

1 WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8
9 McGrath, Alaska
10 October 29, 2008
11 9:00 o'clock a.m.

12
13
14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 15
16 Jack Reakoff, Chairman
17 Ray Collins
18 Donald Honea
19 Carl Morgan
20 Jenny Pelkola
21 Ronald Sam
22 Mickey Stickman
23 Winchell Ticknor
24 James Walker
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28 Regional Council Coordinator, Vince Mathews

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(McGrath, Alaska - 10/29/2008)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Maybe we can do a little preliminary stuff before our other Council members show up. Some wires were crossed on picking people up this morning. So Western Interior Regional Advisory Council will come back on the record.

And so what would you like to do this morning, Vince.

MR. MATHEWS: Well, I needed to clear up that the three seats that are up and you have applications in there and each of you have applications to take back to your community, would be Carl Morgan, Jenny Pelkola and James Walker. I had misrepresented it here. So you should have each in your packets, those three, you have an envelope also if you want to reapply and just put it in the envelope and it comes back to me automatically.

MR. J. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. I got a question on that, Vince. I just got on the board last year, so I need to reapply?

MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, you were filling in a seat if I remember correctly, for someone that moved out of region.

MR. J. WALKER: I don't recall that but maybe you could clarify that.

MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, well, it was because that threw me a curve too, but, no, your seat is up again, so -- because you filled out the term of -- well, I can't think of his name right now, but he moved to Fairbanks and so that's out of region.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tommy Kriska.

MR. STICKMAN: Tom Kriska.

MR. MATHEWS: Yeah.

MS. PELKOLA: I thought I got that seat.

1 MR. STICKMAN: I thought Jenny got that
2 seat.

3
4 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah.

5
6 MR. STICKMAN: I think we're talking
7 about George Siavelis, the guy who was the guide from
8 Aniak.

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: George would have been
11 earlier than that, but anyways you're filling in a
12 seat. I'll doublecheck back the records but the way it
13 has is that there's -- since you have 10, it's three,
14 three and four, and we just went through the four
15 appointments, now, we're pending the three, and then
16 now we're starting the next cycle of three.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead there,
19 James.

20
21 MR. J. WALKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
22 Well, the letter I got from you, Vince, it says I'm on
23 here until 2010.

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, that's a mistake on
26 my part, but I'll doublecheck it. If you look on there
27 I also got 2007 listed so someone may have picked up a
28 different chart. So I looked at my main records and
29 I'll check back at the office but the main record I
30 work off of has you up in 2009. So we'll work on it.
31 You'll get another letter, if you are one of those
32 three, for sure, you'll get another letter with another
33 application to fill out. I'll doublecheck on it. I
34 don't have all my records here. Yeah, we're still
35 waiting for the 2008 appointments.

36
37 DR. WHEELER: I heard that they should
38 be in the next week but famous last words.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, we're hoping
41 they'll be done before the election.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And then Winchell
46 can help, those that are flying with RedLine, I do have
47 his local number, but you need to talk to Mike. I
48 talked to Mike earlier next week but I don't remember
49 if I told him 10:30, but I believe it's 10:30 he's
50 departing from here, that's RedLine. Warbelows is

1 supposed to be coming in at 10:30 for the rest. What
2 else do I need to tell you, we need to get a picture of
3 you guys for several reasons. We don't have records of
4 you guys, you know, pictures and invariably there's
5 different things that come up that would help having
6 those pictures to show what you do. As a matter of
7 fact, you know, the room being packed here and North
8 Pacific Fishery Management Council members being here
9 is kind of historic, yeah, so I mean anyway we do need
10 those pictures.

11
12 DR. WHEELER: When the sun comes out
13 maybe you can go outside and get a picture.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, hopefully the --
16 the area biologist tells me the sun will rise but.....

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: What else do I need to
21 tell you, well, we can go into that, Jack. You left --
22 the Council wished to send a representative to the
23 North Pacific Fishery Management Council. There was
24 confusion at Eastern Interior meeting, the confusion is
25 cleared up. I believe I talked to Jack on this, is the
26 only one I talked to, but the best meeting to target is
27 the April meeting, not the February meeting. That's
28 why I wanted Don on line, Don's going to attend -- Don
29 Rivard, he's going to attend the meeting so you'll find
30 out a summary of these industry incentive things
31 because I know you're very concerned about that because
32 if the Council goes with that incentive program then
33 you want to know if that's going to work. So you need
34 to see who would be interested in going in April.
35 There's not a commitment from Office of Subsistence
36 Management to fund that but Eastern Interior's put in a
37 request so if you want to put in a request then we'll
38 put in a similar one and then we should find out fairly
39 soon if that'll be funded, and that would be a meeting
40 in Anchorage. The dates of it are in April, when we
41 talked to Diana last week, maybe Polly has more on it,
42 they hadn't set their agenda yet. It's a 10 day
43 meeting. We're not sending you in for a 10 day
44 meeting, but we need to target when that would be up
45 and they didn't have their.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Polly.

48
49 DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
50 Actually OSM talked about this last week and they put

1 calls into -- Staff put calls into the North Pacific
2 Fisheries Management Council and they did agree that
3 April 2009 would be the time to come in and I believe
4 that there is a commitment from OSM to send people in,
5 and if there isn't one up until this point, I guess we
6 just made it on the record, so there will be a
7 commitment from OSM to send RAC members in to testify
8 at the April 2009 meeting. As far as scheduling goes,
9 I can't speak to that and that will come out, but I
10 think that probably identifying a person to come in and
11 speak to the Council's concerns in front of the other
12 council is a good idea.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Yeah, I
15 think that's a very important -- a strategic point in
16 their deliberations and so I feel that one of our
17 Council members should be at that meeting to speak for
18 our positions on their planning effort. So who -- you
19 attended that.....

20

21 MR. COLLINS: I went to the one in
22 Kodiak, yeah.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And was that -- did
25 you feel that was productive?

26

27 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I do.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

30

31 MR. COLLINS: I do. And the fact that
32 we had some members here and we'll be able to follow up
33 and talk to them that was good.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

36

37 MR. COLLINS: Know them a little better
38 now.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so would you
41 feel comfortable going to this meeting, have you made
42 contacts at that Kodiak meeting?

43

44 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I could go to that
45 one.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anybody.....

48

49 MR. COLLINS: If that's what the board
50 wants here.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Carl. Ron. So we
2 just had two Council members join and so the only one
3 missing here is Robert, who had to fly off for his toe
4 or something. So we're discussing this sending a
5 representative to the North Pacific Fisheries
6 Management Council meeting in April, and, Ray, here,
7 attended that meeting in Kodiak, and has made certain
8 contacts with the Council although we made contacts
9 here at this meeting with that Council, and so we're
10 sort of nominating who the Council would feel would
11 represent our Regional Council to the best effect.

12

13 Go ahead, Mickey.

14

15 MR. STICKMAN: No, I think as a
16 fisherwoman for most of her -- I mean for all of her
17 adult life, Jenny would be a good rep for the Yukon.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

20

21 MS. PELKOLA: What do you have to do?

22

23 MR. STICKMAN: You just have to testify
24 about how there's fishing on the Yukon, that's all they
25 want.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Basically we would
28 have a letter that we're going to write with our points
29 that we passed yesterday and basically enforce those
30 points at that meeting.

31

32 Go ahead, Ron.

33

34 MR. SAM: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, were you
35 interested, too?

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say again.

38

39 MR. SAM: Were you interested in going
40 to this?

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Myself. I would if
43 nobody else would -- I'm looking for the best effect,
44 you have to be able to -- this is a high power meeting,
45 there's going to be industry people wanting to get
46 their way, they're going to look for that 67,000 cap
47 and they're going to pull every stop to get that cap at
48 the absolute minimum. That's far beyond our threshold
49 and so you have to be engaged with this council and so
50 you have to get in there and talk hardcore. And so if

1 you want to play hardball, Jenny, you can step up to
2 the plate.

3
4 MS. PELKOLA: I don't feel comfortable
5 at this time. I'm just still learning the ropes I
6 think, right now.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And, Don.....

9
10 MR. COLLINS: They give you about 15
11 minutes to testify.

12
13 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair. I believe in
14 the past that we had reps for the fishing board to
15 attend these meetings, why not go with those. I mean
16 they represented us and they -- I think they did a good
17 job. I mean I am not in a position to, you know, I
18 would feel uncomfortable about getting on something
19 that I did not -- I'm not a commercial fisherman or
20 know the rules and regulations enough to attend
21 something like that.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Mickey.

24
25 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 Well, I know one thing for sure. I'm not afraid to
27 talk to those people, so I would be interested in
28 going. I mean, sure they'll have a -- I mean when they
29 play hardball it kind of cracks you up because a lot of
30 times you're really actually speaking to lawyers you're
31 not actually speaking to fishermen so when you get up
32 there and you talk, half of what they say don't make
33 any sense, but at least you, you're up there speaking
34 from your heart and it makes a difference.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Mickey is on
37 our Coordinated Fisheries Committee member and so I
38 would be inclined to nominate Mickey. Is there any
39 other discussion by the Council.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I feel, yeah, I see
44 no opposition to that, so do we need to vote on this,
45 Vince?

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: (Shakes head negatively)

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I think that
50 nominating Mickey to represent the Western Interior

1 Regional Advisory Council at the North Pacific
2 Fisheries Management Council meeting to reiterate our
3 points of contention with their planning process and to
4 force home our heartfelt position that those hard caps
5 of 29,300-something fish and various other aspects be
6 implemented into their plan.

7

8 Go ahead, Ron.

9

10 MR. SAM: Yeah, if Mickey can't make
11 it, I would like you to fill in as an alternate, just
12 be ready to go.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Me?

15

16 MR. SAM: Yes, as an alternate.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would go as
19 alternate. Go ahead, Mickey.

20

21 MR. STICKMAN: You know, I didn't want
22 to make it sound like I wanted to squeeze Ray out
23 because, you know, I thought maybe it would be possible
24 because we represent two different rivers, it would be
25 possible for OSM to send both me and Ray, you know,
26 because we represent different river systems.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What would be OSM's
29 feelings about that on funding?

30

31 DR. WHEELER: I can't speak to that at
32 this point in time. I guess you can just make the
33 recommendation and then OSM will take it up. There are
34 a bunch of different councils that will be sending in
35 representatives and I don't know who those
36 representatives are yet or if, for example, the YK
37 Council is recommending somebody from the Kuskokwim,
38 but we can take the recommendation back and see. I
39 don't know what the deal is going to be at this point.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: that would be
42 another option of the Council, if funded, is to provide
43 two representatives, one from the Kuskokwim and one
44 from the Yukon, would be, Ray Collins and Mickey
45 Stickman. I would be an alternate if either one of
46 those would fail for one reason or another to attend
47 and so that would be the position of the Council, okay,
48 that's agreeable.

49

50 (Council nods affirmatively)

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so further
2 business, Vince.
3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Well, then we can go
5 into, it's on Page 90, looking at your future meetings.
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.
8
9 MR. MATHEWS: So when you get there
10 I'll give you an update.
11
12 If you look at it, like the third row
13 down, or second row, excuse me, your first choice was
14 February 18th and 19th in Galena and you had an
15 alternate of March 10th and 11th, well, Eastern
16 Interior moved to 10th and 11th because the TCC
17 Convention is the week of March 16th, so are you guys
18 still going to stay with February 18th and 19th would
19 be the question, that would be for your spring meeting?
20 The advantage of that, it places you -- I don't see YK
21 -- it places you first in row on all the fishery
22 proposals.
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I always prefer
25 March but if the Council is still wanting that Galena
26 meeting in February for one reason or another --
27 Iditarod overlap, I think was one of the reasons why we
28 would.....
29
30 MR. SAM: That was the primary reason
31 because it took us two or three years to finally have a
32 meeting in Ruby too, remember.
33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. And so is
35 the Council still leaning towards the Galena meeting
36 February 18th and 19th.
37
38 MR. STICKMAN: I don't see no problem
39 with that, Mr. Chair.
40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Council seems
42 to be comfortable with that at this time.
43
44 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, that's fine. And
45 we can switch, the parameters now is no more than -- if
46 at all possible, no more than two Council meetings per
47 week.
48
49 Okay, then if you look at Page 91, that
50 gets you to a year from now. You need to realize that

1 the week of October 12th is already filled. It's not
2 on your calendar. Eastern Interior is meeting on
3 October 13th and 14th and Southcentral is meeting the
4 13th through the 15th, so that leaves you with -- well,
5 I know you don't meet in September so I won't mention
6 that.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: But that leaves you the
11 week of the 19th and I don't know when AFN meets. And
12 my guess is it's the same, I don't think they move
13 their dates.

14

15 MR. HONEA: The third week in October.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: It's always the third
18 week, okay, so then that puts you back to where you are
19 right now, the same week a year from now so that's
20 open, October 27th and 28th. Hopefully I didn't lose
21 you guys. So what would the wishes of the Council be,
22 you're kind of stuck with going with October 27th and
23 28th, unless you meet during AFN, which might be
24 difficult.

25

26 MR. STICKMAN: Unless you went way up
27 into like September 2nd and 3rd.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can't really do
30 those, getting into hunting season and I can't really
31 go away at that time of year, that's a bad time of
32 year. I would be more inclined, if the window -- the
33 only window of opportunity is the 27th and 28th. We've
34 been meeting as the last Council to meet and so we're
35 getting the scrapes of the meeting opportunities.

36

37 MR. STICKMAN: At some point in time
38 we're going to probably going to get first choice.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, we're stuck in a
41 cycle, I think. And so.....

42

43 MR. STICKMAN: I think it's Vince's
44 fault.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And OSM should think
47 about, you know, giving the later meeting Councils
48 opportunity to -- as a first priority and Council's who
49 have met first having -- moving to the back of the
50 line, that might be something to think about.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Well, you'd still have
2 the week of October 5th, but I don't know how that fits
3 in.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got October
6 5th?

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I miss-ported
9 that, you do have October 5th.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

12
13 MR. COLLINS: That's 13th, AFN's this
14 week, isn't it?

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What's the 13th,
17 that one's plugged, the week of the 13th?

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, that's got Eastern
20 Interior and Southcentral.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I prefer that
23 October 5th timeframe over the late October because we
24 get into cold weather and various other issues at this
25 time of year. And so the 6th and 7th, we have that
26 opportunity, I would prefer that one.

27
28 Is the Council comfortable with that
29 one?

30
31 (Council nods affirmatively)

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: If you give -- right now
36 you have two recognized hubs, Aniak and Galena, but you
37 can also ask for outside that and we do a cost
38 analysis. So if you give an indication of your October
39 meeting and I'm drawing a blank of what the theme would
40 be of the meeting but you guys are always fish and
41 wildlife, but I think that meeting would be -- I don't
42 remember, wildlife?

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Where's my schedule.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: So it would be, the
47 Monitoring Program would be up, and I don't think
48 you're -- I don't know Polly's looking at that.

49
50 DR. WHEELER: Yes, it's the Monitoring

1 Program.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: That's the main theme of
4 that. So you have a little bit of breathing room there
5 on issues unless there's some special actions.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I think Aniak is
8 probably a good site for that myself, because we really
9 only have three hubs, is Galena now considered a -- or
10 correction, McGrath, one of our hubs?

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: No. If you remember
13 correctly Pete Probasco said it's case by case, and so
14 I had to go through a cost analysis and then he
15 approved McGrath.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is McGrath similar
18 to Aniak and Galena on the cost analysis?

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: I don't.....

21

22 MR. SAM: Mr. Chair. I think they
23 already approved these three sites because of the
24 hotels in these places.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I don't think they
27 have. Pete was pretty adamant about Aniak and Galena
28 so I don't remember the cost analysis, I think it was
29 break even. It's dependent on the charter and so I
30 don't remember it, but anyways he approved it.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: But I don't think he
35 approved it as a hub.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So Aniak is
38 one of our hub villages. If we meet in Galena, we
39 would be pretty much good to go to Aniak. And the 5th
40 and 6th are good for me and the Council seems to be
41 agreeable to that.

42

43 (Council nods affirmatively)

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that seems to be
46 the meeting dates and place for the fall meeting.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know of any other
49 organization reports, I think they were all presented
50 yesterday.

1 As far as Regional Council
2 appointments, we've already covered that. That's just
3 a place keeper, if you have an appointment to an SRC,
4 Subsistence Resource Commission.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know of any.
9 Unless you want to revisit your Coordinating Fishery
10 Committee members but I don't think you need to for the
11 Yukon and the Kuskokwim. Ray is heavily involved with
12 the Kuskokwim Salmon Working Group and Carl, and so
13 there's no other appointments.

14
15 The correspondence sent and received is
16 just for the record, for you guys to know. If you're
17 not getting the correspondence, let me know, but
18 basically when it comes in I just copy it and send it
19 out. I tend to stamp it with red if it's a copy, it
20 says for your review or something, so you know it's a
21 copy and not one that's directed towards you. So
22 that's available. So unless there's questions on
23 correspondence.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I've reviewed all
26 the correspondence and it's received in a timely
27 manner, plus Vince emails me things that need to be
28 addressed and I wanted the Council to be aware that
29 I've upgraded, I put in a digital satellite dish at my
30 house so I can download these big attachments and stuff
31 and so I also want OSM to be aware that there's certain
32 expenses that the Chairmanship incurs and so I've had
33 to upgrade my computer and upgrade my telecommunication
34 system primarily because of the large attachments and
35 I'm not asking for any money but I just want people to
36 be aware that it's just not -- these things don't just
37 occur in these villages and these technologies are
38 wanted by the utilization of the Councils, that these
39 things cost people considerably more in these rural
40 sites and so I just want the OSM and the Council to be
41 aware but I am up to speed, so to speak, now, and can
42 take these larger attachments and I can go on the -- I
43 could not go on the OSM website and get anything off of
44 it, my phone would disconnect and the downloads were so
45 huge, there was no way I was going to do that at 14K, I
46 have 150K now and so I can take these large attachments
47 and can review things in a more timely manner to
48 optimize the efficiency of what I'm doing. So you got
49 a point there, Vince?

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I think that'd be
2 something that you need to talk about when all the
3 Chairs get together because the trend with the agencies
4 is to go to the web and put it on the web and you draw
5 it down and.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS:for many people that
10 we deal with in rural Alaska that's not an option.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

13
14 MR. MATHEWS:or it's a very
15 difficult option. So I think it needs to be reminded
16 that as the agencies move forward in that direction
17 they have to have alternate ways, which would be like
18 CDs or hardcopies or something like that, but it is --
19 the trend is to say it's out on the web.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The other aspect is
22 I've had to spend considerable amount of time learning
23 the computer because I was not computer literate until
24 two and a half years ago and so I got a Mac lap top
25 computer and I can do anything I need to do with it but
26 it took me a while to learn all those things and so
27 there's quite a bit of rigmarole that goes along with
28 this Chairmanship, and Ron complained about that and so
29 I was helping him out and I was like, oh, my gosh,
30 yeah, there's -- I'm on the phone with Vince or -- in
31 email contact with Vince every working day almost and
32 so there's quite some stuff going on about timber or
33 whatever it might be. And so just wanted the Council
34 to be aware of that.

35
36 And so I've reviewed all the
37 correspondence, the Council's reviewed that, and so we
38 are coming down on the end of the agenda here. Vince,
39 you got another point.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we do have some real
42 important things, there's several of them, and I'll ask
43 Polly to address two of them and then there's two more
44 beyond that. So these are items that are not on the
45 agenda that came up afterwards but they're quite
46 important.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Polly.

49
50 DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 I'm actually going to read this into the record -- or
2 speak it into the record because I think it's important
3 and OSM thinks it's important, so if you'll bear with
4 me here.

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On behalf of the Federal Subsistence Management Program and the Office of Subsistence Management, it gives me great pleasure to present Ray Collins and Jack Reakoff with certificates and recognition gifts as tokens of our appreciation for your 15 years of volunteer service, that would be 15 years each, 30 years combined.

In the 15 years that you have both served on the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, you have not only shared your insights, you have provided valuable leadership to the Council.

These actions have been a benefit to the subsistence users of the region, the Council and especially the Federal Subsistence Management Program.

Your insights, experience and traditional knowledge have been critical to the success of the Federal Regional Advisory Council system and to the development of subsistence hunting and fishing regulations and management plans on Federal and State and private lands.

Both of you have made an extra effort to be a bridge between Western Science and traditional knowledge by understanding the world of statistics, survey techniques, and technical writing. Your efforts have moved complex and contentious subsistence issues, imagine that, from impasse to mutual understanding and recognition of common ground.

Ray. Your volunteer efforts with public participation with natural resource management have gone well

1 beyond serving on the Regional Council.
2 You have also served as Chair person on
3 the McGrath Advisory Committee and the
4 Denali National Park Subsistence
5 Resource Commission. You've served as
6 a voting member on the Kuskokwim River
7 Salmon Management Working Group. And a
8 key member on a long list of wildlife
9 planning groups that have provided the
10 Federal Subsistence Management Program
11 with an extensive information network.
12 It wasn't easy wearing all these
13 different hats, but you're able to
14 develop a network that benefits each
15 group while providing a voice for the
16 rural subsistence users. You also
17 bring to the table a solid
18 understanding of traditional Alaska
19 Native subsistence practices from your
20 academic research as well as living a
21 traditional subsistence lifestyle.

22
23 Jack. Your volunteer advisory role
24 also goes well beyond the Regional
25 Council and include serving on the
26 Gates of the Arctic National Park
27 Subsistence Resource Commission, the
28 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee and
29 the Friends of the Alaska National
30 Wildlife Refuges. Through these
31 volunteer roles, along with your
32 willingness to reach out to work with
33 other groups and work with various
34 agency staff, which I recognize can be
35 difficult at times, you've worked one
36 on one and you've built bridges of
37 communication and cooperation between
38 agencies and the various fish and
39 wildlife user groups. In your private
40 endeavors as a tour guide, you've
41 exposed visitors to Alaska from around
42 the world to the riches and challenges
43 of living a traditional subsistence
44 lifestyle in rural Alaska. Your
45 outreach efforts were not limited to
46 face to face meetings and this is
47 something that your fellow Council
48 members may not be aware, but they also
49 included starring in a film, the Gates
50 of the Arctic, The Brooks Range, a

1 National Park Service and Alaska
2 Geographic Production.

3
4 Ray, and Jack, through your tireless
5 voluntary participation in the
6 different arenas of fish and wildlife
7 management, the Federal Subsistence
8 Management Program and its agencies
9 have expanded their bridges within
10 these different arenas and helped
11 foster solutions that were more
12 comprehensive, expansive and
13 longlasting.

14
15 So I have here these certificates and
16 recognition gifts, which are really a heartfelt
17 expression of the program's deep appreciation for all
18 of the work that you've done. And I'm here in my
19 official capacity as an OSM representative but also on
20 a personal note I've worked with both of you back for a
21 long time, probably longer than we care to remember and
22 I really, really, really appreciate your efforts, in
23 particular, and obviously the whole Council, but from a
24 personal note and also a professional note we thank you
25 very, very much. So I have these certificates and I do
26 have a -- it'd be nice if somebody had a camera that we
27 could take a picture when we give these certificates,
28 and these tokens -- tokens, I would add, of our
29 appreciation.

30
31 So thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you,
34 Polly.

35
36 (Applause)

37
38 DR. WHEELER: And they actually come
39 with their own padded envelope too so you can bring
40 them home in one piece.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 DR. WHEELER: Ray, here's your
45 certificate, here, take that with you.

46
47 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

1 DR. WHEELER: And there's yours.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Take one with
4 Polly.
5
6 DR. WHEELER: Thank you.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 (Picture taking session)
11
12 DR. WHEELER: And I'll shake your hand
13 too, a left-handed handshake. Very good, thank you
14 guys.
15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.
17
18 (Laughter)
19
20 DR. WHEELER: You probably don't want
21 to try to walk on the plane with them, you might get in
22 trouble there.
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're on Warbelow's,
25 no problem.
26
27 (Laughter)
28
29 MR. MATHEWS: There's another award and
30 then there's another award.
31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay.
33
34 MR. MATHEWS: The letter that goes with
35 this, Ray, I think you got it in the mail already. But
36 this is in recognition of the four Council members that
37 went to the Kodiak North Pacific Fishery Management
38 Council meeting, and the program was really honored to
39 have that amount of effort and participation in that,
40 so this plus the letter, which didn't make it here, is
41 in recognition of Ray going to that Kodiak meeting, and
42 that's the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
43 meeting.
44
45 (Applause)
46
47 MR. MATHEWS: You just can't throw it
48 at Staff.
49
50 (Laughter)

1 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And then there's
2 one more. It's been the tradition with this Council
3 when someone has served very well, to give them
4 recognition and this is one for Ron Sam, so if he would
5 step up here because this is Ron Sam's last meeting.
6 Ron Sam, I don't like putting my back to people, I'll
7 come over here, I'm getting nervous because it's hard
8 to read all this stuff -- no, it's not hard to read,
9 it's just that Ron has been the backbone of this
10 Council.

11
12 So this is not the award he's going to
13 get. The reason I pushed all the pictures is that if
14 those who are on the Council remember when Benedict
15 Jones had that placque, we will make a placque based on
16 a picture with all you Council members on it, and on
17 that plaque it will say:

18
19 Thank you for your hard work,
20 leadership and courage, during your 12
21 years of service on the Western
22 Interior Alaska Regional Advisory
23 Council, Ron Sam, from 1996 to 2008.

24
25 And this quote I found somewhere and I
26 thought it matched Ron very, very well, and this is
27 from Winston Churchill:

28
29 It says:

30
31 Courage is what it takes to stand up
32 and speak; Courage is also what it
33 takes to sit down and listen.

34
35 And Ron is both of those. So real
36 quickly I'll give the recognition background, it says:

37
38 In the 12 years, Ron, you have served
39 admirably on this Council. You have
40 shared insights and knowledge to the
41 benefit of the Federal Subsistence
42 Program and the users of the region.
43 It was clear to all that you were
44 willing and able to step up and take
45 charge on issues important to residents
46 of your regions and the resources they
47 depended on. You are a recognized
48 Native leader for the Koyukuk River
49 area and Interior Alaska. This
50 recognition is based on your knowledge

1 of fish and wildlife resources and your
2 active subsistence lifestyle.

3
4 Your leadership positions with your
5 village, tribe, and Tanana Chiefs,
6 Doyon Limited, the Koyukuk River Fish
7 and Game Advisory Committee and this
8 present Council.

9
10 You work hard to listen and understand
11 other viewpoints on complex and
12 contentious issues. All viewpoints
13 new, you sought out areas of common
14 interest, and that was very clear in
15 that management process for the Koyukuk
16 River. I think Ron was the one that
17 kept that alive and recognized that
18 there was other interests and showed
19 respect to them. That's what I observed
20 as the turning point in that whole
21 process.

22
23 Under your guidance and hard work,
24 comprehensive wildlife planning efforts
25 were successful within your region.
26 Without your leadership the planning
27 efforts would have produced nothing and
28 opposing interests would have returned
29 to pointing fingers at each other.

30
31 Not only did the Federal Subsistence
32 Program and agencies recognize the
33 leadership but is also recognized and
34 capitalized on being reelected to the
35 Chair, if you guys remember, you guys
36 constantly would not let him step down
37 as Chair until finally he said he had
38 enough.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 Your insight and experience were
43 critical in the development of
44 subsistence management for the Western
45 Interior region. Your efforts and
46 tireless dedication provided an
47 invaluable bridge between the world of
48 Western science and traditional
49 ecological knowledge as well as
50 cooperative relationships between the

1 users and the managers. And all the
2 managers I know have always spoke very
3 highly of you, Ron, because they always
4 knew they could go to you and find out
5 what you felt and what the region felt
6 and you were going to be really honest
7 with them, and disagree, but the
8 disagreement stopped there, it didn't
9 continue on to other issues.

10
11 The Western Interior.....

12
13 MR. SAM: Okay.

14
15 (Laughter)

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: The Western Interior
18 Regional Advisory Council and others give you this
19 award, it'll be a placque sent to him and it will be a
20 lot colorful than this, give you this award as an
21 expression of our deep appreciation for your
22 contributions to the Federal Subsistence Program but
23 more importantly to the subsistence users of the
24 Western Interior region.

25
26 Thank you, Ron.

27
28 (Applause)

29
30 MR. SAM: Yes.....

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: You want another one.

33
34 (Picture taking session)

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Ron.

37
38 DR. WHEELER: We still have to get a
39 picture of everybody outside.

40
41 MR. SAM: Yeah, on behalf of all of you
42 Council members and Staff I heartedly accept this
43 award, but like Jack covered a little earlier, I'm not
44 computer literate and half the time our tribal council,
45 Allakaket Tribal Council, the city of Allakaket can't
46 get on line because everything just keeps breaking down
47 there and that's one of the other reasons that I
48 stepped down, too, is I just had to go through
49 everything page by page, booklets, proposals, that
50 Vince and I would go through every time, and now I'm

1 glad that Jack's on line and everything, he can step up
2 to bat on any issues that come out before this Council.

3

4 I surely appreciate all of your
5 endeavors, help and your guidance plus your foresight
6 to look forward to every other meeting. Thank you all
7 the Council members, and Staff, thank you.

8

9 (Applause)

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted to express
12 my appreciation to Ron. I've worked with him on many
13 different issues and many different contentious fights.
14 One time I spoke against a proposal and the proponent
15 was at the meeting, Ron said I -- I says I hope I
16 didn't make George mad, Ron says, nope, we're
17 professionals, we don't take it home with us, or
18 something to that effect. Ron has always acted in a
19 professional manner, never taking these things
20 personally, recognizing that there are differences, but
21 still trying to work through those, and that's really
22 the key to dealing with these kinds of issues. And so
23 I highly appreciate Ron's service with this Council and
24 I'm looking forward to still hearing input, hopefully,
25 on various proposals that affect his community and
26 area.

27

28 And so do you have something to say
29 here, Ray, about your award?

30

31 MR. COLLINS: Well, it's, you know,
32 thank you, I appreciate this recognition. And I'm just
33 hoping that my actions are actually benefiting the
34 people of the region because that's been the whole
35 motivation is to kind of pay back. My education came
36 from living in Nickoli and taking part in subsistence
37 life there and learning the language and so on and this
38 is a way to use that information and these
39 opportunities to benefit the people that took me in and
40 helped me, so thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I am in appreciation
43 of the award and recognition for my service here. But
44 I also have to share that award with my Council and my
45 Council helps me in these deliberations and so I cannot
46 take all of the credit for that. Any knowledge that I
47 bring to this Council comes from the elders that I was
48 associated to. I have a friend in Nenana that's 105
49 years old right now, Benny Albert. and so I have had
50 the luxury of having elders associated in the places

1 where I lived that conveyed a lot of knowledge, and so
2 I appreciate the elders advice and explanation about
3 how things all work over time, and time is the
4 advantage of the elders, you know, their experience.

5
6 And so I want to express my
7 appreciation to OSM for all of their support to our
8 Councils and to making, hopefully, the benefit of the
9 resource, the subsistence users, so that we'll have
10 these opportunities for subsistence use for infinity
11 and that would be my objective of sitting on this
12 Council, so thank you very much.

13
14 Any other business Vince.

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: No, I think that's it,
17 other than adjournment but we do need to get the
18 pictures so don't take off and I'll leave that up to
19 Polly and a couple others to organize that.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: You know, because it
24 would be easier to have one person doing that. But for
25 all the other ones taking pictures with their digitals,
26 try to share them, because I work with Arctic Refuge
27 Staff to make that plaque so the best picture we can
28 get they'll be able to work with it to make it as
29 impressive, if not even more impressive to your past
30 elder, Benedict Jones, so thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're at the
33 point in the agenda of closing comments, and I would
34 like to start with Ron.

35
36 MR. SAM: Yes, thank you again. Like I
37 said the award I just received, it wasn't totally all
38 my efforts, and as Jack stated I don't think he'll get
39 rid of me, we're right next door neighbors, if there's
40 any feelings or any indication of being a troublesome
41 issue, we just get on the phone and stay on the phone
42 until we're happy with what the conclusion or what we
43 hope is the conclusion of any issues that are
44 contentious.

45
46 Like he stated, too, we're not afraid
47 to, even if we disagree before our meeting, we'll still
48 disagree, just like Carl did so graciously yesterday,
49 and that's part of our professionalism and I really
50 appreciate all your efforts here, Staff's efforts and

1 even like what Carl did yesterday, you stand up for
2 what you believe in and be professional about it.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Winchell.

7

8 MR. TICKNOR: I was kind of happy to be
9 here. I'm always glad to see you guys and you guys
10 have a lot of insights that I'm trying to learn and
11 sometimes it's difficult but I'm trying, and I really
12 appreciate McGrath here and I want to thank all of you
13 for coming.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Winchell.

16 Don.

17

18 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
19 congratulate you guys and I feel that under your
20 leadership and under Ron's past leadership, I believe
21 that we can make a difference out there, we do make a
22 difference. And, you know, the Federal Subsistence
23 Board backs our proposals pretty much and I believe
24 that we're a good working group, we have varied
25 interests but I just wanted to thank Ron in the past
26 for being a mentor to me before we even got on here --
27 before I even got on to this board talking about
28 hunting and fishing issues. So I appreciate him, he's
29 helped throughout the years on hunting and fishing
30 issues.

31

32 And this is kind of historic to have
33 the North Pacific Fisheries Management -- to be a first
34 -- to be able to meet with them and voice our concerns.
35 I'm appreciative of them coming. And even though we
36 went kind of fast yesterday, you know, I would have
37 liked to have thanked Brandy at TCC for her help in
38 developing proposals and writing up grants for us and
39 helping us in that department. We just don't seem to
40 have the time at the time to do that and in the future
41 maybe -- I felt that this was kind of a lot to do in
42 the amount of time we had but I enjoyed my stay here in
43 McGrath, and it's always good to visit and it was a
44 productive meeting.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. Jenny.

49

50 MS. PELKOLA: Thank you. I also want

1 to congratulate all of you that got awards. And, Ron,
2 when I went to my first meeting I was very impressed
3 with your leadership. I want to congratulate you and I
4 hope you don't step out of the picture but will be
5 there -- will be available for us new people on the
6 board. And I am feeling more comfortable and I
7 remember my first meeting I didn't know what was going
8 on but now I'm listening and I'm not very vocal at this
9 time but I hope to be in the future, and I just want to
10 say that I enjoy working with all you men, and.....

11

(Laughter)

12

13
14 MS. PELKOLA:thank you for
15 treating me well. And, you know, thank Staff and the
16 visitors.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate those
21 comments, Jenny. Mickey.

22

23 MR. STICKMAN: I, too, want to
24 congratulate you and Ray on your 50 [sic] years of
25 service, and also Ron on his leadership for -- he was
26 the vice Chair and then the Chair for all the years
27 that I've been here until you took over and one of the
28 things I'm glad -- you know, I mean Ron hit the nail on
29 the head when he said, you know, he had to -- you know
30 it put a lot of pressure on Ron to be the Chair not
31 being able to have the modern technology available to
32 him on a daily basis so it seems -- well, I mean one
33 thing I know for sure under your Chairmanship it's not
34 something that we're going to have to worry about
35 because there's a lot of things that you can miss if
36 you don't have the technology that's available today in
37 your hands and -- but still, you know, one of the
38 things that I always think about is even though Ron
39 didn't have that technology and even though we only
40 have two meetings a year, when we sit on this Council
41 we still make a difference that's measurable to the
42 subsistence users in our region, and that's one of the
43 things that I'm real proud of when I sit here on this
44 Council is that we do make a measurable difference even
45 though we only have two meetings a year, and the
46 difference is to the people that we represent, the
47 subsistence users and that's my main reason for serving
48 is, you know, because I'm a user and I'm going to be
49 out there until I kick the bucket, you know, and I
50 don't have no plans to move to any kind of urban

1 setting or I probably never will, you know, of course
2 I've had opportunities but never ever jumped on them,
3 you know, and I probably won't. So, you know, I just
4 enjoy the river too much and I just enjoy living out
5 there in Nulato too much.

6

7 But, yeah, once again I want to thank
8 the rest of the Council members and, of course, I
9 wanted to thank the Staff, you know, everything we do
10 is, you know, we all do this work together, I mean, you
11 know, and no one person can say I've done it, you know,
12 because we all do it together. And I think we all
13 share the same hope of making a different, not just for
14 ourselves but for all the people and for that I just
15 wanted to say thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Mickey, very
18 good words. Ray.

19

20 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, thank you, Jack.
21 Yeah, it was a good meeting and I always seem to learn
22 something new when we come to these meetings. I know
23 we get an education, I was really appreciative of the
24 presentations here that we heard from North Pacific and
25 others to bring us up to date on that. And also I want
26 to thank you for your donations last night, I checked
27 with Christine and they received a little over \$460
28 from you for the school kids there, and I also passed
29 on your appreciation for the meal to them and to share
30 it with the students because they did a good job I
31 thought.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

34

35 MR. COLLINS: And I'm glad to have you
36 here in McGrath and I hope, even if we're not a hub,
37 that you'll think about coming back sometime in the
38 future.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: James.

43

44 MR. J. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 I'd like to thank Staff for their dedicated work that
46 they do and I'd like to thank all the agencies that
47 gave their presentations, it was really informative for
48 me. I enjoyed listening to it. It gave me some
49 insight on the concerns that we're facing.

50

1 I'd also like to congratulate both of
2 you for your years of service and dedication.

3
4 And since I'm the newest member in a
5 one year term with a three year appointment.....

6
7 (Laughter)

8
9 MR. J. WALKER:I'd like to say
10 thank you for this opportunity to be here and I enjoyed
11 the meeting.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you very much,
16 James.

17
18 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I, like everybody
19 else, to congratulate you and Ray. And, you know,
20 every meeting you learn something and it was really
21 nice having the North Pacific here, that's the first
22 time I've sit here where they did come and I'm glad
23 we're starting to have that outreach and they do
24 understand that it's very important to have that
25 outreach and get to the people in the grassroots right
26 where it's really -- they're the most affected.

27
28 Also in closing, I'd like to thank Ron
29 for his years in the Western Interior. I'd like to
30 thank you for all the knowledge you've brought me,
31 you've lighted up my life in ways you don't know. You
32 can't put it in words, it's a feeling you got here, you
33 know, it comes from here to here, it goes from here to
34 here.

35
36 But anyway I'd just like to leave you
37 with this closing comment, that you know you're not
38 mushing your way into the sunset, you're mushing your
39 way into the sunrise, good luck in whatever you do.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Excellent. I would
42 reiterate that myself, Carl.

43
44 And so my closing comments would be I
45 am very appreciative of the Council that we have and
46 the engagement of this Council. Western Interior has
47 been in the forefront of innovative planning efforts
48 and so forth and this Council has the strength to
49 continue to do that. And I'm also very appreciative of
50 our Staff support and so without Vince, Polly and all

1 of the OSM and the Refuge Staff's help this Federal
2 Management Program would not be cohesive and work and
3 so I'm very appreciative of all of the support that
4 this Council receives.

5
6 I'm appreciative to the community of
7 McGrath for providing a place for this meeting, fairly
8 good acoustics in here and so forth and so I am very
9 appreciative of the students providing that meal for us
10 and it was excellent food and you opening up your house
11 to us, Ray, I'm also appreciative of that.

12
13 The North Pacific Management Council
14 attendance is a landmark and we saw that with the
15 Koyukuk River planning group when we first started that
16 planning, the sporthunters sat on one side of the room
17 and we sat on the other, at the end of the planning
18 session we were in Huslia and they said well if it
19 comes down to the last moose, I won't hunt here, and so
20 I said isn't that a Federal subsistence priority, the
21 local people taking the resource, so they had come to
22 an understanding of how important utilizing these
23 resources are to the rural people, and so those Council
24 members, even though they're stolid about the kind of
25 economic forces that are pushing them, they'll think
26 about how much this resource means to the people and so
27 I was very appreciative to their attendance, and
28 especially the vice Chair there, Dave.

29
30 And so I think we had a great meeting
31 and I'm looking forward to continuing with various
32 issues. We have various proposals that we need to be
33 thinking about for various parts of the region to
34 continue to provide for subsistence needs with these
35 varying climatic conditions and so we have to
36 continuously be in flux and so this Council has the
37 ability to get Federal proposals and hopefully in the
38 future, State proposals that reflect subsistence uses.

39
40 And so those would be my comments at
41 the close of this meeting and so any other discussion
42 or comments.

43
44 Mickey.

45
46 MR. STICKMAN: No, thanks, Mr. Chair,
47 but I was just going to make a motion to adjourn the
48 meeting.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Got a motion to

1 adjourn.

2

3 MR. SAM: Second.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded. Those in
6 favor of adjournment signify by saying aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

11

12 (Off record)

13

14 (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:

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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 7th day of November 2008.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/12