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WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Allakaket, Alaska  
March 9, 2005  
8:30 o'clock a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Ronald Sam, Chair
- Ray Collins
- Donald Honea
- Benedict Jones
- Tom Kriska
- Carl Morgan
- Jack Reakoff
- Mickey Stickman
- Robert Walker
- Regional Council Coordinator; Vince Mathews

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

2  
3 (Allakaket, Alaska - 3/9/2005)

4  
5 (On record)

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I'd like to  
8 call the meeting back to order. Vince, you had your hand  
9 up.

10  
11 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I just got a couple  
12 of housekeeping things. Real quickly here, you already  
13 seen the poster for thanking George Siavelis, if you  
14 haven't had a chance to sign it, it's over here, it'd be  
15 great, I'll mail it out later this week. And then last  
16 meeting you guys had a plague for Bob Shults, you didn't  
17 get to see the final version of the plague so I have a  
18 picture of the final version and then a picture of Bob  
19 receiving it. I wasn't there but you can ask Wennona, I  
20 think he was taken back by your recognition. And, then,  
21 finally, Robert has seen these, these are extra copies  
22 that I had made of the two posters that you had from your  
23 Anvik meeting to the traditional council thanking them  
24 and to the Blackwell School. So I'll pass that around.  
25 Ray, would like to keep one of these because he would  
26 like a picture of the Council so if it could get back to  
27 Ray, if that's okay. So I'll pass those by Tina.

28  
29 The final thing for everyone is, is  
30 Tina's the one that's, and I appreciate it greatly, the  
31 one that's if you need to settle up on your meals or et  
32 cetera, that would Salena, the school, you need to talk  
33 to the principal but she's leaving this morning assuming  
34 planes are coming in or Nancy or Maryanne or Mary, I  
35 think it's Maryanne, at the school if you want to settle  
36 up on lodging.

37  
38 And if you want to digital version of the  
39 picture, this was put together by Arctic Refuge Staff,  
40 and I really appreciate them making the poster, but the  
41 picture itself, Rich has it in digitized form and we can  
42 email it to you.

43  
44 So, again, meals, Tina. She has a  
45 receipt book. And then lodging would be the staff at the  
46 school. And I think that's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

47  
48 I think last night we left off where we  
49 were hoping to have BLM do their report last night but we  
50 didn't have enough time. That would be Ingrid and then

1 possibly other Staff. Then we'll go into the options for  
2 the Kanuti Refuge winter hunts. And we do have a map,  
3 that's why that's all set up, so we can get it real clear  
4 to everybody where we're talking about for Kanuti. So  
5 with that I believe Ingrid would be next.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Where does Huslia  
8 fit in, do you have under agency reports -- right after  
9 lunch, okay, go ahead, Ingrid, Tim Craig, BLM.

10  
11 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman. Council  
12 members. I'm Tim Craig. I work for BLM in Fairbanks.  
13 And Ingrid McSweeney is with us today, she's a fish  
14 biologist in our office. Normally Mr. Jeff Denton would  
15 be here and Monday he called me to let me know that he  
16 wouldn't be because he was involved in some moose  
17 surveys. But he asked me to relate three messages to  
18 you.

19  
20 First that cooperating State and Federal  
21 agencies, including BLM have completed moose surveys in  
22 the southern half of GMU 19(A), that includes the Lime  
23 Village area, and in 21(E). He said that the results of  
24 the work are not available yet. And then he also wanted  
25 to let you know that the work in 21(E) is a result of the  
26 GASH Moose Management Planning effort.

27  
28 He also wanted me to let you know that  
29 the Central Moose Management Plan is currently being  
30 implemented and that the Alaska Department of Fish and  
31 Game has issued permits as far as their wolf control  
32 effort in 19(A), (B) and (D) and that the program is  
33 currently under way.

34  
35 And those are the items from the  
36 Anchorage Field Office that he wanted me to let you know  
37 about.

38  
39 From our office, the Northern Field  
40 Office there's several different things that are probably  
41 important for you to know. First is that we're  
42 undergoing a reorganization in which the northwest  
43 planning area, the Dalton Highway Management Unit and the  
44 Central Yukon area are all going to be combined into one  
45 area. And I just have a draft map here that I thought  
46 you might be interested if you could see, here's the  
47 Seward Peninsula, which incidentally has gone over to the  
48 Anchorage Field Office, it used to be under our office.  
49 And the Central Yukon area would run from the Canadian  
50 Border all the way up to here to Point Hope. We're not

1 even sure what the name of it's going to be yet, but that  
2 would be the biggest field office in the BLM in Alaska.  
3 Of course, here's the Arctic Field Office would be the  
4 one to the north and then the smaller one, some people  
5 are calling it the East Unit. So anyway, we don't know  
6 how that's all going to shake out, it sounds like we're  
7 going to have area managers under our field office  
8 manager so there'll be another layer of management and  
9 responsibility between me and the big boss. And so my  
10 duties are going to get reassigned, as are other peoples,  
11 including Ingrid's to some extent.

12  
13 In your handout, under No. 3, we've  
14 talked about this challenge cost share agreement we have  
15 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to fund  
16 surveys of ungulates, subsistence ungulates in the  
17 Western Interior Region. And Glenn Stout's already  
18 talked about this big moose effort -- survey effort that  
19 occurred in October. And I just, as a matter of interest  
20 to you, I have reproduced the results for the Middle Fork  
21 trend count area. Now, that's the area that's basically  
22 runs from about Twelvemile Mountain up to Wiseman in the  
23 Middle Fork Koyukuk. And if you look down at the bottom  
24 row, that would be the results from this year, and many  
25 of the parameters look to be the same or very close to  
26 the same information that we got from last year, however,  
27 the number of yearling bulls has declined and the number  
28 of bulls per 100 cows has increased. One of the things  
29 that I -- I guess the take home message is that, again,  
30 is I think long-term monitoring is really important. And  
31 there's fluctuations and population composition related  
32 to snowfall in these mountainous areas and so I think  
33 it's real important that we, over time, we keep doing  
34 these trend count surveys.

35  
36 On the next page Fish and Game and BLM,  
37 we had hoped to put out some radio collars on caribou in  
38 the Hodzana Hills this past fall and we got weathered  
39 out. We hope to do it, we're replanning to do that again  
40 first week of April if the weather's good.

41  
42 No. 4. The BLM has not issued any new  
43 recreational guiding permits for the Dalton Highway  
44 Management Unit in 2005 and currently there's still about  
45 39 hunting guides and eight tour operators permitted in  
46 the entire Northern Field Office area. And that does  
47 include guys who's permit areas overlap just a portion of  
48 the Western Interior. So there really has been little  
49 change there although we've been hearing rumblings that  
50 there may be other people coming in but we haven't gotten

1 any permit applications yet.

2

3 No. 5. The BLM has received a proposed  
4 plan of operations to placer mine Federal mining claims  
5 on Aloha Creek, which is a trib of Hodzana River. We're  
6 in the preliminary stages of NEPA review on that project  
7 and will place a notice in the Fairbanks News Miner  
8 soliciting comments from the public in the near future.  
9 If you have interest in this mine or you want to see what  
10 the plan of operation looks like, I put a telephone  
11 number down here for the surface protection specialist in  
12 charge of that in our office.

13

14 And that concludes my portion of the  
15 presentation.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tim. I have  
20 one question right off the bat, I can't remember if it  
21 was the last meeting or the meeting before that, that we  
22 recognized Caribou Mountain Herd, is this Hodzana Caribou  
23 Herd that you were talking about?

24

25 MR. CRAIG: I'm sorry, I've got a bad  
26 head cold, I can't hear, which caribou herd are you  
27 talking about?

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Wasn't there a separate  
30 caribou herd right around Caribou Mountain, is it now  
31 identified as the Hodzana Caribou Herd?

32

33 MR. CRAIG: Not officially. We have  
34 three radios out there. We put four out, we had one go  
35 into mortality pretty quick. There's three radios still  
36 ticking. It's not really on anybody's radar screen but  
37 whenever Fish and Game or BLM happens to be out in the  
38 area we try and locate them. And what we found is that  
39 they're staying in pretty much the same place year-round.  
40 It is my feeling that it is a little, what people might  
41 call a relic herd of animals, I think it's under 400  
42 animals. It looks like it uses the corridor and off into  
43 the Hodzana Hills, which is kind of on Yukon Flats, more  
44 on Yukon Flats, but Jim River Prospect, you know, that  
45 area up there, kind of a highlands. And I think it's  
46 going to turn out to be a little indigenous herd of  
47 caribou there that is separate from other herds.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: So that Hodzana Herd  
50 pretty much stays on the east side of the Dalton Highway,

1 does it?

2

3 MR. CRAIG: The radios have never gone on  
4 the west side, but, occasionally when you go down the  
5 highway you'll see caribou tracks going across at Finger  
6 Mountain from Old Man and off into those highlands off  
7 towards the Kanuti, and I suspicion that's the same  
8 group. So I think they probably go across the highway  
9 sometimes, but I think from my experience anyway, they're  
10 spending more time in the head of Bonanza Creek, Prospect  
11 Creek, Fish Creek and then Hodzana, the Hodzana River.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tim. Jack.

14

15 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
16 would like to thank the BLM for investigating this  
17 Hodzana Herd. This herd is subject to hunting pressure  
18 from the Dalton Highway and so it's very important to  
19 have information about that herd and where their  
20 movements go and where the calves and so forth go. And I  
21 highly appreciate the BLM's efforts in the last few years  
22 to learn about the animals in the Dalton Highway Corridor  
23 area. At this Council's request for that funding and for  
24 that investigation. So the BLM, and especially Tim Craig  
25 has done an excellent job on trying to come up with  
26 information about our local species.

27

28 So, thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Any  
31 further questions for Tim Craig. Benedict.

32

33 MR. JONES: Yeah, I got a call from  
34 Raymond Stoney and he was asking me that you have several  
35 meetings in the northern part of your new area and the  
36 Nulato Hill Caribou Herd, the Western Arctic Caribou  
37 Herds migrate into Nulato area, so he was kind of  
38 concerned that you guys should have a meeting in Galena  
39 area, and in our area because we're involved in with the  
40 Western Arctic Caribou Herds. Are you aware of that?

41

42 MR. CRAIG: No. Again, I've been pretty  
43 focused on the Dalton Corridor and now things are  
44 changing with this reorganization and Jeannie Cole in our  
45 office has been the representative to the Western Arctic  
46 Caribou Working Group but I'll pass that information on  
47 to her. There's a biologist, it's actually Kyle Jolie, I  
48 think is taking her responsibilities out there. This  
49 reorganization is going to kind of change  
50 responsibilities for a lot of us in the office. I'll let

1 them know about your concern.

2

3 MR. JONES: Yeah, this was on Friday night  
4 that he called me up about this.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. Tim.  
7 Any further questions for Tim.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, Ingrid -- oh,  
12 Robert, and then Ingrid.

13

14 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
15 Tim, you said that there -- how are things doing to the  
16 -- the survey done for 21(E) and also 19, what are they  
17 doing over there for the moose survey, any idea they can  
18 give us before the moose management meeting in Shageluk,  
19 April 19 and 20?

20

21 MR. CRAIG: Again, now, that's in the  
22 Anchorage Field Office and I was just relaying something  
23 that Jeff Denton called and told me about. Apparently  
24 all the data has now been collected, they've flown all  
25 the boxes and it's a matter now of kind of collating it  
26 and I'm assuming that it's going to be pretty quick, but  
27 I don't know. I can't really speak to that.

28

29 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Tim.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for  
32 Tim.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, okay, then Ingrid.

37

38 MS. MCSWEENY: Mr. Chair. Council  
39 members. Yesterday I handed out a two page briefing  
40 paper, and you each should have one and what I'm going to  
41 do is present an update on the fisheries project in Clear  
42 Creek.

43

44 The Bureau of Land Management operated a  
45 weir on Clear Creek from June 21st to July 31st of last  
46 year. During this period 15,661 summer run salmon, 30  
47 chinook salmon and three sockeye salmon passed through  
48 the weir. This year's escapement was 254 percent of  
49 escapement in '03 but was 60 percent below the nine year  
50 average. The first chum salmon arrived at the weir on

1 June 21st with core tile days of passage occurring on  
2 July 5th, 9th and the 14th. The peak day of migration  
3 occurred on July 6th with 1,404 fish passing through the  
4 weir. Sex composition of the chum escapement was 57  
5 percent and 43 percent female from a sample of 1,076  
6 fish. Age composition of chum sampled were two percent  
7 of age two, 66 percent age three, 31 percent age four,  
8 and one percent age five.

9  
10 During 2000 an interagency agreement  
11 between the BLM and the USGS Alaska Science Center was  
12 established to fund chum salmon research on Clear Creek.  
13 Under this agreement the overall study objectives  
14 including estimating adult and annual adult chum salmon  
15 escapement into clear creek quantifying mapping, spawning  
16 and incubation habitat with established study reaches  
17 estimating the number of immigrating chum salmon smolts  
18 from Clear Creek and developing a geo-referenced in-  
19 stream habitat and spawning chum salmon distribution data  
20 base.

21  
22 During the springs of '03 and '04, BLM  
23 and USGS operated two incline plane traps to monitor chum  
24 salmon smolt migrations out of Clear Creek. From May  
25 11th to June 8th a total of 48,095 chum smolts were  
26 captured, we marked and released 8,287 chum smolts of  
27 which 186 were recaptured. Based on the overall trap  
28 efficiency of 2.2 percent, the estimated total number of  
29 chum smolts is about 2,200,000. Using BLM's '02 weir  
30 estimate of 6,500 female chums escapement into Clear  
31 Creek and an average fecundity of 2,300 eggs per female,  
32 our '02 estimates of chum smolts suggest an egg smolts  
33 survival rate of 14 percent. This closely matches the  
34 survival rate that was estimated for the '01 brood year.

35  
36 In '04 incline plane traps were operated  
37 from late May to June 4th, to-date data have not been  
38 fully reviewed, however, approximately 25,000 chum smolts  
39 were captured and 4,000 marked and released. Preliminary  
40 trapping efficiencies appear similar to those from '03.  
41 At this time we caution that several more years of  
42 operations will be necessary to determine whether or not  
43 this represents a realistic or average survival rate for  
44 Clear Creek chum.

45  
46 Depending on funding we will continue  
47 this work in '05. This project is unique within the  
48 Yukon drainage and represents the first opportunity for  
49 the establishment of a long-term smolt immigration  
50 monitoring program.

1                   During the summers of '02 and '03, the  
2 BLM and USGS performed extensive habitat measurements  
3 both in designated study reaches and at individual chum  
4 salmon spawning sites. A total of 18 study reaches were  
5 established from the location of the BLM weir upstream to  
6 about stream kilometer 20. At each study reach habitat  
7 measurements were measured along transects at 104  
8 individual spawning locations. These data have been  
9 entered into a relationship database and will be  
10 integrated with GIS data this spring.

11  
12                   In '04 a new and expanded facet of the  
13 Clear Creek program commenced. The primary goal of this  
14 research is to begin the development of stream channel  
15 drainage wide methods to evaluate the quality and  
16 distribution of chum salmon spawning and incubation  
17 habitat. Project objectives are aimed at producing geo-  
18 referenced maps and databases that would provide a tool  
19 for assessing future change in restoration, management,  
20 climate and development regimes.

21  
22                   Furthermore, our proposal and aim is to  
23 move towards a method that could be applied over a broad  
24 geographic range in the AYK area. Beginning in '04 we  
25 used a Trimble GPS system to map the Clear Creek stream  
26 channel, the locations of habitat measurements and  
27 spawning chum distributions. These data were post-  
28 processed this spring and will provide the basis of the  
29 first comprehensive evaluation of chum salmon spawning  
30 and incubation habitat within the Yukon River.

31  
32                   That's all I have.

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ingrid. Any  
35 questions for Ingrid.

36  
37                   (No comments)

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. I do have one. At  
40 one time, the Federal system was attempting to buy out  
41 that mining claim, where does that stand, because I know  
42 I let it go because I depended heavily on Orville  
43 Huntington's input on this issue, where does that stand?

44  
45                   MS. MCSWEENEY: From what I know the  
46 Central Yukon Team was going through that process a  
47 couple years ago and the White Mountains National  
48 Recreation Area was also going through that process but  
49 something happened with the White Mountain's buy out, and  
50 there was some technical problems and they wanted to deal

1 with that first because they went and looked at the Clear  
2 Creek project. But I don't think it's going to go. I  
3 don't think -- I think what BLM appraised the land for  
4 and what Taiga wants to pay for the land -- wants BLM to  
5 pay for the land, it's very different.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: So money does talk. So  
8 the mine can operate as is, I mean they can keep  
9 operating?

10

11 MS. MCSWEENEY: Yes. And I believe this  
12 year the Taiga Mining Company submitted an APMA and Tim  
13 had talked about that, a proposal where they wanted to  
14 mine four of their new -- four Federal mining claims and  
15 the Central Yukon Team is going through the NEPA process  
16 right now.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, one of my main  
19 interests because of -- all of Huslia, Hughes and  
20 Allakaket, Alatna used to work down at that mine, so we  
21 know that place intimately and I was just wondering about  
22 all that contamination, because I used to winch operate  
23 that dredge and geez they were shooting contaminations  
24 out the -- everything, Jesus. So that mine is still in  
25 operation then and that buy out will not happen at this  
26 time.

27

28 MR. CRAIG: The mine is in operation and  
29 the four claims that they have submitted an APMA for are  
30 upstream of the private land on that Aloha Creek. And,  
31 again, on this handout, if you want to call that number,  
32 you can actually get a look at the APMA to see what it is  
33 they're proposing. And that's upcoming, we're talking  
34 about having, I think, tentatively the NEPA completed by  
35 maybe May of this year.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tim. Any  
38 further questions for Tim Craig or Ingrid.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for that update  
43 because we really needed that, because at that -- like I  
44 stated at one time, I figured we'll just totally buy out  
45 that system and just bring back the area salmon to what  
46 they used to be. It used to be good.

47

48 MS. MCSWEENEY: One thing I want to  
49 mention is all the work that we're doing on Clear Creek  
50 is because of that mine, okay, and the area that Carl

1 Krutzinger and USGS is working on has the potential to be  
2 mined. This whole area is State. So I think the area of  
3 land that Taiga has is a highly productive gold mine and  
4 we really don't see them leaving any time soon.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: It has to be highly  
7 productive because when I was operating that dredge we  
8 had clay balls about four or five feet deep and we were  
9 going through some, breaking down of that operations --  
10 those clay balls, they were getting nuggets out of there,  
11 35,000 ounces, Jesus, I mean we had gold up the you know  
12 what. So I think that will stay in effect, they will  
13 operate for awhile then. That buy out will probably not  
14 happen, they'll be asking for too much.

15  
16 MS. MCSWEENEY: They were looking -- what  
17 the appraiser said and what they wanted was 10 times in  
18 difference, so it's not going to happen.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for  
21 Tim or Ingrid.

22  
23 (No comments)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you.

26  
27 MR. CRAIG: Could I just say one more  
28 thing, Mr. Chairman.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

31  
32 MR. CRAIG: And that is, again, this  
33 notice that I put in here, in the handout, is kind of  
34 your opportunity or anybody's opportunity to get involved  
35 in the scoping of this NEPA process, you know, it's a  
36 public disclosure process and if you have any concerns,  
37 this is the telephone number you want to call and express  
38 them.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

41  
42 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. I'm  
43 wondering with the reformation of your district, how is  
44 that going to affect your work on the Dalton Highway  
45 Corridor, is that going to spread you thinner or are you  
46 going to have additional biologists to cover that amount  
47 of area?

48  
49 MR. CRAIG: That's a really good question  
50 and I can't answer it. But I'll tell you this, you know,

1 we used to have the Seward Penn and it went over to the  
2 Anchorage Field Office now. And a biologist -- we had it  
3 divided up so that I had the Dalton Corridor, there was a  
4 biologist that had the Central Yukon and then there was a  
5 third biologist that had the Northwest, including that  
6 Seward Penn. Now, it'll just be the Dalton Corridor  
7 biologist, me, and the Northwest biologist, of course  
8 they've lost some of their responsibility to Anchorage  
9 that they were responsible for, and somehow we're going  
10 to -- he and I are going to divide this enormous area up  
11 and I -- the inescapable conclusion is I'm going to have  
12 more to do and probably less to do it with I'd guess.

13

14 MR. REAKOFF: Another question before I  
15 get to something that I would like our Council to do.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

18

19 MR. REAKOFF: And the other question is  
20 this ATV bill is back again, is the BLM -- we had  
21 requested last year a contingency plan from the BLM to  
22 address this bill, because I was afraid it was going to  
23 come back again, it's got more momentum this year.

24

25 Is the BLM working on this contingency  
26 for the protection of subsistence users and the resources  
27 there? That's my main question.

28

29 MR. CRAIG: Actually working on a  
30 contingency plan, I'd say the answer to that is probably  
31 no. However, it is our understanding that if that bill  
32 were to be passed, there would be a 12 month grace period  
33 between the time of the passage and the actual  
34 elimination of that State statute. And the purpose of  
35 that 12 month period is to allow BLM to put together an  
36 ORV, off road vehicle plan, which we don't have yet.

37

38 So I'm sure you're all aware, but just to  
39 kind of go through if you're not, there would be a plan  
40 written, there would be a NEPA, an EA done on that plan  
41 and there would be what we call an ANILCA .810 analysis,  
42 Title VIII, Section 10 that says what the effects would  
43 be on subsistence. Okay, so those three documents would  
44 have to be implemented, I think, before there would be  
45 any real changes there.

46

47 Some other questions come up and it's  
48 premature because they haven't changed the law yet so  
49 we're not doing anything yet but we're all thinking about  
50 this. One is that the Corridor Plan, the Management Plan

1 that we use, our framework plan for managing, I think  
2 that's due to be rewritten beginning in 2007, so if this  
3 is 2005 and we wait one more year and write an ORV plan  
4 then do we just advance the whole plan, you know, there's  
5 all these things that have to be worked out by people  
6 that are at a way higher level than me.

7  
8                   And I don't know if that answers your  
9 question, I mean this is very much in the present and in  
10 the mind of all of us of how this would occur. But I can  
11 guarantee you this, that I know that the managers have  
12 said that the .810 analysis that was done for the  
13 original plan is not adequate to cover what would amount  
14 to a big change in Federal action. So there'd be at  
15 least an .810 done before anything happened. The plan  
16 right now says that this old plan, the old Corridor Plan  
17 says that if the State statute went away the only thing  
18 that would happen would be the corridor would be  
19 completely open to snowmachines, but there would be no  
20 ORVs when there was no snow and no frozen ground, that  
21 would be the criteria, had to have frozen ground and snow  
22 and then the ORVs could be used. So in other words, no  
23 ATVs in the summertime could be used no matter what  
24 before an ORV plan. So in a worst case scenario the  
25 snowmachine situation would change but we'd have to do  
26 the .810 before even that happened.

27  
28                   Does that make it clear, you know,  
29 jurisdictions and all that are so complicated.

30  
31                   MR. REAKOFF: That's what I want to know  
32 is what is in the process. And this .810 that was done  
33 for the original plan, I felt was completely inadequate  
34 because at that time there was no subsistence priority  
35 implemented for the Dalton Highway Corridor, we were  
36 still fighting with the State about subsistence issues  
37 back then when they were managing. So that .810 was  
38 absolutely inadequate for the original plan. And as  
39 representing the people from Anaktuvuk Pass and the upper  
40 parts of the region, that are in our region, they're  
41 represented by Region 10 and Region 6 and I represent  
42 them, and I'm very concerned about this ORV use expanding  
43 and excluding caribou migrations. They're very concerned  
44 about that. We hear all this TEK, about shooting the  
45 leaders of these migrating caribou, those are the  
46 venturies of the Pass. And so you go on the North Slope  
47 and they're staging in the falltime, I'm concerned about  
48 that original plan had some corridors for ORV use in the  
49 falltime, and I'm concerned that those corridors are  
50 actually vectored towards some of these caribou migration

1 areas.

2

3

4 And so I would hope that the BLM is going  
5 to consult with these RACs on this issue. This is a very  
6 -- it's going to be the biggest environmental impact to  
7 the Brooks Range north of the Yukon River to all of the  
8 subsistence users, even in the upper Koyukuk here in  
9 Allakaket, Alatna areas here since the TransAlaska  
10 Pipeline, and so this is a very concerning issue.

11

12

13 I'm concerned that there's not going to  
14 be enough funding for the area -- for the BLM biologist,  
15 and I would like a letter submitted from this Council to  
16 the Regional Directors Office, that if they're going to  
17 reconfigure the region that the biologists are -- we have  
18 to have Staff for our Council to know what our game  
19 populations and fish populations are doing, so I would  
20 like to see a letter submitted to Henri Bisson, Regional  
21 Director from the Council that states that there needs to  
22 be additional funding for proper biological upkeep of our  
23 very valuable resources on BLM.

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And I would make that as a motion.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second that we  
do submit a letter.

MR. STICKMAN: I second it Ron.

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CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Mickey.  
Again, for the Council's and public's information, we've  
dealt with this in the past and it has been included and  
indoctrinated into our annual report. And every time we  
direct a letter to Henri Bisson we do get an answer in  
detail, so he does answer us. And, again, we'll submit  
this letter, and by submitting this letter I will ask  
that it be indoctrinated into our annual report again.

There is a motion on the floor submitting  
a letter directing BLM.....

MR. WALKER: Do you want me to make a  
motion?

CHAIRMAN SAM: No, there's a motion  
already and seconded by Mickey.

47

48

49

50

MR. WALKER: Question.

CHAIRMAN SAM: The question's been called

1 for. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying  
2 aye.

3

4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'm glad that we -- we'll  
11 have to keep on top of this issue because like Jack says,  
12 it does affect all of us, Alatna and Allakaket.

13

14 Tim.

15

16 MR. CRAIG: Yeah, just one last thing and  
17 that is when we get into the NEPA part of things, when  
18 we're writing the EA, there'll be public scoping and I  
19 know the managers, I've heard the managers say that  
20 there'd be meetings in villages that would be affected  
21 by, you know, any changes in management so it wouldn't be  
22 -- nothing would be done in a vacuum, public disclosure,  
23 we'd be out in the open, we'd be hearing your concerns  
24 and you'd have the opportunity then to tell us what you  
25 think and what you believe about the changes in  
26 management.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tim. Jack.

29

30 MR. REAKOFF: Put our letter on file.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for  
35 Tim or Ingrid.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for that report.  
40 I'm glad you brought us -- gave us an update.

41

42 While we're at Hogatza, Clear Creek,  
43 we'll bring up Annette, she's working out of Huslia with  
44 Orville.

45

46 MS. WATSON: Hi. Thank you for letting  
47 me speak to you. My name is Annette Watson, and I am a  
48 university researcher from University of Minnesota and  
49 also affiliated with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks.

50

1                   As a result of some of the dissertation  
2 research that I've been working on in the community of  
3 Huslia, specifically with Orville Huntington, I've been  
4 donating some of my time there to be a grant writer, and  
5 I also attended the last Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
6 meeting in Huslia where there was a lot of concern about  
7 the fact that that committee cannot meet more than once a  
8 year.

9  
10                   As a result of some of that concern,  
11 agency folks suggested that the tribe apply for a tribal  
12 wildlife grant and from other discussions from people it  
13 was suggested that this become a way to find the Koyukuk  
14 River Moose Hunters Working Group and institute a new  
15 plan for moose management. And in talking with Mike  
16 Spindler this morning, he suggested that your concerns  
17 about having a predator study done be also folded into  
18 this grant proposal. And so that is why I am presenting  
19 this to you to get your feedback on the possibility of  
20 this grant to be written. Also request, perhaps, that  
21 your group submit a letter of support for this particular  
22 grant project.

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN SAM: I think we'll support  
25 that, we would not only submit a letter, is there  
26 anything that we can act on this right now, Vince,  
27 requesting funding.....

28  
29                   MR. MATHEWS: Well, I don't.....

30  
31                   CHAIRMAN SAM: .....or support their  
32 submission of that grant; is that what you're looking  
33 for?

34  
35                   MS. WATSON: Just to make this grant more  
36 competitive, letters of support from various agencies and  
37 management bodies would be appropriate because it's a  
38 very competitive grant and so I would request a letter of  
39 support, that would be very helpful for this grant  
40 proposal.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN SAM: So would a motion be in  
43 line requesting -- or drafting up this letter of support  
44 for Annette?

45  
46                   MR. MATHEWS: Sure, Mr. Chairman, and I  
47 think we just need to copy the Federal Subsistence Board  
48 on it. I don't think it's a violation of the  
49 correspondence policy so I think we're okay on that.  
50 It's a letter of support for this grant to go through

1 just as long as we copy the Board on it.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: So just a directive from  
4 the Council to Vince to draft this letter of support,  
5 will that do?  
6  
7 MS. WATSON: I think that will be fine.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, okay, Vince, write  
10 up.....  
11  
12 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, and I'll need to get  
13 details on the grant, I think Mike has that. So if that  
14 can get to me because then I'll build off of that and for  
15 all to know it runs by Ron for final approval, the  
16 letter, so thank you.  
17  
18 MR. COLLINS: Do you want a motion on  
19 that?  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we need a motion?  
22  
23 MR. MATHEWS: No.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, I think that a  
26 directive from the Council and all she's asking for is a  
27 letter of support, which we fully support, because we're  
28 looking for that funding, and we will ask Mike to pursue  
29 too.  
30  
31 Jack.  
32  
33 MR. REAKOFF: I just wanted to thank  
34 Annette for going in on her own time to help people out  
35 in this area. She's been attending our meetings. She  
36 was at the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee meeting down  
37 in Huslia and has been listening to the concerns of  
38 people here and I commend her for assisting local people  
39 in this endeavor to provide funding at this time of  
40 funding lack.  
41  
42 So thank you.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Annette. I'd  
45 like to go on record stating that everything that Orville  
46 attempts or anything that he tries to help the Western  
47 Interior Council, we're close. I mean if there's a  
48 problem, I get a phone call right now, it doesn't matter  
49 what time of night. And I would like to thank you for  
50 working with Orville because -- I just wish he was here.

1 Don.

2

3 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I have a question.  
4 It's a pretty positive, I'm thinking, and I was just  
5 wondering since some of us represent more than just the  
6 Regional Council, our own village, our own advisory  
7 councils, would it be helpful for them, in turn, to do  
8 the same?

9

10 MS. WATSON: As many letters of support  
11 would be helpful. Through the tribal administrator in  
12 Huslia, he'll be attempting to get letters of support  
13 from the different villages that will be affected and  
14 impacted, but certainly from your own villages, to send a  
15 little word that this request is coming would be helpful,  
16 too.

17

18 MR. HONEA: Okay, well, I'm actually  
19 talking about like the Ruby Fish and Game Advisory  
20 Committee's or would it just -- the village councils or I  
21 mean are you actually looking for hunting and fishing  
22 groups?

23

24 MR. WATSON: I think through the tribal  
25 councils would be best because the strength in a proposal  
26 is to show partnership with the agencies. I guess it  
27 just depends on if you think if the issue is of interest  
28 to your group, a letter of support would be great. This  
29 grant is due April 4th, so pretty quickly, so that is --  
30 that's why it works out well that you're meeting when I'm  
31 getting ready to draft it.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Annette. Jack,  
34 did you have anything else?

35

36 MR. REAKOFF: I don't.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

39

40 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

43

44 MR. WALKER: Annette, when you're talking  
45 about doing this, are you talking about the entire Region  
46 6, for the Western Interior or are you doing it for more  
47 than just Region 6 or the Western Interior?

48

49 MS. WATSON: For the Koyukuk River, so I  
50 guess Unit 24 and 21(A).

1 MR. WALKER: So like I come from 21(E)  
2 here and we're talking about Carl down in Unit 19, and  
3 you're just talking about the Koyukuk Refuge and you're  
4 not going to go any further than that?

5  
6 MS. WATSON: I think I need to talk  
7 further with the agency people, Fish and Wildlife people  
8 to see exactly where the boundaries for this grant is  
9 going to be. It's based on what we can do with the  
10 budget because some moose survey work can be folded into  
11 this grant, too.

12  
13 I think -- I haven't set any boundaries  
14 on the draft.

15  
16 MR. WALKER: Do you have a copy of this  
17 map here?

18  
19 MS. WATSON: I have a copy of that, yeah.

20  
21 MR. WALKER: So you see how big Region 6  
22 does run here?

23  
24 MS. WATSON: Yes.

25  
26 MR. WALKER: Okay, thank you very much,  
27 Annette.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for  
30 Annette. Vince.

31  
32 MR. MATHEWS: Robert, basically if I  
33 understood what she was saying is, is this is going to  
34 provide funding for the Koyukuk River Moose Hunting  
35 Working Group. Robert, you're already in a planning  
36 process with the State.

37  
38 Why do I bring this up?

39  
40 The Koyukuk River Moose Hunter Working  
41 Group was supposed to sunset. That group never wanted to  
42 see the sun set. So they politically kept alive that  
43 group. But the State has to do other planning so they  
44 couldn't keep that group always funded so this is another  
45 avenue, if I got it correct, to do that.

46  
47 So not to put words in your mouth, but in  
48 a historical context, I don't see this expanding beyond  
49 the Koyukuk River planning area, which was 21(D) and 24.  
50 I really doubt it would expand into the other.

1                               So Robert, it still needs your support  
2 because if your group takes off well and they want to  
3 monitor that plan.....  
4  
5                               CHAIRMAN SAM: Wait up, Vince. We want  
6 to day Goodbye to Polly.  
7  
8                               MR. MATHEWS: Okay.  
9  
10                              CHAIRMAN SAM: Sorry about that Vince.  
11 Thanks for all your help, again, Polly.  
12  
13                              DR. WHEELER: Thanks, bye.  
14  
15                              CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Vince, I'm sorry  
16 about that.  
17  
18                              MR. MATHEWS: Okay, no, that's fine.  
19 You'll want to monitor this, Robert, because the working  
20 group made a strong that just doing the plan was not  
21 enough. They wanted to see this plan, what was it, for  
22 five years, and that's even gone, or four years, and  
23 that's even gone beyond it. So this is a unique way of  
24 addressing that. So if that puts it in context, I hope  
25 that helps you, Robert. But I really doubt this would be  
26 expanded beyond the planning area for the Koyukuk River.  
27  
28                              CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Again,  
29 I would like to thank, Jack, because we had that meeting,  
30 we were holding a Western Interior meeting down at Galena  
31 and Jack and I put that Koyukuk River Moose Working  
32 Group, the State Board of Game, Federal Subsistence  
33 Board, we were all meeting down at Anchorage, we just got  
34 on the phone with Randy Rogers and got that group just  
35 formed just right off the bat.  
36  
37                              Again, thank Jack and the Western  
38 Interior, Mickey and Benedict were totally involved with  
39 this group. So, yes, we keep asking that this group be  
40 funded because we never want to see the sun set because  
41 we feel that we still have a lot of work to do yet. And  
42 that group was so successful that we've had three or four  
43 spin-offs on this.  
44  
45                              Again, thank you for seeking that  
46 funding, we will fully support that. And I just talked  
47 with Jack, and we said that we'll seek letters of support  
48 from both the Alatna and the Allakaket Tribal Office.  
49  
50                              Thank you, Annette.

1 MS. WATSON: Thank you.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, where are we now,  
4 because we still haven't got coffee over here, maybe we  
5 should send somebody over there to get that.  
6  
7 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we discussed  
8 last night after you recessed about options for moose  
9 hunting in the Kanuti Refuge, I think that's next on the  
10 agenda. We'll get quite a few people up to the table and  
11 we do have a map that we can all look at, that will be  
12 projected. So that will be the next thing, is just  
13 looking at options and openly discussing, you know, that.  
14 And that would be the next thing. It would just be  
15 timely to do that.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. I think  
18 that it is not only timely, it's just that we have to  
19 keep hammering on this issue until we come to some sort  
20 of conclusion. Just talking briefly with Jack, we may  
21 have hit a brick wall but we will keep pursuing this  
22 issue until we find some way or some understanding of  
23 this issue.  
24  
25 So at this time we'll take a 10 minute  
26 break and try to get that coffee pot over here.  
27  
28 (Laughter)  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ten minute break.  
31  
32 (Off record)  
33  
34 (On record)  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, a lot of my Council  
37 members are asking, where we are on our agenda, but we do  
38 have to revisit the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge winter hunt.  
39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, maybe I can  
41 provide them some direction here.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Vince.  
44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: Basically you have  
46 completed most of the fishery topics which was for your  
47 morning work here. So in light of the discussions last  
48 night and the public attendance we were looking at  
49 options to address the concerns that we heard for the  
50 Kanuti Refuge. So we can either attempt to do that now

1 or go back into the agenda and finish fisheries.

2

3

4 I don't think the option development is  
5 going to take that long on the Kanuti, so that's pretty  
6 much where we're at. We had to move up the agency  
7 reports because they're on flights today if they do come  
8 in so that's why we bounced and got BLM up there and  
9 Annette. So we can go right now into an open discussion  
10 on the Kanuti moose concerns or we can go back into the  
11 agenda and then pick this up later.

11

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just talking with some of  
14 our Council members, I think that we do have to revisit  
15 it and I think that Jack had a valid point by simply  
16 stating that we cannot give people, residents of Alatna  
17 and Allakaket false hope.

17

18

19 So Jack, could you expand on this.

19

20

21 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. I woke up  
22 about 5:30 this morning and was thinking about this issue  
23 and there's just -- I've worked a lot of proposals  
24 through the Game Board and the Federal Subsistence Board,  
25 and there's just no way this Council can get a proposal  
26 for a winter hunt in the Council passed through the  
27 Federal Board system, there's no board that would pass it  
28 because the population is declining and it just isn't  
29 going to float.

29

30

31 And I don't want people to have the false  
32 expectation that there's -- that we can get that kind of  
33 proposal through. And I don't want to cast bad light on  
34 our Council for even asking for a thing like that with  
35 the Federal Board. We've had success with the Federal  
36 Board, we've built credibility with the Board.

36

37

38 I do think that all the testimony last  
39 night showed that there's a need for a winter hunt but we  
40 can't provide it, the resource can't provide it.

40

41

42 This Council can request and make  
43 proposal submission for proposal expansion of the fall  
44 bull season and so we can propose increasing an earlier  
45 opening on bull moose, a later closure on bull moose in  
46 the fall time, but there's just no way we can -- I  
47 couldn't float a proposal like that, our Council could  
48 not float a proposal that has that kind of bad data.

48

49

50 It does show that there's -- even though  
the Kanuti Refuge has only rural residents hunting, the

1 resource still can't support the need and our annual  
2 report should reflect that we've had testimony here and  
3 there's a need for a winter hunt and the resource can't  
4 provide that. We need to have additional harvest  
5 opportunity for bulls. There's 65 bulls per 100 cows.

6  
7                   It highlights the issue that we have a  
8 predator problem here. We have lots of bears and we have  
9 lots of wolf predation factors. And we do need that  
10 funding. We don't want that extracted from the Refuges,  
11 our inclusion for predator analysis requested that the  
12 Koyukuk and Kanuti Refuges do those investigations, they  
13 don't have the funds for it, and the Federal Board is  
14 going to have to be aware of that, that we need  
15 additional funding to support these kind of predator/prey  
16 relationships. We have a predator/prey relationship  
17 problem, it's affecting the subsistence needs of the  
18 users here.

19  
20                   And so I just didn't want the community  
21 to feel that we could propose a winter hunt in the Kanuti  
22 and get that passed. I just can't pull that rabbit out  
23 of the hat. And so I do feel that we need to work on  
24 proposals for fall bull moose extensions and so that's  
25 what I wanted to state to the Council. That's my  
26 personal feelings.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. If you  
29 go through the data of bull/cow ratio on the Kanuti  
30 drainage and the Henshaw drainage you'll see Henshaw is  
31 somewhere around 76 bulls per 100 cows, and the Kanuti is  
32 65 bulls per 100 cows. There is a reason for that.  
33 Because we just cannot go up there and hunt bull moose in  
34 the fall time, there's no water. There's no water in the  
35 Henshaw Creek drainage. There's no water at Kanuti River  
36 drainage, and that's why we have this big amount of bulls  
37 per 100 cows out there, we just can't hunt them. That's  
38 why we could expand it all we want, that bull moose hunt  
39 in the fall time, we could expand it all we want but we  
40 still cannot go out there and hunt them, we cannot  
41 harvest them unless we charter a helicopter or something.  
42 And that bull/cow ratio will stay the same because we  
43 just cannot harvest them in the fall time.

44  
45                   MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

48  
49                   MR. REAKOFF: Right now the season opens,  
50 I think it's August 25th. Usually we've got high water

1 in early August, and if we expand the season forward,  
2 people can utilize high water, when there's high water  
3 you can't fish so you can go hunt moose.

4  
5 And so I would like to see -- I mean it's  
6 going to help.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

9  
10 MR. REAKOFF: And so I would like to see  
11 that expanded forward. I don't see any reason not to  
12 have this bull moose season for local people opened on  
13 August 1. The moose are getting fat. The water is up  
14 and we can harvest at that time.

15  
16 The other aspect is if we expand  
17 backwards into October, moose don't move around in these  
18 hot falls, but then they start moving around quite a bit  
19 and so we might get some moose coming around right at the  
20 end, if we get a late freeze up, which we're in global  
21 warming, whether they deny it or not. We could start  
22 hunting, we could maybe keep hunting later into the fall.

23  
24 And so we have to provide more  
25 opportunity. We don't want regulatory restrictions on  
26 people who need the harvest resource.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Any  
29 further -- Vince.

30  
31 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I understood  
32 what Jack is looking at, expanding the season either  
33 earlier or later, but we need to make it clear to the  
34 residents of Allakaket and Alatna that that would only be  
35 on those lavender colored lands, it would not be on the  
36 white block lands that are close to the village. And,  
37 again, Ron's made it clear that even if you do expand it  
38 the water may not be there to allow you access, but if it  
39 is there it will allow access, it would only be on those  
40 purple colored lands. You'd have to put in parallel  
41 proposals to the Board of Game to get it on all lands,  
42 that you might hunt in your backyard here. So, I mean we  
43 could talk about that further at the fall meeting.

44  
45 I don't know the schedule -- well,  
46 actually I do it'd be next November or so that the Board  
47 of Game would be accepting proposals for the Interior.  
48 So to get that whole block or a larger area to have that  
49 earlier or later season, you'd have to submit it next  
50 fall to the Board of Game. And then we're back to which

1 Board jumps first. And I don't know, Glenn, do you know  
2 when the Board of Game -- the Board of Game will meet  
3 March of 2006, our Board would meet in the May of 2006.  
4 And so the chain of events, you would have to make sure  
5 you got the attention of the Board of Game if you wanted  
6 it comprehensive for the area. And then the Federal  
7 Board would respond in kind to what the Board of Game did  
8 or did not do.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. What  
11 Jack says, you know, we are above the Arctic Circle and  
12 somehow it changes, right now the Arctic Circle just runs  
13 right through the village down about -- quite a ways down  
14 to the school. But what Jack says about that early bull  
15 moose hunt in August, we've had some funerary harvests  
16 where late July, first of August -- first week in August  
17 the bull moose are good. And so if we did go that route,  
18 I think that we could alleviate or appease a lot of local  
19 concerns and we already addressed the need, the need is  
20 there.

21

22 So we could look at that as an option.  
23 Again, bring that before our fall meeting. Is that as  
24 far as we want to go on this Kanuti, Jack?

25

26 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I would like  
27 to bring Glenn Stout up and ask him what he would feel  
28 about, on the State's side, and the Kanuti Controlled Use  
29 Area, having a parallel proposal. It's my opinion that  
30 the resource for subsistence use can support an August 1  
31 to October 1 bull moose season.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Glenn.

34

35 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 Representative Reakoff. I think last year when we had a  
37 lot of the discussions about the cow season and the  
38 winter season I said then that I am very supportive of  
39 additional hunting opportunities in the fall when we can  
40 shoot more bulls because it will reduce that harvest of  
41 cows during those winter seasons.

42

43 So I'm pretty favorable to going in that  
44 direction and working on proposals that are working that  
45 way.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: So we can address this  
48 issue under the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee under  
49 State?

50

1 MR. STOUT: (Nods affirmatively)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, that will be --  
4 again, along with Annette Watson's request for more  
5 funding. This is not the first time that we addressed  
6 the State Advisory Committee's need for funding. So,  
7 again, I would like to go on record that we address this  
8 funding problem -- or funding for meeting of the Koyukuk  
9 River Advisory Council or all our local Advisory  
10 Councils, that we seek funding through the Federal  
11 system.

12

13 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Chairman.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mike, and then Don.

16

17 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, Mr. Chair, thank you.  
18 For the record, Mike Spindler. The Kanuti Refuge would  
19 support going along with the State's recommendation on  
20 improving opportunities in the fall especially if the  
21 residents can make use of high water to get access to  
22 areas that they normally can't. I would also urge the  
23 Council to consider participation in what appears to be a  
24 scheduled meeting for the Koyukuk River Moose Management  
25 Working Group, I think it's going to be in October of  
26 this year is what I heard. Because of the changes that  
27 are going on on the Koyukuk River with different  
28 regulations, the last one being the Federal March 1  
29 through 5 season, any changes on the Koyukuk are going to  
30 be scrutinized and I urge the Council to join in the  
31 public process that looks like might be resuming again  
32 just so we can get all these things on the table and  
33 discuss it with the other users of the resource.

34

35 I just don't want to see something like  
36 this backfire. So I encourage you to try and participate  
37 in that process when it comes about.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mike. And,  
40 thank you, again, Glenn, for being here. Vince, how much  
41 further do we have to go on this issue?

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, just to clear  
44 it up for you, I think what Annette was talking about was  
45 funding for the working group, not the Advisory  
46 Committee.

47

48 MS. WATSON: Both.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, both, then I

1 misunderstood, okay. And then I would encourage you to  
2 monitor this at your fall meeting because I'm sure the  
3 Board of Game would be interested in knowing where this  
4 Council is at on it in addition to the Committee so they  
5 would understand that it's parallel action so they don't  
6 feel like there's going to be something else coming up on  
7 the Federal side that may -- so you may want to at least  
8 look into it at your fall meeting.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

11  
12 MR. REAKOFF: So I want to make sure that  
13 Vince has captured for the annual report, that we've  
14 recognized the need.....

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: The need.

17  
18 MR. REAKOFF: .....for moose harvest here  
19 for a winter hunt, that cannot be provided. I want the  
20 Board to be aware that we're going to try to increase the  
21 fall harvest and that's -- under .805, that's our job as  
22 a Council is to identify needs. We want the Board to be  
23 aware that the primary concern here is this predation  
24 factor and that funding exterior to the Refuge system  
25 needs to be provided for this predator/prey  
26 relationships.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. How much  
29 further, Vince.

30  
31 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, if you're  
32 comfortable with it where we're at, that's fine.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that Jack has a  
35 valid point and that's the reason we revisited our  
36 proposal request. Because like Jack says, we gave the  
37 local people the floor yesterday yet we cannot provide  
38 false hope or false expectations. So I think by  
39 revisiting this issue and moving forward to readdressing  
40 this issue in the fall meeting that we've pretty much  
41 taken care of this issue.

42  
43 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

46  
47 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I had a  
48 question for the State, if we push to open the Controlled  
49 Use Area for an extended fall hunt, is that going to  
50 cause problems with other State hunters coming in and

1 overimpact, and would a registration like we've used in  
2 McGrath be a useful tool where you have to register two  
3 weeks prior to that hunt in one of the communities up  
4 here? We did that to limit the number of people, we  
5 didn't cut off any State hunters, because it's mostly  
6 State land that we're dealing with over there, too, so  
7 you had to register before and you knew how many people  
8 were going to go out during that early season then before  
9 and then you could monitor the hunt.

10

11 Do you need a tool like that or not or  
12 would it be a problem just opening it up for early  
13 hunting?

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray, the only State  
16 jurisdiction out there is on Native Corporation lands and  
17 Native allotments, we're talking about the Kanuti  
18 Wildlife Refuge, Federal lands, and Federal issue.

19

20 MR. COLLINS: I thought you were talking  
21 about a parallel for that whole Controlled Use Area,  
22 you're not talking about that, I'm sorry.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Glenn.

25

26 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chair. Member Collins.  
27 There's a lot of things that are going to have to happen,  
28 here and, you know, we talked about redrawing subunits in  
29 24 and different opportunities we may look at, we've got  
30 some of those new registration and drawing permits up the  
31 Hog River that just kind of eeks into that upper portion  
32 there, that Hog River drainage. There's a lot of  
33 different opportunities and that may be one in the future  
34 as far as registration hunt like we implemented down  
35 there where we required sawing of antlers and that became  
36 a pretty important disincentive for a lot of non-local  
37 participants in those registration permit hunts.

38

39 And who knows, you know, the crystal ball  
40 trying to figure out what may happen, we've got a pretty  
41 serious funding issue with the Alaska Department of Fish  
42 and Game and trying to maintain the registration permits  
43 that we have right now may be tough because if they --  
44 they require quite a bit of administrative cost to do  
45 those, and to try and implement another registration hunt  
46 just may go over the top for this area. And so I think  
47 what we need to do is kind of start working at these,  
48 kind of a long-term plan of what's going to work and how  
49 we redraw these boundaries and kind of work our way  
50 through this and see what's going to work. But I think

1 that certainly those options are out there that we can  
2 work with along the way.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Thank  
5 you, Glenn. Any further questions for Glenn.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, Jack, are we  
10 satisfied with that.

11

12 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, I think so.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Vince, we revisited  
15 the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge moose issues. I'm pretty sure  
16 that we took care of most of our morning work on  
17 fisheries yesterday.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Well, the only thing we  
20 have left there is the results of the Federal Subsistence  
21 Board, which is basically your .805(c) letter. We talk  
22 about that for new members, remember we talked about an  
23 .805, the Board has to write back to the Council why it  
24 did not adopt its recommendations based on those three  
25 things, violated recognized principles of wildlife  
26 conservation or it was not based on substantial evidence  
27 or it was detrimental to subsistence. Because of the  
28 change in the Board schedule, usually you get that in the  
29 mail before you come to this meeting, we're working on  
30 getting that happening but right now you're getting it as  
31 Salena's handing it out.

32

33 In the past you guys have just looked at  
34 it and then asked questions of Staff, so I think we'll  
35 let you take a look at it for that and then after that,  
36 then we can go into pre-season outlook for 2005, which  
37 there is Staff here to present that on, and then that  
38 completes fisheries other than if you want to write  
39 fishery proposals.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have anyone here to  
42 present that pre-season outlook?

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we do. Gerald  
45 Maschmann with Fisheries In-Season Office out of  
46 Fairbanks is here to discuss that. And I don't know if  
47 any State has shown up. So it will be mainly Gerald on  
48 that, and you guys always have this on your agenda so  
49 it's an important one to give you an idea of what it  
50 looks like in the -- I don't think we have anybody here

1 for the Kuskokwim, to present the Kuskokwim that I'm  
2 aware of so it will mainly the Yukon.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Is Gerald  
5 here? Who?

6  
7 MR. MATHEWS: It's Gerald Maschmann.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

10  
11 MR. MASCHMANN: Mr. Chairman. Council  
12 members. My name is Gerald Maschmann and I work for the  
13 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks. I assist  
14 Russ Holder, who is the State fisheries manager on the  
15 Yukon River. The handout is the 2005 Yukon River salmon  
16 run outlook and it has been provided by ADF&G.

17  
18 Both Federal and State Yukon River  
19 fisheries managers are planning to start the fishing  
20 season using the Alaska Board of Fisheries windowed  
21 subsistence salmon fishing schedule beginning in late May  
22 or early June.

23  
24 Similar to the last four years, a joint  
25 information sheet reviewing the 2004 fishery and  
26 discussing the 2005 outlook will be published and  
27 distributed to Yukon River fishermen in May.

28  
29 The 2005 chinook salmon run is expected  
30 to be below average and not as strong as the 2003 and  
31 2004 runs. The summer chum run is anticipated to be  
32 below average to average. The 2005 fall chum salmon run  
33 size is projected to be below average and is expected to  
34 be in the range of 584,000 to 776,000 fish. And the 2005  
35 coho salmon run is anticipated to be average to above  
36 average.

37  
38 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
39 salmon managers are anticipating below average returns of  
40 chinook, summer chum and fall chum salmon and an average  
41 to above average return of coho salmon to the Yukon River  
42 in 2005.

43  
44 Given the uncertainties associated with  
45 recent declines and productivity, it is anticipated that  
46 the run will provide for escapements, support a normal  
47 subsistence harvest, and a below average commercial  
48 harvest.

49  
50 And that pretty much ends my outlook,

1 thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Gerald. Any  
4 questions.

5

6 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

9

10 MR. REAKOFF: You work with the Alaska  
11 Department of Fish and Game on these openings, are they  
12 still anticipating quarter-point commercial openings for  
13 the chinook run this year?

14

15 MR. MASCHMANN: I wouldn't say that  
16 they're anticipating a quarter-point opening. I think at  
17 this point they're looking at how the run develops, as  
18 the run develops and I know that we're looking at from  
19 the quarter-point to the mid-point is probably a likely  
20 commercial opening if the run develops that direction.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

23

24 MR. REAKOFF: Last year they stated that  
25 they were going to have quarter-point openings and did  
26 have quarter-point openings and so this run strength,  
27 they're going to be -- it's your perception that the  
28 Department and yourself is going to be more cautious on  
29 commercial openings?

30

31 MR. MASCHMANN: Again, I hesitate to, you  
32 know, determine or guess what the Department is  
33 anticipating on doing.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more questions for  
36 Gerald. Benedict.

37

38 MR. JONES: Yeah, what's your 2005  
39 escapement goal for chinook on the Yukon River?

40

41 MR. MASCHMANN: The 2005 outlook is  
42 expected to be below average and not as strong as in 2003  
43 and 2004 for the chinook salmon run in 2005. That's the  
44 anticipated outlook.

45

46 MR. JONES: What's your estimate for  
47 escapement though, that's what I'm getting at? What do  
48 you need to get to the spawning grounds before the  
49 subsistence fishing closure?

50

1 MR. MASCHMANN: Without the numbers in  
2 front of me I couldn't tell you. But we anticipate that  
3 the run is going to provide for adequate escapement and a  
4 normal subsistence harvest for chinook salmon in 2005.

5  
6 MR. JONES: Okay. What about the fall  
7 chum, what's the escapement goal for that?

8  
9 MR. MASCHMANN: Again, the 2005 fall chum  
10 run is expected to be below average and in the range of  
11 584,000 to 776,000 fish. A 300,000 run and greater -- or  
12 a 300,000 run -- less than 300,000 would mean a  
13 restriction on subsistence fishing, however, it looks  
14 like the anticipated run for 2005 is well above that with  
15 a minimum of 584, which would allow -- should allow for a  
16 normal subsistence harvest on fall chum. And anything  
17 above 600,000 would -- the State would consider a surplus  
18 and open a commercial fishery on that.

19  
20 MR. JONES: Thank you.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.  
23 Don.

24  
25 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I have a question on  
26 the chinook salmon run, is this how you guys come up with  
27 your openings, are they going to be the same or during  
28 the run if it's actually lower than anticipated or  
29 something, is that how you guys set your schedules for  
30 the openings in 4B, C, whatever?

31  
32 MR. MASCHMANN: For which openings,  
33 subsistence openings or the commercial?

34  
35 MR. HONEA: For the fishing schedules,  
36 yeah, subsistence, or commercial, whatever

37  
38 MR. MASCHMANN: I'm sorry, could you  
39 repeat the question again.

40  
41 MR. HONEA: Well, actually I mean, okay,  
42 I'm looking at the chinook salmon and you said the  
43 anticipated run is going to be lower than 2003/2004, so  
44 I'm just wondering now is our fishing schedules going to  
45 change and is that how you base the fishing schedules on  
46 or if it's actually when the time comes and it's lower  
47 than expected, do you change the fishing schedules? Is  
48 it up to you guys, is that how the scenario works for  
49 fishing schedules?

50

1 MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah, currently we're  
2 looking at starting the season on the windowed schedule  
3 and we're anticipating that there's going to be enough  
4 fish for a normal subsistence harvest, however, if the  
5 run is not as strong as anticipated, then the Federal  
6 manager and the State managers are generally in daily  
7 contact and will be discussing options. If the run is  
8 not as strong as anticipated and it's felt that  
9 subsistence windows need to be reduced then that's a  
10 possibility. However, so far we're anticipating that  
11 that's not going to occur. But, again, if the run  
12 doesn't materialize like they predict then that's always  
13 a possibility.

14

15 MR. HONEA: Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Again, we're  
18 at the mercy of in-season manager's call down at the  
19 lower Yukon. By the time they hit Holy Cross area,  
20 that's about where we get a good feeling of what we can  
21 expect up here in the Koyukuk River and the middle Yukon.

22

23 Vince, did you have something.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. And, I  
26 think, Jack, the answer to your question is on Page 1 of  
27 the Fish and Game statement, it's the paragraph right  
28 above the bold print that says summer chum. I'm not sure  
29 this answers your question but it says the strategy for  
30 2005 will be to spread out the commercial fishing during  
31 the middle 50 percent of the run.

32

33 So I don't know if that addresses your  
34 question, but for a novice it appears to be that they're  
35 going to focus on those runs that are towards the middle.  
36 So I don't know if that answered your question or not.

37

38 MR. REAKOFF: Well, that could be read  
39 from the quarter-point to the three-quarter point.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for  
42 Gerald. Mickey.

43

44 MR. STICKMAN: You know, with the new  
45 opening that.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ingrid.

48

49 MR. STICKMAN: With the new area that we  
50 have in 4B and C, you know, my feelings if that -- we

1 asked for those areas for subsistence opportunity but,  
2 you know, even though in a sense we created more  
3 opportunity for the subsistence fishermen in the area, I  
4 think the actual harvest numbers are going to go down  
5 because people are going to be able to fish closer to  
6 their homes so they're not going to be out there to try  
7 to get as much as they can in the area that they have to  
8 go in. I mean, you know, when the people from the  
9 village of Galena had to go down to Koyukuk to fish, you  
10 know, they stayed there as long as possible and caught as  
11 many fish as they possibly can because, you know, because  
12 of the price of gas, the price of oil and the weather all  
13 played factors on whether they were going to be able to  
14 go back there the next day or the day after so now that  
15 they're going to be allowed to harvest closer to home, I  
16 think the harvest numbers will actually go down instead  
17 of go up.

18  
19 In fact, I'd be surprised, you know -- in  
20 fact, initially I think the numbers would actually  
21 stabilize and the harvest in the area will actually be  
22 lower.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. Jack.

25  
26 MR. REAKOFF: You just stated that the  
27 subsistence windows were to be opened from late May  
28 through early June, how is that determined? I'm  
29 concerned that these early runs, there's a whole bunch of  
30 fish go by, people are fishing without any windows and  
31 people up river got to abide by all the windows and I'm  
32 concerned that this kind of a rough guesstimate of when  
33 these windows start, I don't see where -- there doesn't  
34 seem to be any rhyme or reason to when these windows  
35 open.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Gerald, do you  
38 have an answer for Jack.

39  
40 MR. MASCHMANN: I believe that managers  
41 don't want to impose the windows too early because  
42 fishers in the lower river are wanting to fish for larger  
43 sheefish and whitefish that are coming in and they don't  
44 want to restrict that opportunity. And I think the  
45 managers feel that right at the end of May, early June is  
46 when the run really starts to come in and that's when  
47 they feel it's appropriate to start the windows. But,  
48 yeah, there are those early fish that do come in.

49  
50 And I'd also like to state that we try to

1 implement the windows chronologically as the run -- as  
2 those, like, say, end of May run fish are starting to  
3 move up so those early fish that enter in mid-May upper  
4 river districts ought to be able to fish those seven days  
5 a week also.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack, and then  
8 Robert.

9

10 MR. REAKOFF: I have been at the Board of  
11 Fish, I've been at the Federal Subsistence Board, the  
12 down river fishers says that a whole bunch of fish are  
13 being caught and are going by earlier and the mangers  
14 aren't calculating that, the seven day a week provision  
15 for the up river fishers, the fish don't get there to the  
16 up river fishers before the windows start. So they  
17 endure the windows, the down river fishers aren't.  
18 They're fishing king gear -- or catching kings, they're  
19 not fishing for sheefish with king gear, eight and three-  
20 quarter inch king gear, and so these whitefish and  
21 sheefish are being caught -- when the chinook show up and  
22 they start fishing for kings, there's a whole bunch of  
23 kings being caught without any window provisions, and  
24 that's my concern, it's not an equitable distribution of  
25 conservation burden by fishers in our region.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

28

29 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank  
30 you, Jack, too, for Y4 here Holy Cross, Anvik, Grayling,  
31 we have a window that starts June 10th which is okay with  
32 us because we do our freshwater fish before then and  
33 sometimes when the fish are early we catch them before  
34 the 10th, and sometimes when they're late we don't catch  
35 them until like the 20th.

36

37 So the windows where we're looking at,  
38 from our point of view, is okay with us because we do our  
39 freshwater fish before our salmon does arrive.

40

41 And Jack has a point here, too, where  
42 everybody along the river should be taking a harder look  
43 at the windows here for their subsistence use.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert. About  
48 two years ago, I think Vince will remember this, we had  
49 this meeting down at Anchorage, what the Federal  
50 Subsistence Board at that time Craig Fleener and I

1 submitted the Special Action Request that the windows  
2 system was put into effect as soon as they saw the first  
3 king. But we didn't get anywhere because they said you  
4 cannot assess a run until they see, about a week, so our  
5 special action request couldn't go anywhere at that time  
6 either, because they have to assess the first run, first  
7 surge to make any kind of decisions to put these windows  
8 in place; is this correct?

9

10 MR. MASCHMANN: The mangers pre-season  
11 will generally decide about when they want to start the  
12 windows and like it says, it says end of May, early --  
13 first week of June and as the run is assessed when it  
14 comes in they -- the Federal mangers and the State  
15 mangers will generally get closer to a specific date.

16

17 But the monitoring projects generally  
18 don't go in in the lower river until about the last  
19 couple of days of May or the first few days of June. So  
20 there's a reliance on the subsistence fishers who are  
21 already fishing on what they're seeing and how they see  
22 the fish coming in.

23

24 I don't know if that answers anything or  
25 not.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Well, it comes close  
28 because like I stated, there's just no real answers until  
29 you assess the run, the first surge, there's no answers  
30 until that assessment is in place and then that's how the  
31 window system gets put into effect.

32

33 So, thank you, if that's all we have on  
34 the pre-season outlook.

35

36 Tom Kriska.

37

38 MR. KRISKA: I was just wondering, on  
39 this summer chum, this new opening, I mean moving this  
40 driftnet boundaries to up to below Galena is that -- what  
41 I thought it was was just for summer chum only but I  
42 guess it's going to be for the fall chum and all that,  
43 too, or what?

44

45 MR. MASCHMANN: I believe the drift is  
46 for king gear; is that -- can I ask Geoff Beyersdorf to  
47 come up here.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Geoff.

50

1 MR. BEYERSDORF: Chairman Sam. Member  
2 Kriska. That drift gillnet, that expansion there is for  
3 kings only, it doesn't apply to summer chum or fall chum.

4  
5 MR. KRISKA: All right, thank you. We're  
6 going to have a lot of explaining to do to people that  
7 thinks it's -- you know you're going to have to really  
8 get a handle on that before they think about -- just  
9 because we open it up it's going to be a problem that  
10 they think it will be open for fall chum and everything  
11 else, so, kind of, that's what I think.

12  
13 MR. BEYERSDORF: Chairman Sam. Member  
14 Kriska. I understand that. And that's why when Jack had  
15 made that offer at the Federal Subsistence Board meeting,  
16 as far as having people that are on the Regional Advisory  
17 Council help to get that word out in the villages. My  
18 intention is to get to the villages myself and visit with  
19 people and also to get the word out, via the radio and  
20 some handouts, but this is going to be important to make  
21 sure people know this.

22  
23 MR. KRISKA: All right, thank you.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Anything  
26 further.

27  
28 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, and then Mickey.

31  
32 MR. REAKOFF: When that proposal was  
33 being deliberated by the Federal Board our proposal was  
34 for, to include chum, and the Board was very reluctant  
35 because of the chum status, stocks of concern and so  
36 forth and so they eliminated that portion of our proposal  
37 for the chum. And so our original proposal was to  
38 include that.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

41  
42 MR. REAKOFF: So we lost on that one.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

45  
46 MR. STICKMAN: You know one of the things  
47 that I've always pointed out and wanted to go on record  
48 and pointing out again that the Yukon River Drainage  
49 Fishermen's Association has a strong management voice  
50 with, not only the State of Alaska but with the U.S. Fish

1 and Wildlife Service, but the majority of their members  
2 are commercial fishermen so, you know, there's a  
3 disparity there because you go to Y4A and above there,  
4 and the majority of the fishermen are subsistence  
5 fishermen. And, you know, I believe that it's an unequal  
6 voice as far as when it comes to making management  
7 decisions, as far as openings for the windows and  
8 relaxing the windows, when it comes to subsistence users.

9  
10 So, you know, I just wanted to go on  
11 record with that statement. So that when you go back to  
12 your boss, Russ Holder, that you tell him that, you know,  
13 he must also, not only listen to YRDFA but listen to the  
14 real actual fishermen out there because the YRDFA Board  
15 is a board of commercial fishermen.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey for that  
18 statement. Because the majority of their funding comes  
19 from commercial interests, too, and that's what makes  
20 YRDFA go.

21  
22 Geoff, you had something.

23  
24 MR. BEYERSDORF: Yeah, thank you, Mickey  
25 for that comment. That reminds me that actually just  
26 before I ended up coming to this meeting I got a call  
27 from YRDFA on Monday for some suggestions of some local  
28 fishers so they could get some better representation for  
29 the middle Yukon area, so we discussed some names and  
30 hopefully they will be able to include those people in  
31 that upcoming meeting down in Marshall to get some better  
32 representation for the middle Yukon.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Geoff.  
35 Anything further on the pre-season outlook.

36  
37 (No comments)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, I believe Jack had  
40 a concern.

41  
42 MR. REAKOFF: No, go to Benedict.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

45  
46 MR. JONES: Yeah, YRDFA has a meeting  
47 scheduled the 27th through the 29th of this month for  
48 this coming season in Marshall. I just wanted to let the  
49 Council members be aware of that.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. We do have a person  
2 from YRDFA, I'd like to recognize him at this time. Mr.  
3 Sullivan.

4  
5 MR. SULLIVAN: Hi. I'm Joe Sull.....

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, no, use the -- use the  
8 microphone for Tina, please.

9  
10 MR. SULLIVAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
11 I'm Joe Sullivan, the program director for YRDFA. Our  
12 meeting dates are the 21st through 24th of March in  
13 Marshall. That's not what I thought I heard you say,  
14 maybe it was, but it's the 21st through the 24th.

15  
16 I would also like to say that relative to  
17 our membership I do disagree that most of the members are  
18 commercial fishers. We have representation from up and  
19 down the Yukon and we encourage as many people as  
20 possible to come -- the whole point of YRDFA's existence  
21 is to unite up river and down river people to discuss  
22 different points of view.

23  
24 So the more people that are associated  
25 with YRDFA and bring their points of view to the table,  
26 the more likely that you will be heard.

27  
28 One of the things that I heard yesterday  
29 that kind of upset me a little bit relative to the letter  
30 from Fish and Game was that YRDFA was against the  
31 extension of the driftnet fisheries. And while that was  
32 true to the extent that we didn't want to see more,  
33 larger, older chinook salmon being caught, that also  
34 doesn't mean that we necessarily support something  
35 different for different parts of the river to be more or  
36 less favorable to different fishermen.

37  
38 And I would like to say that once the  
39 Federal Subsistence Board made their determination that  
40 driftnet fishing would be allowed in these areas, I think  
41 it's time to let that happen and see what the impacts are  
42 going to be. Basically Fish and Game was saying that  
43 they thought that more of the larger, older fish will be  
44 caught and I hear you saying that people from up river  
45 who fish drift gillnets will simply be fishing them  
46 closer to home, that may be true, I think it's time to  
47 find out, you know. So I guess in a sense I was a little  
48 upset by that letter because it seemed to be sour grapes,  
49 and whether what you predict is going to happen or what  
50 Fish and Game predicts is going to happen, if it happens

1 or not, let's find out.

2

3 Okay, and beyond that, that's where  
4 things are.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, I'd like to  
7 reiterate Western Interior's stand, if it has any impact  
8 at all, whether good or bad, it's impacted, it is in  
9 place and just do not bother with our fisheries, if you  
10 want to slow down anything, slow down the commercial  
11 fisheries down in the lower Yukon, that's where to start  
12 -- where you would make a bigger impact on escapement and  
13 everything else, by slowing down the commercial interests  
14 because we are totally subsistence orientated and we  
15 provide for subsistence harvest.

16

17 Jack.

18

19 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate  
20 YRDFA's position now, let by-gones be by-gones and let's  
21 see what this fishery's going to do and I appreciate  
22 that. I wish that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
23 had the same professional attitude.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, again, Joe.  
26 Anything further -- go ahead -- get the microphone over  
27 there.

28

29 MR. MASCHMANN: Just one more comment,  
30 back for Jack when he was asking about when commercial  
31 fishing might open, I just want to be clear that the  
32 State and the Federal manager work together daily with  
33 assessing the run and if the Federal manager does not  
34 object with the State's assessment and the State feels  
35 that there is a surplus available at the quarter and they  
36 decide to open the commercial fishing at the quarter-  
37 point and Russ does not object, that's a possibility.  
38 But I just want to be clear that, you know, once the  
39 commercial season starts and Russ feels that subsistence  
40 and escapement needs are met, he sort -- we kind of back  
41 out, we're not managing the commercial fishery. So it's  
42 a possibility that commercial fishing could start at the  
43 quarter or it might not, I can't say for sure. That will  
44 be a State decision with concurrence with the Federal  
45 manager.

46

47 MR. REAKOFF: Right.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Anything  
50 further on the pre-season outlook.

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you, Geoff.  
4 Vince, where are we now?  
5  
6 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman.....  
7  
8 MR. REAKOFF: I'd like to.....  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just a moment, go ahead,  
11 Jack.  
12  
13 MR. REAKOFF: At this point in our  
14 discussions I would -- it's my concern that this permit  
15 that's being developed for the 4B and C have consultation  
16 with the Western Interior Council, or the affected  
17 Council. And so I would like this letter to be submitted  
18 to Tom Boyd from the Western Interior.  
19  
20 That we've learned that the permit to be  
21 required for the subsistence drift  
22 gillnet fishery in 4B and C is being  
23 formulated.  
24  
25 We feel the affected Regional Council  
26 should be consulted regarding aspects of  
27 the requirements. We want to be assured  
28 that the intent of Congress in .802 is  
29 administered, which is the least adverse  
30 impact to the users.  
31  
32 And so I would like to have that letter  
33 submitted to Tom Boyd, with the concurrence of the  
34 Council.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we need a motion or  
37 just consensus of the Council?  
38  
39 MR. MATHEWS: It would be based on  
40 consensus if there's no objections and that would be the  
41 wishes of the Council.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any objections for Jack's  
44 request?  
45  
46 (No objections)  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, okay, consensus of the  
49 Council, get that letter to Tom.  
50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.  
2  
3 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.  
6  
7 MR. REAKOFF: Another issue that I still  
8 have, that I still have concerns about this window. And  
9 so it's call for proposals for Federal fisheries  
10 proposals, and I would like to see a proposal submitted  
11 from the Western Interior Council to set in regulation  
12 that opening date for the use of king gear on the Yukon,  
13 the initiation of the windowed subsistence fishery.  
14  
15 And so I would suggest to get to get it  
16 on the table May 15th as setting that windowed schedule  
17 date for king gear, not affecting all mesh gear for  
18 harvest of whitefish of sheefish, and so I would like to  
19 see if the Council would like to submit that proposal  
20 since it's the call for proposals.  
21  
22 And that would be for the lower  
23 districts, 1 through 3.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Jack's  
26 request, any comments.  
27  
28 (No comments)  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that it may work  
31 because you go through all the proposal stages, season to  
32 be announced, sometimes it doesn't work, if you just put  
33 a date in there they'll either operate before or after  
34 and if we have a date there that will put more things  
35 into effect or into working order.  
36  
37 I would agree with Jack on this. Is that  
38 a motion or do we take any action, Vince.  
39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, it's the same  
41 as the others, you can do it with a motion or you can go  
42 by consensus, if there's no objections then that's the  
43 wishes of the Council.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, do you want to take  
46 action on this and go on record by taking action for the  
47 effective date of May 15th or just general consensus.  
48  
49 MR. REAKOFF: Well, I'll just read my  
50 preliminary thoughts on the submission of this proposal

1 and for the proposal to be written because we're coming  
2 up on the proposal deadline.

3  
4 The proposal to set the date of the Yukon  
5 River subsistence fishing schedule for  
6 chinook gear, the initiation of the  
7 windows should be from May 15th, that's  
8 with chinook gear.

9  
10 There is not a regulatory start date.  
11 The rough late May through early June  
12 start date, I'm not satisfied with that.

13  
14 Fishers of the entire Yukon River  
15 drainage need to know when the schedule  
16 is implemented and the establishment of  
17 the start date will lend protection to  
18 chinook throughout the entire run, not  
19 when Staff shows up to start the  
20 projects.

21  
22 And so those are my preliminary thoughts  
23 on that issue, so that should revolve around how the  
24 proposal is submitted.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Consensus of the Council  
27 honoring Jack's request for this proposal. Consensus.

28  
29 (Council nods affirmatively)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Everybody's in favor,  
32 okay, then we'll submit that.

33  
34 Vince.

35  
36 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. On your  
37 request to have consultation, a letter to Tom Boyd, if  
38 that were to be approved, how would you want that to  
39 happen, meaning would that be with the Chair or would it  
40 be representatives on the Yukon or whatever, because that  
41 permit has to be developed pretty quick here.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: As Chair I would say I  
44 would request that you teleconference the Yukon River  
45 working -- what's' that committee, fisheries committee?

46  
47 MR. MATHEWS: The Yukon River  
48 Coordinating Fisheries.....

49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Coordinating Fishers

1 Committee.  
2  
3 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh. That's who I  
6 would like to see it worked through.  
7  
8 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.  
11  
12 MR. COLLINS: I have a question related  
13 to that, I think.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.  
16  
17 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'm wondering, what  
18 do you know about the, I don't know how to say it, the  
19 mixture of those runs? In other words, are the fish  
20 going to Canada or to the Upper Koyukuk more likely to be  
21 more strongly represented in those early fish or are they  
22 spread throughout the run? Has there been any studies  
23 done on that to see the timing of which fish are in river  
24 when because I think that would have an impact on what  
25 fish are taken in that early season, is what I'm saying.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think we've been trying  
28 to target that -- or trying to identify which fish, where  
29 they go, I don't think there's an answer to that question  
30 yet at this time.  
31  
32 MR. COLLINS: That was the purpose for  
33 the tagging and recapture on the Kuskokwim, they were  
34 trying to determine, you know, where those fish were, and  
35 I was just asking is there any comparable studies on the  
36 Yukon or don't they know at all?  
37  
38 MR. MASCHMANN: I think with the  
39 telemetry studies and the genetic studies going on, that  
40 they've got an idea that those early run fish are  
41 primarily headed to Canada, however, I want to be clear  
42 that I've only been on the Yukon for two years and I'm  
43 not an expert on the chinook run and it's probably not  
44 even a question I can answer but I can take your question  
45 back to the Federal manager and he can get back to you on  
46 that.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.  
49  
50 MR. JONES: Yeah, the early runs are

1 mainly going to Canadian border, but third pulse is the  
2 -- second and third pulse for Tanana River and the  
3 Koyukuk River.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Anything  
6 further on pre-season outlook.

7  
8 (No comments)

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think we already counted  
11 and dried our fish already.

12  
13 (Laughter)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

16  
17 MR. STICKMAN: Just so you know how it  
18 went last year, you know, as soon as there was enough  
19 chinook for commercial openings the subsistence fishermen  
20 on the middle Yukon asked for the windows to be lifted  
21 and with Carl's help, you know, our request was granted  
22 and we had -- you know, we didn't follow the windows, we  
23 had fishing 24/7 in Y4A and, you know, I don't see the  
24 people in Y4A changing their thinking any time soon. So  
25 as soon as the State commercial fish and the U.S. Fish  
26 and Wildlife open up commercial on the lower Yukon again  
27 this summer, you know, I can foresee the subsistence  
28 fishermen saying, hey, well, you know, we want to have  
29 our 24/7 openings again so we can finish sooner and be  
30 done quicker.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey.  
33 Anything else on the pre-season outlook.

34  
35 (No comments)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

38  
39 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Jack's  
40 already gone into possible proposals for 2005 so this  
41 would be a time for that. I have briefed a couple of you  
42 on Eastern Interior's action. But on the record they're  
43 basically resubmitting their proposal to set the depths  
44 of the nets to 35 meshes for both commercial and  
45 subsistence. So that proposal will be resubmitted.

46  
47 That's the only ones that I know of other  
48 than now Jack's request to set in regulation the start  
49 date.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince.  
2 Anything further on pre-season outlook.  
3  
4 (No comments)  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Gerald. Where  
7 does that put us on the agenda, are we done with  
8 fisheries?  
9  
10 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, unless  
11 there's other fishery proposals. That just moves us up  
12 into the annual report section.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. I'd like to thank  
15 YRDFA representative, Joe, for attending our meeting and  
16 thanks again, like Jack said, that was a very  
17 professional attitude and that is appreciated so you can  
18 take that back to your Council.  
19  
20 Thank you.  
21  
22 Okay, again, we're at annual report.  
23  
24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'll be  
25 handing it out to you. This is your draft, you've added  
26 a lot of different things to you so -- and then I'll  
27 explain the format that it's in because it will be a  
28 little different than you normally see it but I'll wait  
29 until you receive that, Tina's getting it to you now.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: I understand lunch will be  
32 about 12, that's the word I got from the office. Do you  
33 want to grab a cup of coffee right now.  
34  
35 (Council nods affirmatively)  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: A five minute break to  
38 grab a cup of coffee before we go into the annual report.  
39  
40 (Off record)  
41  
42 (On record)  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.  
45  
46 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, if you  
47 look at the overall annual report, what I want to point  
48 out is this is a -- if you look at the format, if you  
49 look in the far right-hand side there'll be comments.  
50 The reason I did that is just to make it clear to you

1 that there's questions that have come up during the  
2 review of your annual report that we need to get clarity  
3 on.

4  
5                   So for example if you look at Page 2  
6 you'll see a comment on the top where it says with the  
7 paragraph, the Council requests confirmation that the  
8 windowed fishing schedule for the Kuskokwim River will  
9 remain in effect for conservation and fairness reasons  
10 discussed. I need confirmation that the Council would  
11 like to discuss -- the Council would like to discuss with  
12 State and Federal management Staff what biological  
13 criteria or triggers would be used to eliminate the  
14 windowed fishing schedule for the Kuskokwim. That was my  
15 interpretation of your actions, I need confirmation of  
16 that.

17  
18                   So that's what that comment means. And  
19 we can go down the comments to make sure that that's the  
20 Council's actions.

21  
22                   For example, another one, on Page 3, the  
23 bottom one, number 5, you left the annual report open,  
24 while, Jack suggested that this be part of the annual  
25 report and I understand Jack's one of your members and  
26 one of your officers, but I need confirmation that the  
27 full Council agrees to that.

28  
29                   So that's the formatting thing and I'll  
30 just stop and you can look at it. It's not the normal  
31 way you see the report, it's smaller font and et cetera.  
32 So we can go through those comments.

33  
34                   And then for all the items that have come  
35 up, you're going to have to empower your leadership or  
36 individual Council members to be the ones that would be  
37 the final approvers of what I write because there won't  
38 be time for the Council to meet again and to try to do it  
39 with nine members it's just too difficult. And the  
40 deadline for this, in general, is April 1st so I will get  
41 on it as soon as I can but that's where, if we have  
42 designated people that I would run it by and then, of  
43 course, the Chair is the final approval, that opens up  
44 the system a little bit more.

45  
46                   So I'll stop and ask if there's any  
47 questions about any of the text and any of the comments  
48 that are in the boxes.

49  
50                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Go back

1 to Page 2, need Council confirmation, what are you  
2 exactly on this one now?

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, I was  
5 just wondering if you wanted a discussion from the State  
6 and Federal Staff what biological triggers would be used  
7 to eliminate the windowed fishing schedule. I think I  
8 pulled that from transcripts when Ray was talking about  
9 that, what would the managers then say we don't need  
10 anymore windows, what would tell that manager to say we  
11 don't need any more windows. I'm speculating that's what  
12 you wanted, so that's why I said I need Council  
13 confirmation.

14

15 Remember the annual report flags issues  
16 and over the years we've said flag issues with an action  
17 item. So that was kind of one of the action items  
18 associated with this topic.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any Council  
21 recommendations.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

26

27 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, in terms of having  
28 dialogue with the State and others, that should probably  
29 take place at like this spring meeting when they're  
30 planning it or throughout the season there. But in terms  
31 of noting the importance of the windows, I would like  
32 that to stay in there.

33

34 And also I'd like to add the comment that  
35 in spite of strong runs in the lower river and the  
36 prediction of strong runs, that those strong runs didn't  
37 materialize in the upper river and I think that's  
38 important so that the if the windows had not been in  
39 place there probably would have been even poorer returns  
40 at the head of the river and as it was they were just  
41 average. So until we know more about the composition of  
42 the runs and the impact of, the windows should be kept in  
43 place until we know more about the situation because --  
44 yeah, I'm kind of repeating myself. Because even with  
45 them in place we still have problems in the returns or  
46 the returns at the head of the river are different than  
47 those experienced in the streams down river.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Any  
50 further -- Carl.

1 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I'm a little confused  
2 here. Is what you're asking for, Vince, is when should  
3 the windows drop off, what should be the triggering  
4 mechanism -- when should the up river windows drop off.  
5 I think it should be no different than something like the  
6 Yukon, when they implement the commercial opening.

7  
8 I think the windows should drop when  
9 you're restricting subsistence users up river and opening  
10 up commercial openings down river, I think automatically  
11 that should trigger dropping off the up river subsistence  
12 rivers.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

15  
16 MR. COLLINS: Carl, I don't think there  
17 are any windows above Aniak. I think they stop right at  
18 Aniak don't they?

19  
20 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, they do but, you know,  
21 they're still up river, we still follow them, we still  
22 got windows that are implemented.

23  
24 MR. COLLINS: I see.

25  
26 MR. MORGAN: Yeah.

27  
28 MR. MATHEWS: So I take it then that you  
29 do want discussion from the management Staff on what  
30 criteria they would use to eliminate the windows or not?  
31 It was my speculation you wanted that. I'm not pushing  
32 for it, I just.....

33  
34 MR. MORGAN: I think because we do have  
35 some windows in the middle Kuskokwim, I think it should  
36 be there -- there should be some mechanism there where  
37 you trigger that all windows will cease at this time.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does that answer your  
40 question then?

41  
42 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I think we'll leave  
43 it in there that, and then I will add in text that the  
44 recent example of the high runs or good healthy runs this  
45 last year did not result in high returns in the upper  
46 part of the river so the windows, if they were not in  
47 effect, would have been even more detrimental up river,  
48 even though you had good returns lower river. So it  
49 shows the importance of windows even when there's returns  
50 that are high.

1                   So that will need to be incorporated, I  
2 mean if that's what you want.  
3  
4                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Sound good Carl.  
5  
6                   MR. MORGAN: (Nods affirmatively)  
7  
8                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.  
9  
10                  MR. COLLINS: Yeah.  
11  
12                  CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, then that takes care  
13 of that section.  
14  
15                  MR. MATHEWS: Yes.  
16  
17                  CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.  
18  
19                  MR. MATHEWS: And I don't know, you know,  
20 internal review kind of flagged that maybe this shouldn't  
21 be a topic for the annual report, I sensed from your  
22 discussions here and that, that you still feel that this  
23 should be an annual report topic and not addressed during  
24 when you do proposal review.  
25  
26                  CHAIRMAN SAM: I think we can address it  
27 through the annual report. Again, this is one of the  
28 most -- I feel one of our most important actions. When  
29 we do address anything under the annual report, we get  
30 the answers back and in detail, they really answer our  
31 questions and our concerns.  
32  
33                  I think through the annual report we can  
34 get some good answers, so I'd like to keep it under  
35 annual report.  
36  
37                  MR. MATHEWS: All right.  
38  
39                  CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.  
40  
41                  MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I think  
42 one of the reasons why it should be in -- obviously these  
43 actions have impact on subsistence users, we're  
44 restricting subsistence users by the windows, why are we  
45 doing that then is the question. And one of the  
46 questions is, it's impact on those salmon runs and we  
47 need to know more about that. So, again, it points out  
48 the need for continued studies in that area until we  
49 understand the composition of those runs and how the  
50 various harvesting techniques affect those runs, not just

1 the commercial, but even the subsistence users actions  
2 have impact on those runs.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further, Vince.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Well, we'll just walk down  
7 the -- on Page 3 on the top there, I have a comment from  
8 the transcript it was expressed by Ray Collins that the  
9 predator management policy should reflect this by  
10 changing restoring prey populations to maintaining prey  
11 populations.

12

13 Now, I took that from your statement,  
14 Ray, I put in here we need Council confirmation because  
15 the predator policy is final. But you've now discovered  
16 that that wording of restoring, you don't -- you want the  
17 mandate that you described, I'm not saying it's the  
18 mandate that the agencies agree to, that the mandate be  
19 maintaining prey populations, not restoring.

20

21 So I don't know if you want this change  
22 to happen to a policy that's final. But going by the  
23 transcripts I felt it was strong enough to put in here so  
24 I need confirmation that you're kind of asking the Board  
25 to say we do not care for your policy saying restoring,  
26 we want you to emphasize maintaining.

27

28 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, the reasoning behind  
29 my thinking in that area is we're always reacting after  
30 the fact, that's what you're doing in restoring. If it  
31 was a management tool that was in place like we just  
32 mentioned here this winter, that the moose are really  
33 being hit and there's big packs of wolves out there, if  
34 we could step in at that point and intervene, we wouldn't  
35 have to get into restoration, we would be maintaining a  
36 healthy population. And I think it would take less  
37 action at the critical point than it does later to  
38 restore.

39

40 So I guess that's why I think that's a --  
41 it shouldn't be just implemented when you need to restore  
42 the population, it should be a tool that could be used to  
43 maintain healthy and natural populations.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. I do not  
46 think that we can restore anything.

47

48 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Once they're gone, they're

1 gone. If we can just maintain what we have that's all we  
2 can do, all we can request is maintain.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: So then we'll leave that in  
5 there and I'm not giving, you know, any indication that  
6 the Board's going to change its policy but you're telling  
7 them your feelings on it.

8

9 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: And we'll see where that  
12 goes. Unless the Staff Committee members have some other  
13 comments on that.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Go ahead.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Then we go down to, Jack, I  
20 don't remember, remember I talk to Jack and Ron quite a  
21 bit so I don't remember when this topic came up but it  
22 came up and maybe he wants to talk about consistent  
23 collection of biological data topic, but that's one that  
24 he requested be put in the annual report. It's now  
25 before the Council to agree to having it in there.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

28

29 MR. REAKOFF: Well, Mr. Chairman, that  
30 came back up at this Council again. There's been no  
31 predator/prey relationship data collection for many  
32 years, since the early '90s in this region, especially in  
33 the Koyukuk drainage.

34

35 Basically my position on this issue is  
36 that there's lots of projects for fisheries investigation  
37 and biological data collection, and that's good, but the  
38 wildlife in our region has data lacks and we need some  
39 kind of -- the Board to recognize there's funding lacks  
40 for those, and that's my point here, is that the Council  
41 endorses data gathering and we need to have funding  
42 sources for that data collection. And that can go  
43 through the Technical Review Committee on the triage or  
44 prioritization of those projects but the Board needs to  
45 be aware that we have data lacks for resources here and  
46 so we've highlighted a lot of those.

47

48 The Board should have a policy that, you  
49 know, there has to be -- when we have concerns to meet  
50 subsistence needs, there needs to be data collected, and

1 that's the gist of this section. And I wanted the  
2 Council to weigh in on that issue.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: I agree with Jack.  
5 Because I think that for quite some time, the strength of  
6 the Western Interior Council was the data that we used  
7 and it will be ongoing -- we cannot operate without this  
8 data. We cannot make requests until we know what's there  
9 and whether we can maintain it or not. We need this  
10 data.

11

12 Were you looking for a consensus.

13

14 Jack.

15

16 MR. REAKOFF: It's an issue that keeps  
17 coming up, this data lack in our region. I feel that we  
18 talk to the conservation units themselves. I feel that  
19 the Board needs to be aware that for wildlife management,  
20 that there's data lacks that don't have funding from the  
21 unit's budgets and so I feel that the Board should be  
22 aware that we need a funding source for this data  
23 collection. That's the gist of what I'm talking about  
24 here. And I would like to know what the Council feels  
25 about that.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: My feels reflect yours.  
28 What else do you need on this?

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Well, if there's consensus  
31 on that, then that's fine, and then the action on -- and  
32 I'm trying to total them up but I don't think I'll  
33 succeed, I think you've added on about four other topics,  
34 so I would need direction from the Council that write  
35 that up and run it by the mover of the motion, most of  
36 them were Jack but some were not, and then that the Chair  
37 be the final approval. But that turnaround time is, you  
38 know, I'm going to try to honor the office date of April  
39 1st so it's going to be close.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

42

43 MR. MORGAN: And I agree with Jack, we  
44 need this data. And we heard earlier, I think it was  
45 yesterday about, just an example on predator control,  
46 they said they don't have no historical data and they got  
47 to make determinations whether they're going to have a  
48 predator control on historical data but they haven't --  
49 they haven't done it. I said, what historical data, I  
50 see they do a lot of depending on the State of Alaska and

1 these Parks and National Reserves but there's no  
2 historical data on predator control, and I think it's --  
3 we need that information.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Consensus, everybody --  
6 Ray.

7  
8 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'd just like to  
9 reiterate that. I've been pushing on the Denali SRC that  
10 the Park do a study there because in the Park itself they  
11 have long-range data on the wolf packs and so on but the  
12 inter-relation of those and the caribou and moose in the  
13 Park, there you have a situation that's allowed to go  
14 natural.

15  
16 In the Gates of the Arctic up here  
17 they're going to have a situation where there is some  
18 subsistence hunting allowed so there is a human  
19 interaction there.

20  
21 And then you have areas like Hughes and  
22 the lower river here where there's intensive sport  
23 hunting, subsistence hunting and the prey. We need to  
24 know how those systems work in that kind of situation and  
25 the role that predators play with the prey species, so  
26 they could really do some top notch scientific studies if  
27 they worked in those different areas and put that all  
28 together so we'd have a picture of what's happening.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray.  
31 Consensus.

32  
33 (Council nods affirmatively)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that what you needed?

36  
37 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And is there  
38 consensus on the other topics that have come up from the  
39 meeting up to this point, and ones following that the  
40 Council would empower the mover of that motion to be a  
41 reviewer along with the Chair to approve it because I've  
42 got a faint feeling there may be some other annual report  
43 topics that come up after we discuss this. At least it  
44 did in the Eastern Interior.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I except a few more,  
47 too.

48  
49 (Council nods affirmatively)

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: But I do have this calling  
2 card and I'll call Vince at home 7:00 o'clock in the  
3 morning or 9:00 o'clock at night and I'm on the phone  
4 with Jack constantly, and if there's any requests like  
5 Ray or Jack I'll be on the phone until Vince and I get it  
6 straight and then the only way I'll sign off on this  
7 annual report is when we get it straight by the  
8 proponents of these changes or additions to the annual  
9 report. Again, I abuse that phone card but then we got  
10 to get things straight.

11  
12 Anything else on the annual report.

13  
14 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman. It's  
15 pretty clear for the record you're at consensus with the  
16 process and empowering so I don't know of anything else.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, it's 11:47, I  
19 believe lunch is at noon, what's the pleasure of the  
20 Board. You want to go on. We have next on the agenda  
21 OSM reports. Go ahead and put Don Rivard on there, yes,  
22 we might as well keep going.

23  
24 MR. REAKOFF: Is your name Don?

25  
26 (Laughter)

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

29  
30 MS. CLARK: Mr. Chairman. Members of the  
31 Council. For the record my name is Maureen Clark and I  
32 work for the Office of Subsistence Management. I'm here  
33 to talk to you about the rural review that the Board has  
34 begun.

35  
36 As you know, determining which  
37 communities are rural determines who is eligible for the  
38 subsistence priority and therefore the subsistence  
39 program. If you look on Page 101 and 102 of your Council  
40 books you'll notice a news release. I think you probably  
41 all received that at home. And on the information table  
42 is a question and answer sheet with a lot of the same  
43 information in just kind of a different format. You'll  
44 also be receiving this at home in the mail.

45  
46 Basically, the news release and the  
47 question and answer sheet outlines a two step process  
48 that the Staff is going through. Right now they're  
49 working on drafting a list of communities that may need  
50 further review, and that list of communities will be

1 available probably in September. The Board will put that  
2 out for public comment, public and Council comment so  
3 you'll be seeing this issue again at your fall meeting.  
4

5                   Once the Board has heard public comment  
6 on that, it will decide on a final list and which  
7 communities should get a more in-depth analysis to see if  
8 there may be a reason for a change in their status.  
9

10                   Vince, had said we're going to keep this  
11 brief, and this issue is of great interest in certain  
12 regions of the state, I don't know how much interest is  
13 in the Western Interior. I think every community within  
14 the Western Interior is well below the 2,500 population  
15 threshold for automatically determining that you're a  
16 rural community. So I'll keep it brief and if you have  
17 any questions I'd be happy to entertain them now.  
18

19                   CHAIRMAN SAM: It is important. It  
20 doesn't matter if it's within our region or in Anchorage  
21 or Kenai, it all impacts us in one way or another.  
22

23                   Mickey Stickman and I had the pleasure of  
24 attending one of these rural determination meetings at  
25 Fairbanks. About three hours into that meeting it turned  
26 into a shouting match, they just bawled Mickey and I out,  
27 just royally, so we bawled them back out the same way,  
28 and that determination process didn't go anywhere. The  
29 moderators tried their best but we're just -- we just  
30 couldn't get anywhere.  
31

32                   MS. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I should also  
33 point out that the Board has -- there will be public  
34 comment periods throughout this process. The process  
35 will wrap up probably at the end of next year and there's  
36 a public comment period at the very beginning for you to  
37 comment on the process that we're using, the methods that  
38 we're using. So if you had any comments, you mentioned,  
39 it is an important issue.  
40

41                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I think that we  
42 should go ahead and review it and submit our comments,  
43 whether we do it individually or through the Western  
44 Interior, we should submit our feelings and our stands on  
45 this issue.  
46

47                   Any further questions for Maureen.  
48

49                   Robert.  
50

1 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
2 think we should just answer it in consensus here, just do  
3 a letter and fire it off to them and go from there.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you get that, Vince?  
6  
7 MR. MATHEWS: No, I didn't.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, go ahead.  
10  
11 MR. WALKER: Vince, would you please get  
12 a hearing aide.  
13  
14 (Laughter)  
15  
16 MR. MATHEWS: I will.  
17  
18 (Laughter)  
19  
20 MR. WALKER: Well, I'm just suggesting to  
21 the Board here that we just draw up a letter with our  
22 consensus here and send it off to them and we'll see what  
23 happens from there, just keep -- as long as we keep the  
24 dialogue open.  
25  
26 MR. MATHEWS: You mean to send out this  
27 flyer here to.....  
28  
29 MR. WALKER: Yes.  
30  
31 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, Maureen, is this  
32 being distributed to communities or is it not?  
33  
34 MS. CLARK: It can be. We've just  
35 started distribution, it was just completed before I got  
36 here.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: I know I got one, I just  
39 got it in the mail yesterday, I think.  
40  
41 MR. WALKER: I didn't get mine yet.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.  
44  
45 MR. WALKER: But I've got one here now.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: So is this letter that  
48 you're requesting out of Vince, is to keep us involved in  
49 this determination process, is that the consensus you're  
50 looking for?

1 MR. WALKER: (Nods affirmatively)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Keep Western  
4 Interior involved in the.....  
5  
6 MR. MATHEWS: Right. Well, that's a  
7 given.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: .....in making of the  
10 rural determinations.  
11  
12 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, that's a given, Mr.  
13 Chair, that you will be.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.  
16  
17 MR. MATHEWS: What we were saying to you,  
18 as we were laying this out, we didn't want to take up  
19 your time on this as intensively as we would in Eastern  
20 Interior, but this will be on your agenda as it moves  
21 forward, so it's automatically there. So does that meet  
22 Robert's needs or do we need to distribute flyers and  
23 other informational materials to community within this  
24 region.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.  
27  
28 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
29 Yes, I'd like to see this passed out to the other  
30 communities so they can be updated on this also.  
31  
32 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Well, Maureen's it  
33 and she heard it so she will -- we'll get her the  
34 information as needed for all the communities within  
35 Western Interior.  
36  
37 MR. WALKER: Thank you.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Could you send out a  
40 cover letter, too, that whether it's within our region or  
41 out of our region, these determinations will highly  
42 impact all of us in one way or the other. Would you do a  
43 cover letter on that, that even if it concerns Anchorage  
44 or Fairbanks, it really impacts us one way or the other.  
45 Just a cover letter.  
46  
47 Jack.  
48  
49 MR. REAKOFF: One question for Maureen.  
50 In this list of evaluated -- that the Board will go

1 through, the communities that are economically, socially  
2 and communally integrated will be combined for evaluation  
3 process. Are they going to take a whole bunch of  
4 communities and put them all together for combination,  
5 will that total their population?  
6

7 MS. CLARK: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Reakoff.  
8 The combinations have already been done. On the Kenai  
9 Peninsula, there's the Kenai/Soldotna combination. The  
10 Homer/Anchor Point combination. In Ketchikan there's  
11 Ketchikan area. So these combinations have already been  
12 done back in 1990 when the program was set up. They'll  
13 just be evaluated again, the combinations, as they exist.  
14

15 MR. REAKOFF: My question is, does their  
16 combined populations total to meet these thresholds?  
17 Does Homer, like 6,000 people and Anchor Point's a  
18 thousand, does that make the 7,000, is that the way it's  
19 calculated?  
20

21 MS. CLARK: Yes. I don't know the exact  
22 population numbers of Homer and Anchor Point, but, yeah,  
23 the combination puts them above the threshold for being  
24 rural.  
25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for  
27 Maureen.  
28

29 (No comments)  
30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, I guess, like we  
32 stated, we're involved whether we like it or not and I do  
33 want to be involved.  
34

35 Thank you.  
36

37 MS. CLARK: I'll make sure you are, thank  
38 you very much.  
39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further under  
41 OSM.  
42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, are you  
44 asking where we.....  
45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.  
47

48 MR. MATHEWS: The next one would be the  
49 marine water jurisdiction. I think Don's -- no, Tom's  
50 covering that one. Again, the reason we bring this up,

1 it's a statewide situation. Tom will lay it out to you.  
2 It's not to burden you with other topics, we're keeping  
3 you informed, so I'm sure you'll give Tom direction on  
4 how much detail is needed on that.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Tom.

7  
8 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Similar to the  
9 last topic you might be wondering why you're addressing a  
10 marine waters issue given all the marine waters you have  
11 in Western Interior. Again it's a statewide issue, all  
12 10 Regional Councils are looking at it, so I'll be very  
13 brief.

14  
15 I passed out maps that indicate the areas  
16 that are affected. This amendment would primarily impact  
17 coastal areas within the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Bristol  
18 Bay and the Kodiak Aleutians Region. The Federal  
19 Subsistence Management regulations cover hundreds of  
20 thousands of acres of saltwater embayments within Refuge  
21 boundaries that were not withdrawn prior to statehood.  
22 This resulted in inconsistency within various  
23 departmental documents.

24  
25 The proposed amendment would align the  
26 Federal Subsistence regulations with other Interior  
27 pronouncements and legal interpretations. The proposed  
28 amendment would also add a list of prestatehood  
29 withdrawals of submerged lands underlying marine waters  
30 adjacent to the coast of Alaska in which the Federal  
31 Subsistence Board still exercises jurisdiction by virtue  
32 of owning title to submerged lands.

33  
34 The proposed rule to revise and clarify  
35 justification in coastal waters was published in the  
36 Federal Register in December, on December 8th, 2004, the  
37 Federal Subsistence Board is asking for comments from the  
38 Regional Councils.

39  
40 The public comment period has been  
41 extended through April 1st, 2005. The Final Rule will be  
42 published after consideration of the public and Regional  
43 Council comments.

44  
45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tom, what kind of action  
48 are you asking from this Council?

49  
50 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, the comment

1 period is open right now. You know, this Council meeting  
2 is your opportunity to comment on this if you'd like to,  
3 and, again, all 10 Regional Councils are being asked if  
4 they'd like to comment. But, again, as I noted there are  
5 primarily the three that are impacted, those being the YK  
6 Delta, Bristol Bay and Kodiak Aleutians, but all 10 are  
7 being asked if they'd like to comment.

8  
9 It's your opportunity if you'd like to do  
10 so.

11  
12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

15  
16 MR. REAKOFF: My comment, I see that some  
17 of these marine waters are on the YK Delta, and some of  
18 our salmon resources swim through those waters, so  
19 personally I would comment that I feel that the  
20 jurisdiction in those waters should be asserted in case  
21 of need of protection of those resource futuristically.

22  
23 And so that would be my personal comment.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Carl  
26 Morgan.

27  
28 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, Tom, how much of this,  
29 you know, this lower Yukon Kuskokwim, has that lawsuit  
30 the Governor filed on Glacier Bay, does that have any  
31 bearing on any of these waters and stuff?

32  
33 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Council member  
34 Morgan. This process was started before we received the  
35 lawsuit from the State. But, again, as noted yesterday  
36 the State lawsuit addresses this concern as well. So  
37 it's something we were concerned about because of  
38 inconsistencies we started the process, but, again, as  
39 you noted, the lawsuit from the State is also pointing  
40 out the very same issue.

41  
42 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

43  
44 MR. MORGAN: So it can have some bearing  
45 but we don't know what, okay, thank you.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

48  
49 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Tom,  
50 you know, just a question here, it says that the National

1 Wildlife Refuge all the way down, it does consist of the  
2 200 mile limit out in the ocean, does it, that the  
3 Federal government have jurisdiction here?

4  
5 MR. KRON: No. Mr. Chairman, no. No,  
6 we're primarily talking about National Wildlife Refuge  
7 waters, and, again, a number of the coastal embayments,  
8 you know, the tidal areas are what we're talking about  
9 here and they're identified on the map.

10  
11 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Robert.

14  
15 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
16 mean I'm saying that you got Port Moller here, you got  
17 inside here, Cold Bay and other bays here all the way  
18 down the chain here that is marked with the Federal  
19 Refuge, that's why my question was how far does the  
20 jurisdiction go?

21  
22 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Walker.  
23 Again, basically the maps were intended to provide  
24 clarification of exactly where it is, but, again, it does  
25 not extend, you know, out beyond those embayments next to  
26 the Refuges.

27  
28 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions or  
31 comments for Tom.

32  
33 Vince.

34  
35 MR. MATHEWS: So, Mr. Chairman, then  
36 Jack's statement that he supports the -- I think he used  
37 the word, expansion of Federal jurisdictions, is the  
38 wishes of the Council, that's their comment that would go  
39 forward on this?

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

42  
43 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

44  
45 MR. REAKOFF: I would rather use the term  
46 inclusion.....

47  
48 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

49  
50 MR. REAKOFF: .....not expansion.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Was that the wishes  
2 because I mean we have to make it clear that it's the  
3 Council's comments, not just one individuals. It can be  
4 an individual too but.....  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I would too.....  
7  
8 MR. STICKMAN: Consensus.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Consensus, yes. Robert,  
11 did you have something.  
12  
13 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
14 I'll just wait until Don speaks.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Don Rivard.  
17  
18 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Don Rivard with  
19 the Office of Subsistence Management. The way I captured  
20 Jack's wording here, let me see if this is accurate, that  
21 the Yukon Kuskokwim Bays should remain in Federal  
22 jurisdiction to protect the salmon resources that pass  
23 through them.  
24  
25 Is that an accurate description?  
26  
27 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, that they should be  
28 included in the Federal jurisdiction to protect those  
29 salmon resources if we need to, and that has a bearing on  
30 the Western Interior resource.  
31  
32 MR. RIVARD: Thank you.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a consensus -- go  
35 ahead, Robert.  
36  
37 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Tom,  
38 the reason why I asked this question was how far out did  
39 it extend here, and it says right here, the rural amends  
40 the scoping -- the Federal Subsistence Management Program  
41 in Alaska includes subsistence activities occurring on  
42 and navigable waters in which the United States has  
43 reserved water rights and -- how much -- how far out  
44 would it go to protect the migrating salmon that would be  
45 my -- that was the question that I intended to say, but I  
46 kind of like got off track there.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Tom.  
49  
50 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Member Walker.

1 Marine waters mean those waters located seaward of the  
2 mean high tide line or with regard to rivers, creeks,  
3 streams and other inland water, seaward of a straight  
4 line drawn from the headland to headland at the mouth of  
5 such waters. So basically you've got lines across bays,  
6 along the Refuges that we're talking about. Fairly small  
7 amount of saltwater, but, again, depending on how big the  
8 bay is you could have a chunk there.

9  
10 And, again, what our office was saying is  
11 that there's some inconsistency in the Federal  
12 documentation and, you know, our assessment is the intent  
13 was not originally to include those but they have been  
14 and that was why we initiated this process, you know,  
15 and we're getting your comments here, and the other  
16 Councils are commenting as well. But, again, that's what  
17 this is about.

18  
19 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Consensus on  
22 Jack's recommendation.

23  
24 (Council nods affirmatively)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Consensus. Thank you. I  
27 was just notified by Henry Moses that lunch is ready over  
28 at the tribal office. We'll have to go over there so  
29 we'll take a lunch break and come back to order at 1:00.  
30 Lunch is ready over at the tribal office for all of you  
31 to come on over and have lunch with us.

32  
33 (Off record)

34  
35 (On record)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: If we could find our way  
38 back to our chairs we can reconvene.

39  
40 (Pause)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time the Chair  
43 will call the meeting back to order. The next business  
44 agenda item, Vince.

45  
46 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. This  
47 brings us into the organizational reports, and you have  
48 the list there, and there'll be various handouts that  
49 will come from that so we can just go down the list there  
50 unless someone needs to go out of order.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I think we took care  
2 of all the people who had to leave early. National Park  
3 Service, as soon as the weather turned good they said  
4 they were taking off with their snowmachines to drive  
5 back up to Bettles, so they won't be giving a report. I  
6 would like to thank them for coming down here and meeting  
7 with us, sitting down with us.

8  
9 Okay, if we're into organizational  
10 reports, I don't think we have much left to do today  
11 then, right?

12  
13 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, that's where we're at  
14 now, and I don't know if there's anybody here from the  
15 Native Corporations, Village, Tribal that want to give a  
16 presentation or share concerns.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think we pretty much  
19 took care of all the local concerns yesterday and they  
20 were happy for that opportunity.

21  
22 Again, I would like to thank Western  
23 Interior for providing that opportunity and I was glad  
24 that we had all the Staff present at that meeting last  
25 night. You people really made their day, answered most  
26 of their questions to the best that we could do. Again,  
27 thank all the Staff for being there last night, and Tina,  
28 our recorder, too.

29  
30 So with that, we'll go to the Alaska  
31 Department of Fish and Game.

32  
33 (Pause)

34  
35 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm  
36 Glenn Stout with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
37 I've got a few things to go through here, I think it will  
38 be a pretty brief presentation. I already talked about  
39 some of the results from this fall's moose surveys and  
40 I'll just touch on a couple more points on there.

41  
42 What I handed out to you is some of the  
43 data from that fall survey that we did. One thing that  
44 you'll notice that I hope is, I guess, a sign of the  
45 future, in both 21(D) and 21(B) and then in Unit 24  
46 you'll see that the data I'm presenting is from our  
47 population estimation surveys. And in the past we've  
48 done a lot more of the presentation of moose data was the  
49 trend count areas, and I like the idea that we have more  
50 of this cooperation going on and that we're able to

1 survey larger areas because I think being able to present  
2 data in this manner, where we can get confidence  
3 intervals around our estimates and we can have a little  
4 bit more reliability even in our composition data is  
5 pretty important. As you know, and we talked about in  
6 the past, with those trend count areas we selected those  
7 areas for high density concentrations of moose because in  
8 a trend count area, in high density areas you can  
9 maximize the number of moose you can get to get your  
10 composition data. But one of the things that we always  
11 knew about those trend count areas is it was a biased  
12 look at that composition data because cows with calves  
13 and bulls occur differently in high density areas than  
14 they do out in the low density areas.

15  
16                   So having this opportunity to start  
17 presenting a longer term pictures, you know, for  
18 instance, on the upper Koyukuk drainage here and on the  
19 Kanuti, in particular, we have now four surveys that we  
20 can look at and we get a perspective on this composition  
21 data but the numbers, the population estimate over time.  
22 And I'm really glad that we're able to get to this point,  
23 that we could start presenting this, kind of meaningful  
24 data to you, that I think is a better way to look at the  
25 population data. And I think we're moving in a good  
26 direction being able to do that.

27  
28                   We told you about the survey area this  
29 year in the Galena Management Area, which is Units 24,  
30 21(B), (C) and (D), that's about 46,000 square miles. We  
31 surveyed about 17,000 square miles, so that's about 38  
32 percent of the area was surveyed all in one year. That's  
33 just remarkable really. And it's really getting us a lot  
34 of good information and I really appreciate all the help  
35 of all the Federal agencies that were able to chip in and  
36 do that and it's really going to make a difference on our  
37 ability to manage the populations.

38  
39                   I guess if you have any questions of  
40 that, the population data, I'll answer those right now  
41 otherwise I'm just going to move right into the harvest  
42 information.

43  
44                   (No comments)

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

47  
48                   MR. STOUT: You'll see there I have a  
49 summary sheet, a preliminary season summary on the  
50 Koyukuk River checkstation there at Ella's Cabin and the

1 Controlled Use Area and the permits that we have there.  
2 This year, once again we are only going to issue 50  
3 permits for there and that's how many permits were issued  
4 last year of the drawing permits. It was unlimited on  
5 the registration but just 50 on the drawing permits and  
6 that's the way we're going to do it again this year.

7  
8 Because of the water conditions access  
9 was real limited on the Koyukuk and that really affected  
10 a lot of hunter's ability to come up into the Koyukuk  
11 Controlled Use Area, but being able to access areas off  
12 the main river anyway. So you didn't see any access like  
13 into Three-Day Slough proper this year.

14  
15 One of the other effects that it had was,  
16 with the low water levels down on the Kaiyuh, a lot of  
17 the hunters from Kaltag and Nulato that traditionally  
18 hunt in that area ended up having to come up to the  
19 Koyukuk because they just couldn't get out onto the  
20 Kaiyuh.

21  
22 And so if you compare the 2004 results on  
23 the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area to 2003, it looks like  
24 numbers were relatively stable. One thing we did see  
25 with the reduction of permits is the reduction in the  
26 number of non-local hunters that came up on the Koyukuk,  
27 but at the same time we saw an increase in the number of  
28 locals that went up on the Koyukuk, so that's why the  
29 total number you see there in the bar chart looks to be  
30 about the same; the number of hunters or a little bit of  
31 an increase. The reason is is because of just kind of  
32 that changing dynamic and I think it's mostly just  
33 because of the conditions that we had this fall with low  
34 water levels.

35  
36 One of the other things that we had there  
37 and I'll just talk real briefly that affected this fall  
38 hunting season, even on the Controlled Use Area there was  
39 it was the first year of the expanded area of the drawing  
40 and registration permits. And I'll go back into this a  
41 little bit. There was a couple key changes that were  
42 made at the 2004 Board of Game meeting. One of the  
43 things that they adopted was kind of a medium version of  
44 the initial forward that was put forward by Fred Lee  
45 Bifelt and that proposal basically -- originally he  
46 proposed to have drawing and registration permits for  
47 essentially all the Galena Management Area. There was an  
48 alternative scaled down version that the Board of Game  
49 adopted and it was for all of 21(B), which is primarily  
50 the Nowitna, lower Nowitna drainage and then several

1 units right around the Controlled Use Area. And one of  
2 those key concerns were when we implemented the drawing  
3 permits on the Controlled Use Area, it started dishing  
4 off hunters into these surrounding drainages, and we were  
5 seeing pretty high use on those drainages around there.  
6 That created kind of a domino effect that we've talked  
7 about, even at this meeting, and part of the domino  
8 effect is if we start increasing that hunting pressure  
9 around the periphery, like areas like Bear Creek was a  
10 really good example that we were able to demonstrate at  
11 the Board of Game, if we started increasing that pressure  
12 by non-local hunters in those drainages around the  
13 Controlled Use Area, that affected the locals success  
14 rates in the fall. And if local success rate declined in  
15 the fall they had to get their moose and so they became  
16 more dependent on getting a moose in the winter, and so  
17 you can see where we're going with this, more -- if those  
18 hunters were having to rely on the winter hunt, we've  
19 seen that higher proportion of the moose they harvest in  
20 the winter are cows and that kind of started this  
21 circular downward cycle on our moose populations if we  
22 harvested cows in the winter season.

23

24                   So the Board of Game adopted that scaled  
25 down version. I think the best example there on the  
26 Nowitna -- or the best example of the success of this  
27 drawing permit was there on the Nowitna and we've talked  
28 about a couple strategies there on the Nowitna where our  
29 bull/cow ratios had dropped to something like 12 to 13  
30 bulls per 100 cows, very low bull cow ratio, and half or  
31 two-thirds of those ended up being yearling bulls. Our  
32 adult bull status was very low on the Nowitna. We felt  
33 like we needed to reduce harvest by about half in order  
34 to do that and one of the alternative proposals we had  
35 was antler restrictions on there to reduce that total  
36 harvest.

37

38                   So our objective, you know, kind of what  
39 we had in mind was reduce that harvest by half and, in  
40 fact, if you look at the breakdown here on the Nowitna  
41 checkstation where we had been looking at 56 moose, I  
42 think, harvested in 2003, we dropped down to 26. So it  
43 worked just almost exactly like we had planned. And so  
44 we were pretty happy with the results of that drawing and  
45 registration permit there.

46

47                   That's most of the harvest information  
48 that I just wanted to present real briefly, and if you  
49 had any questions about that or that drawing permit  
50 proposal.

1                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn. I know  
2 the working group, the Koyukuk River Moose Working Group  
3 hasn't been meeting -- they haven't met for some time,  
4 are we anticipating a meeting this year?

5  
6                   MR. STOUT: Yes, Mr. Chairman, my  
7 understanding is, is that there was some money that came  
8 through OSM or some Federal dollars that came through  
9 that Randy Rogers has been able to coordinate and so  
10 we're working on getting a meeting together.

11  
12                   There's a couple different things that  
13 we're trying to do. Trying to figure out what kind of  
14 information we're going to have by the end of the fall  
15 hunts in September. We want to have that information  
16 available, it's going to be real important to have that  
17 information available for decision-making purposes. And  
18 also we want to have that meeting in advance of proposal  
19 deadlines for the 2006 Board of Game meetings, and so  
20 we're trying to set that sometime in October. That looks  
21 like it will be a good time that will work for us. I'm  
22 so busy usually in November doing moose surveys that it  
23 just ends up that's about the best time that we can  
24 squeeze one in.

25  
26                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks, Glenn. If  
27 the sun sets on the Koyukuk River Moose Working Group,  
28 where does that leave management? Where would you go,  
29 this committee protection?

30  
31                   MR. STOUT: Well, I've got an item right  
32 here that's starred on my talking points here that I was  
33 going to talk about so that's a perfect segue for me.

34  
35                   One thing that I think may be a bit of a  
36 change as far as my perspective on the moose management  
37 plan and I've talked to Randy and Roy Nowlin and David  
38 James about this, and to some degree we're kind of  
39 disappointed in ourselves that we actually even put a  
40 deadline on there because we feel that there's a lot in  
41 that plan that is very meaningful for much further down  
42 the road than right now. I think there's a lot of things  
43 that we'd like to revisit and change, there's a lot of  
44 new issues to develop that can enhance that. But I think  
45 the basic framework that we've established in the plan is  
46 something that's useful far out beyond 2005.

47  
48                   Beyond that, right now, a lot of those  
49 goals and objectives that we had in the plan, you  
50 remember the actions 1.2 and all, we've talked about, a

1 bunch of those have already been incorporated into my  
2 moose management reports, my bear management reports,  
3 wolf management reports, a lot of those have already been  
4 incorporated into my management reports. So even if we  
5 did just throw away the plan at the end of 2005, a bunch  
6 of those goals and objectives still stand because I'm  
7 required to follow through with the objectives and goals  
8 that are stated in my moose management plan.  
9

10 So I think even if that does die and even  
11 if, you know, that's the sunset on it, if you will, a lot  
12 of that is still going to be active and in place, a lot  
13 of that work that we've gone through. So I think that's  
14 pretty important.  
15

16 I guess while we're talking about  
17 planning efforts, Randy Rogers gave me a few items here  
18 that he wanted to talk about, wanted me to talk about and  
19 just I'll read these through.  
20

21 He had specifically mentioned this  
22 Koyukuk Working Group meeting that we're going to talk  
23 about having this fall. And probably what it's going to  
24 be is about a two day meeting is what it looks like,  
25 we've got enough issues that we want to talk about that I  
26 think it's going to be at least a two day meeting to talk  
27 about the Koyukuk River Working Group. But there's a  
28 couple other planning activities that he's going through  
29 right now and I'll just read those real briefly.  
30

31 In Unit 21(E), the moose management  
32 planning effort there. The first Unit 21(E) Moose  
33 Management Working Group meeting was held January 18th to  
34 the 20th, 2005 in Grayling. Meeting notes will be in the  
35 mail pretty soon. From the working group, they  
36 recommended including the Innoko River drainage in 21(A)  
37 in the planning project. The working group was concerned  
38 about the lack of recent moose population estimation data  
39 and appointed a committee to see if the involved agencies  
40 and organizations could conduct a new survey prior to the  
41 next meeting. A moose population estimation survey was  
42 accomplished in 21(A) through the cooperative efforts of  
43 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Innoko National  
44 Wildlife Refuge, BLM, TCC and AVCP. The next meeting is  
45 scheduled for April 18th to 20th in Shageluk.  
46

47 As far as the Central Kuskokwim Moose  
48 Management Plan. The Central Kuskokwim Moose Management  
49 planning committee met on February 2nd, 2005 in Aniak to  
50 review plan implementation. The majority of the

1 committee recommended the Board of Game adopt a proposal  
2 to continue the non-resident moose hunting closure in  
3 Unit 19(A). After the meeting a new moose survey was  
4 conducted in that portion of Unit 19(A) south of the  
5 Kuskokwim River and resulted in a substantially lower  
6 estimate of the moose population.

7  
8 And finally, the Area Wolf Control  
9 Program in Unit 19(A) is ongoing but is well short of  
10 meeting the goal of reducing the wolf population by 80  
11 percent, which would be 140 to 190 wolves.

12  
13 So that's the few bullets that Randy  
14 wanted me to pass on to you.

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 MR. STOUT: One other thing that I just  
19 wanted to update you on also as far as other planning  
20 efforts that we're trying to follow through with. I  
21 wanted to let you know that once again we were able to  
22 conduct wolf snaring clinics this year in the Galena  
23 Management Area. We did a wolf snaring clinic here in  
24 Allakaket and we also did one in Huslia. And before we  
25 had the big budget crunch I managed to buy up a whole  
26 bunch of wolf snaring materials and I still have enough  
27 for, I think, one more round next year so at least  
28 through next year I think I've got enough snaring  
29 materials to do clinics in two more villages, and I plan  
30 to do that next year.

31  
32 And then finally one last thing that I  
33 just wanted to -- something that came up just before I  
34 came to the meeting here, and it was a bit unfortunate,  
35 the timing of it, but we got word through headquarters in  
36 relation to a brown bear tag fee exemptions for 21(B) and  
37 (C). And that was a proposal that was passed by the  
38 Board of Game last spring. And basically that gave that  
39 tag fee exemption for Units 21(D), 21(B) and (C), and  
40 there's been a change in position, I guess on this, and  
41 this was something -- information I did not have prior to  
42 this round of AC meetings that I just attended, and it's  
43 unfortunate that I wasn't able to bring it to the  
44 attention of the Advisory Committees. But the  
45 Department's on that is basically going to be to oppose  
46 the reauthorization of the brown bear tag fee exemptions  
47 in 21(B) and (C) because those have not been found to  
48 have the positive finding for intensive management for  
49 prey species in those two units. We do have that finding  
50 in 21(D), which was added there and the Department's

1 position will be to maintain that, support that exemption  
2 in 21(D). But 21(B) and (C), I think are in jeopardy and  
3 you should probably know about that.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

6

7 MR. REAKOFF: On your snare clinics, are  
8 you providing snares that have the moose releases on them  
9 or what's the status of this -- there was a proposal to  
10 require snares to be cut for a moose release and I was  
11 wondering if the snares you provide have that release and  
12 what's the status of that proposal? I hadn't heard  
13 whether the Board adopted that, that was supposed to come  
14 before the Board.

15

16 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chairman. Representative  
17 Reakoff. I haven't heard anything on that yet, what's  
18 been adopted. As far as the snaring clinic that I go,  
19 that I teach, we teach about three different alternatives  
20 as far as ways to avoid catching moose. We do have an  
21 alternative on some of the locks, like the McGregor lock  
22 that we -- we show the trappers how they can modify that  
23 lock to where it will allow for the release of a moose.

24

25 We really -- when I'm teaching those  
26 classes, I really try and emphasize placement of the  
27 snares and where we're placing it and I try and get  
28 trappers to avoid areas where we know moose are going to  
29 frequent like in willow stands. And Craig Gardner, he's  
30 our furbearer biologist, he's working on a couple  
31 different alternatives as far as release mechanisms on  
32 snares to help improve our ability to release ungulates  
33 from snares that we accidentally catch in those wolf  
34 snares. So I think we're making good progress there, and  
35 the Department's going to have some data, you know, to go  
36 to the Board and address some of these proposals that  
37 come up.

38

39 But at this point, right now, what we're  
40 trying to teach in those snaring classes, trying to keep  
41 moose or caribou from getting in the snares in the first  
42 place.

43

44 MR. REAKOFF: One other.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

47

48 MR. REAKOFF: One other question. The  
49 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee had made a  
50 recommendation that you be provided funds to possibly

1 subdivide Unit 24, how was that received from your  
2 bosses?

3

4 MR. STOUT: I think they're pretty  
5 supportive of the idea, it's been tossed around for other  
6 reasons, other rationale for subdividing Unit 24. And I  
7 think my supervisors are fully in support of the ideas,  
8 you know, there's just a lot of good reasons for doing  
9 it. And particularly in terms of hunting activities and  
10 moose biology. You know there's a lot of other things  
11 it's going to affect that we want to consider, too, as  
12 far as where we draw those boundaries. Other boundaries  
13 that we have, whether it's Federal land statuses or the  
14 Controlled Use Areas, there's a lot of other things that  
15 we have to consider and certainly get input by committees  
16 that -- locals that are familiar with the area, you know,  
17 we're going to take that all into consideration.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for  
20 Glenn.

21

22 MR. HONEA: Yes.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. I'd like to commend  
25 you on getting all those snares ahead of time, that was  
26 pretty good planning, I think.

27

28 Don.

29

30 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Glenn, you were just  
31 mentioning the fact that -- I believe that the Ruby  
32 Advisory Fish and Game had submitted that proposal, is  
33 that the one you're talking about that now you're going  
34 to rescind or something? But doesn't that -- aren't we  
35 into looking another year or something before it goes  
36 into effect?

37

38 The reason that we did that is because we  
39 figured how often do you see a brown bear and at the  
40 price of 50 bucks or whatever, to get a permit, and at  
41 the price of having to get a moose harvest this fall,  
42 going up to \$50, I just -- it's just a monetary thing  
43 that I think that -- I mean I would like to see where  
44 you're coming from as to wanting to rescind that. I mean  
45 because what is appropriate -- I can't see how it's  
46 detrimental to -- I mean what's the justification for --  
47 can I have one?

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 Representative Honea. I was pretty discouraged because I  
3 thought we had kind of -- usually when we get one of  
4 those proposals through the toughest battle is that first  
5 year of getting it through.

6  
7 But on, like the cow reauthorizations,  
8 tag fees have to be reauthorized and reviewed every year  
9 and so that goes before the Board of Game every year, one  
10 of those reauthorizations, and so that's why it doesn't  
11 have to wait until 2006, because basically when it goes  
12 before the Board of Game, like all these other  
13 reauthorizations for the area, they can elect just to not  
14 reauthorize it that year so it's not like a new proposal  
15 to get rid of it. It's just they take -- they just take  
16 no action on it to reauthorize it and then it returns  
17 back to the status quo of what we had before. So that's  
18 why it can be -- that's why we can lose it this year,  
19 essentially.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Don.

22  
23 MR. HONEA: I'm kind of confused now. So  
24 to be able to keep that as an ongoing thing, do we have  
25 to resubmit it? Do we have to resubmit a proposal to  
26 that effect then or is the State going to just submit a  
27 proposal that would diminish that?

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Your microphone.

30  
31 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chairman. Representative  
32 Honea. I submitted a proposal, I was required to just  
33 like the cow reauthorizations, I had to submit a proposal  
34 for that to be reauthorized and so I went ahead and I  
35 followed through with that and my recommendation at that  
36 time was to support reauthorization of that proposal for  
37 those areas. But when it went to Juneau, they reviewed  
38 it and they looked at the positive findings for intensive  
39 management and they determined that because 21(B) and (C)  
40 was not positive for the prey species, that with the new  
41 bear plan that the Board adopted that was presented by  
42 the Board of Game, they felt like unless we're managing  
43 for prey species, that they weren't going to reauthorize  
44 predator harvest opportunities like reducing that tag fee  
45 exemption, unless we had a positive finding for the prey  
46 species, like moose, and we don't have that in 21(B) and  
47 (C) and primarily the reason we don't have it is because  
48 we don't exceed that 100 limit. You had to demonstrate  
49 that you harvested a 100 moose, I think it was, or  
50 caribou in one of those units and we don't have that in

1 21(B) or 21(C) just because they're small units and we  
2 just don't rack up that level of harvest.

3

4 And so it's just kind of the way things  
5 fell apart on that particular area.

6

7 MR. HONEA: Okay. I have one more  
8 question.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, go ahead.

11

12 MR. HONEA: I have one more question. On  
13 the survey here looking at the statistics, jumping down  
14 from 56 in 2003 to 27 in 2004, you're attributing that  
15 loss of moose harvested to the -- because of the fact  
16 that it was restrictions on the horn restrictions and  
17 that's not including wolf predation or anything, you're  
18 attributing that to just the fact that because they had a  
19 drawing permit and restrictions on the horns?

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Your mike.

22

23 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chairman. Representative  
24 Honea. You're talking about the Nowitna River  
25 checkstation harvest data?

26

27 MR. HONEA: Yes.

28

29 MR. STOUT: Yeah, I believe that that  
30 harvest reduction was in large part due to those new  
31 restrictions. I think it discouraged a lot of the  
32 hunters from coming in there because we had that  
33 registration permit, which any State resident could get,  
34 but they would have had to saw their antlers. And so I  
35 think that had a big influence on that harvest.

36

37 MR. HONEA: Okay, I thank you for  
38 answering that question. The reason I ask it is because  
39 I had missed the meeting, I was in Fairbanks and I missed  
40 the meeting by one day in Ruby there about a month ago  
41 and some of these questions you may have explained to  
42 them but I just am still not clear about the bear thing.  
43 Can I go take a brown bear without a permit until when?

44

45 MR. STOUT: Well, Mr. Chairman,  
46 Representative Honea, at this point, through this  
47 regulatory year, which goes through June you're okay to  
48 go hunting without that tag. You'd be exempt from having  
49 that tag. Depending on how the Board of Game determines  
50 this at this Board of Game meeting that's going on right

1 now, they're going to review this, and I haven't heard  
2 what the results are on that are, but it may change.  
3 We're just going to have to kind of hold our breath and  
4 see what happens here in this week's meeting.

5  
6 MR. HONEA: Thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. I think Ray and then  
9 Jack.

10  
11 MR. COLLINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
12 Yeah, Mr. Chairman, when we asked for our exemption in  
13 McGrath we got it, but we also talked about most local  
14 hunters only take those incidentally, I mean they're not  
15 out hunting for grizzly but if they see one they'd like  
16 to. And we talked about one thing of having them pay the  
17 fee, if they harvested a bear when they have to get a tag  
18 anyhow, it has to be tagged and so on, after the fact.  
19 So they were allowed to hunt without, but if they got  
20 one, that would increase the harvest some, but they don't  
21 want to be speculating that they're going to see a bear  
22 and pay 50 bucks and get nothing for it. So that's an  
23 alternative and I'm wondering if that could be considered  
24 in a case like this, not just waiving the fee, but paying  
25 it after you actually harvest one.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Glenn.

28  
29 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
30 Representative Collins. Yeah, I think that was actually  
31 one of the things that was thrown out as far as  
32 alternatives when this was originally discussed. I think  
33 the first choice was, obviously not to have to pay it at  
34 all.

35  
36 MR. COLLINS: Right.

37  
38 MR. STOUT: And that got adopted, so we  
39 felt pretty good about that. But maybe now we have to  
40 look back to a different alternative. And it all goes  
41 back to this whether or not the prey species, and it has  
42 been found positive for intensive management, and how the  
43 Board's going to view that now that we have a specific  
44 finding on how we apply those brown bear regulations and  
45 when we can allow for that.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

48  
49 MR. REAKOFF: That's exactly what I was  
50 going to say, is why don't they just going to buying the

1 tag after they've harvested the bear to comply with the  
2 tag portion. The Department and the Board has got to  
3 realize this is an economically suppressed area and just  
4 spending 25 or \$50 for a brown bear tag, that's a  
5 significant portion of people's income, whereas as urban  
6 that's nothing, I mean that's like pocket change. And so  
7 I think the Board should understand that these are  
8 economically suppressed areas, people want to harvest  
9 these big animals opportunistically, they don't want to  
10 pay this fee if they're not going to get the animal.

11  
12 So I feel that that's the second best  
13 alternate to the exemption. And so I would, you know, I  
14 feel this Council should weigh in on that issue. A  
15 letter should be submitted to the Department reflecting  
16 that.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that a directive, a  
19 request?

20  
21 MR. REAKOFF: I would like a letter  
22 submitted to the Department, the Commissioner to state  
23 that those tag fees are burdensome for local users to  
24 harvest brown bear and that the second alternative would  
25 be to purchase at time of sealing and that would make it  
26 better for people to at least be assured that they have  
27 the animal in hand before they have to pay the money, and  
28 these are economically suppressed areas.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Consensus. Does it make  
31 sense to all the Council members. If it's working down  
32 in McGrath, I, too, would like to see that letter on  
33 behalf.

34  
35 (Council nods Affirmatively)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Vince.

38  
39 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Glenn, that's the  
40 Commissioner's action but the Board is reviewing this or  
41 did I lose something here? So it's clear, who is it best  
42 to address this letter to.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

45  
46 MR. REAKOFF: Well, Mr. Chairman,  
47 attending the Board meetings, the Commissioner or  
48 assistant Commissioner tells the Board about the economic  
49 values, the fiscal worth of these animals, I feel the  
50 Commissioner needs to understand what the economic

1 parameters are of people within our region. And a copy  
2 should be sent to the Board. Of course, this has to go  
3 through the OSM to approve this letter of transmittal  
4 from our Council. But it affects the people in our  
5 region.

6

7 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray,

10

11 MR. COLLINS: I wanted to clarify, we  
12 don't have that in place in McGrath. We actually have a  
13 waiver there because of the depressed population. But  
14 that was an alternative that was considered when we were  
15 trying to implement. We said, well, if they wouldn't go  
16 for that, would they go for this. So I don't want the  
17 letter to say, well, we want to implement what's in place  
18 in McGrath, it's not the case.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that clarification

21 enough, Vince?

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that clear enough for

26 you?

27

28 MR. REAKOFF: (Nods affirmatively)

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further for

31 Glenn.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you, Glenn.

36 You got something else, Glenn, okay, go ahead.

37

38 MR. STOUT: One more quick thing, in  
39 addition to those drawing and registration permits, which  
40 is a pretty major proposal that we dealt with at last  
41 spring's Board of Game meeting, and it's an issue we've  
42 already talked about. The Board of Game did not adopt  
43 the proposal for Unit 24 to implement -- or for the  
44 Department to write an intensive management predator plan  
45 for Unit 24, they did not adopt that. And I just wanted  
46 to go into -- I talked about it earlier but I just wanted  
47 to make sure that it was clear on the reasons for that.  
48 The reason that we don't have that is at the time we  
49 estimated the population, I think, at about 9,000 moose  
50 in Unit 24. And the intensive management objectives for

1 the population of moose was for a population of eight to  
2 10,000 moose. And part of the reason why my population  
3 estimate was 9,000 moose, which kept us within that  
4 sideboards and made us that we didn't automatically step  
5 out of intensive management had to do with the fact that  
6 we got new numbers in part of the area. And it basically  
7 boosted the population estimate. That's not the same as  
8 saying that our population increased, and that's really  
9 important.

10  
11 And I think with the new information that  
12 we have probably what it suggests is that our estimates  
13 prior to that point were probably too low, they were too  
14 conservative and there was a real practical reason for  
15 that. We wanted to make sure that we didn't have too  
16 high a population estimate so when we went to establish  
17 sustainable harvest levels that we weren't just shooting  
18 up the population full-throttle. We had to manage  
19 conservatively. And so I think it's good that we have  
20 new information, better information and I feel  
21 comfortable that we're able to change these numbers in  
22 hindsight of what numbers we had. But I think we need  
23 to, along with this new information compared to what we  
24 had in 2000 when we gave those numbers and established  
25 that with the Board of Game, the intensive management, we  
26 need to kind of go back and refresh those numbers with  
27 that new information and explain to the Board how that  
28 fits.

29  
30 In particular then we also have this  
31 problem with Unit 24 and trying to draw new subdivisions  
32 around it. I think that's going to play a real important  
33 factor into whether or not we can trigger this intensive  
34 management law, and I see that as the strategy and that's  
35 kind of what we've been talking about and I just wanted  
36 to make sure that that was clear on what my thinking was  
37 as far as developing a strategy. And I think a lot of  
38 this is going to take a little bit of time, just like  
39 these drawing permits.

40  
41 I think what we're going to see, just  
42 like we saw in the Controlled Use Area we were really  
43 able to do a good job controlling hunters, hunting  
44 pressure moved out a little bit, we got good data around  
45 the permit area and we were able to establish new data,  
46 go to the Board of Game with a good argument and say,  
47 here's our new picture and we are able to evolve a very  
48 logical process on new management strategies and all  
49 these things don't happen at once. But I think we're  
50 making really good progress here. And I think this is

1 one more step in it, this Unit 24. I think now we have a  
2 really good biological argument, that's real logical, and  
3 we can kind of step into this and things are going to  
4 start changing to really manage the moose population more  
5 effectively, and so that's kind of how I see it, my logic  
6 on this thinking.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn. Any  
9 further questions. Benedict.

10  
11 MR. JONES: Yeah, Glenn, on the harvest  
12 report, you didn't include the mortality report and  
13 predation.

14  
15 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chair. Representative  
16 Jones. We haven't done a wolf survey for quite awhile.  
17 The last one we did was down on 21(B), and it was just a  
18 real cursory survey that we were able to do down there.  
19 I think our population estimates is probably not a lot  
20 has changed as far as wolf numbers and we're probably  
21 seeing pretty similar mortalities. In 21(D) the last  
22 estimate I had was for about 370-some wolves in 21(D).  
23 We know that, you know, if just kind of use general rule  
24 of thumb, if they're taking 10 moose per wolf per year,  
25 we can see right away we're talking a lot more moose are  
26 feeding wolves than are feeding hunters. And even though  
27 we reduce harvest by non-locals, by locals, it's a real  
28 small portion of the pie is going to hunters, it's mostly  
29 going to predation.

30  
31 I think we still recognize that and not a  
32 lot has changed then, it's still just real high. This  
33 most recent year we have seen in our calf production and  
34 yearling recruitment, we're seeing a little bit of an  
35 increase in that, things are turning around a little bit  
36 there. And maybe with the snaring clinics we've had over  
37 the few years, we had pretty good harvest a couple years  
38 ago, harvest kind of dropped on wolves last year. It  
39 looked like it had been going about 100, 120 wolves a  
40 year, two and three years ago, but last year it dropped  
41 off to about half that, to about 60 wolves.

42  
43 So it's just -- unfortunately when we're  
44 only harvesting about 30 percent or less on wolves you  
45 got to go right back out there the next year and do the  
46 same thing for it to really see a response in your moose  
47 population and we give it a one year reprieve like that  
48 and you kind of go backwards again.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

1 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 Glenn, I don't know how we came this up and down 21, but  
3 an average of 12 wolves will kill a moose every month and  
4 that's times 12 months, so that's 12 moose a year for a  
5 pack. And if you got 250 wolves you're talking quite a  
6 few number of moose being killed per year here. Almost  
7 more than what -- looking at your statistics here, more  
8 than what your hunters kill in one year.  
9  
10 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chair. Representative  
11 Walker. I'm not sure about that. But your point is  
12 essentially correct, we're probably feeding 20 times the  
13 number of our moose to wolves than we are to hunters.  
14 And if you add in our bear mortality, you know, it's  
15 certainly at least that. So a lot more of our moose are  
16 going to predation than are going to hunters.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Robert.  
19  
20 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Could  
21 I quote you on this Glenn.  
22  
23 (Laughter)  
24  
25 MR. STOUT: Sure.  
26  
27 (Laughter)  
28  
29 MR. STOUT: Sure.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn. Thank  
32 you for giving that report. BLM, didn't we finish that?  
33  
34 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, BLM's taken care of.  
37 Fish and Wildlife Service. Our Three Day Kanuti, third  
38 day now, Mike.  
39  
40 MR. SPINDLER: Three days.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Three day, Mike. Wennona,  
43 did you ever get a hold of Mary?  
44  
45 MR. SPINDLER: Yeah, we talked to her at  
46 lunch.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, okay.  
49  
50 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Chair.

1 Representatives. For the record I'm Mike Spindler, the  
2 three day manager of Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge.  
3 I'll be calling on Wennona Brown quite a bit because  
4 she's got more experience with Kanuti than I do.

5  
6                   However, I do want to.....

7  
8                   CHAIRMAN SAM: I thought we were going to  
9 get a three minute report.

10  
11                   MR. SPINDLER: I do want to give you kind  
12 of a view of one of the ways that we have incorporated  
13 traditional knowledge and combined it with science to  
14 make management decisions and that directly related to  
15 some decisions we made about white-fronted goose  
16 management on the Koyukuk. And some of you have heard  
17 about the Raven Story Project, and I have it here ready  
18 to go. I had it a minute ago. Yeah, it's going to come  
19 up here.

20  
21                   What I did is a lot of this was with the  
22 help of Orville Huntington on our Staff and in  
23 cooperation with KAYU radio in Galena, the University of  
24 Alaska, we archived the stories of elders all around the  
25 Koyukon Region from Allakaket all the way down to Kaltag.  
26 And what I believe this is useful for is perpetuating the  
27 stories that the elders can tell about wildlife and  
28 subsistence values and allowing us to make use of that  
29 forever in making management decisions. We were in a  
30 situation on the Koyukuk where there was no goose data  
31 that was prior to 1980 when the Refuge was first staffed,  
32 so we went to the elders and they told us about patterns  
33 of abundance of geese back in the '30s and '40s and '50s  
34 when there were no scientists looking at it.

35  
36                   And so what you have on the screen there  
37 is all the different villages where we collected this  
38 oral history information, including Allakaket here with  
39 Johnson Moses and including one of the Council members,  
40 Mr. Jones, and his wife Eliza. So just to give you an  
41 example, this is available on the internet to all the  
42 school kids and it's available on a CD which I'm holding  
43 here and we've donated a CD to every library in the  
44 region, every school library in the region and every  
45 tribal council in the region.

46  
47                   So I'll just play a short clip with  
48 Benedict talking about caribou and then I'll go into the  
49 Kanuti report.

50

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CD INTERVIEW OF BENEDICT JONES:

Hi. I'm Cliff Brown, your host for Raven's Story.

Long ago moose were scarce but luckily people for Alaska the caribou populations were up. In this episode of Raven's Story Benedict Jones tells about how many caribou there used to be and where they all came from.

"Well, we relied mostly on caribou in September. The caribou migrate from the Alaska Range on the south of the Yukon, and they migrate across the -- just between Old Louden and Galena or above Old Louden and they cross right there to go over to the -- between Galena and Dalbi area, that's where they winter, in the area that -- so they migrate. I was told by one deckhand that worked on the steamboat in the early -- late 1800s and he said they were tied up for one week at Old Louden, that they couldn't go up because the caribou migration was so thick, millions of them, and that one week they had to come back down river to pick up some more wood because they ran out of wood on the steamboat. But the time that they went back the -- it was clear with caribou.

I know that 1941 and '42 was the last caribou migration through this area above Nikoli Slough up in that area, in that flats that's -- because we stayed in camp in 1940 and there was a lot of caribou that year right in that area.

Yeah, they came to the south, I think that -- then they prob -- the possibility that they migrated to the northern parts and the Brooks Range area. And this caribou from the south might have migrated and that's how the -- and then from Canada."

Anyways, that's just an example of Benedict telling us about caribou, and the impressive

1 thing is there he talks about that migration above Louden  
2 where the caribou were so thick that boats couldn't even  
3 cross the Yukon for awhile. That's a pretty amazing  
4 finding. And that's also corroborated by an interview  
5 that I did with John and Lorraine Honea and -- the late  
6 Johnny Honea in Ruby back in 1995 and he talked about a  
7 caribou migration across the Yukon onto the Nowitna that  
8 occurred way back in the '30s. There were no biologists  
9 paying attention to what was going on then. And so what  
10 we're trying to do is combine the knowledge of the elders  
11 with the scientific knowledge of today to get the best  
12 management possible and so that gives us a glimpse into  
13 what was going on in the '20s and the '30s and the '40s  
14 when there were no biologists paying attention to it.

15

16 And so what I just want to leave you with  
17 is that this project was put together by the Refuge but  
18 in cooperation with the radio station and in cooperation  
19 with all the elders throughout the region. And it was  
20 really a good way of people working together towards  
21 improving wildlife management throughout the region.

22

23 With that then I'll go ahead and go on  
24 into the Kanuti report. Mary Maxwell did prepare some  
25 things for us to go ahead and use.

26

27 First off, she wanted to just apologize  
28 for not being able to be here because she's been sick and  
29 wasn't able to travel because of her ears, she can't fly  
30 right now.

31

32 But she says, we've had an exciting year  
33 at Refuge headquarters beginning with the Bunkhouse Fire  
34 and the complete loss of our Bettles building in January.  
35 As you all know from personal experience we also  
36 experienced a really active fire year, about 160 acres  
37 burned on the Kanuti Refuge itself, including part of the  
38 Evansville Fire that ran towards the South Fork of the  
39 Koyukuk, the Klaminka Fire that started near Fish Creek  
40 Lake in June in addition the smoke covered Allakaket for  
41 much of the summer and came from a fire near Totatont  
42 Lake and that burned an additional 12,000 acres. All  
43 these things, including Bob's retirement occurred at the  
44 same time that the Refuge was rewriting the comprehensive  
45 conservation plan.

46

47 They finished all the meetings, the  
48 public meetings in Allakaket, Bettles, Evansville and  
49 Fairbanks this fall after Bob retired.

50

1                   And she wants to thank all of the people  
2 who participated in the meetings and helping keep the  
3 Refuge wild for future generations. Your words mean a  
4 great deal to all of us and will shape the way we work to  
5 protect the resources of the Refuge.

6  
7                   In spite of the events last year Lisa  
8 Saperstein, our lead biologist and our crews were able to  
9 complete all their planned biological work and we had to  
10 pull two crews off the Refuge when the smoke got really  
11 bad but otherwise she got everything done that she had  
12 planned on doing, including the five year moose census  
13 that we cooperated with Glenn Stout and BLM and Park  
14 Service on.

15  
16                   The other thing is I would be able to say  
17 is that I was on the telephone just over the lunch hour  
18 with Mary and we were talking about the budget and we're  
19 going to take a look at reprogramming some money to do a  
20 wolf survey as soon as possible to try and address your  
21 needs, so we'll be -- I can't promise anything because it  
22 requires airplane availability, weather conditions and  
23 money to all come together at the same time, but we'll  
24 definitely take a look at that.

25  
26                   The other thing that we wanted to give  
27 you a head's up on is big game guiding has been an issue  
28 on many of the Refuges, most of the Refuges in Alaska  
29 have commercial big game areas, big game guiding areas, I  
30 just transferred out of a Refuge that has six of them and  
31 on the Koyukuk, and three on the Nowitna. The Kanuti has  
32 not had any big game guiding history, commercial big game  
33 history, and we're getting to the point where we would  
34 withdraw the Kanuti from consideration of future big game  
35 guiding. However, in the last month an individual has  
36 expressed interest in a commercial brown bear guiding  
37 operation on the Kanuti. We would seek the Council's  
38 input as to the desirability or undesirability of us  
39 considering this as a possibility. Based on my  
40 experience at Koyukuk and my knowledge of subsistence and  
41 what commercial guiding entails, I would not recommend  
42 moose [sic] commercial guiding on the Kanuti, however,  
43 knowing also that the significant influence of brown  
44 bears have on moose populations I don't think we should  
45 just say no, I think we need to discuss it openly and  
46 have some dialogue.

47  
48                   So I look forward to your comments on  
49 that issue. I'll take them either right now or else  
50 after the meeting, after you guys have some time to think

1 about it. But we will need to be making that decision  
2 here in the next several months as to whether we will  
3 permanently withdraw the Kanuti from commercial big game  
4 guiding, even if it means brown bears or whether we will  
5 consider that. If we do consider it it will be a  
6 competitive permit-type situation where it will be open  
7 and people will have to apply and we'll review their  
8 qualifications. They'll have an operations plan, which  
9 says I will just be guiding brown bears and I'll be using  
10 this methods with this kind of camping situation and then  
11 once they agree to that plan, then it's locked in place  
12 and that's what they agree on, they can't add moose  
13 later, they can't add sheep later, whatever, they pretty  
14 much have to stick with what they said they were going to  
15 guide.

16  
17 Are there any questions or any discussion  
18 about the guiding issue that you want to send me home  
19 with at this time.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mike. I really  
22 would like to look into who this guy was and is or and  
23 what area he wants to guide in, I would really like to  
24 meet him and sit down with him because I think that that  
25 may help our moose population.

26  
27 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

30  
31 MR. REAKOFF: I know this kid, he lives  
32 in Wiseman, and he just got a guide license, and he said  
33 he wanted to hunt brown bears and I said I think there's  
34 a Refuge permit in the Kanuti and there's no -- hardly no  
35 brown bears being harvested in the Kanuti and they're  
36 killing a lot of moose calves down there and it would be  
37 good to -- I says there's no moose hunting there, the  
38 Refuge is closed to only to local people, and so there's  
39 no non-resident guiding there. I said you should see  
40 about getting that guide permit to hunt brown bear, you  
41 know, a couple brown bear a year would really help out on  
42 the moose calves.

43  
44 And so he was talking about hunting  
45 around those salmon spawning places, up by the mouth of  
46 Jim River, up in that area. And so I just wanted to -- I  
47 had him call up Kanuti to see if that permit was still  
48 around or what the deal was there with that.

49  
50 And my opinion is that there's hardly no

1 harvest of them, and the only way you're going to get any  
2 harvest is from guiding really, and so I felt that if the  
3 permit strictly was for brown bear hunting that it  
4 wouldn't conflict with local people's uses up there. And  
5 so that's where that came from was because of this kid.  
6 He was talking about going over to the east somewheres.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Again,  
9 it's sounding better and better because the area that  
10 Jack is talking about, we're looking just off the Dalton  
11 Highway Corridor, and I just can't see where our local  
12 people would go against this for now. But I would have  
13 to sit down and talk with this person.

14  
15 MR. REAKOFF: Right.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: And I would be for  
18 allowing brown bear hunting, guiding.

19  
20 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Chair. Mr. Reakoff.  
21 We don't need a decision right now, but what I would like  
22 to do is invite the Council to dialogue with us about it  
23 once we have some of the information that you've  
24 requested like where it will be, during what period of  
25 time, how many bears we're talking about. We'll be happy  
26 to come up here and meet with you and discuss it and you  
27 can run it by the villagers.

28  
29 I just definitely would not want to  
30 introduce commercial guiding in an area and in a way that  
31 would be opposed by the villagers at this time. But if  
32 you do support it, then I would like you to do what you  
33 can to get representations throughout the villages to  
34 make sure that that is a supportive action, supported by  
35 the villagers.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Mike, what I'm  
38 supporting at this time is opening up the dialogue to see  
39 where we should go and you brought up a valid point. I  
40 believe that if we go any further we would have to call  
41 Allakaket and Alatna Council meeting and sit down with  
42 you here to discuss this further, that is, if we keep  
43 going with this.

44  
45 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

48  
49 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
50 That was just what I was going to recommend to the Board

1 and to the manager, Mike.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

6

7

CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Ray, before I give it  
8 to Ray, through the efforts of Wennona and Bob Shults and  
9 Mary Maxwell, they have really been trying to utilize  
10 residents of Allakaket and Alatna as far as  
11 recommendations go. They did hold a couple of meetings  
12 here on policy, we had the opportunity to comment on that  
13 so I really, again, would go on record as appreciating  
14 and thanking Kanuti Wildlife Refuge Staff for involving  
15 Allakaket/Alatna people on their decisions.

16

17

Ray.

18

19

MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I just wanted to  
20 clarify the process. As I understand it the first step  
21 would be to say that you would open it to guiding for  
22 brown bear and then individuals apply and it has to be  
23 competitive, then you weigh those applications.

24

25

MR. SPINDLER: (Nods affirmatively)

26

27

MR. COLLINS: So it's not a matter of  
28 interviewing somebody first and then deciding whether or  
29 not you would want them, you would have to open it first,  
30 is that right, is that the process?

31

32

MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Chair. Mr. Collins,  
33 that is correct. The decision first has to be made that  
34 it will be offered publicly. Once that decision is made  
35 we'll just describe the parameters, will it be for brown  
36 bear guiding only or will it be for other species. Once  
37 that's decided and it's offered publicly, there's an  
38 application period and then it takes about six months to  
39 almost a year to review the applications and make a  
40 decision and award a guiding permit. So we're looking  
41 probably a year or two away if guiding was to take place  
42 on the Kanuti.

43

44

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for that  
45 clarification. Again, I think this is worth pursuing.  
46 Anything further from the Council.

47

48

(No comments)

49

50

CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, go ahead, Mike.

1 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Chair. I was aware  
2 that the Council had some questions of the Refuge  
3 regarding navigability and the issue of navigable waters.  
4 And so Ms. Maxwell wants to get back to the Council on  
5 those questions.

6  
7 First off, she wants to qualify that  
8 she's not a water rights specialist, but she'll try and  
9 answer the questions and explain it how it might apply to  
10 you and the best way that's possible in this kind of  
11 context. The issue is very complicated, and you can  
12 probably ask every person in the room to explain you'll  
13 get a slightly different answer including a lot of  
14 technical terms that we can't keep straight because  
15 there's a lot of legal issues involved.

16  
17 But if the explanation's not clear we'll  
18 try and go to the experts and get back to you on that.  
19 It's going to be, again, dialogue like this.

20  
21 The State of Alaska hunting regulations  
22 say access and use of the State of  
23 Alaska's navigable and public waters is  
24 protected under the State Constitution  
25 and Statutes. Use of these waters below  
26 the ordinary high water mark does not  
27 require a permit from the upland land  
28 owner. Navigable means, under Federal  
29 law, for the purpose of determining  
30 ownership of submerged lands beneath  
31 inland water bodies not reserved at the  
32 date of statehood, navigable waters are  
33 waters used or susceptible to being used  
34 in their ordinary condition as highways  
35 of commerce over which trade and travel  
36 are or may be conducted in the customary  
37 modes of trade and travel on water. In  
38 situations where navigability and the  
39 ownership of submerged lands are in  
40 dispute, the final authority rests with  
41 the Federal courts.

42  
43 Why is this important?

44  
45 Whether or not a water body is navigable  
46 or non-navigable then determines who owns  
47 the submerged lands and manages the  
48 waters above them. The State of Alaska  
49 and the United States often have a  
50 difference of opinion about whether a

1 water body is navigable or not and,  
2 therefore, who owns the submerged lands  
3 and/or who has authority to manage  
4 subsistence-related activities and other  
5 activities within.  
6

7 If a water body is navigable at the date  
8 of statehood, January 3rd, 1959, the  
9 submerged lands under the navigable  
10 waters belong to the State of Alaska  
11 because of the various laws and legal  
12 doctrines.  
13

14 Currently the State of Alaska considers  
15 the Koyukuk River, the South Fork of the  
16 Koyukuk River, the Kanuti River, and  
17 other streams and lakes within the Kanuti  
18 National Wildlife Refuge to be navigable.  
19 The Bureau of Land Management has  
20 determined the Koyukuk River and parts of  
21 the South Fork of the Koyukuk and Kanuti  
22 Rivers to be navigable for the purpose of  
23 conveying Federal lands to Native  
24 Corporations. The Federal government may  
25 not agree with the State on these issues.  
26

27 When the State and the Federal  
28 government's disagree about navigability  
29 and the ownership of the beds and water  
30 bodies underneath, the issue can only be  
31 finally resolved by a Federal court or by  
32 the Secretary of Interior.  
33

34 For subsistence hunting purposes then  
35 this means if a hunter other than a rural  
36 resident is traveling down the main stem  
37 of the Koyukuk River or the other rivers  
38 I just mentioned, is able to locate a  
39 moose that is clearly standing below the  
40 ordinary high water line of the river on  
41 an exposed sand or gravel bar, it is not  
42 an upland island, he or she could then  
43 shoot it even though they may be within  
44 the external boundary of the Kanuti  
45 National Wildlife Refuge.  
46

47 That's the end of Mary's prepared answer  
48 to your question.  
49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Where is she trying to go,

1 what kind of answers is she trying to get from us?

2

3 MR. SPINDLER: This was responding to a  
4 question you had earlier of her, probably during the CCP  
5 meetings.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. So she's not  
8 looking for any action right now?

9

10 MR. SPINDLER: (Shakes head negatively)

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. That's  
13 what I was wondering.

14

15 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

18

19 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. What  
20 you just read there, the State is considering the Koyukuk  
21 River navigable waters, and if that is so don't you have  
22 to -- the State is going to make everybody register their  
23 boats to travel these waters, I believe that is new State  
24 law.

25

26 MR. SPINDLER: Yeah. Apparently what has  
27 happened is about three years ago the State took over the  
28 registration requirements from the Coast Guard and it's  
29 now within the State Department of Motor Vehicles. There  
30 was some publicity of that requirement in the urban  
31 areas. Myself having been a rural resident for the last  
32 many years I was not aware of this requirement either. I  
33 think the State fell totally flat on outreach until Jay  
34 Sears moved to Galena and when Trooper Jay Sears moved to  
35 Galena he put some announcements on the radio stations  
36 and some posters up around the villages around Galena  
37 that he works in. So he made an effort to get that  
38 information out. I think there's been a lot of  
39 misunderstanding and conflict because there just hasn't  
40 been enough information available to allow people to  
41 comply in time.

42

43 MR. WALKER: Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for  
46 Mike or Wennona.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

1 MR. SPINDLER: Wennona has a couple of  
2 additions she'd like to make on some of the other issues  
3 that you've asked her to follow up on.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Wennona.  
6

7 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a  
8 couple of other points. We have had some discussion  
9 about, you know, I think when we were here last summer we  
10 talked about holding steelshot clinics in Allakaket and  
11 Alatna this year, and I am pursuing that. I talked a  
12 little bit with Herbie last night on picking some dates  
13 that would be good to bring our team up and do some  
14 steelshot clinics.

15  
16 Also the moose survey data, I think,  
17 Glenn pretty well covered that. There's also a written  
18 briefing paper in the meeting book on Page 109, and it's  
19 also covered in the new newsletter that we brought out.  
20 Mary shipped some of those up. And on the back of the  
21 newsletter, she does give a short synopsis of the status  
22 of the CCP plan revision and we are expecting to have  
23 another newsletter out here very shortly going into the  
24 status of that in a lot more depth. And I did bring  
25 copies of these to put in every box holder for Allakaket  
26 and Alatna so everybody in the village will get a copy.

27  
28 Thank you.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further  
31 questions for Wennona.

32  
33 (No comments)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you have anything  
36 else.

37  
38 MS. BROWN: (Shakes head negatively)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mike.

41  
42 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Chair. Just one other  
43 item. I know at the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee  
44 meeting last month or in late January, there was a lot of  
45 interest in fire management decisions. With the Koyukuk  
46 Refuge presentation there is a fire management officer  
47 from Koyukuk Refuge who will be able to answer questions  
48 about fire management. I just want to call your  
49 attention to fire history maps for Kanuti Refuge were  
50 placed on the wall just a few minutes ago showing the

1 boundaries of fires in the Kanuti Refuge area and then  
2 Bob Lambrecht has placed a bunch of pictures on the back  
3 wall of the Bonanza Creek burn which is a real large burn  
4 just east of Nulato and south of Galena from last summer.  
5

6                               So if you have any questions,  
7 specifically related to fire, it'd be a good time to ask  
8 them during his presentation.  
9

10                              Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
11

12                              CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mike. Any  
13 questions.  
14

15                              (No comments)  
16

17                              CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Kanuti.  
18

19                              MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.  
20

21                              CHAIRMAN SAM: Oh, just wait, go ahead,  
22 Jack.  
23

24                              MR. REAKOFF: I just wanted to state that  
25 Kanuti has always done an excellent job on research and  
26 so forth and I'm very happy to see that our three day old  
27 Refuge manager which we've worked with for years down on  
28 the Koyukuk is on the ball and coming up with funding for  
29 a wolf track survey, trying to. And so I want to commend  
30 the Refuge on their outreach to the communities and I  
31 hope for a good working relationship with the new  
32 manager.  
33

34                              Thank you.  
35

36                              CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. I think  
37 that we all feel the same because we do prize Kanuti  
38 Wildlife Refuge and its whole system. Thank you for  
39 doing your best.  
40

41                              You had something, Vince.  
42

43                              MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I didn't know if Mike  
44 wanted the information on the 21(D) and 21-4 winter moose  
45 hunt season passed out, we have.....  
46

47                              MR. SPINDLER: That's.....  
48

49                              MR. MATHEWS: Oh, Geoff's going to cover  
50 that?

1 MR. SPINDLER: I am no longer manager of  
2 Koyukuk River Refuge.

3  
4 (Laughter)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pass the buck.

7  
8 (Laughter)

9  
10 MR. SPINDLER: Actually the acting  
11 manager of Koyukuk Refuge is Greg McClellan who is the  
12 long time assistant manager there. He's at law  
13 enforcement training this week so Geoff Beyersdorf will  
14 be presenting that information. I definitely will be  
15 willing to take any flack that you want to send to the  
16 Refuge, though, don't put Geoff on the hot seat, let him  
17 deliver the facts, if you have any questions about the  
18 policy or the way we implement it, I'll be glad to come  
19 back up here and take the flack for the Koyukuk Refuge.

20  
21 Thank you.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mike.  
24 Koyukuk/Nowitna. Just for people's information, as far  
25 as fires on the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge is concerned, when  
26 I used to work for BLM one of my duties was to track and  
27 trace fire activity. One thing about the Kanuti Wildlife  
28 Refuge that we found out it burns every 12 years,  
29 compared to an outside average of 16 to 20 years in other  
30 areas, but that Kanuti, every 11 or 12 years there's a  
31 big fire out there.

32  
33 Go ahead, Geoff.

34  
35 MR. BEYERSDORF: Chairman Sam. Members  
36 of the Regional Advisory Council. For the record I'm  
37 Geoff Beyersdorf, I'm the subsistence coordinator and  
38 pilot for the Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge, and with me is Bob  
39 Lambrecht, we were at the meeting at, I believe Jack  
40 attended, down at Huslia, at the Koyukuk AC meeting. At  
41 that meeting there were a lot of questions that came up  
42 in regards to fire management policies and we felt at  
43 that time it was a good idea for Bob to come and  
44 potentially address any questions you have. So when I  
45 finish up Bob will introduce himself and talk about the  
46 program and address any questions you might have.

47  
48 I believe Vince just gave you a handout.  
49 I think Glenn has already covered this pretty thoroughly  
50 as far as the moose census results so I won't go into

1 that unless you have some specific questions. I would  
2 like to also extend our thanks to Glenn and the State as  
3 far as their cooperative efforts. It was a very  
4 intensive survey this year and I think things went really  
5 well and I'd like to publicly thank Glenn and the  
6 Department for their assistance in that.

7  
8 I guess what I'd like to do is if -- the  
9 census results are in the beginning and what I wanted to  
10 do was -- I'm going to focus a lot of attention here on  
11 the recent moose hunt that was allowed in the  
12 Huslia/Hughes area, so I just wanted to go over some of  
13 the outreach that we did for that and then I have some  
14 questions for the Council members.

15  
16 There is about two pages before the map  
17 there's a page titled March 1 to 5, winter moose hunt and  
18 on that we have stated the permit conditions. What ended  
19 up happening is Orville Huntington in Huslia and Janet  
20 Bifelt in Hughes were the permit vendors. They went  
21 through -- they would have a meeting with each of the  
22 people that was issued a permit, they would go through  
23 these permit conditions with that person. And then also  
24 on the following page there is a handout which shows  
25 bull/cow distinctions, looking at the antler scars,  
26 looking at the white patch below the tail on the females,  
27 the darker face for the males and then also as far as the  
28 size of the bell on the males and females. We passed  
29 this around, this information was gathered from local  
30 hunters. We used this as a means to encourage people to  
31 try and take bulls during this hunt.

32  
33 I don't know if any of the Council  
34 members had some additional criteria that they use when  
35 hunting, if so, I would love to sit down after this and  
36 talk to you about that and see if there's some other  
37 things that we might want to cover with hunters in the  
38 future.

39  
40 And then the other thing, there's a large  
41 map, this one is specifically for Hughes. We also did  
42 develop one for the Huslia area. At that Koyukuk AC  
43 meeting, I took some example maps with me which we showed  
44 to some of the members there to see what was easiest for  
45 them to interpret because there was a lot of confusion.  
46 There's Federal, State, corporate land in this and we  
47 wanted people to understand that this was on Federal  
48 lands only and the easiest way for them to understand it  
49 was to produce a map. This map, during these face to  
50 face meetings, Orville and Janet went over these maps

1 with those people.

2

3                   The other reason I call this to your  
4 attention is because with the upcoming drift gillnet  
5 fishery we're going to have the same style that we've  
6 talked about, to have, when we issue the permits we want  
7 to have face to face meetings with the fishers, and I'd  
8 like the Regional Advisory Council members assistance in  
9 understanding these maps to see if some of them are easy  
10 to understand. The example that I have is back on that  
11 wall back there that Maureen helped develop. I've gotten  
12 some feedback from Don, but if there is other people that  
13 would like to provide feedback as far as ease of  
14 understanding that map, I would appreciate that because  
15 that's the style right now that we're looking at  
16 developing for people in the Galena, Ruby, Koyukuk,  
17 Huslia area.

18

19                   I guess to move on, I met with Orville  
20 over this last weekend and I wanted to give you guys the  
21 results of this March 1st through 5th hunt. There were a  
22 total of 18 permits issued, three of them right now are  
23 outstanding. There were two designated hunter permits  
24 that were issued. So a total, at this point, of 10 moose  
25 that were harvested, nine were cows, one was a bull and  
26 of those three outstanding permits, one of them  
27 apparently also harvested an animal which was a cow.

28

29                   For the Hughes area, only one permit was  
30 issued and no moose were harvested.

31

32                   So that's the result of that March 1st  
33 through 5th hunt.

34

35                   In addition to that, following that page  
36 you'll see a Nowitna checkstation meat assessment. Back  
37 in 2001 at a meeting that we had in Wasilla you guys had  
38 expressed interest in knowing how people were taking care  
39 of their moose meat so we incorporated that into the  
40 Nowitna checkstation survey form that we have. And what  
41 I found out is that overall on a scale of one to five,  
42 one being the lowest care, five being the highest care,  
43 hunters rank at about 4.3 out of five on that scale.

44

45                   And I guess two last things that I wanted  
46 to go over. I think Member Reakoff and Chairman Sam, you  
47 guys are fairly well versed as far as this record of  
48 decision, we have questions as far as whether you felt  
49 how we went through the record of decision process, if  
50 that was adequate, if there were suggestions that you

1 have or if that -- did it address all the questions that  
2 you had and your concerns at that time.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

7

8 MR. REAKOFF: I want the Council to be  
9 aware that there was a record of decision whether or not  
10 to have the winter hunt in the Koyukuk and Nowitna Refuge  
11 areas. The Refuge manager faxed a draft copy, there was  
12 some issues that I had with that record, the Refuge  
13 manager and Staff addressed those issues and came up with  
14 a final draft incorporating other interests, the State  
15 and other interests and I felt that the process was an  
16 open dialogue process and came out with a good final  
17 product. And so I was satisfied with the deliberation  
18 that the Refuge manager had went through with the  
19 Council, as a Council member. And so that was my  
20 perspective.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Again, I  
23 would like to thank, Jack, personally. I didn't partake  
24 on that last discussion on the record of decision, I was  
25 on my way to Fairbanks, I had a different -- I had a  
26 training session at that time so, again, I would like --  
27 told Mike, do me a favor and call Jack, I got to jump on  
28 a plane, so, again, I would like to thank Jack for  
29 filling in for me. It just happens like that and I  
30 really appreciate Jack's efforts. And, I, too,  
31 appreciate the opportunity to comment because we were on  
32 the phone four or five days before that but that final  
33 decision was Mike and Jack's review.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 Is there anything else you wanted?

38

39 MR. BEYERSDORF: Thanks for those  
40 comments. I guess I did have one last thing -- well, I  
41 guess two last things.

42

43 One, the level of outreach that we went  
44 to for this moose hunt, I think things went fairly well  
45 and I think you guys have acknowledged that and  
46 especially having face to face meetings, and I just  
47 wanted to reiterate with you that that's our intention as  
48 far as this drift gillnet fishery that we're looking at  
49 working with OSM and the Fairbanks Fisheries Office as  
50 far as developing the outreach for this and it's my

1 intention -- a lot of this is going to fall on our Refuge  
2 in Galena, that is where a lot of the activity is  
3 probably going to take place out of, so I expect to see  
4 the same level of effort and commitment in that area,  
5 too.

6  
7                   Moving on, I guess the last thing that I  
8 wanted to talk about was at the Anvik meeting, one thing  
9 that was brought out was as far as the Western Interior  
10 Council, the issues that they deal with and the projects  
11 that they're involved in commenting on and getting that  
12 information back to the villages, and I ended up talking  
13 to the Ruby tribal council after that meeting and  
14 apparently they put together a tribal newsletter and one  
15 of the suggestions has been whenever I come back from a  
16 meeting I usually do an interview with the local radio  
17 station and tell them what the issues were and how the  
18 Regional Advisory Council addressed some of those issues  
19 and how they voted on different things, and I also  
20 generally just write up a short synopsis. What I would  
21 like to do is probably, using the Ruby tribal council as  
22 an example, is do a short synopsis and be able to publish  
23 that in their tribal newsletter because what I've been  
24 told is that that's a very good way to get the  
25 information out to the locals. And I don't know if  
26 there's another tribal council here that you guys would  
27 suggest. Mickey, perhaps, with the Nulato tribal  
28 council. Is this an avenue that you guys feel is worth  
29 pursuing?

30  
31                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Any comments. Mickey.

32  
33                   MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, I guess the best way  
34 to do it would be to talk to the ladies at the Nulato  
35 tribal council office. They do a newsletter, I think  
36 it's every other month.

37  
38                   Probably another way to do the  
39 information would probably be through our village  
40 corporation. We have a newsletter that goes out to our  
41 1,100 shareholders also.

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. Any  
44 further comments.

45  
46                   (No comments)

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you get what you  
49 wanted, pretty much?

50

1 MR. BEYERSDORF: Yeah, I think so.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does that answer your  
4 question?  
5  
6 MR. BEYERSDORF: Yep, I think so, thank  
7 you.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Jack.  
10  
11 MR. REAKOFF: I just wanted to comment  
12 that I think the face to face meeting for informing the  
13 permittee on the parameters of the fishery or the hunt is  
14 a good method and a publication through the Huslia,  
15 Koyukuk, Nulato, Ruby, even Tanana, I mean Tanana has  
16 been left out of the loop out of that, but they're not  
17 that far away and we might get some participation from  
18 them. I don't know. But I do feel that the local people  
19 have to be informed of what is the change in the  
20 regulations, to publish it and that is a good avenue  
21 through the corporation newsletters, and then the face to  
22 face permitting aspect and description of the use areas.  
23  
24 And so I want to thank the Koyukuk Refuge  
25 for doing a great job on this moose hunt. I think it was  
26 a success that people, you know, we were trying to  
27 provide for need and I think we provided for some of that  
28 need, and I think you did a great job and I'm hoping that  
29 this drift fishery in 4B and C also has equal success.  
30  
31 Thank you.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Any  
34 further comments.  
35  
36 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chairman.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Honea.  
39  
40 MR. HONEA: Yeah, thank you, Geoff for  
41 that report.  
42  
43 Actually there was something brought up  
44 at the Anvik meeting as to waste that was found below  
45 Ruby, I'm sure you've heard of that and, we, as a tribal  
46 council are submitting a proposal to TCC to possibly  
47 empower the VPSO to be able to check boats, whatever, and  
48 I was just wondering between Ruby and Galena, when they  
49 leave there, are they in Galena supposed to check in like  
50 ribs with the meat on there and stuff like that? Because

1 I believe that the waste that this person in Ruby found  
2 was some heads and I believe some ribs with the, you  
3 know, meat attached or not, but what I mean is once they  
4 get out of Galena I'm sure that they can -- I -- what I'm  
5 looking for is some kind of a-- something in the future  
6 that, do you guys have any idea of any other provisions  
7 for wanton waste like that?

8

9 MR. BEYERSDORF: Chairman Sam. Member  
10 Honea. I do recall that that was brought up at the Ruby  
11 AC meeting, and that area in the Yuki drainage that  
12 you're talking about does not have a registration permit,  
13 and so if someone takes an animal they're harvesting  
14 under the State -- using the State harvest ticket and  
15 they don't have to go through a checkstation or anything  
16 like that like they do at Ella's Cabin or at the Nowitna.  
17 But I know that one of the ideas that Glenn talked to the  
18 AC about was developing a proposal this fall about  
19 possibly one of the avenues is expanding the registration  
20 permit to that area and that might address some of the  
21 issues that you're talking about.

22

23 And I don't know if Glenn wants to  
24 clarify that any further than that or if that satisfies?

25

26 MR. HONEA: Okay. Well, actually I know  
27 for many years that there's no funding to have a station  
28 on that but I wasn't talking about that particular river,  
29 I was talking about the waste. I mean what, leaving  
30 Galena there, are they supposed to have the meat on the  
31 bone and stuff, what's mandatory and then after they  
32 leave Galena there's no checkstation or anything other  
33 than if they wanted to -- if they wanted to stop at the  
34 Novi, I mean there's nothing to keep them from tossing  
35 whatever they wanted to overboard. So our proposal to  
36 TCC is to possibly empower somebody, the VPSO, to be able  
37 to do mandatory checks like meat on bone and stuff like  
38 that.

39

40 MR. BEYERSDORF: My understanding that  
41 Jay spent, I believe three days in that area looking  
42 around for any other waste cases and he didn't come up  
43 with anything and he had two agents stationed at the  
44 Yukon Bridge because there had been claims that people  
45 were wasting meat and everybody that came through at that  
46 time, there were no prosecutions for waste case. So I  
47 know that the State law enforcement was out there and  
48 looking.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does that satisfy you?

1 MR. HONEA: (Nods affirmatively)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. Any  
4 further questions for Kanuti/Nowitna.  
5  
6 (No comments)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.  
9  
10 MR. BEYERSDORF: I guess Chairman Sam,  
11 members, at this point I'd like to introduce Bob  
12 Lambrecht. He's the fire management officer, he's been  
13 there since June of 2002 at the Refuge, and if you have  
14 any questions for him.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions, fire  
17 issues. I think that we pretty much understand the fire  
18 issues. We all served at one time or another on local  
19 firefighting crews. We kind of know the fire history,  
20 and we know at times that fire is generally good for  
21 moose habitat so we're quite aware of this.  
22  
23 Any questions for Bob.  
24  
25 MR. HONEA: Okay.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Don.  
28  
29 MR. HONEA: Well, actually Bob now that  
30 he brought it up, at one point on the -- maybe it's to  
31 you Geoff or State or whoever, but they had a BLM -- I  
32 mean the Fish and Game, I guess came along and three or  
33 four years ago or something and had a designated burn  
34 area and it was tentative, anyway, but, you know, they  
35 didn't set no dates or anything between Ruby and the  
36 Nowitna Wildlife Refuge. Is that still an option or  
37 something someday to occur, a controlled burn for  
38 habitat, I mean it was -- have you ever heard of that?  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.  
41  
42 MR. LAMBRECHT: Mr. Chairman.  
43 Representative Honea. I'm unaware of the one proposal  
44 that you're talking about.  
45  
46 With regards to prescribed burning, the  
47 Refuge and particularly the biologists are looking at  
48 areas that can benefit from prescribed fire. Does that  
49 answer your question?  
50

1 MR. HONEA: Yeah, well, actually I guess  
2 it wasn't a proposal or anything, it was just a projected  
3 thought that they were going to and I don't know, Geoff,  
4 I'm kind of surprised that you have not heard about that  
5 and maybe it was four or five years ago that they had  
6 come up with this idea. And I believe there was a couple  
7 of different places that they had marked out and, you  
8 know, I mean probably it was just an idea at the time, I  
9 don't know.

10  
11 MR. LAMBRECHT: Mr. Chairman.  
12 Representative Honea. There was one proposal just across  
13 from Galena and along the islands and after some  
14 discussion there was concern about destroying firewood  
15 and timber and so forth, and so that proposal is no  
16 longer in effect. And I think for the area that you're  
17 addressing, most of that land is Regional Corporation  
18 land and their concern there is the potential timber  
19 harvest of the white spruce and I suspect prescribed  
20 burning would definitely not be in that interest.

21  
22 Thank you.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

25  
26 (No comments)

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: That concludes your  
29 report.

30  
31 MR. BEYERSDORF: (Nods affirmatively)

32  
33 MR. LAMBRECHT: (Nods affirmatively)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank both of you, Bob and  
36 Geoff.

37  
38 MR. BEYERSDORF: Thank you.

39  
40 MR. LAMBRECHT: Thank you.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Vince.

43  
44 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I've  
45 been communicating with Bill Schaff for the Innoko Refuge  
46 and he wanted just to share with you his apology that his  
47 Staff and he could not make it here, it was already  
48 mentioned earlier I think by Glenn Stout that they're  
49 just now bringing in the data from that moose survey from  
50 21(E). So he wanted to apologize for not being here, and

1 so I just want to convey that to you. That generally he  
2 has Clara and himself attend these meetings, but the  
3 moose survey took them away.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. So we  
6 don't have anyone from Innoko?

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Nope.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, good. Okay, down to  
11 the last page, fisheries, do we have anyone, fisheries.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: No. National Park  
16 Service, we had two people here earlier with snowmachines  
17 but they took off -- as soon as the weather turned good  
18 and they could see, they said they had to get back up to  
19 Bettles because it was pretty grim coming over across the  
20 river this morning so I know what they feel.

21

22 Vince.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Fred  
25 Andersen and Dave Mills, the superintendent and your  
26 subsistence coordinator for Gates of the Arctic National  
27 Park provided a draft hunting plan recommendation 99-01  
28 for customary trade. They also assured me that Jack  
29 would explain what this all means. But from my  
30 understanding of the Subsistence Resource Commissions  
31 they have hunting plans, and this is a hunting plan that  
32 they've put together and they're now soliciting comments  
33 and input from local Advisory Committees as well as  
34 Regional Advisory Councils. So with that I think Jack  
35 can explain this and what they're seeking from the  
36 Regional Council.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

39

40 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair. Pollock Simon,  
41 Sr., is Chair of the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence  
42 Resource Commission and I'm vice-Chair.

43

44 Several years ago the Commission  
45 recognized that there were plant uses -- subsistence use  
46 for personal and family consumption fuel, food, shelter,  
47 et cetera, and making and selling of handicrafts as a  
48 recognized aspect of customary trade in the Park. And so  
49 the Commission recognized that there were certain other  
50 plant materials or plant materials that could be

1 incorporated into handcrafts and also the issue about --  
2 the Park Service has a regulation that you can't pick up  
3 caribou antlers and moose or sheep horns or stuff like  
4 that and remove them from the Park, and we recognize that  
5 as a customary practice to pick those up and make ladles  
6 and whatever out of those and sale of those is allowed.

7  
8 This proposal is to address those,  
9 picking up plants and shed antler and shed horn on Park  
10 lands. The Superintendent wanted that to come before the  
11 Regional Council. The Council doesn't deal with dead  
12 animal parts, so to speak, we deal with harvest of those  
13 animals. But he felt that it should be -- he felt the  
14 Council should be aware what this proposal was about, and  
15 so it's out for public comment if any Council members  
16 have comment or the public wants to make comment on it.

17  
18 We have a comment period that it has to  
19 go through and then it will be finalized by the  
20 Subsistence Resource Commission at our next meeting,  
21 which is supposed to be at Coldfoot around the middle of  
22 May. So if anybody's got any comment on it, I guess the  
23 Superintendent would like to hear about it.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. As far  
26 as I'm concerned I think that through Pollock Simon's  
27 involvement and your involvement that the Gates of the  
28 Arctic are in pretty good hands. A lot of the Gates of  
29 the Arctic out of Alatna/Allakaket area is quite some  
30 ways up north. I used to hunt sheep there but it's not a  
31 yearly thing because of travel, low water, same thing,  
32 and it doesn't always happen every year.

33  
34 So my comment would be thank you for  
35 making us aware of all the actions that the Gates of the  
36 Arctic is trying to do and for keeping us well informed  
37 with the policies here that they're trying to develop.

38  
39 Okay. Is there any further comments for  
40 Jack, as far as the Gates of the Arctic is concerned, or  
41 Pollock.

42  
43 (No comments)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, does that conclude  
46 our National Parks?

47  
48 MR. MATHEWS: As far as I know that  
49 concludes National Park Service. I don't know of any  
50 other topics they wanted.

1 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

4

5 MR. REAKOFF: I'll just state that the  
6 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission was  
7 the driving force to break loose that funding for that  
8 moose survey in the Park. We hammered away for a three  
9 year period trying to get that funding and finally got it  
10 and that's why this moose survey was such a success of  
11 getting baseline data for the Gates of the Arctic Park.  
12 And so the Subsistence Resource Commission continued  
13 endeavors to continue to maintain subsistence uses within  
14 the Park by the resident zone communities. And  
15 Allakaket, Alatna, Bettles, Wiseman, Anaktuvuk, Shungnak,  
16 Kobuk and Ambler and Nuiqsut are all resident zone  
17 communities, and we've worked out a working relationship  
18 with the Park and they have certain mandates and we have  
19 certain parameters that the Commission has set to protect  
20 the subsistence users rights to hunt and trap and fish  
21 within the Park. And so we have a working relationship  
22 with the Park Service and we'll continue to report back  
23 to the Council on any issues that the Council may want to  
24 become aware of. But the Commission was the primary  
25 driving force for that funding.

26

27 The Park Service was apathetic as to  
28 breaking loose any funding but the Commission continued  
29 to work on getting that broke loose. And Ray may have  
30 comment about Denali Park. That's Gates of the Arctic's  
31 position.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you have any comments,  
36 Ray?

37

38 MR. COLLINS: No, can't think of any  
39 issues. I mentioned the study there that we've been  
40 asking for predator/prey relationship studies in the Park  
41 there and they're looking for funding for that, they're  
42 hoping to get that. So that would be able to provide  
43 more information in an area where there is really no  
44 control efforts at all.

45

46 The other issue there is on ATVs that  
47 they're working on and they haven't come up with a final  
48 policy on that yet, a draft on that.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray and Jack,

1 for those reports. Do we have any other National Park  
2 people here.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not Parks and Preserves  
7 is over. Regional Office, what would that consist of?

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, sometimes the  
10 Staff Committee representative from Park Service is here,  
11 sometimes some of the Staff is here so I just listed,  
12 they may have a statewide topic but none of them are here  
13 at this meeting.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. That  
16 concludes our organizational reports, right?

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: (Nods affirmatively)

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: So at this time the Chair  
21 will call for a 10 minute break and then we'll go into  
22 conclusion.

23

24 (Off record)

25

26 (On record)

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Can we find our way back  
29 to our seats.

30

31 (Pause)

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: We have a local resident  
34 who wishes to testify on the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge.  
35 Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to begin with  
36 introducing Warner Bergman. Will you come up to the  
37 microphone.

38

39 MR. BERGMAN: Here.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

42

43 MR. BERGMAN: Okay, my name is Warner  
44 Bergman. I'm a resident of Allakaket. I'd like to talk  
45 about the hunting regulations on the Kanuti Refuge. I  
46 wasn't aware of the fact that anybody can float trip and  
47 hunt on the Refuge until last fall and some -- I think  
48 that Stout brought it up.

49

50 These hunting regulations that anybody

1 can hunt there from Fairbanks or Anchorage and it puts a  
2 lot of pressure on the already depleted moose population  
3 out there. And they didn't, as far as I know they didn't  
4 have a public hearing or input from the residents of  
5 Allakaket, Alatna, Hughes and Huslia, because we're  
6 directly impacted by this hunting regulation. We go  
7 hunting back there, we subsist off that land, that  
8 Kanuti, Last fall we didn't have a chance to go there  
9 because it was low water but then the residents of  
10 Allakaket and Alatna, I think should have input on that  
11 regulation before they made it a game law.

12  
13 My understanding was that the residents,  
14 local residents have -- could subsist there and hunt and  
15 fish on the Refuge, that was my understanding. So for  
16 that reason I'd like to either put this hunting  
17 regulation on hold or revise it until we have local input  
18 or until they ever settle the lawsuit between the State  
19 and the Feds about controlling navigable waters, State of  
20 Alaska.

21  
22 Thanks for my comments to the Board.  
23 That's all I have to say.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Warner. When  
26 you were talking about that hunting within the Refuge,  
27 were you talking about moose hunting?

28  
29 MR. BERGMAN: Moose hunting, yes.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Jack, do you want  
32 to clarify this.

33  
34 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. Under  
35 Federal regulations, the Kanuti Controlled Use Area is  
36 closed to moose hunting except for rural residents of  
37 Alaska, so the Controlled Use Area, the Refuge part in  
38 the Controlled Use Area can only be hunted by people from  
39 rural Alaska, and that would basically be people from  
40 Allakaket and Alatna, and Hughes maybe. And so that's  
41 under Federal regulations already.

42  
43 MR. BERGMAN: Okay. The person that  
44 brought it up, they said they could float trip through  
45 the Kanuti Refuge and get a moose below the high water  
46 mark, so I'd like clarification from someone about this.  
47 Anybody from the Fish and Game?

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. I think  
2 maybe Wennona can help on this. But the Controlled Use  
3 Area, the eastern boundary, people do float down from the  
4 Dalton Highway into there, but, again, it's the  
5 Controlled Use Area, which I just took the map down, I  
6 apologize for, but the Controlled Use Area as Jack said,  
7 is closed except to residents of Allakaket and Alatna.  
8 So, yes, there are some float trips, now, I don't know  
9 the numbers on that I just remember from other meetings  
10 that that would come up.

11  
12 I don't know if that's what you're  
13 addressing. I know at other meetings that was an issue  
14 that came up. So I don't know of Wennona has any  
15 additional information on that.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Wennona.

18  
19 MS. BROWN: Yes, Mr. Chair. That was the  
20 issue that Mike was describing about the navigability,  
21 that below the high water mark on the navigable rivers  
22 you can hunt under State regulations, even within the  
23 Kanuti Controlled Use Area.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any record of  
26 this being done, though, this being utilized?

27  
28 MS. BROWN: I'd have to go back and  
29 research it, not off the top of my head.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Because if there is any, I  
32 think there would be very few and far between, and I  
33 don't know how we could enforce anything -- moose harvest  
34 out there.

35  
36 Glenn, it looks like you got something to  
37 add.

38  
39 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah,  
40 we do have documented harvest that takes place within  
41 that Kanuti Controlled Use Area portion and it's being  
42 reported as taking place below that high water mark. And  
43 I do get calls occasionally, the use is real low. We  
44 know our total, all harvest that takes place, local and  
45 non-local harvest within that portion of it is running  
46 about two and a half percent harvest rate. So overall,  
47 even if we do have that harvest going on, the harvest  
48 rate is very low in there, and the non-local use is  
49 certainly very low because there's so limited opportunity  
50 for those guys to come through there.

1                                Usually those guys call me up and they  
2 ask me about it, you know, I just say, well, you know,  
3 it's just going to be really hard for you to do, you  
4 know, you can only shoot it there, some of the river in  
5 there, it's not like on the Koyukuk River where you have  
6 these broad gravel bars coming down the Kanuti River that  
7 they can hunt on and I think some of their perception is,  
8 is there's a lot more opportunity below the high water  
9 mark than there really is. So it just doesn't happen  
10 very often.

11  
12                                CHAIRMAN SAM: Warner's concern then is  
13 for what few that happens out there, that's the one you  
14 were concerned about?

15  
16                                MR. BERGMAN: Yeah. And since he brang  
17 it.....

18  
19                                CHAIRMAN SAM: Your mike.

20  
21                                MR. BERGMAN: Yeah, and since he brought  
22 up the hunters out there, how about for those people that  
23 go out there for the horns, big game hunters, could they  
24 go through the Refuge too?

25  
26                                CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Glenn.

27  
28                                MR. STOUT: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Bergman.  
29 Yes, that -- under the State harvest permit, they could  
30 go out there and be a trophy hunter, if you will, but  
31 they would still be required in Units 24, 21(B), (C), and  
32 (D), all moose hunters are still required to salvage all  
33 the meat on the four quarters and the ribs and all of the  
34 edible portions of the meat, for instance, on the  
35 backbone is required to be salvaged too, so they couldn't  
36 go out there and just hunt for horns and leave all the  
37 meat there, they're required to salvage all that meat.

38  
39                                CHAIRMAN SAM: Does that answer your  
40 question Warner?

41  
42                                MR. BERGMAN: Yes.

43  
44                                CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Thank you. I think  
45 we will incorporate your testimony onto the record.

46  
47                                MR. BERGMAN: Okay, thank you.

48  
49                                CHAIRMAN SAM: You're on record and  
50 thanks for your testimony.

1 MR. BERGMAN: Okay, thank you, Ron.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: This brings us to Regional  
4 Council business. Vince.  
5  
6 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the next  
7 item is basically they're going to be updating your  
8 Regional Council operations manual. Basically I'm  
9 supposed to ask from you if you have any comments on how  
10 to make it better, if you want to change the format, it's  
11 question/answer format. So if you have any of that you  
12 can get back to me later or now if you want to, but  
13 basically they're just going to update it. This was done  
14 in 2003 so it's time to just update it.  
15  
16 So that's all that this is about for  
17 number A under Regional Council business.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any comments at this time.  
20  
21 (No comments)  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not we will continue to  
24 open up dialogue with Vince. Okay go ahead, Vince.  
25  
26 MR. MATHEWS: The next item is election  
27 of officers. For Donald Honea, as we mentioned in the  
28 training, these are annual positions, they've been moved  
29 to this meeting because appointments now are made in  
30 December. So now is elections of officers.  
31  
32 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.  
35  
36 MR. WALKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'd like  
37 to nominate the same officers that we had in the year  
38 2004.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert. Carl.  
41  
42 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I second and  
43 I ask for a unanimous consent.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I sure  
46 appreciate your trust and consideration. I was just  
47 wondering about this because for quite a few meetings  
48 I've been utilizing Jack to fill in for me whenever I'm  
49 working and one of the issues that keeps coming up is as  
50 Secretary we wonder how much power he has before the

1 Federal Subsistence Board. So I was wondering how the  
2 Council wants to address this, did you have anything else  
3 to add Jack, personally?

4

5 MR. REAKOFF: When I attend the Federal  
6 Subsistence Board, the Board looks at the Chairmanship as  
7 a -- when I'm attending as a Secretary I don't feel I get  
8 the same type of respect as a Chair or vice-Chair. And  
9 so if I'm going to continue to attend for these and fill  
10 in for Ron in these various aspects, it would be -- I  
11 would prefer to be a vice-Chair or not participate to  
12 that level. I feel uncomfortable participating at that  
13 level without, you know, some type of authority from the  
14 Council. It's kind of come to question a little bit in  
15 private discussion with Board members and so forth. And  
16 so I just wanted the Council to be aware of that aspect.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: We do have a motion on the  
19 floor, but I do want comments from -- Mickey, do you have  
20 any?

21

22 MR. STICKMAN: I don't have no comment  
23 against it. But, you know, the way I feel about it is I  
24 see, you know, with your success with the 4B and C  
25 driftnet proposal and I think, you know, when Ron  
26 designates you as the representative of the Western  
27 Interior you go there with the full authority by Ron so I  
28 don't see how there would be any diminishment in your,  
29 you know, the only thing that I can say is you can, you  
30 know, go out there and represent yourself and say that,  
31 hey, you know, I sit here as a full representative of the  
32 Western Interior Regional Advisory Committee.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

35

36 MR. REAKOFF: Well, that's kind of the  
37 problem. I'm getting that I'm representing myself as a  
38 Council member and not the Council. And that's kind of  
39 the problem. If I'm going to participate as representing  
40 the Council I feel that I should have more of an  
41 authority, it's looked at as an authoritative thing. And  
42 I'm sure you're aware as sitting on all kinds of  
43 Legislative and various bodies that that's an aspect.  
44 And so I wanted the Council to be aware of that.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

47

48 MR. STICKMAN: So I guess, you know, just  
49 being like that, I would actually be more comfortable  
50 giving up the vice-Chair, you know, and allowing -- if

1 it's okay with the rest of the Council here, you know,  
2 Jack has a lot more years in than I do and, you know,  
3 he's been testifying before the Federal Subsistence Board  
4 so he has the experience so I would like to -- if it's  
5 okay with the rest of the Council here, I would like to  
6 -- and if it's okay with Jack, I would like Jack to be  
7 the vice-Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Would you consider or  
10 accept the secretary position?

11

12 MR. STICKMAN: It depends on what  
13 responsibilities are of the secretary.

14

(Laughter)

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: The way I see it it would  
18 be just a title, right, because secretaries are right  
19 over there, two of them, Vince and Tina.

20

(Laughter)

22

23 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, Mr. Chair, yeah, I  
24 guess in that light I would accept the secretary  
25 position.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: So is this with the  
28 consent of the Council, that Jack and Mickey switch  
29 titles for vice-Chair and secretary, consent?

30

(Council nods affirmatively)

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Okay, we do have a  
34 motion on the floor asking unanimous consent to reappoint  
35 our officers as amended, is this clear?

36

(Council nods affirmatively)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: There is a motion on the  
40 floor.

41

MR. JONES: Question.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called  
45 for, the unanimous consent was called for so is there any  
46 opposition?

47

(No opposing votes)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seeing none, motion

1 carried. Thank you again for your trust and everything.  
2 Jack, thank you.

3

(Applause)

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, I would like to  
7 thank Jack and Mickey for accepting these positions. One  
8 of the reasons that -- just for public information, one  
9 of the reasons that we haven't sent Mickey down there on  
10 behalf of Western Interior is half the time he's already  
11 down there under Gana-A'Yoo as presidency, so he's just  
12 traveling all the time, sometimes he's down in  
13 Washington, D.C.

14

15 Again, I thank Jack and Mickey for  
16 accepting these positions. Thank you.

17

18 C. Regional Council appointments.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, to my  
21 knowledge you don't have any pending appointments for the  
22 Subsistence Resource Commission. Your appointee which  
23 has been noted earlier is Pollock Simon to the  
24 Subsistence Resource Commission.

25

26 On the Coordinating Fisheries Committees,  
27 you need to reaffirm, if possible, your two members which  
28 -- four members, excuse me. For the Yukon it's Benedict  
29 Jones and Robert Walker. And for the Kuskokwim it's Carl  
30 Morgan and Ray Collins.

31

32 As you know on the Kuskokwim the  
33 Coordinating Fisheries Committee is on paper, it is there  
34 if there is a great divergence. So I don't want you to  
35 think that that committee is actually functioning, you  
36 guys took action to get voting members on that working  
37 group and that has resolved the concerns there.

38

39 So the Yukon you need to reaffirm your  
40 two members, if they want to get off and then maybe an  
41 alternate to the Coordinating Fisheries Committee for the  
42 Yukon.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey, you had something.

45

46 MR. STICKMAN: Yes, I want to make a  
47 motion that we continue with Robert Walker and Ben Jones,  
48 if they continue to agree to serve on the Coordinating  
49 Fish Committee.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: There is a motion on the  
2 floor, is there a second.  
3  
4 MR. KRISKA: Second.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by -- Tina --  
7 okay, Tom Kriska. Discussion.  
8  
9 (No comments)  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert and Benedict, are  
12 you both willing to serve?  
13  
14 MR. JONES: Yeah, I'll accept that  
15 position.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.  
18  
19 MR. WALKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'll  
20 accept.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.  
23  
24 MR. STICKMAN: Now, that they've both  
25 agreed to accept I think, like Vince said, we need to  
26 choose an alternate because if we don't have an alternate  
27 chosen, well, essentially then it's like the same -- it's  
28 the same scenario that Jack brought up, if you're not an  
29 alternate then you don't count.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: We do have a motion on the  
32 floor, so I'd like to take care of that business first.  
33 So the motion was to reappoint Robert Walker and Benedict  
34 Jones as our Yukon River Fisheries Coordinating Committee  
35 members. All those in favor of the motion signify by  
36 saying aye.  
37  
38 IN UNISON: Aye.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.  
41  
42 (No opposing votes)  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Next item  
45 on the agenda is to appoint an alternate to the Yukon  
46 River Coordinating Fisheries Committee. Nominations are  
47 open.  
48  
49 MR. WALKER: Ask for volunteers.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any volunteers?  
2  
3 MR. STICKMAN: I'll volunteer.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey very  
6 much. Again, Mickey brought out this valid point that if  
7 we don't have an alternate sometimes we'll just be  
8 sending only one representative and again we'll be right  
9 in the middle of Eastern Interior and YK Delta. And at  
10 this time the Chair will entertain a motion to appoint  
11 Mickey Stickman as our alternate.  
12  
13 MR. REAKOFF: So moved.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.  
16  
17 MR. WALKER: Second.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion by Jack Reakoff,  
20 seconded by Robert Walker. All those in favor of the  
21 motion signify by saying aye.  
22  
23 IN UNISON: Aye.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.  
26  
27 (No opposing votes)  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.  
30  
31 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, would you  
32 clarify what the status is on the Kuskokwim. I didn't  
33 quite understand that. We've been given official seats  
34 and a vote, you're saying that it's unofficial or what  
35 was that?  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.  
38  
39 MR. MATHEWS: No. What I wanted to  
40 convey to the Council is that that committee is -- we  
41 won't be calling on that committee as much, you and Carl,  
42 because you got the voting seat on the working group so  
43 that channel of concerns for the Yukon Delta Council and  
44 the Western Council is being worked through the working  
45 group. We don't have a counterpart on the Yukon, we  
46 don't have a Yukon working group and there is a lot of  
47 discussion about improving coordination on the Yukon  
48 River, so that Coordinating Fisheries Committee is one  
49 option of empowering that or whatever. So there's going  
50 to be a lot more work in the next years or next couple

1 years for that Coordinating Fisheries Committee possibly.  
2 Whereas on the Kuskokwim that's all been worked out  
3 through the working group, pretty much.

4  
5 Now, caution you that if Federal  
6 regulations or State regulations diverge on the Kuskokwim  
7 then that committee is standing there to come back into  
8 the in-season manager's purview. Right now everything  
9 seems to be working well through the working group.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: So with Ray's appointed  
12 seat with a vote, where does that leave Carl?

13  
14 MR. MATHEWS: That leaves Carl as is in  
15 the back up one.

16  
17 MR. MORGAN: An alternate.

18  
19 MR. MATHEWS: To put Ray in good light,  
20 I've -- I talk with the State a lot and I've never heard  
21 -- I've never heard that level of compliments to an  
22 individual, Ray, they just admire your ability to convey  
23 -- they don't have anyone else on the upper part of the  
24 Kuskokwim River to provide that information and you have  
25 been there consistently even when you have not been as  
26 well as you would like. So they've conveyed to me over  
27 and over again that they highly appreciate your  
28 participation in that group. So there's no reservation  
29 by the State or anyone else on Ray's involvement with  
30 that group.

31  
32 So Carl is kind of a back up.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

35  
36 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I was  
37 just going to come up and say and that's very  
38 appreciated. We've already got representation from  
39 Stoney River, Aniak and Kalskag but nobody above Stoney  
40 so I want to say Ray's doing a wonderful job and he's  
41 doing superb, we've got to hear from that upper, upper  
42 Kuskokwim and it gives them a voice.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. Ray.

45  
46 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, well, thank you for  
47 the compliment. It may be because there's nobody to  
48 compare me to, I'm the only one up there so.....

49  
50 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to thank Carl for  
2 his comment, too. Just for the public's information, I  
3 see we got a lot of locals here, too, we have only two  
4 members from the Kuskokwim River, that's Ray and Carl.  
5 So I think a motion would be in order to accept both Ray  
6 and Carl as Coordinating Fisheries members off the  
7 Western Interior Group.  
8  
9 Is there a motion to that effect.  
10  
11 MR. WALKER: So moved.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion to appoint Ray and  
14 Carl to the Kuskokwim Coordinating Fisheries. I think  
15 that we have to go on record as appointing two.  
16  
17 MR. STICKMAN: Second.  
18  
19 MR. JONES: Second.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion by Robert Walker,  
22 seconded by Mickey Stickman to appoint Ray Collins and  
23 Carl Morgan to the Kuskokwim Coordinating Fisheries  
24 Committee.  
25  
26 MR. WALKER: Question.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: All those in favor of the  
29 motion signify by saying aye.  
30  
31 IN UNISON: Aye.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed, same sign.  
34  
35 (No opposing votes)  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank  
38 you, again, Carl and Ray for accepting these positions.  
39 Other appointments.  
40  
41 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there's  
42 a couple there. One is, I have to ask Benedict do we  
43 need to do anything for you, the Council, for your  
44 participation in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd thing --  
45 Caribou Herd Management Group? Do we need to -- does the  
46 Council need to reaffirm your appointment to that group,  
47 and then we need to talk about the Koyukuk River Moose  
48 Hunter Working Group.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, who appoints you

1 Benedict?

2

3 MR. JONES: Middle Yukon Advisory  
4 Committee appointed me and I asked them about that  
5 appointment at our last meeting in January and they said  
6 you're in there for life so.....

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Our elders on the Western  
11 Interior Council are esteemed elders, they're in there  
12 for life, Ray and Benedict.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I may have to draw  
19 Glenn into this because I haven't had a chance to talk to  
20 Randy, with the Koyukuk Moose Hunter's Working Group  
21 Benedict was your appointee to that working group, was he  
22 not, and then we funded Benedict's travel. And then  
23 there were technical advisors, which was Jack and Ron. I  
24 don't know if that's the same structure for that working  
25 group. But first off, who's the appointee to the Koyukuk  
26 Moose Hunter's Working Group from this Council, and that  
27 was Benedict, if my memory is correct?

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: This was Benedict and  
30 Mickey, right?

31

32 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Both of them had votes and  
35 both Jack and I just sit in the back and holler and  
36 scream, they listen.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

41

42 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, initially, at the  
43 very beginning Ben was our appointee from the RAC Council  
44 here and I was the representative from the Middle Yukon  
45 Advisory Committee.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, so should we go  
48 ahead and reappoint?

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, just reaffirm that it

1 would be Benedict because we'll have to provide funding.  
2 And then I don't know if Glenn knows if it's going to be  
3 this inner circle, outer circle. The reason I bring that  
4 up is I need to -- we need to budget into our travel  
5 thing that it would be two technical advisors and the  
6 appointee.

7  
8 So I apologize for putting Glenn on the  
9 spot, because I haven't had a chance to talk to Randy how  
10 they're going to structure that working group.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Glenn.

13  
14 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Quite  
15 a bit has changed in terms of Advisory Committee's  
16 memberships, more so in the urban representatives that  
17 were there and so I think the way that we're probably  
18 looking at this upcoming meeting is not like an official  
19 reformation of the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee, it's  
20 -- or the Koyukuk Moose Hunter's Working Group. I think  
21 we would still like to see designated participation from  
22 people that were involved before to maintain that  
23 consistency. People that were familiar with it already.  
24 I think that would be really important. But I think  
25 there's going to be some people that are going to have to  
26 be brought up to speed on these issues. Regardless, it's  
27 an open meeting and we would encourage anybody that's  
28 interested to participate and we're going to try and  
29 encourage that for all interested people, all  
30 stakeholders in the process.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: So would reappointments be  
33 in order, both two technical advisors and recognize both  
34 Benedict and Mickey as voting members of the.....

35  
36 MR. MATHEWS: Well, yes, but the  
37 structure will probably remain that there would be one  
38 appointee from the Council and that would be Benedict.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, one then.

41  
42 MR. MATHEWS: What you're saying is,  
43 jokingly, if you had one more Council member at these  
44 working groups you'd have a quorum.

45  
46 (Laughter)

47  
48 MR. MATHEWS: But they were not wearing  
49 the hats of the Council. Mickey was Advisory Committee,  
50 you two were technical advisors. So you need to reaffirm

1 Benedict and make it clear to the program, we're under  
2 budget crunches, too, make it clear to the program that  
3 your desires on having technical advisors there.

4

5 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

8

9 MR. REAKOFF: I feel it's integral to the  
10 coming planning process to have representation from the  
11 upper portion of the unit so two technical advisors from  
12 this upper portion, this is going to be the focal point  
13 for the next planning process as far as I can see, at  
14 least, in the middle Koyukuk, upper Koyukuk area, and so  
15 I would like to see technical advisement to the  
16 representative at the next Moose Hunter Planning Session.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. So I  
19 think at this time a motion would be in order to  
20 reappoint Benedict Jones as a voting member of the  
21 Koyukuk River Moose Hunter's Working Group, is there a  
22 motion to that effect.

23

24 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.

25

26 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

29

30 MR. STICKMAN: But I'd also like to, in  
31 my motion, include the technical advice from you,  
32 yourself, Ron Sam and Jack Reakoff, because you guys were  
33 there from the beginning. And even though you weren't  
34 voting members on the working group, the information and  
35 the knowledge that you shared was a big part of the plan.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for your  
38 confidence in us, Mickey. So is that motion clearly  
39 understood that we reappoint Benedict Jones as the  
40 Western Interior voting member and reappoint both Jack  
41 and I as technical advisors.

42

43 (Council nods affirmatively)

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that motion understood?

46

47 (Council nods affirmatively)

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, who seconded it --  
50 okay, Jack -- you seconded it, right?

1 MR. REAKOFF: Right.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Motion by Mickey  
4 Stickman and seconded by Jack Reakoff. All those in  
5 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.  
6  
7 IN UNISON: Aye.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.  
10  
11 (No opposing votes)  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Other  
14 appointments.  
15  
16 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I don't know  
17 of any other. If other Staff know of other planning  
18 processes or advisory processes, I don't know of any  
19 other appointments.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this tie I would like  
22 to ask Pollock Simon if he's still serving on that  
23 Koyukuk River Moose Hunter's Working Group, are you still  
24 serving on there?  
25  
26 MR. SIMON: Yes, last time I heard I was  
27 still on that group.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Again, for the  
30 public's information Pollock Simon's been working on fish  
31 and game issues since way back in the '70s, so, again,  
32 I'd like to thank you for your work on that group, too.  
33 Thank you, Pollock.  
34  
35 Bye-Bye. Thanks for attending and  
36 advising us, keeping us going, thank all of you.  
37  
38 Correspondence sent and received.  
39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that's in  
41 your book on 111 and basically your policy has been to  
42 summarize what has been received and sent and that's  
43 listed there if you need to look at copies of the  
44 materials you can. But that's just basically a summary  
45 of what, we didn't receive any for Western Interior since  
46 your last meeting, that's why there's none listed there.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, at this time I  
49 would like you to start drafting up a letter with the  
50 Alatna Tribal Office and Allakaket Tribal Office for

1 hosting this meeting and providing all the good food and  
2 everything so that I can sign off on that.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. A letter of  
7 appreciation would also be in order for the school  
8 district for housing people and providing the bus rides,  
9 I think that would cover it.

10

11 Anything else that I missed?

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: If you want I can attempt  
14 to get posters made again. But I think Bob -- Bob,  
15 that's what I call my brother. Robert, may want to talk  
16 about how the poster, was it more effective to the  
17 community than just a letter?

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think so. It would be  
20 in order. I think we got a picture outside, so get a  
21 copy of that and then send it out to the local  
22 communities.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack would also like to  
27 thank his host, I think that we could -- do we have --  
28 should we get a letter or just thank them at the end?

29

30 MR. REAKOFF: I feel the Council's  
31 members should thank their hosts.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Council members on  
34 their own?

35

36 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, I feel Council  
37 members should thank their hosts and I very much  
38 appreciated the family I stayed with.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack.

41

42 MR. STICKMAN: How soon are they going to  
43 be paid?

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey asked a little  
48 question, do you want to go on record?

49

50 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, I was wondering, you

1 know, our hosts are going to get paid through the tribal  
2 council like before, I was wondering how soon?

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, that I  
7 can give you a prognosis on. Since we have to do all our  
8 billing through centralized billing system, which means  
9 if the tribal council, which we did, through tribal  
10 council's work got them in central billing, my  
11 understanding and Tom can correct me, that as soon as we  
12 get a bill from -- or receipt from the tribal council, X  
13 nights, et cetera, it's within days that that is  
14 transferred electronically to the tribal council account.  
15 If I got it wrong, Tom will correct me, but it's not  
16 going to be like it was in the past, three, four months,  
17 it shouldn't be, because we're now -- it's all  
18 centralized billing.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Money. Money.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Tom.

25

26 MR. KRON: I'm not even going to ask how  
27 long it took Carl to get paid in Aniak. But basically  
28 what needs to happen is the host families need to submit  
29 a billing to the tribal council and then the tribal  
30 council bills us and the minute we get that we can pay.  
31 But it sounded like, I know George Siavelis had asked,  
32 and I assumed it had been taken care of, but George  
33 Siavelis asked months after your last meeting, you know,  
34 when he was going to get paid and I assumed he had been  
35 paid, but apparently he had never billed KNA so KNA had  
36 never billed us. So anyway, we just need to communicate  
37 to host families that they need to bill the tribal  
38 council and then the tribal council can immediately bill  
39 us, we need to get people paid quickly, and I apologize,  
40 it sounds like people had to wait a long time last time.

41

42 Thanks.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, also it's  
45 been negotiated with the tribal council, it's already a  
46 contract for so many nights, so many days. So if the  
47 tribal council needs a bill, that's not to my  
48 understanding from the individuals, but if that's true  
49 then that's fine. But basically the way we've set it up  
50 is that the tribal council submits the bill, they get the

1 money and then they issue a check to wherever Carl was  
2 staying or whatever, and then that check is issued. But  
3 if the tribal council needs it for its records, a  
4 receipt, then that's also there, but that's not my  
5 understanding.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: So the tribal office has  
8 to submit the bill for all the hosts and everything?

9  
10 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, they would do it in  
11 one.....

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: And are they clear on  
14 this?

15  
16 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Lucy's clear on this  
17 that they would submit one bill and then they would get  
18 in so many nights for so many people and then they would  
19 look at their list and say, you know, so and so had two  
20 people there and go that way. I don't know the  
21 accounting for the tribal, I don't want to interfere with  
22 them, but I'm fairly certain they're not going to require  
23 a receipt from where you stayed, but that's their  
24 business.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think Jack had his hand  
27 up, and then Mickey.

28  
29 MR. REAKOFF: I'm just concerned that the  
30 host families are aware of the procedure and are paid.  
31 So if the Council requires a receipt I feel that a  
32 formatted receipt be given to the host families so that  
33 they can submit it.

34  
35 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, we'd have to talk to  
36 Lucy. My understanding is, and I don't have it, it's  
37 here in this pile, there was a poster put up and then  
38 people signed and said I'll have these people there and  
39 then in there it said they'd be reimbursed \$40, so we'll  
40 check with Lucy on that. We do have a receipt book here.  
41 Historically we've tried to avoid doing that because it's  
42 kind of embarrassing when people are staying with  
43 relatives to get a receipt from a relative so that's why  
44 we've always worked through the tribal council.

45  
46 But I'll check with Lucy to confirm that  
47 she let the hosts know that they were going to handle  
48 billing.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Mickey did you have

1 anything else?

2

3 MR. STICKMAN: Oh, no, I didn't have  
4 nothing else because the only reason why I was wondering  
5 was my host was, you know, planning on going to Fairbanks  
6 next week, probably beginning on Sunday and I told  
7 him.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: he'd get paid by then.

10

11 MR. STICKMAN: .....that me staying at  
12 his house, he would be receiving some money.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

15

16 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Hey,  
17 Bro, Ron's not a relative.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further. Does  
22 that take care of all the billing questions?

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: There's only one outlier  
29 and it was brought up to me during a break is there is  
30 the Yukon River Fisheries Drainage Association annual  
31 meeting. I don't know if there's an interest from this  
32 Council to go, we can push that through the system. I  
33 talked to Tom Kron about it because it's only, I think,  
34 two weeks away, but if there is an interest, we have, in  
35 the past funded a Council member to go to the annual  
36 meeting. I don't know if there's an interest. I know  
37 some of you have been approached by YRDFA and have  
38 expressed that you have conflicts of schedules, but I  
39 feel obligated to bring it up.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any interest. Any Council  
42 members want to attend the YRDFA meeting.

43

44 Benedict.

45

46 MR. JONES: Yeah, I was questioned by  
47 that YRDFA guy, he asked me if Western Interior was  
48 sending a representative down.....

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn.

1 MR. JONES: .....and I told him, I don't  
2 know it's up to the Council members to do that.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: So far we've been invited,  
5 that's the gist of it right now, right?  
6  
7 MR. MATHEWS: Right. And I misunderstood  
8 the communication with YRDFA then. So if Benedict wants  
9 to go as a Council representative.....  
10  
11 MR. JONES: No, no.  
12  
13 MR. MATHEWS: No, okay.  
14  
15 (Laughter)  
16  
17 MR. MATHEWS: All right. Thank you, then  
18 that's all I need to know for that.  
19  
20 (Laughter)  
21  
22 MR. STICKMAN: How about Robert?  
23  
24 MR. WALKER: How about Mickey?  
25  
26 (Laughter)  
27  
28 MR. STICKMAN: Well, actually I was  
29 invited but, you know, but since we have a project  
30 proposal from the Nulato Tribe I'm sending someone else  
31 from our tribal council to go to Marshall.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Yeah, for my  
34 clarification this meeting is being held in Marshall?  
35  
36 MR. STICKMAN: Marshall, yeah.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's a lot of travel,  
39 too. Robert.  
40  
41 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I got  
42 a fax from YRDFA there and they did tell us the dates on  
43 it, the 21st through the 24th, but I had another  
44 scheduled meeting before I got this in Anchorage on the  
45 22nd, 23rd and 24th, so I already made a commitment to  
46 this one before I got the other one, so I'm out.  
47  
48 (Laughter)  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does anyone want to

1 attend?

2

3

(No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: We do have some people  
6 attending, Mickey's got his office involved, so any  
7 Council members want to attend?

8

9

(No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, none. Just in case,  
12 I know it's short order, but Vince does have funding to  
13 send someone if we have to, right?

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the next thing would  
16 be, okay, Ron knows this and Jack knows it, during the  
17 meeting there's a period of time, the Board meeting,  
18 excuse me, where the Council Chairs can bring up topics  
19 beyond the proposals, other topics. I suppose this also  
20 triggers who's going to go to the Board meeting in May,  
21 it's the first week of May, and I don't remember the  
22 dates, but it's like the 3rd, 4th and 5th, something like  
23 that in May. So you need to determine who may be going  
24 to the Board meeting and if you want topics that you want  
25 the Chair to bring up outside of proposals before them.

26

27 One that seems to be one that you've  
28 talked about a lot is the research policy that the Board  
29 needs to develop or strategy, whatever term you want to  
30 talk about it, and then appropriate funding level. But  
31 I'm not trying to put words in your mouth but you have  
32 talked about that extensively at this meeting. Topics  
33 like that might be something you want to bring up to the  
34 Chair.

35

36 So the first would be, is the Chair going  
37 to go to the meeting in May or is a designee going to go  
38 and then what other topics you would like the Chair to  
39 carry forth.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I probably  
42 will have a conflict again because I don't know when we  
43 start working, again, it's six days a week, nine hours a  
44 day when we do go to work.

45

46 Mickey.

47

48 MR. STICKMAN: I guess, Mr. Chair, at  
49 this time I'll just make a motion that it would be you,  
50 as the Chair, and if you're unable to because of work

1 then, I guess, the only other person that would be able  
2 to portray the Council's wishes would be Jack as vice-  
3 Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I think that's  
6 the way it's always been handled, right, Chair, vice-  
7 Chair, and thank you for your consideration by turning  
8 the vice-Chair over, again.

9

10 Anything else, Vince? Do you want any  
11 more topics, just that research, lack of data, right,  
12 that has to be hammered out. Because we've got to get  
13 more data out of the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge formed and  
14 we've got to get some funding for Mike. That will be a  
15 priority, I think, just establishing that one.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Then whoever  
18 goes, I think, on that one, I encourage you to talk ahead  
19 of time with the fellow Chairs that are there to  
20 understand what you're talking about because their  
21 regions are slightly different. You have multiple  
22 conservation units where they may only have one or  
23 whatever. So I think you're going to have to explain it  
24 to them so they understand so when it's before the Board  
25 they can express their concerns or support for it.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that would be in  
28 order, maybe a letter, just draft a letter for me to  
29 sign, at least to Eastern and YK, that way -- and NANA,  
30 NANA's been pretty supportive of us -- I mean Northwest  
31 so that I can sign it and we can get these out to these  
32 other Regional Council Chairs.

33

34 Any further Council topics.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, this is ongoing.  
39 We can pick up -- we all know Vince's 800 number, so just  
40 go ahead and utilize it.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Future meeting plans. We  
47 set up a meeting, where, in McGrath?

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. There  
50 is no page numbers, but it's at the end of your book,

1 there are two calendars, you may want to look at that.  
2 You selected October 4th and 5th in McGrath. We need to  
3 affirm that.

4  
5 And then I'll stop there and we need to  
6 talk about fall meetings, but first would be to affirm  
7 October 4th and 5th in McGrath.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Council wishes. Do we  
10 take action or just consensus.

11  
12 MR. MATHEWS: Just consensus is fine.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Council consensus. We do  
15 owe Ray Collins and McGrath a meeting. We moved our  
16 meetings to Huslia last year. And the reason we're  
17 holding our October meeting down at McGrath is that  
18 because we do have conflicts at both Ruby and McGrath  
19 because of the Iditarod races in March and that's why we  
20 haven't had those March meetings in McGrath or Ruby,  
21 they've both been cancelled at one time or another.

22  
23 So we'll reconfirm October 4th and 5th at  
24 McGrath.

25  
26 (Council nods affirmatively)

27  
28 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Then that brings up,  
29 now, I just bring it up, Eastern Interior is requesting a  
30 Tri-Council meeting. They were looking at the week of  
31 October 3rd in respect to you since you were already  
32 meeting, so if a Tri-Council meeting would happen you  
33 would still go with the dates during that week. I just  
34 need, you know.....

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

37  
38 MR. WALKER: Do we want to get in a big  
39 fight again, here, Vince?

40  
41 (Laughter)

42  
43 MR. MATHEWS: No, I'm just -- I think I  
44 got the answer that that week works for you to meet, you  
45 prefer to meeting McGrath. If the Tri-Council meeting  
46 comes up, we'll be back with you to talk about dates.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

49  
50 MR. REAKOFF: I can see some of the

1 overlapping proposals, we could be on teleconference with  
2 the other Councils. I didn't particularly feel that that  
3 Tri-Council meeting was a very productive endeavor and  
4 very expensive to the OSM. We need funds for other  
5 projects and the Tri-Council meeting as far as I'm  
6 concerned was a futile expenditure of limited funding.

7  
8 I would prefer, if we had overlap  
9 proposals, that we get on teleconference for that  
10 specific proposal, and that's as far as I would want to  
11 go with the Tri-Council consultations.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. For the  
14 Council's information when we did, in the past when we  
15 did have overlapping proposals or anything of that  
16 nature, they -- at one time they sent me to Tuntutuliak  
17 to attend then the YK Delta meeting. And one time we  
18 asked Gerald Nicholia to attend our meeting to address  
19 these issues. We have invited Robert Nick and a few  
20 others to address these overlapping proposals. I see  
21 that as a tool to take care of these overlapping  
22 proposals. If anything, we designate the Chair to attend  
23 their meeting or ask them to send a representative. That  
24 should take care of that.

25  
26 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. That reminds  
27 me of a thing that I forgot. We were going to have Jack  
28 participate by teleconference with the North Slope  
29 Regional Advisory Council, that meeting was not held. So  
30 I don't know if Staff here knows the dates of it, what I  
31 heard was March 24th. Is that confirmed, Salena -- okay,  
32 yes, she's saying it's March 24th. So does the Council  
33 want to have, by teleconference, I don't think we want to  
34 -- I don't think it's needed to have someone travel to  
35 their meeting in Barrow, but somebody by teleconference  
36 when Proposal 12, 13 comes up.

37  
38 MR. REAKOFF: (Nods affirmatively)

39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: I think Jack is indicating  
41 he would be available maybe by telephone, I don't know  
42 what date the 24th is, and I'm not sure that date has  
43 been set in stone but it will be that week some time.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, thank you, Jack,  
46 for all that work you did on the proposals, and we did  
47 pass it so are you willing to participate by  
48 teleconference?

49  
50 MR. REAKOFF: Yes, Mr. Chairman, since

1 I'm the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource  
2 Commission vice-Chair and Council member, I feel that I  
3 have adequate knowledge to address Region 10 if they have  
4 any questions on that proposal, I'm willing to  
5 participate in that deliberation.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Time and  
8 location of next meeting, we already said at McGrath,  
9 right?

10  
11 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

14  
15 MR. MATHEWS: Now, you need to look at a  
16 year from now where you would like to meet, and that's  
17 the next calendar there and I'll just give you an update  
18 real quickly. Your Staff here works for Yukon Kuskokwim  
19 Delta Regional Advisory Council as well as the Eastern  
20 Interior. And so on that calendar for 2006, Yukon  
21 Kuskokwim Delta's going to meet in Emmonak on February  
22 23rd and 24th, and Eastern Interior's going to meet in  
23 Venetie on February 28th and March 1st. So that opens up  
24 -- well, that's where they're meeting. I consulted with  
25 Mickey on this and the TCC Convention is generally the  
26 week of March 12th there. So with that, do you have any  
27 -- a year out from now what dates you would like to meet  
28 and then possibly where?

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any recommendations. In  
31 the past it's been our practice to hold a meeting up  
32 river and then we go down river and then up river, and we  
33 try to have our meetings in the villages that we have our  
34 Council members come from. So we're looking at which  
35 location -- Benedict.

36  
37 MR. JONES: Yeah, I asked the village  
38 Council members for Koyukuk. We haven't had a Western  
39 Interior meeting in up in the Nulato and Koyukuk area for  
40 the last 10 or 14 years, and I asked the Koyukuk Council  
41 if we could host the meeting and the Chief told me, he  
42 said, yeah we could.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Koyukuk, March  
45 what or February what? We got the YK Delta the first  
46 windows, Eastern Interior February 28th and March 1. Any  
47 -- go ahead.

48  
49 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I prefer to  
50 move into this week if we can. We get into that cold

1 weather in the middle of February and I really try to  
2 avoid that if I can for travel concerns.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. I can understand's  
5 Jack position. Many of you don't know that he has to  
6 drive his snowmachine from Wiseman on down to Coldfoot to  
7 catch a plane to our meetings, so if we hold it in March  
8 it would help Jack out right there. March what?

9

10 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

13

14 MR. JONES: Yeah, March 6th and 7th -- I  
15 mean 6th through the 10th, is that week okay?

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: We could set a tentative  
18 date then, the week of March 5th through March 11th --  
19 should we appoint -- Vince.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, usually what I try to  
22 do, Mr. Chairman, is do it a Tuesday/Wednesday,  
23 Wednesday/Thursday because there's a lot more planes  
24 available during the week than on weekends. So we  
25 understand now it will be the week of March 6th sometimes  
26 in there for two days at this far out.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

29

30 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
31 You have to remember, too, that the Iditarod is going  
32 through the upper portion of the Yukon next year, too, so  
33 in that period of time, again, that would be my question,  
34 is how is this going to be handled with the Iditarod with  
35 the planes and the travel of people other than us, too,  
36 and places to stay, et cetera, et cetera, how many  
37 people, but Koyukuk is not a checkpoint, right?

38

39 MR. HONEA: No, it's not a checkpoint.

40

41 MR. WALKER: Well, that ends that right  
42 there.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: They bypass.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, March 8th and 9th,

1 tentative dates.  
2  
3 (Council nods affirmatively)  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Koyukuk.  
6  
7 (Council nods affirmatively)  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: That takes care of our  
10 meeting dates, right?  
11  
12 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.  
13  
14 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.  
17  
18 MR. REAKOFF: I'd like to reiterate that  
19 if at all possible for travel, like to McGrath, if we can  
20 get a charter going out of Fairbanks over there, instead  
21 of going all the way around through Anchorage, I'd really  
22 appreciate that. That extra two days of travel is fairly  
23 burdensome. If we can bypass that. We've done that in  
24 the past and that works real well. If we can bypass  
25 that, going all the way down to Anchorage and spending a  
26 night over there and all that, I'd really appreciate  
27 that.  
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: I can hear Jack's request  
29 and I, too, have the same feelings.  
30  
31 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.  
34  
35 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Also,  
36 Vince, me and Carl would like a charter, too, because  
37 we'd have to go to Anchorage and overnight and then the  
38 same thing, vice versa, go back and we'd have to go to  
39 Anchorage, overnight, and then go.  
40  
41 MR. MATHEWS: I'll try.  
42  
43 (Laughter)  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.  
46  
47 MR. MATHEWS: We'll program it in. Right  
48 now it seems to be that the charter are helping us out  
49 quite a bit, in addition to being more convenient, but I  
50 can't predict at that time. But, yeah, we were able to

1 fill a plane with 19 seats so we'll have to explore that.  
2 I'm not sure it will be out of Fairbanks, it might be out  
3 of Anchorage, but that's just another hour flight from  
4 you, it's the connecting flights to -- it'll work out,  
5 we'll try to work out some kind of deal with it.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Vince, if I had a  
8 preference, I would rather charter out of Fairbanks, too,  
9 just for the record.

10  
11 Jack.

12  
13 MR. REAKOFF: It's just trying to get,  
14 that sitting around in a hotel just twiddling my thumbs,  
15 I got lots of stuff to do at home, I'm not getting paid  
16 for these meetings and, so, you know, I lose a couple  
17 days just sitting around staring at the wall in  
18 Anchorage, that's not my thing to be doing, you know, I'd  
19 prefer to cut to the chase and get to the meeting and get  
20 it over with and get home because I've got traps to check  
21 and what not.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further.  
24 Benedict.

25  
26 MR. JONES: Yeah, just for your  
27 information, getting out of Koyukuk, there's several  
28 airlines that's coming in. We have two flights daily  
29 with Frontier from Fairbanks and Anchorage. But the  
30 Anchorage flights only fly once a day, the morning  
31 flights so you'll have a connection flight going to  
32 Anchorage and possibly back to Aniak or whatever. They  
33 do fly to Aniak too on their scheduled airlines.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict.  
36 Anything further Vince -- do you want to pursue this any  
37 further, we made quite a few recommendations.

38  
39 (Laughter)

40  
41 MR. MATHEWS: No. I mean I have my  
42 supervisor here and the person in charge of finance so I  
43 think they heard. So I don't think we need to pursue it  
44 any further.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Vince.  
47 Next item on our agenda. What's this, topics and issues?

48  
49 MR. MATHEWS: That I just keep putting on  
50 there in case you want specific topics for the upcoming

1 agendas. I think Staff is well aware of what issues are  
2 going to carry over to the next one. It's just that if  
3 you had something that you wanted to make sure is on at  
4 the next agenda.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

7  
8 MR. WALKER: Adjournment.

9  
10 (Laughter)

11  
12 MR. WALKER: That's on the next agenda.

13  
14 (Laughter)

15  
16 MR. WALKER: I make a motion to adjourn  
17 and that's on the next agenda too.

18  
19 (Laughter)

20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: Got it.

22  
23 (Laughter)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, the Chair will not  
26 recognize it at this time.

27  
28 (Laughter)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Nice try.

31  
32 (Laughter)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: I know Tom wants to go,  
35 too, so Council member closing comments. Just off the  
36 bat, I would, again, totally want to thank Allakaket for  
37 hosting this meeting. So Tom, are you willing to start  
38 your closing comments.

39  
40 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, Tom Kriska. I'd like  
41 to thank the community of Allakaket, the tribal council  
42 for hosting a wonderful meeting. The meals were great.  
43 I had a great place to stay. And a beautiful hall to  
44 have a meeting in. I'm glad the weather was nice today.  
45 And thanks to all the Council members for being here, the  
46 Staff, and I'm sure something will happen in the future  
47 here.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tom. Benedict.

50

1 MR. JONES: Yeah, I'd like to thank the  
2 Allakaket people, Allakaket and Alatna for hosting the  
3 meeting and all the housing. The Staff members for your  
4 presentations at this meeting. I think it was a very  
5 successful meeting. And I want to thank you, the Council  
6 members for appointing me for the work session on the  
7 moose management for the moose and for the caribou, so  
8 I'm wearing two hats, one for the moose and one for the  
9 caribou.

10  
11 Thank you.

12  
13 (Laughter)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: You forgot one thing,  
16 you're also on the Coordinating Fisheries Committee, so  
17 put another hat on there.

18  
19 (Laughter)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. Ray.

22  
23 MR. COLLINS: Yes, I'd also like to thank  
24 Allakaket for the meeting, and particularly my host,  
25 Simon, thank you for putting us up again. I thought it  
26 was a good meeting. We must be getting a little more  
27 efficient, we seem to be finishing a little bit quicker  
28 than we have sometimes. And I guess I thank you for the  
29 appointments, too, for other committee work.

30  
31 Yeah, that's all I have to say, thank  
32 you.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks a lot, again, Ray,  
35 you've been an integral part of the Western Interior  
36 through your past leadership, too.

37  
38 Mickey.

39  
40 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, I wanted to thank  
41 Allakaket Tribal Council and the people across the river  
42 from Alatna. This is the second time I've been back here  
43 for the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council  
44 meeting. I wanted to thank my host Ben Sey. It's my  
45 second time staying with Ben Sey and Elsie. And so I  
46 wanted to definitely thank the Staff members for  
47 providing all the information that we need to make the  
48 decisions that we do, not just the Federal Staff but also  
49 the State Staff that has already left. It's always good  
50 to attend these meetings because we always have, not only

1 the local people but we have the State Staff and the  
2 Federal Staff all working together and I think that's --  
3 even though we always don't agree on every level, at  
4 least on the local level and on this level we tend to  
5 work together.

6  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. And  
10 thank you for understanding and trading chairs with Jack,  
11 too, that took a heck of a lot of guts, I think, and a  
12 lot of thought, deep thought.

13  
14 I, too, again, truly want to thank the  
15 Allakaket people for hosting this meeting. It seems like  
16 every time we hold a meeting here we have more and more  
17 people attending. You could look over there and you see  
18 all our local residents still attending even though we're  
19 closing, they're still here with us. They provided us  
20 with a lot of insight and a lot of direction. I really  
21 appreciated that meeting last night with all the public  
22 testimony. Everybody stated their views and expressed  
23 their views and their wishes.

24  
25 For us to work or find any kind of  
26 solution the local people established the need for us to  
27 move forward on our local moose issues.

28  
29 Again, I would like to thank all the  
30 people for attending and testifying.

31  
32 Again, I would like to thank Western  
33 Interior Council members for my reappointment as Chair.  
34 And I thank you for your, not only your consideration,  
35 your respect and your trust in me. It makes me work and  
36 try that much harder. When I attend different Regional  
37 Council meetings, they always ask how come you guys  
38 always vote unanimously, I said, we fight it out until we  
39 get a unanimous vote.

40  
41 And with that, again, I will sign those  
42 letters of appreciation to Alatna, Allakaket and the  
43 school district.

44  
45 Thank you all, and thank you for the  
46 reappointment.

47  
48 Jack.

49  
50 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I

1 wanted to thank Allakaket/Alatna for hosting this  
2 meeting. And all that wood out there, I cut wood, I know  
3 how much work getting that wood is to heat this great big  
4 building.

5  
6                   And I want to thank my host family. I  
7 had a very, very nice sleep.

8  
9                   And I very much appreciate the local  
10 people, the elders coming out to talk before the Council  
11 and showing interest and presence here and we rely  
12 heavily upon the input from elders in the local villages  
13 of the affected areas where we hold meetings. And so we  
14 always learn something from the elders every time we have  
15 a meeting in villages, and it's a lot of food for thought  
16 as Pollock said.

17  
18                   I also wanted to thank Vince Mathews, he  
19 does an outstanding job in support of our Council. And  
20 Tina's always right there with all the papers and keeping  
21 track of everything and is an excellent assistant.

22  
23                   Our OSM Staff is excellent on providing  
24 all of the support for our travel and so forth and so I  
25 very much appreciate that. And the Refuge and  
26 conservation units attendance here and providing us with  
27 all of our data to the best of their abilities, I  
28 appreciate that also. I know how much work it is to  
29 obtain that data and the presentation is always concise.

30  
31                   The State's participation in providing  
32 data is also highly appreciated, without these data we  
33 can't hardly move.

34  
35                   I feel this was a very productive meeting  
36 as usual. And the Western Interior has made headway in  
37 various issues that affect subsistence users, we try to  
38 provide the subsistence needs to the best of our  
39 abilities within the parameters of the laws, and this  
40 Council has to work within certain laws and regulations.

41  
42                   And I also wanted to express my thanks to  
43 the Council itself in endorsing my performance by  
44 appointing me as the vice-Chair.

45  
46                   And I'll just shut up and thank  
47 everybody.

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Again,  
50 you know how well we work together. I call you at any

1 time of the night or any time in the morning and I thank  
2 you for all your efforts.

3

4 Before I forget, Vince, draft a letter to  
5 Uncle Johnson for all that invocations that he did for us  
6 and blessing of our food and saying grace for us.

7

8 Don Honea.

9

10 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd  
11 also like to thank the host village of Allakaket and  
12 Alatna. I'd like to thank my host, I don't know him very  
13 well but he had a horrible first night, our air mattress  
14 didn't turn out, the battery was dead, so next time I  
15 travel over here I'm going to carry an extra battery.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. HONEA: But anyway, I want to thank  
20 the Native Council and I want to thank Peter for the  
21 rides over here from Alatna every day and back at nights  
22 there. I want to thank the Native Council for all the  
23 food that they had, man, you know, I'm just hoping that  
24 if Ruby hosts something like this that we, in turn, can  
25 show as much as you guys put out here in the way of  
26 helping us out with transportation and lodging.

27

28 This is the first time I'm -- I'm pretty  
29 new on this Board, I'm the newest member, I just got on  
30 and the reason I got on there was to try to protect  
31 mainly our subsis -- you know, what we can control, the  
32 moose population, the game population, something like  
33 that. So I'm open to -- I try to get -- I would like to  
34 learn as much as I can even though PJ and these guys down  
35 in Galena started the Friends of Moose and stuff, I'd  
36 like to try to find out what, you know, how they are  
37 doing, what are their goals, what are their -- you know,  
38 what are they doing to try to enhance the moose  
39 population.

40

41 I'm really thankful to be here. I have a  
42 couple of relatives who were married here, but this is  
43 the first time I've ever been here and I just am thankful  
44 to be a part of this.

45

46 I think the Western Interior Regional  
47 Advisory Committee that consists of the Board members  
48 here, I believe is a well respected group, and I think  
49 that I'd like to -- I'm pretty proud to be a part of this  
50 group and any way that we can try to enhance our -- or

1 save our culture by saving our game population is good  
2 for me.

3

4 With that, I'll close, and I thank you  
5 guys once again.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Don. Like I  
8 said, welcome to the club and thank you for your  
9 deliberations.

10

11 Robert.

12

13 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd  
14 like to thank the tribal government for an outstanding  
15 job that they have done here. The food, the community  
16 here, the friendship. One of the things I noticed that  
17 when you drive by, people drive by, they waive at you.  
18 Really hospitable, I really enjoyed it here. I haven't  
19 been here since 1972 when the old community was down by  
20 the river with the airport and to come back here 32 years  
21 later and I'm still really enjoying it.

22

23 I'd like to congratulate Don Honea for  
24 being the newest member here on the Board. The first  
25 thing he said, do I get sworn in, I said, no, you just  
26 sit down and take it all in here.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MR. WALKER: I'd like to thank the Staff  
31 here. Vince. Salena. Tom, Maureen, Don and Maureen,  
32 and the others for doing a really good job for bringing  
33 us up to speed on all the regulations and showing us --  
34 I've been on this Board for three years and I'm still  
35 learning here, it's a learning process for each one of  
36 you, too, no matter how long you've been here.

37

38 I'd like to thank all the people that I  
39 met here, a friend that I haven't seen for a long time,  
40 and a new one that I have met here. And I hope we did  
41 sit down and get something resolved for your community,  
42 Allakaket and Alatna. All the communities that we  
43 represent in Region 6 all have different, something  
44 different, but it's always subsistence no matter how you  
45 look at it, fish, moose, bear, beaver, ptarmigans,  
46 rabbits, it's all there. I mean we're all fighting one  
47 way or another to maintain some sort of understanding for  
48 our people. And I will continue to fight, as long as I'm  
49 on the Board, I don't plan on resigning, unless Vince  
50 gets mad and kicks me off here, and that's probably the

1 only way I'll go down the trail.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. WALKER: I'd like to thank Ron Sam  
6 for putting up with us and almost got us lost going home  
7 last night in the storm, we had to hit him on the back  
8 and ask him where we were going. Carl was standing on  
9 the back, I didn't think he was going to make it either.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 MR. WALKER: But, again, thank you  
14 Allakaket, Alatna. Thank the Board for being here and  
15 being so understanding on a lot of issues that we have to  
16 deal with.

17

18 Thank you, very much.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you very much there,  
21 Robert. Carl.

22

23 MR. MORGAN: That's the beauty of being  
24 last. Everything what you're going to say they already  
25 said, you know, what else can I add that can be any  
26 different or new.

27

28 But anyway, I'd just like to thank the  
29 people of Allakaket and Alatna, hey, how about that food,  
30 man. I made some comments and the day before, I said, if  
31 you walk home hungry it's your fault, you know, there was  
32 a lot of food.

33

34 I'd like to thank the Staff and also  
35 Vince. There's never once since I've been in the Western  
36 Interior that I walked away or after a meeting, that I  
37 walked away disgusted, that I didn't accomplish or didn't  
38 learn something or we didn't fulfill our obligation. I  
39 always walk away satisfied, with our information we had  
40 and the data we had we made the best decision at that  
41 time. And I got to congratulate the Staff that you do  
42 provide that, you make us make a very intelligent  
43 decision.

44

45 I'd like to thank you guys again, we  
46 shall see you more and more in the future.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. At this

1 time.....

2

3

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

4

5

CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

6

7

MR. COLLINS: I'm not trying for the last  
8 word, but I thought of something, in the letter to the  
9 school I think I'd like to see them compliment the young  
10 people on their singing and their welcome there, just  
11 include that in the letter to the school, I think,  
12 because that was nice.

13

14

CHAIRMAN SAM: Point well taken. Any  
15 further comments.

16

17

Pollock, do you want to take the  
18 microphone.

19

20

MR. SIMON: I just want to thank Ray and  
21 Ben for staying with me, all evening I hear all these  
22 good stories, some of these funny stories and thank you  
23 for staying with me.

24

25

Thanks to all of you Board members for  
26 coming to Allakaket and holding your meetings. I wish  
27 you all a safe trip home. Oh, and one thing, you can  
28 leave Tom Kriska here when you leave so he can take care  
29 of.....

30

31

(Laughter)

32

33

MR. SIMON: Okay, thank you.

34

35

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you Pollock.  
36 We've been trying to adjourn this meeting so we'll turn  
37 Tom Kriska loose. At this time the Chair will entertain  
38 a motion to adjourn.

39

40

MR. STICKMAN: So moved.

41

42

CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

43

44

MR. JONES: Second.

45

46

CHAIRMAN SAM: All those in favor of the  
47 motion signify by saying aye.

48

49

IN UNISON: Aye.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

2

3

(No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. We are

6 adjourned. Thank you again Allakaket. Thank you all,

7 again, Staff. Tina.

8

9

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 153 through 294 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically by Salena Hile on the 9th day of March 2005, beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock a.m. at Allakaket, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 22nd day of March 2005.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph P. Kolasinski  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08