what people do, there's no use to kill a bull that late.
50 But again, somebody's going to have to step forward with

00080

1 money to collar these so we can find out where they go.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Comments.

4

5 MR. STICKMAN: I guess I would ask, you
6 know, before the Staff do their final analysis and
7 present this before us again, I would suggest that they
8 maybe speak to some elders in Holy Cross and Russian
9 Mission and get a clear definition of traditional use
10 areas.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. I
13 really appreciate all these comments because I come
14 before the Federal Subsistence Board in May and at this
15 time I do not know what or how I'll testify. All I can
16 do right now is back up the Council's movement on the
17 proposal of this proposal. So everything that you can
18 think of I'd like to hear.

19

20 What I'd like to do is see what Ray was
21 talking about, pinpoint these areas. See how far they go
22 and what people and how often do they go there? Because
23 I need all the ammunition I can get before I come before
24 the Federal Subsistence Board.

25

26 Vince.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think I'm
29 understanding that this issue which you have now rejected
30 this proposal is that you would like the Federal -- you
31 would like this issue possibly addressed by the planing
32 process in the GASH area. I think, also, because the
33 planning process in the GASH area is still evolving, that
34 it may be wise for you to offer to the Yukon-Kuskokwim
35 Regional Advisory Council that if that process doesn't
36 allow this to be addressed, that you'd be willing to have
37 two members from your Council meet with two members of
38 the same drainage, Yukon drainage, to start reviewing all
39 this and start looking at where -- answering all your
40 questions as well as looking where there's common ground.

41

42 The reason I bring this up is that the
43 planning process on the GASH area covers both fish and
44 moose issues and it's difficult to separate those and
45 we're trying to work on that. So I think for your
46 safeguard, would be to offer to the Board and to your
47 down river Council that you're willing to work, maybe in
48 a subcommittee process, if the planning process is not
49 far enough along to address this.

50

00081

1 I hope I'm making sense on that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, you did. Because I
4 did specifically mention this planning group, working
5 group that is -- that we are trying to form. This is not
6 the first time that we will address this issue before the
7 Federal Subsistence Board. We have already addressed
8 this issue and have asked specific people out of the
9 Alaska Department of Fish and Game to work on this. And
10 Randy had been working on this but until this working
11 group can sit down with these people, that may be the
12 only avenue we have at this time.

13

14 Further comments.

15

16 MR. STICKMAN: One last one, Ron.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

19

20 MR. STICKMAN: Question for Randy. How
21 far along are you guys on the GASH area, five year -- you
22 guys got your working group together or I thought there
23 were some plans for a GASH area working group for a five
24 year -- or for a moose management plan.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Randy.

27

28 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, Micky, we'll be giving
29 a report on that tomorrow. But in a nutshell we don't
30 have a work group together right now. We have been
31 making attempts to get out into that area to talk to
32 folks more. There's a series of meetings planned for
33 this April. We do hope to get moving forward with it in
34 the very near future, but the group is not constituted
35 right now. We're wrestling with exactly how to
36 accomplish that.

37

38 At this recent Board of Game meeting we
39 presented the Yukon Flats Moose Management Plan, which
40 has been my priority. The Board of Game adopted that
41 plan and so we still have continuing follow up work there
42 but it looks like schedule-wise that, you know, it's
43 looking up for getting, you know, fully focused on some
44 other areas.

45

46 MR. STICKMAN: All right, thank you,
47 Randy.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Angela.

50

00082

1 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Mr. Chair, I have a
2 comment for Randy Rogers.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

5

6 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: You said you're going
7 to be having meetings out in our area, do you know the
8 dates on those?

9

10 MR. ROGERS: Yes, those are scheduled for
11 April 9, 10, 11 and 12. And actually up to this point
12 the Innoko Refuge Staff has been taking the lead in
13 organizing that, primarily because with their new Refuge
14 Information Technician, Clara Demientieff, they've had
15 the capability to take more time and work with councils
16 to set those dates.

17

18 One unfortunate situation, when
19 discussing setting up these meetings, we all agreed that
20 the first and most important factor there was to do it
21 when the councils wanted to try to get a lot of folks
22 involved, well, it turned out the week that they wanted
23 to do it was a week when I cannot travel so I'm
24 personally disappointed that I cannot be at those
25 meetings. And I really viewed that as a really good
26 chance to start meeting people, learning more about the
27 issues to help me prepare to do some planning out there.
28 There still will be Fish and Game Staff and Innoko Refuge
29 Staff involved in that. I'll collect all the information
30 I can secondhand to, you know, begin to move forward.
31 But that's the dates for the meetings and I'm sure that
32 Bill Schaff and Clara and folks will fill you in more on
33 that later in the meeting.

34

35 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay, thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Angela.

38

39 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Since you're not going
40 to be there, I would like to recommend that you start
41 advertising on KSKO radio for about five days on what the
42 meeting's going to be all about. It will start -- people
43 will hear it all the time and they'll start taking an
44 interest and when you arrive at those villages you'll
45 have a better group of people attending because they'll
46 be curious to know why are these guys coming, what do
47 they mean by planning?

48

49 Thank you.

50

00083

1 MR. ROGERS: Good suggestion, thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. If that fails,
4 I would like to ask for volunteers to sit on this, either
5 two or three members of Western Interior sit down with
6 two or three members of YK-Delta some time before May.
7 Because I would like these volunteers by tomorrow night,
8 by adjournment. Oh, go ahead, you had something.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you need to
11 slow down a little bit on that, I don't think we need to
12 move that fast on this. The Board has not taken any
13 action on this proposal. They'll have a split region.
14 They don't have a written policy, but you are the home
15 region so I would allow a little bit more time for this
16 planning group to kind of scope out the issues. What I
17 was giving you is the insurance policy, because we're
18 mixing several different programs into this planning
19 process, as your coordinator I was giving you kind of an
20 insurance policy that you would be geared up if that
21 timing didn't allow this issue to be addressed as quickly
22 as you wanted that this other avenue could move forward.
23 That's all I was getting at.

24

25 I can't prejudge what the Board will do
26 but this is a split recommendation between two regions.
27 They would look at the detriment to subsistence uses and
28 the users can hunt under State seasons because the Board
29 has not closed any Federal lands. So the question then
30 before the Board is, would their subsistence needs be met
31 with the existing seasons and I'm pretty sure the answer
32 would be yes. So there's not a -- I don't see an urgency
33 to have that subgroup meet in April or May because you're
34 going to have these scoping meetings. Let's put it
35 another way. You guys are going to either be involved in
36 this separate group or when this other group really moves
37 along, those same three to six people are going to be
38 involved in that, too, because the funding's coming from
39 Federal dollars. And the State, unless I'm wrong, cannot
40 address customary and traditional use determinations
41 because of their present Supreme Court issue that all
42 Alaskans qualify. So we have to have a heavy involvement
43 of the Regional Councils involved to address the
44 customary and traditional use determinations.

45

46 Does that all make sense because they
47 have all Alaskans, so I think they'll want us to figure
48 that part out, I would assume.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. It is

00084

1 4:30, we have a couple more items on the agenda, how far
2 do you want to take this? Should we move on?

3

4 (Council nods affirmatively)

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Next item on the
7 agenda, update of the Alaska Board of Game Interior
8 Proposals.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that would be
11 probably a combination approach here. Dan LaPlant will
12 give you some updates. I think you're going to have to
13 kind of give him some direction on that and then there'll
14 also be -- we do have plenty of State Staff here present,
15 too, that were at the meeting. And, of course, this
16 shows an example of the importance of Advisory Committees
17 because Jack Reakoff was representative of the local Fish
18 and Game Advisory Committee and spent, I don't know, five
19 or six days at the Board of Game. And then you added on
20 the issue, I don't remember what it was, the issue of the
21 letter to the State Legislature after this update.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, this is on guiding
26 regulations and who gives guides permission for certain
27 areas, if I remember right. Thank you. Dan.

28

29 MR. LaPLANT: Good afternoon, Mr.
30 Chairman. For the record, my name is Dan LaPlant. I am
31 the liaison to the Board of Game. I work for the Office
32 of Subsistence Management and I can get us started off on
33 this discussion and hopefully we can get some help from
34 Jack and there were several other people in the room here
35 that were at the Board of Game meeting so feel free to
36 point out any errors I might make.

37

38 The Board of Game met in Fairbanks here
39 just over the last 11 days, I guess. They started on the
40 8th of March and finished up late on Sunday night. They
41 went over about 176 proposals, I guess, and they kind of
42 all start running together in my mind. I haven't been
43 back to the office to put together a written report for
44 you so I'm just kind of going over -- or just reporting
45 to you from my notes, so I apologize for not having a
46 written report.

47

48 But anyway, I'll go through the proposals
49 here that I believe are probably going to be of interest
50 to you and, again, if you have any questions, just feel

00085

1 free to ask.

2

3 But starting in the Galena area, I'll
4 address the proposals in the order that the Board of Game
5 addressed them. They passed Proposal No. 53. This was
6 to reauthorize the winter antlerless moose hunt in Unit
7 21 (D). And when they passed 53, they added a
8 restriction to taking cows accompanied by calves.

9

10 And they also passed Proposal 55 and that
11 was to remove the half mile restriction on hunting in
12 Unit 21(D) along the Yukon River, the winter season
13 restriction. That was a proposal that came before the
14 Federal Subsistence Board last winter and the Federal
15 Subsistence Board did not approve it because it would
16 have caused a lot of confusion between State and Federal
17 lands, I believe was the primary reason. And now that
18 the State has approved that, that might be something you
19 might want to reconsider discussing with the Federal
20 Subsistence Board. But anyway, the State did pass it and
21 so that eliminated the half mile restriction on State
22 lands, or hunting under the State regulations.

23

24 Proposal 59 and 61 regarding meat on the
25 bone regulations, those two passed. And as a result of
26 those proposals and they were amended slightly, but the
27 result is you'll now have meat on the bone regulations
28 for moose in all of Units 21 and 22 -- excuse me, 21 and
29 24, and that's four quarters and the ribs, and Jack
30 mentioned that earlier. In addition that regulation also
31 created a meat on the bone requirement for caribou in
32 Unit 24 and that includes, again, the quarters and the
33 ribs for caribou in Unit 24. The original proposal also
34 required the salvage of heads for all moose harvested in
35 Unit 21 and that part of the proposal was amended out so
36 that didn't make it in the final proposal. I believe
37 salvage of head is still required in Unit 21(D) under the
38 subsistence season but under the general season it's not
39 part of that proposal.

40

41 Proposal 58, moose season Unit 24, the
42 northfork of the Koyukuk Drainage within the gates of the
43 Arctic Park, that passed. And as part of -- let's see,
44 oh, I see, the amended that into Proposal 57, the
45 reauthorization of antlerless moose in Unit 24. So the
46 concept got passed but not actually as Proposal 58. And
47 Jack might want to talk about the affect of that proposal
48 passing, but it affects private lands, I believe, within
49 the gates of the Arctic Park. So it establishes the
50 season or affects the season within the Park boundaries.

00086

1 Proposal 57, also contained elements of
2 Proposal 138 and that was to establish a moose draw hunt
3 in Units 24 and 25(A) in the Dalton Highway Corridor
4 Management Area. So again, you might say that Proposal
5 138 didn't pass but the elements of that did pass because
6 they amended it into Proposal 58.

7

8 Proposal 68, to establish a check station
9 on the Huslia -- or at Huslia, that failed.

10

11 Proposal 63, to establish a controlled
12 use area on the Huslia/Dakli River Drainage, that failed,
13 and that was the companion proposal to the one -- to the
14 Federal proposal you just heard about earlier today.

15

16 Proposal 67 and 64, to eliminate or
17 modify the Koyukuk Controlled Use area, those both
18 failed.

19

20 And Proposal 66, to prohibit airboats in
21 the upper Koyukuk Drainage, that one failed as well.

22

23 Proposal 65, to redefine the boundaries
24 of the Koyukuk Controlled Use area was amended and
25 passed. And what the Board did there is they chose to
26 have the Department identify the GPS coordinates of
27 reference points that were in the proposal and this
28 differs from what the Department was proposing. They had
29 proposed that different reference points and the Board
30 supported the use of GPS points but they supported those
31 that were proposed by the proponent. And I'm not sure of
32 how much difference there is between what the proponent
33 was proposing, those reference points on the ground and
34 what the current controlled use area boundaries are. So
35 I don't believe it's a large difference but there is some
36 difference there.

37

38 The Board initially approved Proposal 69,
39 to amend the Kanuti Controlled Use area to exclude
40 Todatotin Lake area, but later in the meeting they
41 reconsidered their vote and they reversed their position
42 and so that did not end up being modified, the controlled
43 use area, Kanuti did not get changed.

44

45 Also they failed Proposal 70, which was
46 to make other changes in the Kanuti Controlled Use area.

47

48 In the McGrath area, the Board amended
49 and passed Proposal 31 to change the winter Lime Village
50 moose hunt to February 1 through 5, one bull as asked for

00087

1 by the local advisory committee.

2

3 To address several proposals that dealt
4 with the conflicts between Unit 19(A) residents and 19(B)
5 guides, the Board amended and passed Proposal 40 and this
6 is a pretty comprehensive proposal. It was a product of
7 a subcommittee that got together at the Board of Game
8 meeting and it represented local residents of Unit 19(A)
9 and several guides that were present. The main
10 components of that were to establish a corridor two miles
11 wide on each side of most of the navigable streams within
12 the area and to exclude non-resident hunters from hunting
13 both moose and caribou within that, essentially a four
14 mile wide corridor on those streams in Unit 19(A) and
15 19(B). The proposal also removed the draw permit
16 requirement for non-resident moose hunters in 19(A) and
17 (B). That's what the guides were most opposed to. And
18 it also added the Aniak and Kipchuk and Salmon Rivers to
19 the Upper Holitna Hoholitna Management area. And what
20 this would do would be to require hunters who fly into
21 those streams in Unit (B) and shoot a moose or caribou,
22 to also fly out of 19(B). So what they wouldn't be able
23 to do is fly into 19(B) and float all the way through
24 19(A) and make these extended floats, where local
25 residents were observing some meat spoilage and having
26 them come out, you know, on the Aniak down in Aniak and
27 competing with the local hunters. So now if they fly
28 into 19(B) and harvest, they have to fly out of 19(B).

29

30 Proposal 37 was amended and passed to
31 reduce the moose season by five days in 19(C).

32

33 And Proposal 38 passed and that was to
34 change the hunt area boundary in 19(D) to allow moose
35 hunters to hunt on both sides of the Kuskokwim River,
36 it's upstream from McGrath.

37

38 Proposal 39 passed which closes or
39 shortens the December moose season in parts of 19(D).

40

41 Proposal 41 passed to align the non-
42 resident moose seasons in 21(A) and in 21(B). This is a
43 proposal that was requested by the Koyukuk/Nowitna
44 National Wildlife Refuge. And, again, it's for non-
45 resident hunters floating through on the Nowitna River
46 between those two subunits.

47

48 Proposal 42 passed to reauthorize the
49 antlerless moose hunt in 21(E).

50

00088

1 And Proposals 26, 27 and 28 passed and
2 those were all to reauthorize and liberalize bear harvest
3 in Unit 19(D) and (C).

4
5 Just a few other ones here, Proposal 46
6 also passed after it was amended. This proposal was to
7 allow the use of snowmachines for taking of wolves as a
8 part of the wolf or predator control efforts. But they
9 -- I believe, the way I understand it, the use of
10 snowmachines was allowed in the Unit 19(D) east
11 controlled use area or special management area, I forget
12 what it's actually called. But anyway, the amendment was
13 passed to allow the use of snowmachines throughout Unit
14 19. And they amended that to require that anybody
15 hunting wolves from a snowmachine must stop the
16 snowmachine before shooting.

17
18 The only other one here, I believe that
19 applies to the area is the proposal for modifying the
20 State ceremonial moose harvest system. And that
21 proposal, as was talked about earlier, was deferred to
22 next fall. They're asking that local communities or
23 rural communities be given more time to reach a consensus
24 on those issues or on that issue and bring it back to the
25 Board of Game at their fall meeting.

26
27 So Mr. Chairman, I guess that's my
28 summary from my notes here. If you have any more
29 specific comments I'd be glad to attempt to answer them.
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, do you have anything
33 to add or not?

34
35 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair. The Proposal 2,
36 open lands inside of Gates of the Arctic Park on private
37 lands which is under State control and those would be
38 Doyon lands, those were inadvertently closed by the Board
39 of Game, which they have control over inside of the Park
40 to people from primarily Evansville, wouldn't be able to
41 hunt moose on their own corporation lands. So the Board
42 reversed that inadvertent action.

43
44 One thing that was addressed by the Board
45 was utilization of highway vehicles on the Dalton Highway
46 shall be on maintained roads. Up to this point people
47 have started to use heavy four-wheel drive vehicles to
48 transport ATVs outside of the corridor and then dropping
49 ATVs off and starting to circumvent the ATV closure,
50 which is in the Dalton Highway Corridor. One of the

00089

1 drawing hunt in the corridor for moose was a very
2 strategic thing for the people locally, our moose
3 population's been beaten up pretty bad by unrestricted
4 bull harvest and so the Board addressed that issue and we
5 appreciated that.

6
7 There was some issues I had with arrow
8 weights and so forth that the Board is still discussing
9 and they may go forward with heavy arrow weights but
10 that's after some data gathering that they have to do.
11 And these are to address wound/loss issues with basically
12 too light of gear and some inaccuracy things I had, they
13 did not take -- did not adopt but they may be
14 incorporated in the bow hunter education.

15
16 This Board, Game Board is a relatively
17 new Board, all of them have been on there less than a
18 year. I did not agree with certain individuals but I do
19 commend that Board for working hard and reviewing all the
20 data and they made mistakes but they rectified some of
21 those mistakes so I feel this Board has potential and
22 there's certain members of that Board, I feel are anti-
23 subsistence but that's just the way it goes.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. It's
26 quarter to 5:00 and we still have two more items on the
27 agenda. Vince.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, based on
30 the Board's action on Proposal 55, removing the half mile
31 restriction, Unit 21(D), does the council want to submit
32 a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board to remove
33 that restriction in Federal regulations? You did that a
34 year ago and you opposed it because it was too difficult
35 to enforce. Now, the Board of Game has removed it, it
36 may be wise for you to put a proposal in the Federal side
37 to remove that half mile restriction for the winter hunt
38 in Unit 21(D). Staff can draft it up and we could submit
39 it at the next round.

40
41 MR. STICKMAN: Ron.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

44
45 MR. STICKMAN: Vince, I'm pretty sure
46 that proposal, the beginning started with me. And I
47 thought when it first came up and it was shot down, I
48 asked for reconsideration. So I think once you ask for
49 reconsideration it has to be kept on the books and it has
50 to be brought before the Council again.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, that was going to be
2 my suggestion. That we -- I think what Micky just said
3 happened and I was just going to ask you to resubmit it
4 on our part.

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: Is that the wishes of the
7 Council that we would draft one to get -- it's a
8 housekeeping proposal to eliminate that in Federal; is
9 that the wishes?

10
11 (Council nods affirmatively)

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

14
15 MR. STICKMAN: Yes.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. That's all I
18 had on that.

19
20 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, do we need
21 that in the minutes, should we just to move to reconsider
22 since it's already kind of in a holding pattern and then
23 we can adopt it or take action: would that help?

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I think it would. So
26 the Chair would entertain a motion to resubmit the half
27 mile limitation; is that it?

28
29 MR. STICKMAN: Yes.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, my
32 understanding and I'd have to pull out my notes is that
33 you rejected the proposal the last time it was up because
34 of the fact that it was difficult to determine where
35 those lands were that were Federal or not. I think the
36 easiest way would be just to submit another proposal and
37 ask the Board to do some house -- it's a housekeeping
38 proposal.

39
40 And the other thing is, if you're
41 thinking of request for reconsideration, RFR's which I
42 haven't talked to many of you about, that window has
43 already closed. I know you're talking about
44 reconsideration of your vote but my memory is that you
45 voted to oppose it. The Board took action on that and
46 opposed the proposal, if I remember correctly. I'd have
47 to go through all my notes to find out on the proposal on
48 the Federal side.

49
50 So it'd be easier just to submit the

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1 proposal, I think it will just zip right through instead
2 of going.....

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I would recommend
5 that we do that. I mean can we do it right out of the
6 office?

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: We can do anything out of
9 that office so...

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Out of your office.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: It's ready on the computer,
14 all I got to do is change the dates. So we're ready to
15 go, I just needed your permission to do that. When the
16 window comes open for wildlife proposals we'll submit it
17 to the Federal Subsistence Board, and then it comes back
18 to you and you can think about it all over again, if
19 you'd like.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

22

23 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, I make a motion to
24 move that Staff look into rewriting the proposal for us
25 to present to the Federal Subsistence Board.

26

27 MR. COLLINS: I'll second that.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. We already
30 consented on this so the Chair will call for a vote. All
31 those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

36

37 (No opposing votes)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Review
40 and recommendation on customary trade. Jack, what do you
41 have on there, unguided hunts.

42

43 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I have been
44 drafting a letter that I feel should be sent to all the
45 legislatures, governors and possibly the news media so
46 that the people of Alaska realize what this issue is.
47 And I'll read this draft and the Council can make comment
48 on it.

49

50 Western Interior Regional Advisory

00092

1 Council is concerned with the decline in moose
2 populations across the Western Interior. At the same
3 time non-resident hunter interest in moose hunting
4 continues to grow. It is recognized that non-resident
5 hunters who hunt without a guide have a high incidence of
6 wanton waste and inadvertently hunt near rural users
7 causing conflicts. Guided hunters are under
8 responsibility of the guide to assure that all the edible
9 meat is salvaged. Guided hunters typically are taken
10 farther from local hunting areas of rural residents.
11 With declining revenues in the State of Alaska, guided
12 non-resident moose hunters would have more benefit
13 economically.

14

15 In a nutshell, requiring non-resident
16 moose hunters to be guided would benefit Alaskans in
17 general and rural residents in particular. We cannot
18 stress the need for a commercial service board to set
19 control over transporters and guides. Unrestricted
20 guiding on State and BLM lands is severely impacting
21 resources. A commercial service board would expedite
22 control of commercial service harvest of game.

23

24 These two issues are of paramount concern
25 to alleviate conflicts in rural Alaska and derive more
26 benefit to Alaskans in general.

27

28 And I would like to make a motion to have
29 that letter submitted to the legislature and the
30 Governor, every legislature and governor and possibly to
31 the news media.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

34

35 MR. PETERS: I second.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Emmitt Peters.
38 Any discussion. Vince.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think Gary
41 Edwards would like to speak about the letter.

42

43 MR. EDWARDS: I guess my question would
44 be.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Can you use the microphone
47 please.

48

49 MR. EDWARDS: I guess my point would be
50 is that, you know, is it the responsibility of our

00093

1 various Regional Councils sort of serve as a bully-pulpit
2 for issues that they would like to promote. While, I
3 think each of you as individuals certainly can do that, I
4 guess I question whether you can do it as a member of a
5 Regional Advisory Council given kind of the specific
6 charge that you're given by the Secretary, as far as
7 carrying out your responsibilities in making
8 recommendations to the Board.
9

10 I guess what you could do is that you can
11 make that recommendation to the Board but I guess as a
12 matter of policy and, even though this particular item
13 may not be all that controversial, although to some, I'm
14 sure it will be very controversial, the question is then
15 where do you draw the line and what things could you
16 write letters on behalf of and what things could you not
17 write letters on behalf of.
18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.
20

21 MR. REAKOFF: As far as I know it's the
22 duty of this Council to make recommendations to the
23 Federal Subsistence Board about issues that affect rural
24 subsistence users within this region. And this is a very
25 severe issue for the rural people, these conflict issues
26 continue to arise and I feel that this Council, it's our
27 incumbent duty to inform the Board that this is an issue
28 that has to be alleviated by the legislative action of
29 the State of Alaska, since we can't control guides or
30 sport hunters, so to speak.
31

32 So I feel that it's my duty as a Council
33 member to bring this to the attention to the Federal
34 Board to alleviate this issue with the State of Alaska.
35

36 MR. EDWARDS: I agree a 100 percent with
37 you and I guess I would encourage you to do that. I
38 thought what I understood was that you wanted to send
39 letters using your letterhead as the Regional Advisory
40 Council to all State legislatures and while I think
41 that's a different issue than if you simply, as opposed
42 to making a recommendation to the Board.
43

44 MR. REAKOFF: That's where I'm exploring
45 this issue. I would like the Board to address this as
46 the Federal Subsistence Board. But as just being from
47 the Western Interior, I didn't know -- maybe it would be
48 better to do what you're saying, is that, the Federal
49 Subsistence Board address the issue one to one with the
50 legislature. So maybe this -- you want this submitted

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1 directly to the Board?

2

3 MR. EDWARDS: Well, I guess from my
4 perspective, that's probably the proper way to proceed as
5 opposed to using sort of your authority or your position
6 to step out on issues on your own that may or may not be
7 supported by the Board, that's the only thing I'm
8 suggesting. In no way would I want to infer that I would
9 try to discourage you from bring that forward to the
10 Board because as you said, I think that's -- if you feel
11 strongly about that, in fact, you wouldn't be doing your
12 duty if you didn't bring it forward.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: So who made the motion and
15 who seconded? Oh, Emmitt seconded. So do you want to
16 withdraw and readdress that motion?

17

18 MR. REAKOFF: I'll withdraw my motion to
19 submit this directly from the Western Interior Regional
20 Council but to be submitted to the Federal Board for them
21 to review and pass on to the legislature and I would
22 stress, again, all of the legislatures. Because the
23 leadership is not conveying that information to the body.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that a consent of the
26 second, Emmitt.

27

28 MR. PETERS: Yes.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky, you had something.

31

32 MR. STICKMAN: Yes, the only thing I
33 would have to question is unless this information came to
34 Jack from another subsistence user there would be no
35 problem with it coming through the Western Interior
36 Regional Advisory Council because it would be a local
37 concern.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: You still want this letter
40 to come through the Western Interior to the Federal
41 Subsistence Board?

42

43 MR. REAKOFF: Not necessarily. Well,
44 what I would like to see is the Federal Subsistence Board
45 convey this concern to the legislature, how it gets
46 there, you know, I don't care if it comes under our
47 letterhead or theirs, but I feel the Federal Subsistence
48 Board may hold weight with the legislature than the
49 Western Interior Council.

50

00095

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: That would be my
2 consensus, too. We do have a motion on the floor.
3 Seconded. Further discussion. If not all those in favor
4 of the motion, signify by saying aye.

5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

9
10 (No opposing votes)

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Review
13 and recommendation on customary trade.

14
15 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
16 would like the Regional Council to focus their attention
17 to Tab D. This is a summary, if you will, of the action
18 taken by the Federal Subsistence Board in December when
19 they developed the proposed rule. And the proposed rule
20 addressing customary trade is now before you. And after
21 my presentation, Mr. Chair, I would like the Council to
22 specifically address each of the three sections of the
23 proposed rule and make their recommendations accordingly.

24
25 Mr. Chair, my presentation will cover
26 five areas. It will cover the history of why this issue
27 is before you. It will summarize the Board actions taken
28 during the December meeting. It will briefly summarize
29 the tribal consultation process that we have to go
30 through. Importantly, the schedule of events that we
31 will be following and I would like to note that those
32 scheduled events have been changed due to the delay of
33 getting the proposed rule out of Washington, D.C. The
34 importance and the need for the Western Interior Council
35 to address this customary trade issue and make their
36 recommendations. And then I'll go briefly summarize the
37 proposed language that's before you in case there are
38 some questions.

39
40 Title VIII of ANILCA specifically
41 identifies customary trade as a recognized part of
42 subsistence uses. The term customary trade is defined as
43 the cash sale of fish and wildlife resources to support
44 personal or family needs as long as it does not
45 constitute a significant commercial enterprise. The
46 distinction between the terms customary trade and barter,
47 which is also provided in ANILCA is that customary trade
48 is the exchange of subsistence resources for cash while
49 barter is defined as exchange of subsistence resources
50 for something other than cash. Throughout this process

00096

1 there has been confusion between the term customary trade
2 and barter because in the real world, they're together,
3 but in the regulation arena customary trade is separate
4 from barter. An easy way to keep them separated is just
5 to think that customary trade deals only with the cash
6 sales. It's also important to understand that this
7 proposed rule only addresses the customary trade of fish
8 and does not address other issues, wildlife, et cetera,
9 only fish.

10

11 In late 2000, the Board established a
12 Customary Trade Task Force composed of representatives of
13 the 10 Regional Councils, fisheries biologists,
14 enforcement personnel, anthropologists and others. And
15 I'd like to recognize Mr. Collins, who served on that
16 Task Force from your Council and he was a key element of
17 the Council members in help drafting the language that
18 went before the Federal Subsistence Board in December.

19

20 In developing the draft regulatory
21 language, the Task Force identified three different types
22 of customary trade. The first is the transactions
23 between rural residents, rural resident to rural
24 resident. The second is transactions between rural
25 residents and others, in other words non-rural residents,
26 and others are defined as commercial entities, other than
27 fisheries businesses and individuals other than rural
28 residents. And finally, the third part of the proposed
29 rule is purchases by fisheries businesses. So the Task
30 Force made a distinction in the commercial arena by
31 separating fishery businesses from other commercial
32 entities.

33

34 You'll recall preliminary draft language
35 was developed by the Task Force and then circulated for
36 review by the Regional Councils during their last fall
37 meeting. The 229 Federally recognized tribes and for
38 general public review. The Task Force met one more time
39 after this process to consider all comments received and
40 eventually developed draft language that was presented to
41 the Board on December 12th, 2001.

42

43 This is listed as Option 1 of the six
44 options the Board considered and you can find that under
45 Tab, Pages 2 through 4. The Board looked at six options
46 when they developed their final proposed rulemaking.
47 During review of the draft Task Force recommendations by
48 the Regional Councils, seven of the 10 Councils made
49 specific recommendations for their area, area specific
50 recommendations. Your Regional Council recommendation

00097

1 along with the others can still be found in this tab,
2 Page 11. Included as part of the Task Force draft
3 language was \$1,000 cap for the exchange of salmon for
4 cash between rural residents and others.

5
6 The Regional Council's comments for all
7 Councils statewide, generally agreed, with a monetary cap
8 but also suggested regional needs and differences. Some
9 Regional Councils thought the \$1,000 too high, some
10 thought it was too low. Several Council members
11 expressed concern about allowing sales of subsistence
12 taken salmon in areas experiencing subsistence shortages
13 and limited fishing opportunities. In recent years areas
14 such as the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers have had poor
15 salmon returns requiring managers to reduce subsistence
16 fishing schedules and in some instances close subsistence
17 fishing. Some Regional Councils were also concerned that
18 the draft language restricted barter between rural
19 residents and others.

20
21 During their December 2001 meeting, the
22 Federal Subsistence Board took action to start the
23 process of refining Federal regulations for customary
24 trade. As I stated earlier, the Board considered six
25 options which are summarized on Pages 7 through 13.
26 After hearing the report of the Task Force, the six
27 options and comments from the Regional Council Chairs,
28 ADF&G, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
29 and other members of the public, the Board decided to
30 implement Option 5 and to initiate a formal rulemaking
31 process with this proposed rule.

32
33 Option 5 supports, in part, the
34 recommendations of the Customary Trade Task Force and
35 Regional Advisory Councils by allowing unlimited
36 customary trade between rural residents and prohibiting
37 customary trade or barter with fishery businesses. It's
38 the second section, .812, where there's a difference from
39 what the Task Force recommended. A thing to note is
40 because most customary trade among rural subsistence
41 users occurs between local users and usually involves
42 only small amounts of fish the Board does not believe
43 that this rule would create an incentive for additional
44 harvest of the resource nor result in additional fish
45 being sold in the commercial markets. Likewise, and this
46 is an important point, nothing in the proposed rule would
47 displace, supersede or preempt State or Federal food and
48 health safety laws and regulations governing the
49 processing, handling or sale of fish. Once an individual
50 decides to sell a fish there may be other regulations

00098

1 that they have to be aware of before making that
2 transaction. So that's just a thing to keep in mind when
3 we get into this arena.

4

5 Tribal consultation, Mr. Chair, the
6 Federal Subsistence Board did initiate this process with
7 the 229 Federally recognized tribes on the proposed rule.
8 The consultation is conducted pursuant to the Department
9 of Interior Alaska policy of government to government
10 relations with the Alaska Native tribes. The
11 consultation period is open from February 1st, and if
12 you'll look in the proposed rule it says March 29th,
13 however, as I stated earlier, the delay in getting out of
14 Washington, D.C., that date has been moved to April 30th,
15 so your comments as a public member or tribal council or
16 the Council is extended to April 30th. The tribal
17 consultation is initiated in close cooperation with the
18 Alaska Inter-Tribal Council and the proposed rule may
19 have a substantial direct effect on Federally recognized
20 tribes and encourages the tribes to submit their
21 comments.

22

23 The time schedule working towards a final
24 rule has changed, as I stated earlier, we're currently in
25 the process of bringing the Regional Councils up to date
26 through their meetings. This process will continue
27 through April 30th. The Federal Subsistence Board will
28 not take final action in their May meeting, right now
29 they're looking at the latter part of June 2002, with
30 that delay the publication of the final rule will also be
31 moved later and it's anticipated that if the Board, and I
32 underline if, if the Board elects to adopt the final rule
33 you could have a regulation as early as August 1st if
34 everything lines up and the stars and all that stuff.

35

36 Mr. Chair, the proposed rule is now
37 before the Regional Councils, what's before you is the
38 Option 5 of the proposed rule, however you are not
39 limited to Option 5. You can look at all those six
40 options that the Board considered or anything else is on
41 the table.

42

43 To assist the Board in their
44 deliberations we have summarized and that was handed out
45 earlier by Vince -- oh, you haven't done it yet, would
46 you please that, sir. Vince will hand out to you a
47 summary of all the Regional Council's to date, that have
48 acted on the customary trade and this gives you a summary
49 from Southeast, Southcentral, Bristol Bay, Seward,
50 Eastern Interior and North Slope and it gives you an idea

00099

1 of what each of the respective Councils, what they have
2 done from when they first acted in the fall to where they
3 are now. There's been substantial differences and
4 concerns on the customary trade and I think that's
5 reflected in this summary.

6

7 Mr. Chair, I'll briefly go through the
8 proposed rule with you. If you turn to Page 5 under Tab
9 D. This is what the language looks like after a
10 regulation specialist writes it. The three parts are
11 listed under subsistence taking of fish, subsection (C)
12 -- (C)(11) deals with the transactions between rural
13 residents, there's no restriction, it's unlimited.

14

15 (C)(12) deals with transactions between
16 rural residents and others. The Federal Subsistence
17 Board essentially adopted the old language that's in the
18 regulation where it says -- customary trade for fish,
19 their parts, or their eggs legally taken under the
20 regulations in this part from a rural resident to
21 commercial entities other than fisheries businesses or
22 from a rural resident to individuals other than rural
23 residents is permitted, as long as the customary trade
24 does not constitute a significant commercial enterprise.

25

26 The Board is hoping that the Regional
27 Councils, tribal governments and the public will provide
28 further information that will allow the Board to better
29 define what constitutes a significant commercial
30 enterprise.

31

32 And subsection (13) follows in line with
33 the State statutes of not allowing a fishery business,
34 like processors, fish brokers that have to be licensed
35 under Alaska statute to purchase subsistence harvested
36 fish, their parts or their eggs.

37

38 Mr. Chair, that concludes my
39 presentation. There's a lot more information under Tab D
40 for your review and I'm here to answer questions. Mr.
41 Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. For the
44 Council's information if you dig out your new packet, we
45 have another letter, a rather long one, from Sidney
46 Huntington that bears reading and rereading. We did come
47 up with some regulations at one of our last meetings, so,
48 Vince, would you cover that?

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we've been in

00100

1 negotiations with Mr. Huntington through the Refuge and
2 we've agreed, in respect to Sidney Huntington that we
3 will read his full letter into the record. So I'm ready
4 to do that whenever you would like. That was the
5 agreement we made with Sidney Huntington. He was going
6 to try to come over to this meeting but was unable to.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, go ahead, Vince.
9 But just for the Council's information, AVCP and YK-Delta
10 region are meeting on this issue at this time also and
11 that's why we do not have a representative from YK-Delta.
12 Go ahead, Vince, read it into the record.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. It is
15 blue in color, I don't know if we have copies for the
16 public but we'll try to produce those. It was dated
17 March 1st, 2002 from Sidney Huntington of Galena.

18

19 To the Fish and Wildlife Federal
20 Government.

21

22 I understand there is going to be a
23 meeting in the McGrath area on changes to the Federal
24 regulations, possibly pertaining to the Yukon River
25 Salmon. This one in particular bothers me to no end
26 making it legal to sell subsistence harvested products,
27 in this case, the salmon caught for subsistence
28 significant commercial enterprise users.

29

30 This past summer in 2001, the king salmon
31 commercial harvest was closed on the Yukon River taking
32 the historic livelihood away from people living close or
33 on the mouth of the Yukon River of which developed into a
34 larger than normal escapement up river. People up river
35 took advantage of this. There were more king salmon the
36 harvest was larger than normal. The subsistence users
37 harvested processed large amounts of salmon products,
38 salmon strips were marketed in Anchorage and Fairbanks.
39 This was sold on the open market, in some cases, right
40 out of pick-up trucks in both cities. No questions were
41 asked. I understand the Feds are trying to make it legal
42 to sell up to \$15,000 of subsistence products legally.
43 You took part of their livelihood away to give to others
44 living up river to use and sell illegally and abuse our
45 God given resources. We made restrictions on people at
46 the mouth of the Yukon River. Let's follow up, develop
47 regulations to harvest less fish clear to the border of
48 Canada, no sale of any subsistence caught salmon.

49

50 Remember this, the Federal government and

00101

1 the State of Alaska have very strict environmental
2 regulations pertaining to sell any fish products.
3 There's only one smoking operation that was legal on the
4 Yukon River by law. Now you are saying we opened the
5 selling of salmon products, make all and any smoke house
6 legal. This cost me over \$150,000 to make and meet the
7 State and Federal requirements. We will never get our
8 salmon back if we open up that kind of bucket of worms.
9

10 It's going to take eight years to see any
11 increase our king salmon runs providing we maintain
12 restrictions. How many kings one really needs for him
13 and his family? We can get by with 30 kings very nicely,
14 taking care of my offspring living in Fairbanks and
15 Anchorage. Using strict restrictions and sound
16 enforcement, it works. Four years ago there was a closed
17 season in the late fall chum run along the Yukon River.
18 Right now, that is the only salmon run left of which we
19 use for subsistence, us the historical way for use of the
20 food. Not as a boot leg resource.

21

22 If we want our salmon to come back, we
23 have to bite the bullet together from one end of the
24 Yukon to the other. Some will say you will be taking
25 away -- my livelihood away. What do you do to Area M to
26 the people at the lower Yukon. I lost my fish processing
27 camp four years ago because of the declining fish run.
28 You made a \$15,000 sale of salmon products legal. I can
29 start my operation up again and won't need a permit or a
30 license. \$15,000 is more money than the average
31 commercial fisherman made when there was lots of fish.
32 Permits won't be worth the paper they are written on.
33 And you are trying to pass the high price subsistence
34 harvest.

35

36 Sidney Huntington. (ATTACHED)

37

38 I attached to that blue page, real
39 quickly, what actions you took at your meeting in
40 October. So that concludes the letter from Sidney
41 Huntington. I did try to call Sidney up to reaffirm or
42 confirm that we were going to read it and I was unable to
43 reach him so I hope the Refuge Staff will be more
44 successful in reaching him that we did read it into the
45 record in respect of his leadership.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, this is an important
50 issue and Pete made a pretty good presentation. He was

00102

1 asking for questions, does the Council have any questions
2 for Pete?

3

4 MR. STICKMAN: Ron.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

7

8 MR. STICKMAN: Excuse me, I just had a
9 bite of my doughnut.

10

11 (Pause)

12

13 MR. STICKMAN: In the book under tribal
14 consultation, it mentions the 229 Federally recognized
15 tribes and then it also mentions Alaska Inter-Tribal
16 Council. Well, not all the Federally recognized tribes
17 are a part of the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council. I went to
18 -- even though the Nulato tribe is a member, when you go
19 to their annual convention, if your tribe is a member but
20 you're not a paid up member, you don't get to sit at the
21 table. You don't get to vote on anything. So I would,
22 you know, be very cautious on use of these non-profit
23 organizations that do represent tribes. I would make
24 sure that if you're going to say that it's tribal
25 consultation, you know, there's still -- they still
26 haven't given a clear definition of what constitutes
27 tribal consultation.

28

29 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, Mr. Stickman.
30 That's a very good point. And that, indeed, is accurate.
31 And I just wanted to point out that Alaska Inter-Tribal
32 Council was one method we utilized to contact the tribes,
33 however, we didn't rely strictly on that, we have
34 contacted all 229 tribes. But Mr. Carl Jack, who leads
35 this process has been relying on that as one avenue to
36 get at the majority of them. Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. But I don't
39 think he's pursuing this issue as hard as he should. I'm
40 pretty sure that he'll be down at the AVCP meeting. But
41 when he was at Tanana Chiefs, I did not see this issue on
42 the agenda and all I saw up there was a table in the back
43 with some information and it told me right off the bat
44 that nobody was taking the bait. Nobody was listening.
45 So this issue has to go through Tanana Chiefs area again
46 and make this area specific.

47

48 Stanley. The Chair will recognize
49 Stanley to cover more on this issue, he was at that
50 convention.

00103

1 MR. NED: My name is Stanley Ned, Tanana
2 Chiefs. This thing has been going around for some time.
3 We've contacted most of our villages but we were kind of
4 busy with getting ready for the convention and some other
5 things that were happening. But I've contacted Carl Jack
6 and he's willing to meet with some of our villages. In
7 fact, we're going to do a teleconference with our
8 subregions, subregion by subregion and have him
9 participate in that, so we're getting the message out.
10 We know the deadline's April 30th and we're going to work
11 on it.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I was thinking
14 for a second there, I had that medical last couple of
15 days, so I thought we were missing the boat some place
16 and I was going to ask the Federal Subsistence Board to
17 look into the issue. But even a lot of this information
18 that you see in front of you, we've used Vince's office
19 to hit all our villages and we have continually done that
20 but most of them just look at us and figure that, oh, you
21 guys can handle it. When you see letters like this and
22 all the other recommendations it makes me kind of leery
23 of where we are and who we are at times.

24
25 Anything else you care to add on that?

26
27 MR. NED: (Shakes head negatively)

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Stanley.
30 Any more questions for Pete Probasco?

31
32 MR. COLLINS: Ron.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

35
36 MR. COLLINS: Pete, there was some
37 information that I received about a survey that was done
38 on the river, how did that about the village about the
39 amount of this; did you send that letter out or where did
40 that come from, do you know?

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pete.

43
44 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, Mr. Collins. I
45 am not aware of any letter or survey that went out
46 addressing customary trade.

47
48 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: I know that we have to

00104

1 address this issue more but in what way, shape or form, I
2 can't say it right now. But at our meeting at
3 Tuntutuliak, again, I was glad that I was there, there
4 was a law enforcement officer from the State and what he
5 bluntly told the YK-Delta is that they are more or less
6 running a sting operation. They are sending out people
7 and they are buying to find out who's selling and who
8 much they are selling. So again, this is -- when
9 somebody tells me that it makes me awful leery of all the
10 proposals that I've seen. And that is why I wanted this
11 issue on the agenda. Any more questions for Mr.
12 Probasco? Jack.

13

14 MR. REAKOFF: I'm looking over this
15 Eastern Interior language that they put out and these
16 commercial dog teams that they're discussing in 13 of
17 their discussion, would those be -- that wouldn't be like
18 normal village teams that run carnival races and so
19 forth?

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Donald Mike.

22

23 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, Donald Mike,
24 Eastern Interior coordinator. Mr. Jack [sic], the dog
25 teams that the Eastern Interior Council were discussing
26 only applies to commercial dog teams that run
27 professionally and it would not apply to local dog team
28 races like carnivals and such.

29

30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
33 Pete or Donald? Go ahead.

34

35 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, I'm sorry, the
36 question?

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further questions.

39

40 MR. MIKE: Okay, one more item to add to
41 Mr. Reakoff's question about the dog teams. The Eastern
42 Interior also discussed the carnival dog team races --
43 not the carnival but the tourism industry. Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
46 Mr. Probasco? Since, we're drawing a blank, maybe it
47 would be a good idea to take a break and bring this up
48 again in the morning. I talked with our recorder and
49 she's not leaving until Thursday morning and we do have
50 all day to go tomorrow and we, as Council members, won't

00105

1 be leaving until Thursday morning, either. Vince.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I got a lot of eyes
4 on me so let me see if I can figure this one out. I
5 think what might be good, Ron, if we can, we need to
6 capitalize on Pete Probasco's expertise on this subject
7 because he's been spearheading it from the get-go. He
8 has commitments with the Board of Fisheries on some
9 important issues. So it might be good if we could get
10 some key members of this Council, I know Ray has an open
11 house and that but maybe we could sit down at Ray's house
12 and look at some of this language from the other Regional
13 Councils and maybe come up with some options because this
14 could go on for a long time and we have it all on
15 computer so we can -- so it won't be that difficult and
16 then tomorrow we could actually project it. But I think
17 it might be good to have -- I know he wants to eat, too,
18 but Pete Probasco.....

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MR. MATHEWS:and a couple of other
23 people meet with some Council members, because I see too
24 many components and pieces here for you to do it by full
25 Council, that maybe a subgroup could come up with some
26 option. It doesn't eliminate these other options, it
27 just helps you kind of narrow it down, if that's the
28 wishes.

29

30 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, my house would be
31 available. There's room there if you wanted to, sometime
32 during the evening or a little later we could do that.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: So we need to know who
35 might be interested. We've already wrapped in Pete, now
36 I need to wrap in a few Council members. I would like to
37 participate in that because I got to kind of draft the
38 notes from it, but, who, on the Council because we need
39 to do that because I know it's going to be a lot of fun
40 at Ray's house but we just need to set aside a little
41 time. So who on the Council would be willing? I don't
42 think it should be the full Council otherwise we're back
43 to the same thing again.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: We got Jack Reakoff. Any
46 further volunteers? Ray.

47

48 MR. COLLINS: Well, yeah, yeah, I guess
49 I'll be there already.

50

00106

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Ray.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further volunteers?

6

7 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: I will.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Angela Demientieff. Thank
10 you for your participation, I'm glad that you're on there
11 because I know you're on that YR DFA board, too. Thank
12 you again.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: What time would be good,
15 Ray? Ray, what would be a good time at your house to
16 kind of move the meeting over there, no, but what would
17 be a good time, because I know you're trying to cook and
18 stuff?

19

20 MR. COLLINS: Well, we'll see how it
21 goes. We'll already be over there.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that's the only
24 way to go.

25

26 MR. COLLINS: You're free to come over,
27 you don't have to wait until 6:00 if you want to come
28 over and watch the news or whatever.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, from what I heard,
31 the AC Store closes at 7:00 if you want to cash your
32 checks. I understand that they were going to do it and
33 I'd like to thank them for that. Emmitt.

34

35 MR. PETERS: Yes, I'd like to ask the
36 gentleman, I need to know more about this commercial dog
37 team and how that works?

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Emmitt, I think we need to
40 get Donald up here because it's a recommendation from the
41 Eastern Regional Council. So he can try to interpret
42 what the Regional Council did in their last meeting at
43 Eastern Interior.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Donald.

46

47 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, if you look at your
48 handout on Page -- on the third page there's a definition
49 towards the bottom, a definition of commercial dog team,
50 a business that leases, rents, races or otherwise

00107

1 provides services with their dogs or dog team from money
2 or enumeration, excluding amateur events. So basically
3 it would be all professional dog teams and the tourist
4 industry. The Eastern Interior Council were very
5 concerned about the amount of subsistence -- I mean the
6 amount of salmon caught for the purposes of feeding the
7 dog teams that benefit from commercial prizes.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Donald. For
12 your information Emmitt that's just a proposal and that's
13 just one Council. I wasn't even going to discuss that
14 disgusting recommend -- I'm not sure -- but I do not
15 think that you can define commercial professional because
16 it's one of those things that you really can't put a
17 handle on. Donald.

18

19 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, again, this is the
20 recommendation that came from the Eastern Interior
21 Regional Advisory Council and this is just for your
22 information. This is what the Eastern Interior Council
23 came up with as a recommendation to the Board. Thank
24 you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, thank you. And
27 that's what I want to advise Emmitt on, that that
28 proposal hasn't been passed or hasn't even really been
29 considered at this time yet and it will take more than
30 all 10 Councils to make any recommendation on that issue
31 at this time.

32

33 MR. COLLINS: My house is two houses
34 down, it's the house behind the purple house, two houses
35 down.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did everybody get that
38 message? Okay. Any more questions for Mr. Probasco?

39

40 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

43

44 MR. PROBASCO: So my understanding is you
45 hope this group of individuals would come back with
46 various recommendations addressing the three sections of
47 the regulation taking into consideration of what the
48 Western Interior did during their fall meeting?

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. And a follow up on

00108

1 our last fall meeting and that's the way I was looking at
2 it.

3

4 You got it Vince?

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, we got it. It's
7 difficult with -- yeah, we have it.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: I hope so. I'd like to
10 thank Ray and our three Council members who did
11 volunteer, again, this is a serious issue and I shouldn't
12 be making light of it. Any further questions for Mr.
13 Probasco? Did you have something, Vince.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: No, you just have one more
16 agenda item. I was anticipating you might try to recess.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: We still got 25 minutes,
19 go ahead.

20

21 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, this is just
22 for your information and it will go fairly quickly.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

25

26 MR. PROBASCO: Okay. Mr. Chair, and this
27 doesn't require any action it's just to bring everybody
28 up to speed on the Council membership issue, the Council
29 membership balance issue.

30

31 The purpose of this briefing is for
32 informational purposes only and it does not require an
33 action by the Council. Recently a letter was received
34 from the Deputy Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Steven
35 Griles, concerning membership balance on the Regional
36 Advisory Councils. Mr. Griles requested that we review
37 our procedures for recommending Council members to ensure
38 that we are complying with the Federal Advisory Committee
39 Act, also referred as FACA, regarding membership balance
40 and representation of all affected user groups, i.e.,
41 subsistence, sport, commercial, urban, rural, Native and
42 non-Native. A copy of this letter is in your packet with
43 a transmittal letter from the Chair, Mr. Mitch
44 Demientieff of the Federal Subsistence Board, which was
45 also sent to the Council members.

46

47 It's important to understand that this
48 review is going on nationwide, it's not just focused on
49 this particular Regional Council Federal Subsistence
50 Board, and this is going on nationwide and it's a general

00109

1 review of FACA committees and membership balance. We
2 realize that the letter from Mr. Griles may raise some
3 concerns for you, however, we want to assure you that we
4 welcome this opportunity to review these administrative
5 procedures and processes for Council member appointments.

6

7

8 As the Chair indicated in his transmittal
9 letter to you, we believe we have a solid record and that
10 we are complying with the spirit and intent of ANILCA and
11 FACA. A committee of the Board members or their
12 designees has been established by the Chair to undertake
13 a review of the nomination process including the
14 selection process. Guiding principles for this committee
15 include keep subsistence management and the goals of
16 ANILCA Title VIII as a primary focus in our procedures,
17 to ensure membership balance on the Councils in
18 accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act,
19 promote selection of Council members among those who will
20 work constructively to uphold ANILCA, Title VIII mandate.
21 Recognize that there's several interests that are
22 directly affected by the Federal Subsistence Program and
23 that these interests should be provided an opportunity to
24 be directly involved in the subsistence management
25 process. The committee will provide recommendations back
26 to the full Board and after review by the Board
27 recommendations will be forwarded to Deputy Secretary
28 Griles and we'll keep the Councils informed as we move
29 through this process.

30

31 Mr. Chair, that's the status report.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I hope I get
34 reappointed next year. When I applied for reappointment,
35 I pointedly stated out appointments that were made to
36 Eastern Interior Council and I asked them for a full
37 review of what we have been doing here at Western
38 Interior because we believe that we have been working
39 with everybody in the whole state concerning subsistence.

40

41 Jack also sent a letter to Mr. Tom Boyd
42 and I voice mailed back up on that letter. And at the
43 YK-Delta meeting, I cannot see them making any changes
44 down there because of the language concern and the
45 translation concern. They could put anybody they want
46 down there but you'd be left out in the cold I'm afraid.
47 So I am not really worried about this issue at all but it
48 is good information.

49

50 Any questions for Mr. Probasco? Vince.

00110

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, when you
2 received the copy, Jack Reakoff's letter, you requested
3 that copies be available at the meeting and it's in your
4 blue packet, it's letter number 3 just so you know that
5 you have a copy of Jack's letter to Tom Boyd concerning
6 this balance of membership.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any more
9 questions for Vince or Mr. Probasco?

10

11 MR. STICKMAN: No, questions but I have a
12 comment.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Micky.

15

16 MR. STICKMAN: You know, it seems like, I
17 don't, you know, it seems like they have a -- there's a
18 problem with the balance but, you know, if you look at
19 the Koyukuk River, the five year moose management plan,
20 you'll notice that the planning committee we had -- if
21 you look at who was involved you'd see that all users
22 were involved, so you know that's one thing that -- you
23 know, you ought to have on record is when the management
24 plan came out that there was subsistence people there,
25 there was people from all Regional Advisory Committees
26 there, there was commercial interests there, so you know,
27 in writing up the moose management plan there was a fair
28 balance of users. So you know, I don't see how they can
29 say, you know, maybe they mean just us, but you know as
30 far as the State is concerned, you know, just looking at
31 the five year moose management plan it seemed like it was
32 pretty fair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. Any
35 more comments? Anyone from the public? If not, we'll
36 recess until 9:00 a.m. Thank you.

37

38 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

39

40

* * * * *

00111

1 CERTIFICATE

2

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

4)ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA)

6

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for
8 the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix
9 Court Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 110
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
13 WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
14 COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically by Salena
15 Hile on the 19th day of March 2002, beginning at the hour
16 of 11:00 o'clock a.m. at McGrath, Alaska;

17

18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct
19 transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter
20 transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to
21 the best of our knowledge and ability;

22

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

25

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 29th day of
27 March 2001.

28

29

30

31

32 _____
33 Joseph P. Kolasinski
34 Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 04/17/04