

1 SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7 VOLUME I

8
9 Aurora Inn
10 Nome, Alaska
11 February 7, 2012
12 9:00 a.m.

13
14 Members Present:

15
16 Michael Quinn, Chairman
17 Reggie Barr
18 Peter Buck
19 Louis Green
20 Anthony Keyes - Telephonic
21 Elmer Seetot
22 Timothy Smith
23
24
25 Regional Council Coordinator - Alex Nick

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Nome, Alaska - 2/7/2012)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, I'm going to go ahead and call the meeting to order. Everybody's close enough to a microphone and our secretary can do a -- is the secretary here -- oh, who's the secretary, I forgot.

MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Mr. Buck.

CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, good. All right, then, Mr. Buck, go ahead and call roll.

MR. BUCK: Anthony Keyes, Jr.

(No comments)

MR. BUCK: Louis Green, Jr.

MR. GREEN: Here.

MR. BUCK: Tom Gray.

(No comments)

MR. BUCK: Reggie Barr.

MR. BARR: Here.

MR. BUCK: Fred Eningowuk.

(No comments)

MR. BUCK: Elmer Seetot, Jr.

MR. SEETOT: Here.

MR. BUCK: Mike Quinn.

CHAIRMAN QUINN: Here.

MR. BUCK: Timothy Smith.

MR. SMITH: Here.

MR. BUCK: We have one, two, three,

1 four, five, six -- six members.

2

3 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, go ahead, Alex.

4

5 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Mr. Keyes
6 couldn't make it in yesterday due to weather and also
7 their airstrip wasn't graded so the aircrafts couldn't
8 land. He is going to be conferencing this morning.
9 And also Mr. Gray and Mr. Eningowuk are excused from
10 this meeting.

11

12 Mr. Chair.

13

14 MR. BUCK: Okay, so we have seven.

15

16 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Then we'll do
17 our welcome, I'll welcome everybody.

18

19 I'll take this time to welcome Mr. Barr
20 to the group and then we'll have introductions and
21 we'll start with Mr. Barr.

22

23 MR. BARR: My name is Reggie Barr, I'm
24 from Brevig Mission. I was the Mayor of Brevig Mission
25 and also was on the Brevig Mission board of directors
26 and I served a three year term with NSEDC which ended
27 in 2010 and I am glad to be on board.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr., Brevig
32 Mission.

33

34 MR. GREEN: Louis Green, Jr., Nome.

35

36 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Mike Quinn, resident
37 of Nome.

38

39 MR. BUCK: Peter Buck, White Mountain.

40

41 MR. SMITH: I'm Tim Smith. I'm a Nome
42 resident. I'm the president of the Nome Fishermen's
43 Association.

44

45 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. All good, glad
46 to see the people that are here.

47

48 We're supposed to review and adopt the
49 agenda so I want to review number 5, election of
50 officers. What's DFO stand for Alex.

1 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. DFO stands for
2 designated Federal officer, which I am at the RAC
3 meetings.
4
5 Mr. Chair.
6
7 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh. How come it says
8 New Chair next to vice Chair and Secretary?
9
10 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. That's assuming
11 that a new Chair or a new vice Chair will be elected at
12 this meeting.
13
14 Mr. Chair.
15
16 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Well, I'm going
17 to suggest to our members here that we make a change in
18 the agenda. I'd like to move number 5, election of
19 officers, to between 12 and 13 so that I can run this
20 meeting and then at the end of the meeting we'll elect
21 -- have our election and finish the agenda at that time
22 and my reasoning for doing that is since I'm a little
23 more familiar with this, I guess, I'll just get this
24 meeting done today as best as possible and then, you
25 know, of course doing everything properly and then
26 we'll have our election instead of putting the new
27 Chair in to go through this. So if everybody's okay
28 with that.
29
30 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair.
31
32 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Tim.
33
34 MR. SMITH: I'll make a motion to move
35 that agenda item to between 12 and 13 and hold the
36 officer elections towards the end of this meeting.
37
38 MR. BUCK: Second.
39
40 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, there's a
41 second. Any discussion.
42
43 (No comments)
44
45 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All in favor say aye.
46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.
48
49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Any opposed.
50

1 (No opposing votes)
2
3 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. So we move
4 elections to after number 12.
5
6 I'll entertain a motion to adopt this
7 agenda if anybody's got any -- oh, go ahead, Helen.
8
9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. Just two
10 things. I don't believe on -- it's not that big a deal
11 but under 7D and E, that you have any committee reports
12 or working group reports, this was from a template, so
13 you could just scratch those.
14
15 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Great, okay.
16
17 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Just to make it a
18 little easier as you go along.
19
20 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. So do you
21 want to move to adopt this agenda.
22
23 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair, so moved.
24
25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, we got a motion.
26
27 MR. SMITH: I'll second that motion. I
28 had a possible addition.
29
30 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, well, sorry, then
31 go ahead.
32
33 MR. SMITH: Under old business, is
34 there anybody here that can give us an update on what's
35 happening with chum salmon bycatch in the pollock trawl
36 industry, what the Council's doing on reducing chum
37 salmon bycatch? Can you do that Helen, can you give us
38 the latest on that?
39
40 MR. GREEN: That would be under D,
41 right?
42
43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm really not
44 qualified to do that but we could have somebody call in
45 and do that, Don Rivard, I think, in the office.
46
47 MR. SMITH: Okay.
48
49 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So I could just step
50 out and see. Where would you like that on the agenda?

1 MR. SMITH: I was thinking under old
2 business.
3
4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.
5
6 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Can we add that as D
7 for old business.
8
9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: All right. Let me
10 go call the office and see if we can have him call in.
11
12 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Back to a new
13 motion, anyone, to accept the agenda.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 REPORTER: You already have a motion.
18
19 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh.
20
21 MR. GREEN: We have it already.
22
23 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, okay. And I did
24 have a second, right?
25
26 REPORTER: Yes, you do.
27
28 CHAIRMAN QUINN: So any discussion.
29
30 (No comments)
31
32 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All those in favor say
33 aye.
34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.
36
37 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Any opposed.
38
39 (No opposing votes)
40
41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. So the
42 agenda's adopted.
43
44 Previous meeting minutes. So first I'm
45 going to ask Tim -- well, because I think we still
46 didn't approve the minutes from a year ago, right,
47 Tina?
48
49 REPORTER: Yes, right.
50

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Alex.

2

3 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. There was some
4 corrections that needed for -- I believe for fall
5 meeting, last winter, and at the time Tim and I, we
6 were directed to work on those minutes and we haven't
7 been able to get together, either by phone or either by
8 other means like email or whatever and we haven't done
9 that. So, Mr. Chair, Tim and I, we talked about it,
10 finally yesterday, I believe, and we are committed to
11 make corrections on that at the direction of the
12 Council.

13

14 Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Now, that's
17 actually last February's meeting minutes.

18

19 MR. NICK: Yeah.

20

21 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. So we'll now
22 move -- if you're still working on that then we'll move
23 to last October's meeting.....

24

25 MR. GREEN: September.

26

27 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Or September, thank
28 you. September's meeting minutes, those are in here?

29

30 MR. NICK: Those are here, yes, the
31 draft are in your workbook.

32

33 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh.

34

35 MR. NICK: And we worked as fast as we
36 can, I don't know if Council members received a copy of
37 the book, the workbook before you come to this meeting.

38

39 Mr. Chair.

40

41 MR. SMITH: I did.

42

43 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

46

47 MR. BUCK: As secretary maybe we can go
48 through this September 21st, 22nd meeting, page by page
49 so that we can have an idea of -- maybe we can just
50 start with Page 4 and go that way.

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah.
2
3 MR. BUCK: And then Page 5.
4
5 (No comments)
6
7 MR. BUCK: Page 6.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 MR. BUCK: Page 7.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 MR. BUCK: Page 8.
16
17 (No comments)
18
19 MR. BUCK: Page 9, on reports.
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 MR. BUCK: Page 10.
24
25 (No comments)
26
27 MR. BUCK: Page 11.
28
29 (No comments)
30
31 MR. BUCK: And, Page 12.
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, I'll take a
36 motion if anybody wants to make one.
37
38 MR. GREEN: So moved.
39
40 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, a motion to
41 accept the minutes as they appear.
42
43 MR. BUCK: Second.
44
45 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Second. Any
46 discussion.
47
48 (No comments)
49
50 CHAIRMAN QUINN: And all those in favor

1 say aye.
2
3 IN UNISON: Aye.
4
5 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Any opposed.
6
7 (No opposing votes)
8
9 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, minutes are
10 done. We'll move on to reports, Council member
11 reports. Any Council members got a report.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. My report.
16 What's my report, Alex?
17
18 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. We do have copy
19 -- Mr. Chair.
20
21 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yes, go ahead.
22
23 MR. NICK: We do have copy of the.....
24
25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Our annual report on
26 Page 13?
27
28 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair, maybe I'm
29 confused.
30
31 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, so my report is
32 on Page 13, I'm guessing, uh. I'll leave that for each
33 of us to read.
34
35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. Helen
36 Armstrong. The annual report review is Item 10 on the
37 agenda so it's coming up in a minute.
38
39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, this one?
40
41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.
42
43 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.
44
45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, the review of
46 the annual report.
47
48 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. All right.
49
50 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The Chair's report

1 is just if there's anything -- I mean if you had -- for
2 example, if you had been able to attend the Board
3 meeting you might have wanted to say something about
4 that. It's an opportunity for you to speak.

5
6 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Well, for
7 circumstances both within my control and out of my
8 control nobody from here attended the Federal Board
9 meeting. However, Alex, you were there, was there
10 anything of astounding importance that happened there
11 that we should hear about?

12
13 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Under the
14 .805(c) all I got is just a copy of the -- which I
15 didn't make copies, I have a copy of the Board's
16 actions relating to all the Council recommendation --
17 well, all of the Board action -- all of the wildlife
18 proposals that you reviewed last September, the Board
19 acted on those. And I do have just one copy the Board
20 action document that everyone has, I think, I don't
21 have that .805(c) for the region here.

22
23 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, if I can.
24 That's the next item, 7C. The Board meeting just
25 occurred not too long ago and Alex has not got the
26 letter finalized yet and hasn't been approved yet, it
27 goes through a process before it can go out to the
28 public.

29
30 But the one item that I think that
31 might be of interest to this Council because it came up
32 many times over the years, was the brown bear
33 handicraft proposal.

34
35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, yeah.

36
37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And the Board did
38 support that. So it puts into place that if you're
39 going to sell brown bear claw handicrafts that you have
40 to seal the hide and then you'll get -- they're going
41 to change the sealing form that the State has.
42 There'll be a box now that says Federal subsistence
43 user, so there will be documentation that it was
44 legally harvested.

45
46 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Hum.

47
48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And, you know, from
49 what we heard from a lot of people out in rural Alaska,
50 there are a lot of people who have been hesitant to

1 make brown bear handicrafts from the claws because they
2 were afraid they might get cited and this will make it
3 a little bit more -- I mean it'll make it -- I mean it
4 was already legal but this documents that it's legal.

5
6 So that was the one that was probably
7 of most interest to this Council.

8
9 The other two statewide ones were
10 opposed.

11
12 There was a designated hunter proposal
13 that was opposed.

14
15 And the third one, which is escaping
16 me, wasn't one that was supported either.

17
18 And then there was a wolf proposal from
19 this region, Proposal 61, and that one was -- it was
20 opposed as well. That was one that was from the.....

21
22 MR. SMITH: Wildlife Alliance.

23
24 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, the wildlife
25 -- the people who advocate protecting wolves.

26
27 MR. SMITH: Yeah.

28
29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: But there were some
30 other proposals that weren't for this region that I
31 think were quite interesting that will be interesting
32 to see the sort of what happens with. There was a
33 proposal to close Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek in the
34 Arctic Village area to non-subsistence users and that
35 had a lot of public testimony, a lot of controversy
36 centered around that and the Board supported the
37 Council on that proposal as well.

38
39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: So they passed that?

40
41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh, they did.

42
43 CHAIRMAN QUINN: And those areas fall
44 within Arctic Refuge.....

45
46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The Refuge.

47
48 CHAIRMAN QUINN:so they're on
49 Federal land.

50

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Arctic Refuge, yeah.
2 They've gone back and forth from being closed and then
3 opened and then closed, but that was -- that had a lot
4 of testimony and a lot of discussion.

5
6 So -- all right, Alex gave me the list.
7 The -- oh, it was Proposal 12-03, which was the
8 statewide one from YK-Delta region and that was on
9 trapping for the incidental take one, and you had
10 opposed it and that one was also opposed.

11
12 And then the other one was --
13 Defender's of Wildlife, that's the name of that group,
14 61. You had opposed it, and that one also failed.

15
16 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Go ahead.

17
18 MR. SMITH: Helen, what happened on the
19 proposal to require sealing of each individual bear
20 claw, did that -- did they go with that or it just
21 died?

22
23 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: They did. Yeah, the
24 hide and the claws would be sealed. They supported
25 that.

26
27 CHAIRMAN QUINN: So the State has to
28 come up with -- they have to alter their one form.....

29
30 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right.

31
32 CHAIRMAN QUINN:and then they're
33 going to provide something to supposedly attach to each
34 handicraft?

35
36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: They're going to
37 give -- it'll be a copy, actually, of the sealing
38 certificate.

39
40 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, okay.

41
42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So they'll give you
43 whatever number of claws you have.

44
45 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Alrighty.

46
47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: All right. Any
48 other questions on that?

49
50 (No comments)

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And a copy of the
2 .805(c) letter will be available soon. Will you be
3 sending copies?
4
5 MR. NICK: I'll be sending copies.
6
7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Copies to all of the
8 Council members.
9
10 Thank you.
11
12 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman.
13
14 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.
15
16 MR. SMITH: I see we neglected to put
17 down a section for public comments on our agenda and I
18 think we should go back and rectify that. We have at
19 least one member of the public I'm sure that wants to
20 testify.
21
22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Where does that
23 go? I do remember public comment in the past.
24
25 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman. I like the
26 idea of having a public comment at the beginning of the
27 meeting and at the end of the meeting. I'd like to put
28 it at both places.
29
30 MR. GREEN: I concur on that.
31
32 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.
33
34 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair.
35
36 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Louis.
37
38 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair. I concur with
39 that and that would give an opportunity for those that
40 could come in the morning to be able to make comment
41 and then those that could run away from work,
42 basically, could come here in the afternoon and make
43 comment before we're done.
44
45 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Well, how about
46 if we just do.....
47
48 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.
49
50 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

1 MR. BUCK: I have the -- on the
2 presentation procedures for proposals is in front of us
3 and number 5 it says public comments and I think
4 that.....

5
6 MR. GREEN: Where is it?
7

8 MR. BUCK:it covers pretty much
9 of what we need to cover.

10
11 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, we can do some
12 public comments right now since we're going through
13 reports and then we'll get on to the business.

14
15 Can I just go ahead and accept public
16 comments, Alex?

17
18 MR. NICK: It's up to you.

19
20 MR. GREEN: You're the Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Alrighty. I'll
23 now open the floor for anyone who wants to make public
24 comments that's not otherwise on this agenda.

25
26 Go ahead, Chuck.

27
28 MR. FAGERSTROM: Good morning, Mr.
29 Chair and members of the Board. I'm Chuck Fagerstrom,
30 president of Sitnasuak Native Corporation.

31
32 I'm glad you put this picture in front.
33 And what's missing on it? It says fish camp on the
34 beach of Norton Sound. What's missing is a fish rack
35 full of fish. And who's to blame, I have no idea. You
36 know is it something happening in our rivers, in State
37 waters, Federal waters, International waters? But this
38 impacts our way of life here. Most Sitnasuak
39 shareholders are subsistence type families, I come from
40 that way of life. It was a good experience.

41
42 But in 2012 Sitnasuak Native
43 Corporation is going to advocate for enhancement of
44 fish in our rivers. We're going to be communicative.
45 We're going to be cooperative. We talked to Nome
46 Eskimo Community to see how we could work together. We
47 have seven rivers in our region but then also we impact
48 other rivers that are in other Native corporation
49 lands. To the west is the Pilgrim, Teller and Brevig.
50 To the east is the Solomon, Solomon Native Corporation.

1 A little further is the Niukluk and the Fish which
2 impacts your rivers. But Sitnasuak does want to work
3 cooperatively and we want to spread the word and I
4 think everybody realizes that we've had problems in the
5 past, how far back does that go, I think you all know
6 that. But Sitnasuak does want to become involved in
7 advocating and being involved in fish enhancement for
8 -- right now our seven rivers of our withdrawal area.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, the first
13 question that comes to my mind, Chuck, is, does this
14 mean you're jumping into the fray with some money too?

15

16 MR. FAGERSTROM: I think eventually
17 once we -- well, let me go back. January it was kind
18 of getting organized to see and how we were going to
19 approach this. We had good communications with six
20 individuals of the Alaska Fish and Game, Sam Rayburn
21 and Ron and I can't remember all the last names, but we
22 met with six of them and we're trying to develop our
23 knowledge of the situation. I think before we move and
24 advocate we have to inform ourselves, we have to
25 communicate and that's what we're doing. And then once
26 we develop a plan, I think that's when we'll have to
27 consider financial support for whatever we do.

28

29 CHAIRMAN QUINN: And when you talk
30 about enhancement, I'm assuming you're meaning
31 hatchery?

32

33 MR. FAGERSTROM: Well, that's -- I
34 don't think I should speak on that right now. We're
35 having a session tomorrow with Tim Smith, he has a lot
36 of knowledge. The next day we're meeting with Charlie
37 Lean from NSEDC to get his input and his thoughts. So
38 right now we're just in a knowledge gaining situation.

39

40 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

41

42 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

45

46 MR. SMITH: Chuck. I know you've had a
47 -- Sitnasuak's had a real long history of supporting
48 salmon restoration and enhancement efforts on Sitnasuak
49 land but, you know, for the benefit of the other people
50 here who haven't followed that, can you just kind of

1 describe what Sitnasuak has done in the past to try to
2 make things better with respect to salmon fishing here?

3

4 MR. FAGERSTROM: Well, probably you and
5 Louis can speak better on that. My involvement with
6 Sitnasuak started in June of 2011. Prior to that I was
7 an independent businessman and really didn't do too
8 much with fisheries. But all through life, I, as the
9 rest of you noticed that there's no fish in our rivers
10 so what can we do about it. I think the responsibility
11 falls on, not only Nome Eskimo Community, but
12 Sitnasuak, since Sitnasuak has approximately 2,600
13 shareholders, most of us are subsistence users. This
14 is a way of life, it provides food for us, and we've
15 been missing it, and we want to see full fish racks.

16

17 So, Mr. Chairman, I'd have to pass the
18 -- or, Tim, I'd have to pass what Sitnasuak has done
19 previously to Louis or whoever. Right now I don't have
20 any knowledge on that. I know we did support fish
21 tower counting. I think that was a start. And then
22 once we got that started then Kawerak took it over and
23 then now I think NSEDC is funding. And hopefully
24 NSEDC, I think this is one of the programs that they
25 should feel obligated to support. And, with that, it's
26 not only subsistence but commercial fishing. I think
27 the two go in hand very well together. It seems like
28 if -- especially on the Pilgrim, if we can get that run
29 up to a large run, you know, for both subsistence and
30 commercial. Last week my wife came back from Cordova,
31 she brought a small container of smoked salmon and that
32 came from the -- on it was a Copper River Red Smoked
33 Salmon, why can't we have Pilgrim River Red Salmon.

34

35 End of comment.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

40

41 MR. GREEN: To follow up on it. Back
42 as far as 1991, I know that Sitnasuak was involved in
43 the fact that they were leasing land to Fish and Game
44 and I think -- I'm not sure if NFA was at that level --
45 or at that time was at that level of doing stuff --
46 Tim, they were.....

47

48 MR. SMITH: (Nods affirmatively)

49

50 MR. GREEN:okay, but the fact

1 that that Sitnasuak allowed that to take place on their
2 lands was basically advocating for enhancement, they'd
3 agreed to it. The other thing is, is I got on the
4 board there in 1993 and Sitnasuak allowed myself and
5 Perry Mendenhall to attend Board of Fish meetings
6 advocating on behalf of Sitnasuak shareholders on the
7 fisheries issues in Anchorage, because that's where
8 most of the meetings were. There might have been a
9 couple other places to different places, but Sitnasuak
10 was certainly promoting the corporation's ability to
11 take part in any of the decisions that were being made.
12

13 We, as Chuck said, got involved in the
14 tower process through meetings that Perry and I
15 attended in Anchorage. We found that there was a blank
16 spot that was missing data so at that time everybody
17 thought at that time that tower counts were very
18 important so Sitnasuak got in the middle by, I think it
19 was a \$50,000 start up cost for the first tower in the
20 Eldorado. And it, at that time, directly impacted the
21 shareholders that utilize those streams for their
22 subsistence because it got a clean count early and I
23 think it was kind of like the earliest time that there
24 ever had been subsistence fishing allowed in the area.
25

26 So Sitnasuak has a long history of
27 being involved.
28

29 The also by 2000 involved in \$5 million
30 grant given to the area, I don't know -- Kawerak
31 basically took that over and Sitnasuak was involved in
32 what was happening there to a point.
33

34 So Sitnasuak has been involved. We've
35 reengaged again. I am on the board.
36

37 We do want to know what steps to take.
38

39 End of my comment.
40

41 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair.
42

43 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.
44

45 MR. SEETOT: In regards to Pilgrim
46 River, I think that there's two factors or two issues
47 that need to be looked at. One is the beaver
48 population, explosion, what impact does it have. And
49 also impact of northern pike in these waters because
50 that is a good place for pike to prey on fish. I seen

1 that over the past 10 years where there have been an
2 influx of beaver, even close to Brevig Mission. Sunset
3 Creek which is -- which used to be a mining -- or creek
4 that was mined before that you can go wade across, the
5 beaver have pretty much invaded these rivers and we
6 need to see or learn what impact these critters have,
7 you know, on the waters. I know that they provide us
8 with bad drinking water and stuff like that.

9

10 And also the increase of marine traffic
11 in or around Nome, a lot of mining activities, I think
12 that would impact maybe the chum salmon or other fish
13 that go into these waters.

14

15 But for the communities of Teller and
16 Brevig, I think we are pretty much, what we would be
17 called gatekeepers of the sockeye because they go
18 through our waters into the Pilgrim River. And we have
19 been self regulated pretty much by weather alone for
20 those on the Port Clarence side that set their nets
21 anywhere from Fourth of July to maybe August, we pretty
22 much predominately have south winds that prevent us
23 from fishing so we're kind of self regulated that way.
24 And I know that a lot of people from the Seward
25 Peninsula prize our sockeye. And there have been
26 restrictions made on the Pilgrim River for people to
27 harvest sockeye on that river so it has major impact.

28

29 One of the things that we kind of
30 overlook is the natural disasters that occur with the
31 very young fish or the eggs, stuff like that, the 2004
32 storm. People talk about not having enough fish
33 because they go through a cycle. That should also be
34 looked at. We have water and sewer coming into the
35 communities, what affect does that run off do with our
36 waters. And then you have, you know, other disasters
37 around the Pacific Ocean, most likely -- for example
38 Japan, you know, their debris, so these need to be
39 looked at.

40

41 Sometimes we just try to look at one
42 issue like salmon enhancement and that's all we do is
43 flood our rivers with eggs or trying to reintroduce the
44 species that was there but I think we also need to look
45 at how the rivers were used before that time. Because
46 chemicals do leach into the fresh water and then we
47 just keep pouring money without really actually looking
48 at the problem that that caused in the first place.

49

50 Thank you.

1 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN QUINN: uh-huh.

4

5

6 MR. BUCK: I agree with Elmer when he
7 talks about the beaver population because I think just
8 about the time that we started losing our fish and
9 stuff that's when the beaver population started coming
10 around this area and they stopped up the water flow and
11 they limit the feeding for the salmon and stopped them
12 from traveling. So I think that we have a direct
13 relationship between the beaver population and the
14 decrease of the fish in this area so I think that needs
15 to be looked at in some way.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Well, anything
20 else.

21

22 MR. SMITH: I have something.

23

24 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, okay, go ahead.

25

26 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I just wanted to
27 thank you for coming down, Chuck. You know we've
28 looked at -- you know we've been wrestling with this
29 issue for 30 years and we've been talking about beavers
30 and other factors for more than 30 years but nobody's
31 come up with anything that we can actually do about it.
32 You know, I haven't heard any proposal on anything that
33 we can do. The beaver harvesting rules couldn't get
34 any more liberal, it's year-round, beavers are open
35 year-round to hunting. You can't get any more liberal.

36

37 So in the interest of doing something
38 rather than just talking about it, I think we're going
39 to have to -- you know, whether beavers have an impact
40 or not is debatable but there really isn't much we can
41 do, you know, we can't open the seasons any more unless
42 we put a bounty on them or something, which doesn't
43 seem very likely, beavers are going to be here.

44

45 And so I think Chuck is on the right
46 track here, in that, some kind of salmon enhancement
47 through hatchery production is really the only thing we
48 haven't really tried in this region. We have tried
49 everything else. We tried long-term harvest
50 restrictions, Tier II, closing commercial fisheries;

1 we've just run out of options. There's just nothing
2 else that we can do that we haven't already done and
3 nothing we've done so far has worked, and so what else
4 are we going to do, we really do need to look seriously
5 at hatchery production I think.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 MR. FAGERSTROM: Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

12

13 MR. FAGERSTROM: One more comment. I'd
14 sure like to thank Mr. Seetot, Mr. Buck for your
15 comments. This is what Sitnasuak wants to gain,
16 knowledge, other ideas, and through that I think we can
17 build a good program. And I just hope the State.....

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. FAGERSTROM:through you

22 George.....

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MR. FAGERSTROM:you'll pass on to
27 whoever at Alaska Fish and Game, the concerns of not
28 only Sitnasuak, but Brevig Mission and White Mountain.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, thank you.

33

34 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair. I'd just like to
35 have one more public comment. I was thinking that we
36 should listen to our elders. I was talking to Joe
37 (Indiscernible) that were living in White Mountain
38 there, they were talking about the beaver population
39 and they always say go ahead and shoot all those
40 beavers, shoot every one you could, if we want pork, we
41 could get pork from the Yukon, so that's what they
42 always, their solutions, the elders were telling us
43 that what we should have did, all that time, a long
44 time ago. So I just wanted to make that comment.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

1 MR. GREEN: Just to reiterate what you
2 said, Joe, Joe told me the story about where they
3 killed off the last ones.....

4
5 MR. BUCK: Yeah.

6
7 MR. GREEN:way back when, so
8 control them, you have to take action.

9
10 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, thanks Chuck.

11
12 MR. FAGERSTROM: Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Is there anybody else
15 here from the public?

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. So we'll
22 move on to number 8, tribal consultation.

23
24 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
25 Chair. Helen Armstrong, OSM.

26
27 This is the opportunity for tribes and
28 ANCSA Corporations to make comments if we were doing
29 proposals that we were taking -- you know analysis --
30 we were listening to analysis, we would be looking for
31 some feedback from them on those. We don't have that
32 at this meeting and I don't know if anybody here wants
33 to speak on any issue.

34
35 I will point out that the tribal
36 consultation policy we were going to discuss a little
37 bit later on is on Page 16, and if the -- if Sitnasuak
38 had some comments on the tribal consultation policy
39 they could give those comments right now. Otherwise
40 there's not too much on the agenda that is something
41 people might want to comment on but they may want to
42 provide some proposals, although we could take those up
43 too with the call for proposals.

44
45 So I don't know if anybody has
46 anything.

47
48 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

49
50 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Alrighty. Well, we're
2 on number 9 regulatory proposals. Call for proposals
3 to change subsistence fish, shellfish regulations and
4 the deadline's March 30th.

5
6 I don't know there hasn't been anything
7 come up lately that I've heard of. Has your office
8 heard anything from this region?

9
10 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: Well, as you know
11 there aren't too many places where fish are managed by
12 the Federal Subsistence Program in this region.

13
14 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Uh-huh.

15
16 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So it's pretty
17 limited, Unalakleet River has some but -- so I don't
18 know if there's anything you'd want to make proposals
19 on.

20
21 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman.

22
23 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Tim.

24
25 MR. SMITH: I guess my question would
26 be, is there anything that would fall under this
27 purview, is there any -- are there any fisheries
28 managed under Federal rules -- Federal subsistence
29 rules?

30
31 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: If you look in your
32 reg booklet there on Page 23 of the reg booklet you can
33 see where the management is. In the map, actually the
34 map helps probably more than anything, so as I said the
35 Wild and Scenic River on the Unalakleet River, and then
36 down near Stebbins and St. Michaels, in that area
37 that's in the pink that's the Yukon Delta Wildlife
38 Refuge, all that area that's within that black line,
39 that's all managed by the Federal Subsistence Program,
40 and anything that's within the Bering Land Bridge
41 National Reserve that's in this region, that's also
42 managed, which isn't -- I mean I don't know how much
43 people are going up there. So those are the areas
44 where there's management and then the regulations are
45 on Page 23.

46
47 MR. SMITH: I'm a little uncertain how
48 this works. Aren't the rivers considered State waters?

49
50 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: If it's within a

1 conservation unit, that is, a Refuge or a Park or it's
2 -- can be -- or it's designated as a Wild and Scenic
3 River, or there's some other areas that don't fall into
4 that, like National Petroleum Reserve is a little
5 different, those are all Federal waters. Everything
6 that's within the boundaries of that conservation unit
7 is managed by the Federal Subsistence Management
8 Program, so we have jurisdiction. So in this region,
9 that's very little.

10

11 MR. SMITH: Uh-huh.

12

13 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: And it's been one of
14 the frustrations, I think, in this region because we
15 don't have -- you have so many problems with fish but
16 we don't have any ability to help fix that.

17

18 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, Louis.

21

22 MR. GREEN: I was just going to ask the
23 question of the Kuzitrin River is in the Bering Land
24 Bridge at the headwaters, is that.....

25

26 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: I think it is, right
27 -- yes, it is.

28

29 MR. GREEN: In other words that's
30 Federal jurisdiction.....

31

32 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: Right.

33

34 MR. GREEN:and not the State
35 anymore, okay.

36

37 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: If you see the
38 little black line that goes around the kind of
39 purplish-bluish color, everything within there. Okay.

40

41 MR. GREEN: Thanks.

42

43 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Well, if
44 there ain't that much for us to do, then if something
45 comes up before March 30th, somebody can get a proposal
46 in or work with the OSM on this.

47

48 So we'll move on to B, customary trade.

49

50 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: This is just an

1 informational item.

2

3 You probably recall that there was --
4 because -- and this comes before this Council even
5 though it has to do with the Yukon River chinook
6 because Stebbins and St. Michaels have customary and
7 traditional use determination for the Yukon River
8 chinook, so it becomes before you because of that. And
9 there was a tri-Council subcommittee that was looking
10 at the issue of customary trade of chinook and this
11 Council did make -- was asked, you know, what they
12 wanted to do on this and decided to defer to the three
13 regions that -- where this is a big issue for them
14 because it's just kind of a smaller issue for your --
15 only part of your Council, but I do just want to give
16 you an update as to what's happening.

17

18 We did have some very successful
19 committee meetings last spring and then late summer.
20 And the subcommittee came up with a recommendation and
21 then the recommendation was taken to two of the
22 Councils, it still needs to go to the -- no, I'm sorry,
23 it went to all the Councils and the recommendation that
24 went before them was that customary trade of the Yukon
25 River chinook could only occur between Federally-
26 qualified rural residents with a current customary and
27 traditional use determination and it would preclude
28 customary trade of Yukon River chinook salmon between
29 rural residents and others. And it would establish a
30 \$750 limit per calendar year per qualified household.
31 And it would require customary trade recordkeeping in a
32 receipt form.

33

34 So it went before the three Councils
35 and the YK-Delta supported the first recommendation but
36 some members felt that if a dollar limit imposed, \$750
37 was appropriate. The Western Interior Regional Council
38 met and they voted to support the first recommendation,
39 not the second. And then the Eastern Interior Council
40 met and also voted to support the first recommendation
41 but they were split.

42

43 So now what will happen is those three
44 Councils, at this meeting, because we're taking fish
45 proposals will develop, if they choose, a proposal to
46 change the customary trade regulations. Then it will
47 go through the process. We'll have an analysis of it,
48 it will come back before this Council in the fall and
49 then you'll be asked for your recommendation on that.

50

1 So that's where we are.

2

3 And I was also the person who -- David
4 Jenkins, who's head of the -- or not head, he's the
5 facilitator of the customary trade subcommittee, he
6 gave me the letter from YRDFA and just -- I thought it
7 might be just interesting to know that YRDFA only
8 recommends implementing these restrictions when there's
9 a time of shortage, and recommends that if conservation
10 measures are necessary that subsistence periods should
11 be reduced or shut down rather than addressing
12 customary trade, specifically.

13

14 So this is just informational to let
15 you know what's happening. I don't know if you have
16 any questions or comments.

17

18 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

21

22 MR. GREEN: Going back on these
23 boundaries, I was looking at the fact that BLM has some
24 boundaries there like on the Agiapuk River, are those
25 considered Federal or is that.....

26

27 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: That's a good --
28 that's a very good question because this certainly has
29 -- when we first started fisheries management around
30 2000, that was something that kind of confused us all,
31 but with BLM lands, it generally doesn't apply in the
32 same way, they're not considered conservation units.
33 They're not a, you know, a Refuge or a Park, they're
34 just -- they're just BLM lands.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: How else do I put
39 it, Dan.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So except for places
44 like NPR-A, and so it doesn't -- the fisheries
45 management doesn't apply in those cases.

46

47 MR. GREEN: And seemingly so because
48 Salmon Lake sockeye runs are not -- that's BLM land at
49 this point?

50

1 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: That's correct.
2
3 MR. GREEN: Too bad.
4
5 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: Dan, did you want to
6 add anything to my.....
7
8 MR. SHARP: The Wild and Scenic Rivers.
9
10 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, well, I --
11 yeah, and I said earlier Wild and Scenic Rivers, it
12 applies there.
13
14 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair.
15
16 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.
17
18 MR. SMITH: I've said this in the past
19 but I'd like to see this Advisory Council get a little
20 more involved in this issue. Because processing fish
21 and customary trade in dry fish has been a pretty
22 important industry and an important part of our economy
23 for hundreds of years here. Joe Garney tells me that
24 he grew up on Tukchuk Channel (ph) with his
25 grandparents, his grandparents raised him and they
26 processed fish all summer, that was their profession,
27 and they processed dry fish all summer and then in the
28 fall they brought -- at freeze up time they came down
29 and they sold their fish and they were distributed all
30 over the -- well, all over North America. Some of
31 their fish went to the Mounties into Canada to support
32 the human consumption and to feed the dogs. And lots
33 of other people did that back in the past and it still
34 is and has been a real important part of our economy.
35 So I'd like to have some involvement in it.
36
37 I'm concerned that the proposals that
38 are being made are way too restrictive.
39
40 You know, we don't want to throw the
41 baby out with the bathwater. I think there's been some
42 abuse of customary trade but that doesn't mean we want
43 to eliminate it as an option for people like Joe. Joe
44 is still a professional commercial fisherman, he fishes
45 all summer, he makes dry fish and he trades for other
46 products. And so we want to be careful not to limit it
47 too much. \$750 isn't very much money anymore. And to
48 me that seems way to low a limit.
49
50 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Helen.

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Let me just clarify.
4 This only applies to the Yukon River and only applies
5 to chinook and it's not a proposal yet.

6

7 So it'll come before you in the fall --
8 we'll see what the actual proposal is. Right now those
9 Councils are actually not supporting the limit. So I
10 wouldn't get hung up yet, right now on that because
11 it's not what they've proposed yet. That was an option
12 that the subcommittee came out with. And you guys are
13 welcome, you know, because you have C&T, two of your
14 communities have C&T, you could make a proposal
15 yourselves if you wanted, because we're calling for
16 proposals and, you know, you may want to go with the
17 first option and not the second option that they came
18 up with or just wait and see what those Councils
19 recommend.

20

21 So I mean the first option doesn't have
22 any -- and I may not have been clear about that when I
23 was reading it. The first option is only that it's
24 only allowed -- customary trade would only be allowed
25 between Federally-qualified subsistence -- or rural
26 residents who have C&T for Yukon River chinook and then
27 the second option was this \$750 limit and the
28 recordkeeping form, or you may just want to wait and
29 see what the three Councils come up with and provide
30 your recommendations then. But it will come before you
31 in the fall.

32

33 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman.

34

35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

36

37 MR. SMITH: And that may be good
38 enough, but it's just my -- judging from -- I
39 understand what you're saying that this applies to
40 Yukon River chinook salmon but these things tend to
41 become monuments once they go into place and it's
42 awfully hard to change something once you get it
43 established. So I really think it's good to get in in
44 the beginning.

45

46 And my objections are that this is too
47 restrictive and -- and -- but once -- I think once it
48 gets established for anything it's going to become
49 permanent for everything, whether it's needed or not.
50 And so I don't see that it's a good idea to wait, you

1 know, that we should get in on the ground floor if we
2 can, you know, if other people have the same concerns I
3 have, that we might be restricting people too much for
4 no real benefit.

5
6 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

9
10 MR. BUCK: I have a comment on
11 customary trade.

12
13 In our culture in White Mountain,
14 whenever we get anything we give it away, and that's
15 just our custom. We always give it away. If anybody
16 asks for it, we give it away. And it's the same thing
17 in Savoonga and Gambell. And if we find out that they
18 want some dry fish or whatever, then we give it to
19 them, you know, and that's it. And then if they know
20 we don't have any muk-tuk over here, they'll send us
21 some muk-tuk from Savoonga and Gambell. And that is
22 our customary trade, we give it away, you know, you
23 always will get more when you give it away.

24
25 So that issue of customary trade of how
26 everything goes back and forth, it's a complicated
27 situation, it's ingrained into the people, you know, so
28 I know the definition for customary trade is -- it's
29 complicated, so we just need to take that into
30 consideration.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

35
36 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman. On the idea
37 of the barter system, that's on the Federal books and
38 it's still honored.

39
40 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: Absolutely.

41
42 MR. GREEN: And there are no limits.

43
44 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Absolutely.

45
46 MR. GREEN: If I have 10 king salmon in
47 my boat and I want a barrel of gas and you're willing
48 to buy me that barrel of gas for those king salmon,
49 that's a trade.

50

1 But I do understand what Tim is getting
2 at, once it's set in stone, that's it. So I guess the
3 way he's asking it, is the fact that we need to be on
4 the ground level when this stuff starts developing and
5 we would like to take part in that; and I feel the same
6 way he does.

7
8 I also know that, you know, trade is
9 done more than one way. And, you know, Peter brought
10 it up, you know, people share what they have, other
11 people, you know, there's an exchange. Up in Teller,
12 the Blodgetts owning a store up there, they took a lot
13 of trade for their groceries and their fuel and their
14 gas, whatever the people needed for the bundles of dry
15 fish that they took, they would also -- they were able
16 to sell, say, on the Yukon or wherever people needed
17 that food.

18
19 So like Pete says, it's complicated,
20 but I think like Tim is asking, I think we'd like to be
21 on the ground level when things are developed.

22
23 Thanks.

24
25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I want to thank Mr.
26 Buck for his comments, I think those are really good.
27

28 In Page 18 of the reg booklet that you
29 have, there is a definition of what customary trade is
30 and, Peter, what you're describing is not -- doesn't
31 fall into that. Customary trade is exchanging cash for
32 subsistence harvested fish and wildlife. So it's only
33 when there's cash involved that customary trade
34 regulations, if you will, come into place. And right
35 now there are only a few places that have actually
36 adopted some specific regulations for customary trade
37 and those are in Bristol Bay and Upper Copper River
38 district. So, otherwise, it's fairly wide open, that
39 you -- you know, it doesn't really establish any kind
40 of side boards or, you know, guidelines as to what
41 customary trade means. And so the people on the Yukon
42 have become concerned because chinook is traded for
43 cash and apparently from listening to people that
44 testify, sometimes quite a bit of cash, and not to
45 people in the region, but like to Anchorage, so I think
46 that's why they've become concerned about it.

47
48 So.....

49
50 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

1 MR. SMITH: Yeah, not having clear
2 definitions of barter, I think it creates problems, you
3 know, because people don't know if what they're doing
4 is legal. And, you know, for example, I could see that
5 someone could say that trading king salmon strips for
6 gold would be customary trade -- or a barter system,
7 but I think it could also be seen the other way, too,
8 and so you hate to find out from law enforcement that
9 what you're doing is illegal and I think it really
10 would be a service to the public to have better
11 definitions of what is allowed. You know, trading for
12 gas, you know, gas is almost as good as gold, too.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. SMITH: Especially these days.

17

18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Maybe better.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MR. SMITH: Yeah, and so I think it
23 would be really good to have better definitions so that
24 the public knows what they're doing -- that clearly
25 what they're doing is okay.

26

27 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, for these
28 regulations to apply and any work, you know, we do
29 within this to apply to our members, the fish itself
30 has to come from a river that these regulations apply
31 to, and we don't have much of that here.

32

33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's correct.

34

35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Like you pointed out,
36 you've got a few rivers down there by Stebbins --
37 between Stebbins and Kotlik, and you got the Unalakleet
38 River. Anybody else trying to do barter, trade, sale
39 of subsistence caught fish has to do it under the State
40 regs. So -- and that's an unfortunate thing but in our
41 day and age all these little rules are important so I
42 just wanted to make sure that everybody understands
43 that that needs to and that whatever work -- you know,
44 whatever work we do isn't going to affect a whole lot
45 of people in this region because of that. The work
46 needs to more be done with the State for our region.

47

48 I see we've got something to go over
49 here on customary trade of subsistence caught fish, so
50 with that in mind, is there anything else.

1 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. George Pappas,
2 Department of Fish and Game. Placed in front of each
3 one of you -- well, it's a history -- recent history
4 chronologically of customary trade for cash for fish in
5 Alaska, and it came off the press yesterday or I would
6 have given it to you earlier. It's a blue cover and
7 you made some references to regulations, both State and
8 Federal regulations are in the appendix in the very
9 back of the book if you wanted to read over them. So
10 I'd just provide this as background information, it
11 might help. It'll definitely put you to sleep.....

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MR. PAPPAS:but it does have what
16 happened with both State and Federal legal agreements
17 since 1973 and it might help you make your decisions in
18 this process.

19

20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, thank you.
23 Okay, so we're done with that. It's 11:00 o'clock or
24 so, we're moving along pretty good, so I'm going to say
25 we take a break, 10 minutes or so, bathrooms and food
26 and coffee.

27

28 (Off record)

29

30 (On record)

31

32 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, back in
33 business. Tom Rivard [sic] is on the line to talk
34 about the subsistence bycatch issue so we'll take time
35 for that now.

36

37 REPORTER: Yep, turn it on there. Don,
38 are you on?

39

40 MR. RIVARD: Yes, I'm ready.

41

42 MR. GREEN: It's Don.

43

44 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, Don.

45

46 REPORTER: Okay, Don, go ahead.

47

48 MR. RIVARD: Good morning, Mr. Chair
49 and Council members. This is Don Rivard, can you hear
50 me okay?

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yes.
2
3 MR. SMITH: Yes, we can hear you fine.
4
5 MR. KEYES: Yes, I can.
6
7 MR. RIVARD: Okay, very good. I'm a
8 fisheries biologist here with the Office of Subsistence
9 Management, and on occasion I sit with the North
10 Pacific Fisheries Management Council, which I did at
11 the meeting in Nome in June last year.
12
13 I'm just going to give you a quick
14 update on where the Council is at with the chum salmon
15 bycatch.
16
17 As you know they, in June, while they
18 were in Nome, they decided to do another review of the
19 assessment that's being done and they've held off with
20 that. They haven't done anything with chum salmon
21 bycatch since their June meeting in Nome. Their next
22 scheduled -- they're meeting right now in Seattle and
23 they're wrapping their meeting up today but they did
24 not take up chum salmon in this particular meeting.
25 The next time they take it up, they're scheduled to
26 take it up in March and April here in Anchorage.
27 They're going to do another review of the paper. At
28 that time they may go ahead and select a preliminary
29 preferred alternative and then they will run that out
30 to the public for comments again after that.
31
32 I think what's going to happen, looking
33 at their future meetings, it looks like they don't have
34 it on their June meeting, which is going to be held in
35 Kodiak. Their October meeting is going to be in
36 Anchorage and they may make some final action on it
37 then, which is -- in other words, they will select
38 their preferred alternative.
39
40 At the June meeting -- just prior to
41 the June meeting the Federal Subsistence Board
42 submitted a letter to the North Pacific Fisheries
43 Management Council in which the recommended a 50,000
44 chum salmon hardcap with a 25,000 trigger cap and that
45 trigger cap would be implemented with some conservation
46 measure in order to avoid the hard cap if they look
47 like they're heading towards that 50,000 hard cap.
48
49 Your Council was more conservative.
50 You asked them for a 30,000 chum salmon hard cap.

1 So you have the opportunity if you
2 should choose to submit another letter prior to their
3 upcoming meeting in late March and you'll be informed
4 of what's going on after that as well. I will keep you
5 informed for sure.

6
7 That's all I have.

8
9 Any questions.

10
11 MR. SMITH: I do.

12
13 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

14
15 MR. SMITH: Yeah, Don, this is Tim
16 Smith. I'm wondering, did the Council -- this revision
17 of the environmental assessment was supposed to focus
18 on social and economic impacts bycatch and the options
19 for bycatch reduction on the coastal communities, did
20 they find economists and social scientists that could
21 conduct that study? There was some concern that the
22 Council Staff didn't have the expertise to do it, and
23 I'm wondering if they were able to find people to do
24 that portion of the analysis.

25
26 MR. RIVARD: I did not -- I have no
27 first-hand knowledge of that. I have not seen any
28 initial review. Usually they will send those things
29 out a couple three weeks prior to their meeting, that
30 they're going to discuss that topic, so I could call
31 and ask that particular question and get back with you,
32 but I don't know the answer myself.

33
34 MR. SMITH: Okay.

35
36 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Is everybody
37 satisfied with that.

38
39 (Council nods affirmatively)

40
41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Do you want to write a
42 new letter, do you want to wait for them to act in late
43 March and see what we get out of it?

44
45 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman.

46
47 MR. KEYES: This is Anthony Keyes from
48 Wales.

49
50 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Just hang on a minute,

1 okay, we hear you Anthony, just listen in and you'll be
2 part of it.

3

4 MR. KEYES: Okay.

5

6 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, Tim, go
7 ahead.

8

9 MR. SMITH: I'm -- personally I think
10 I'm satisfied with what we already recommended, even
11 though it's not something the Council can consider
12 without additional analysis. People have been saying,
13 oh, well, they can't consider a 30,000 hard cap, well,
14 they can with additional analysis, they just haven't
15 done the analysis on that number.

16

17 I think we should stick with it. I
18 think it's a good number for us. You know, I
19 anticipate we're going to end up with something much
20 higher than that, but I don't see why we shouldn't
21 stick with our principles and that the bycatch should
22 be as low as possible and it is achievable. If they
23 need to, they can -- they've shown that they can
24 achieve a 30,000 chum bycatch, and if they need to they
25 can do it. They definitely don't want to but, you
26 know, taking the top end of the options and taking
27 325,000 chum salmon and wasting them, to me, is
28 offensive and I sure don't think that we should support
29 that even if we end up with it and we might.

30

31 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, go ahead.

32

33 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair. The fact that
34 -- Mr. Smith brought the fact of waste. The fishery is
35 allowed -- the industry is allowed to waste more than
36 we are allowed to take, and so we need to stand firm on
37 the 30,000, I agree with him. And I think we've
38 already sent our message and we need to wait and see
39 what the analysis is.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Well, that
44 sounds good. I mean technically the Subsistence Board
45 kind of already spoke for everybody, didn't they, and
46 they used the 50,000 number?

47

48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's correct, Mr.
49 Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Okay,
2 anything else on this.

3
4 REPORTER: Anthony.

5
6 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Anthony, did you want
7 to say anything.

8
9 MR. KEYES: Yes, this is Anthony Keyes
10 from Wales.

11
12 I would recommend sticking by that
13 30,000 hard cap because we open a new window now for
14 additional -- we're going to be making a mistake down
15 the road, you know, I'm not in favor of bringing it up
16 any higher than what it should be because, you know,
17 we're having a tough time as it is right now with the
18 salmon coming in and, you know, having -- we have some
19 other people that are trying to -- that count on these
20 salmons and, you know, it's not -- I would just stick
21 by that 30,000 hard cap on this.

22
23 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Well, I guess
24 more or less what we're doing.

25
26 All right, well, I'm going to move on
27 if we're ready.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN QUINN: And we're going to go
32 ahead and talk about old business No. 10, review and
33 finalize the draft 2011 annual report, that's on Page
34 13.

35
36 Take a look at it and see if there's
37 anything you don't like or really like or want to add.

38
39 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

42
43 MR. NICK: Alex Nick for the record,
44 Council coordinator.

45
46 As you remember last meeting in
47 September I asked for topics from the Council and the
48 Council wanted to be given a chance to review the
49 annual report response from 2010, annual report, and
50 then they would provide topics. After that I made some

1 attempts to contact Council members and I was able to
2 obtain two issues to work on. The two issues are on
3 Page 13 and also on Page 14, with recommendations.

4

5 One issue was received from Tony and
6 he's on line right now, and the other issue was
7 received from Fred Eningowuk, who is not in attendance
8 at this meeting. This is just a draft and the date is
9 just a draft, it's entirely up to the Council how you
10 want to see your annual report.

11

12 As you are aware you are authorized to
13 submit an annual report, annually, identifying the
14 issues in your region and how you submit your annual
15 report is providing topics or items to me to work on
16 and then -- in the fall meeting and then finalize your
17 annual report in winter meeting, and your authorization
18 is found in your manual which was distributed to you on
19 Page 78, where it says via, I think. It gives you
20 authority to submit annual report to Federal
21 Subsistence Board identifying issues that you want to
22 see resolved.

23

24 Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Does
27 anybody see anything they want to add, remove.....

28

29 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Peter.

32

33 MR. BUCK: I think that even though I
34 haven't really looked at this here, I think that the
35 impending concern I have is that we should be concerned
36 if we have a budget cut in this area. That's a concern
37 for us. If we have a budget cut, what are we going to
38 do, what are our plans going to be, so that should be a
39 concern for us for our annual report to say we are
40 concerned that the impending budget cut that's going to
41 happen, and they keep saying it's going to happen, what
42 are we going to do, so that would be my concern for an
43 annual report, too.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Uh-huh.

50

1 MR. GREEN: Could that -- we were
2 discussing that C&T amounts, could that be plugged in
3 here, our feelings about the exchange of cash for
4 subsistence caught fish and game or is this.....
5
6 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Certainly.
7
8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: This is your letter,
9 you can put what you'd like.
10
11 MR. GREEN: Okay.
12
13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm wondering,
14 Peter, if you'd actually maybe wanted some kind of
15 update on what's happening with the budget as part of
16 that?
17
18 MR. BUCK: (Nodding affirmatively)
19
20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I mean expressing
21 your concerns, but we'd like an update as to what's
22 happened?
23
24 MR. BUCK: (Nods affirmatively)
25
26 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman.
27
28 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Tim.
29
30 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I'd sure like to back
31 up what Louis said, that, you know, we should -- I
32 think this would be an excellent place for us to weigh
33 in on customary trade and express the concerns that, I
34 hope we all have, about maybe being overly restricted.
35 I think there's a tendency to be -- what some of the
36 other people are wanting to do on customary trade is
37 too restrictive for people who live in Teller, for
38 example. So I think that's a good place to weigh in,
39 to add this to this annual report.
40
41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. So can I just
42 direct Mr. Green and Mr. Smith to work together and add
43 something to the letter on limits for cash values of
44 customary trade.
45
46 MR. GREEN AND MR. SMITH: (Nod
47 affirmatively)
48
49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: And, Peter, you can
50 work with Alex and throw in a few statements about our

1 concerns of decreasing budgets and how it will affect
2 our ability to do this job in the future.

3

4 MR. BUCK: (Nods affirmatively)

5

6 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, then I want
7 to say something. There's a statement here and I'll
8 read it;

9

10 The harvest of fish and wildlife
11 resources continues to be the single
12 and most important need for all rural
13 residents of the Seward Peninsula
14 region for survival and economic
15 dependence.

16

17 Perhaps for the purposes of this
18 Council that statement is accurate. But for the
19 purposes, in my opinion, of life in rural Alaska the
20 statement is inaccurate.

21

22 The most important single need for all
23 rural residents is economic energy products.

24

25 We can't do the things we need to do to
26 harvest the fish and wildlife and other resources
27 without an economically priced product that we use to
28 get there. I see it as timely that Chuck is here, and
29 that today on the radio the news is the increase in
30 price of fuel here in Nome. So I just want to say that
31 I certainly hope all the entities involved with
32 providing energy products to the people of this region
33 work as hard as they can to keep those comments at an
34 economic level because that, more than anything else,
35 affects -- in my opinion, affects how much subsistence
36 activities people will participate in.

37

38 I'm not suggesting we need to change
39 this letter, I'm just making a statement on the record.

40

41 Go ahead.

42

43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Just out of
44 curiosity, what is the fuel price; what was announced
45 today?

46

47 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Chuck, I'll let you
48 answer that question. You're here you get the hot
49 seat.

50

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: This has been front
2 page news in Anchorage, getting the fuel here. So --
3 even my mother in New Hampshire asked me about it.....

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:because she saw
8 it on the news.

9
10 (Laughter)

11
12 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Chuck.

13
14 MR. FAGERSTROM: Mr. Chairman. Members
15 of the Council. Sitnasuak Native Corporation
16 considered the raising of fuel prices very seriously.
17 You realize that what happened after we did not receive
18 our fuel on the scheduled -- on our schedule and we had
19 to revert to some other means. And what I have to do
20 is be very careful on how I -- I shouldn't be careful
21 -- but we had a procedure that Sitnasuak was going to
22 follow and that was for a one person to answer
23 questions of the public but I think with the notice
24 coming out, both radio and probably the newspaper, that
25 I should be able to comment on this.

26
27 So the situation was Sitnasuak
28 considered the raising of prices very seriously, we
29 know that the Renda and the Healy left, going on two
30 weeks now, so it took time to consider this and I feel
31 that Sitnasuak did have everyone in the community in
32 mind but we just felt that there had to be a slight
33 increase, we are still lower than the competition.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 MR. FAGERSTROM: So take it as you may
38 so.....

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MR. FAGERSTROM:and then we have
43 different rates for different volumes so if you have
44 anything else.

45
46 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, the two numbers
47 posted on the radio today I believe were 5.98 a gallon
48 for gas and 6.19 a gallon for diesel and that's.....

49
50 MR. GREEN: .94.

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Uh, oh, okay, 5.94 for
2 gas.....
3
4 MR. FAGERSTROM: Very good, got it.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 CHAIRMAN QUINN:so -- and that
9 was about just under a 50 cents a gallon raise, I
10 believe.
11
12 MR. FAGERSTROM: Okay. I'm not going to
13 comment on that.
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 MR. FAGERSTROM: But I'll just comment
18 that we did raise prices and hopefully under extreme
19 considerations for the community.
20
21 Thank you.
22
23 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, you voluntarily
24 ventured into this realm.....
25
26 (Laughter)
27
28 CHAIRMAN QUINN:so there's two
29 sides to the realm, you can't just come in and -- as
30 representing -- well, I'm just expressing an opinion.
31
32 MR. FAGERSTROM: Okay. And I didn't
33 come prepared for this. If I would have had a little
34 bit more notice I could have, I think, given you a
35 better explanation.
36
37 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, I'm not here to
38 say you're right or wrong.
39
40 MR. FAGERSTROM: Yeah.
41
42 CHAIRMAN QUINN: That's just, you know,
43 the cost of living is a real factor in a person's
44 ability to participate in subsistence activities these
45 days.
46
47 MR. FAGERSTROM: Yes.
48
49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: People want to make
50 claims of a subsistence lifestyle, but nobody really

1 knows what that means anymore, I don't think, and
2 truthfully without cash in your pocket, you can't do a
3 subsistence lifestyle. We don't sew skin boats and
4 make paddles out of wood very much anymore and we don't
5 string bows off of homemade, you know, a bow and a
6 sinew string, you know, every one of us is spending our
7 money to do these things and ultimately the cost of
8 living here is all based on the petroleum products in
9 various places in the world, including here.

10

11 So, you know, unfortunately to some
12 extent you're the one person we can look to, since
13 you're here today and say, you know, help us out so
14 that we can continue to participate in these
15 activities.

16

17 MR. FAGERSTROM: Yes. And Sitnasuak
18 did consider that. We feel what we did, we kept the
19 prices -- the price down, lower than what we felt as
20 astute business people, you know, we're in the business
21 to make money but how much money should we make off of
22 our shareholders and the community of Nome. And I just
23 feel what we came up with was a -- is a just price and
24 I do like your comment, you know, keep price at an
25 economical level and hopefully that's what Sitnasuak
26 has done.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Louis.

33

34 MR. GREEN: Just a follow up on his
35 comment. If you don't price it enough to make money
36 you're out of business and so the fact that Sitnasuak
37 is in the business may very well do just that because
38 there's competition.

39

40 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

43

44 MR. SEETOT: Commenting on that, you
45 should be fortunate that you live in Nome because you
46 have many businesses, organizations that compete for
47 your business. Out in the rural communities it's just
48 pretty much one stop, one shop, we have no other places
49 other than mail order or through the web site to get
50 our goods. In Noatak, Kobuk, they're out of diesel,

1 they're paying \$9 a gallon. Other places might be a
2 little cheaper than that because the price of oil for
3 the community is determined when they load up, not at
4 the lowest price, not at the highest price, whenever
5 they load up, that's the price that the communities or
6 organizations pay for the fuel.

7

8 Like Mr. Quinn said, we're --
9 everything is dependent on oil.

10

11 You look at the markets, you have a lot
12 of turmoil in other places, but we still have to, you
13 know, I -- I cannot move to another place because my
14 roots are in another community, I would, you know, do
15 that if there was nothing tying me to that community
16 but like I say, Nome is really fortunate because they
17 have a lot of businesses, they have each other to check
18 on, oh, what's your latest price, you know, if somebody
19 sets a price too high, you know, they'll go to another
20 place. Gasoline will run the same way, whether the
21 price is high or whether the price is low, it depends
22 on the customer's preference on who they would get
23 their fuel from. I think the cold snap -- like I said
24 to Mr. Adkisson, brought us -- most back to their
25 roots, you know, when we were growing up it was cold
26 all the time, now the weather is unpredictable and we
27 have to try and live with that. In a way that is a
28 blessing that warmer weather keeps our fuel costs down
29 but it also causes other problems that concern
30 subsistence gathering and harvesting.

31

32 I would just like to comment on that,
33 Nome has very competitive businesses that keep the
34 price in check compared to rural communities that
35 pretty much have no other place to turn to.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

42

43 MR. BUCK: White Mountain, I don't know
44 if they still do it or not, but they did, at one time,
45 get together with the store and the Native Corporation
46 in White Mountain, IRA, the school district and they
47 got all together and ordered fuel oil from only one
48 source and one ship and that way they get the --
49 they're able to buy the fuel in bulk so that when they
50 delivered it to White Mountain they had one source, one

1 ship and that is the way they got their prices down
2 instead of having one organization send for a barge,
3 another organization send for another barge and then
4 the cost goes up, so that cooperation between entities
5 is a big thing too, to work with, I think.

6

7 MR. FAGERSTROM: Mr. Chairman.

8

9 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

10

11 MR. FAGERSTROM: Oil is a commodity
12 that impacts the whole world, impacts Nome. We're part
13 of that world. We have no control of it. If we knew
14 the prices were going to go up next month maybe we
15 should have bought this month. But we are in a
16 difficult business. When we buy is very important and
17 at times maybe we buy at the wrong time, it's just kind
18 of like a guess, well, should we buy now or should we
19 hold off until next month and hopefully the prices will
20 go down, maybe waiting is going to cost us more than if
21 we would have bought in the current situation.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, thanks, Chuck.

26

27 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman.

28

29 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

30

31 MR. SMITH: I agree with Mike, that I
32 think that this first sentence in the second paragraph
33 is way too sweeping.

34

35 You know I think that the harvesting of
36 fish and wildlife is a very important component of our
37 economy and I wouldn't discount that one bit, but I
38 think that the most important need for rural Alaska is
39 to have an economy. You know it doesn't matter what
40 fuel oil costs if you have no money, it doesn't matter,
41 you know, if we get the price of fuel oil down you
42 still can't buy it unless you have some money. And I
43 think that that's the single most important need for
44 Western Alaska is some kind of a secure economy so that
45 people can afford to live here.

46

47 You know I'm starting to question that
48 myself, you know, our income is not going up
49 commensurate with the cost of living here and it's just
50 getting harder and harder. You know, Nome might be

1 better off than some of the smaller villages but we're
2 not that well off either. We almost don't have a
3 private sector economy anymore, we're dependent on
4 government spending. The biggest -- you know I don't
5 know how many people are aware but the biggest sector
6 of our economy here is the hospital. And if somehow
7 that gets cut, if somehow Federal -- and I think we can
8 expect cuts in both State and Federal budgets, we're
9 not going to have an economy here. And so people are
10 either going to have to live on a lot less or move away
11 and I don't want to see that happen.

12
13 So I guess I would revise that
14 paragraph to say that the single most important thing
15 is some kind of an economy, private sector economy,
16 economic security. And the harvesting of fish and
17 wildlife is certainly important, I would never discount
18 that, but without money you can't live in Western
19 Alaska anymore.

20
21 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, Helen.

22
23 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chairman.

24
25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Elmer.

26
27 MR. SEETOT: On that report, issue two,
28 tame and stubborn muskox, should we change the word
29 tame or just leave it out. It seems like, you know,
30 somebody -- the muskox into their communities, that's
31 where I'm referring to that.

32
33 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, I guess if the
34 muskox are attacking us they're not very tame.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 MR. SEETOT: I think that needs to be
39 left out or at least another word for that.

40
41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, stubborn muskox
42 is pretty accurate in my opinion, that would sum up the
43 paragraph in my mind. Shall we just change.....

44
45 MR. GREEN: Stubborn wild muskox.

46
47 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, stubborn wild
48 muskox, well.....

49
50 (Laughter)

1 MR. GREEN: We don't want Northern
2 Exposure anymore.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman.

7
8 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

9
10 MR. SMITH: I have a comment on that
11 too. I think this whole section needs quite a bit of
12 revision.

13
14 I mean saying stubborn muskox is just
15 being redundant, you know, muskoxen are stubborn so
16 just -- you know that's the nature of the beast. I
17 guess I would -- I think a better title would be
18 human/muskox interactions. But we, you know, kicked
19 this around quite a bit at the State Fish and Game
20 Advisory Committee level and people have a lot of
21 concerns about this but I didn't hear anybody coming up
22 with any kind of answers. And, you know, there's a
23 statement in here that State and Federal wildlife
24 managers need to do something about animal behavior
25 threats to common berry pickers, well, I've never heard
26 anybody come up with anything that they can do. I'd
27 like to know what people think that we can do about
28 that. You can't change muskox behavior, that's
29 something that's innate, you know, you can't change
30 their behavior and I don't know what people are
31 expecting what can be done. I mean what can the State
32 and Federal managers do about it.

33
34 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Do the Feds have DLP
35 rules like the State, defense of life and property; I
36 never heard about that before.

37
38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It falls -- if you
39 have to kill an animal because of DLP, it falls under
40 State regs even if it's on Federal lands.

41
42 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, okay. Well,
43 that's kind of what we get to do, it seems like. And I
44 -- remember -- well, I was at a city council meeting
45 with Tony Gorn and that was more or less his statement,
46 DLP an animal and call him.

47
48 But we can -- that's definitely
49 something that this Council could include in an annual
50 report to the Board, that we have problems with that.

1 Apparently there was one struck by a car about three
2 weeks ago here in town. I hadn't heard about that.

3

4 Yeah, can we change issue two to muskox
5 human interactions, along those lines?

6

7 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Council could
8 change its annual report the way you see fit because
9 what I did was is I was using issue that was provided
10 to me and then come up with recommendation based on
11 what they would like to see.

12

13 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, just change the
14 title of that issue to muskox and human interactions.

15

16 All right, so do we need a motion to
17 accept this letter.

18

19 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I would
20 recommend that the Council have a chance to look at
21 another draft of this annual report and then have
22 Council authorize Chair and vice Chair and Secretary to
23 look at it and then see if it's okay with you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, that sounds
26 fine.

27

28 MR. BUCK: I so move that we rewrite
29 these priorities and present it again to the Board for
30 approval.

31

32 MR. GREEN: Second.

33

34 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, a second. Any
35 discussion.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All in favor say aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Any opposed.

44

45 (No opposing votes)

46

47 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, motion carries.
48 All right, annual report. Tribal consultation policy,
49 are you going to do that for us?

50

1 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: I will. Thank you,
2 Mr. Chair. Helen Armstrong again. The briefing for
3 the tribal consultation policy is on Page 16 in your
4 book.

5
6 You may recall that this was talked
7 about at your last Council meeting. There's a -- in
8 the briefing there's a list of the work group members.
9 It was made up of people from the public as well as
10 members of the Federal Subsistence Management Program,
11 and some of the agencies. They weren't all -- some of
12 them were, you know, tribal repre -- let me think, what
13 do they call them.....

14
15 MR. GREEN: Entities?

16
17 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No. Some of the
18 people were working for agencies but they were their
19 tribal.....

20
21 MR. GREEN: Representatives.

22
23 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:
24representatives.

25
26 VARIOUS UNIDENTIFIED VOICES: Liaisons.

27
28 MR. GREEN: Liaisons, there you go.

29
30 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Liaisons, that's the
31 word I was looking for. Thank you. They're tribal
32 liaisons.

33
34 For example, Crystal Leonetti is the
35 co-chair of this group and she actually is not in the
36 Federal Subsistence Management Program but she's the
37 tribal -- I think she's called the Native Liaison for
38 the Fish and Wildlife Service, and then the equivalent
39 person from National Park Service was also on this.

40
41 Anyway so there's the list of the
42 people.

43
44 And then the steps that have been taken
45 to draft this policy. It started in May of 2011 and
46 they've had a lot of meetings. Since we met in
47 September it went out to a -- a consultation was done
48 with ANCSA Corporations and tribes at AFN. And then
49 there was another consultation with tribes at the BIA
50 Tribal Service Provider's Conference in December. And

1 then the work group met again after that meeting in
2 December. And they considered all of the comments that
3 have come in so far and they now have a draft policy.

4
5 The concepts in this policy are that it
6 should be simple and general and fairly broad. There
7 is a Department of Interior policy that this reflects.
8 That had just recently come out as well. And it
9 doesn't actually prescribe a process on how to consult
10 so they changed the name from protocol to policy.

11
12 They aren't actually regurgitating the
13 Department level policies because they have to follow
14 those in any case. What they're trying in this policy
15 is a new policy format utilizing the Department of
16 Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture
17 policies as kind of the base and then focus the policy
18 on Federal Subsistence Management because it's quite
19 unique, the Federal Subsistence Management in the
20 Federal government, because of its Inter-Agency nature
21 and then its mandate.

22
23 There's nothing else like it in the
24 rest of the country.

25
26 So keeping it fairly simple and general
27 and broad it also allows the Board and the tribes to
28 remain flexible and to adapt to what makes sense for
29 meaningful consultation based on whatever the issues
30 are.

31
32 They're also drafting a consultation
33 policy for ANCSA Corporations. And it will -- the work
34 group is mirroring the format that's here for the
35 tribal consultation policy. So I wanted to emphasize,
36 and I was just having a talk during the break with
37 Chuck about this, is that, consultation will be with
38 tribes -- well, is with tribes and ANCSA Corporations.

39
40 So the theme of the policy is that
41 there will be training for the Board and for the -- the
42 Federal Subsistence Board and the Staff and tribes and
43 ANCSA Corporations. And it's meant to be a living
44 document that adapts as time goes on and can be changed
45 whenever there's a need to based on whatever situation
46 it is.

47
48 They are not including a kind of how to
49 but rather it's the policy and then later they may
50 develop a written sort of how to guide as to how to do

1 the consultation.

2

3 So the next step is that the Board is
4 now looking at the comments that are coming in.
5 There's going to be a letter sent out in mid-February,
6 which is coming up. I don't think it's gone out yet, I
7 haven't seen it -- no -- and Sandy's shaking his head
8 no -- a letter going out to the tribes and the ANCSA
9 Corporations asking them to review the policy and
10 provide comments. And then the work group and the
11 InterAgency Staff Committee, which is kind of a
12 subworking group for the Federal Subsistence Board,
13 they'll meet in April and they'll incorporate any
14 changes from your discussions as well as whatever comes
15 in from the tribes and the ANCSA Corporations and then
16 any modifications will be discussed in a meeting with
17 the Federal Subsistence Board in May. The week of May
18 7th is when that meeting is planned, they don't have a
19 date yet established. And then the Board would be
20 adopting this policy and they'd implement the
21 guidelines.

22

23 So the question for you, and I
24 recognize that you haven't had time -- the policy
25 actually begins on Page 19, and goes through --
26 essentially Page 22, is if you think this is going in
27 the right direction, if not, why not; is there anything
28 else they need to consider; and do you feel that
29 tribe's concerns from the consultations have been or
30 will be meaningful to the Regional Advisory Council
31 consideration on each topic.

32

33 So, you know, I don't know if you want
34 me to actually then go through this a little bit, it's
35 not too long. What's the wish, Mr. Chair. Do you want
36 me to go through the whole policy or.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, probably not.

39

40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

41

42 CHAIRMAN QUINN: However.....

43

44 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And you have time, I
45 mean you don't have to provide comments today, you can
46 take it back and read it and then send comments in to
47 us.

48

49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, I kind of got a
50 question.

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Sure.

2

3 CHAIRMAN QUINN: What I'm used to is
4 for tribal entities to either attend these meetings or
5 at least comment at these meetings. In our particular
6 case we have had people from Nome Eskimo Community come
7 here and, on occasion, people from Kawerak who's kind
8 of a representative for all the tribes in the region to
9 some extent. And so, you know, the tribe's opportunity
10 to communicate with the Board in the past was through
11 this Council or whatever Councilman. I'm not that
12 familiar with this new policy but it almost sounds like
13 they're allowing tribes to bypass the Council and, you
14 know, make their input directly to the Board.

15

16 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: Well.....

17

18 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I'm unclear on this.

19

20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:let me make a
21 couple comments. First of all on Page 20 of the --
22 where we have the actual policy it does talk about
23 deference to the Councils and I mean you raise a good
24 point. That was one of the concerns people had about
25 this, is, how do we continue having deference to the
26 Councils, you know, where is -- you know is that
27 deference there because that's actually specifically
28 outlined in ANILCA. So in here it says; I'll just read
29 it:

30

31 By statute the Board must defer to the
32 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory
33 Council recommendations on regulations
34 unless they are:

35

36 A. Not supported by substantial
37 evidence;

38

39 B. Violate recognized principles of
40 fish and wildlife conservation; or

41

42 C. Would be detrimental to the
43 satisfaction of subsistence needs.

44

45 The Board distinguishes the deference
46 to Federal Subsistence Regional
47 Advisory Councils from the tribal
48 government to government relationship
49 enjoyed by Federally-recognized tribes
50 and this policy will not diminish in

1 any way that relationship and the
2 consultation obligations toward
3 Federally-recognized tribes.
4

5 So I think what we're -- I mean what
6 we've been seeing, especially at the Federal
7 Subsistence Board is there's an oppor -- we have -- one
8 thing we've added at the last Federal Board meeting, we
9 now have the ability to teleconference into the Board
10 meeting, so anyone, not just tribes, any person can
11 teleconference into the Board meeting and that gives
12 people at a local level more opportunity to comment but
13 it's not really commenting in any way that people
14 couldn't do before.
15

16 The other thing, I think it will
17 probably -- you know, this is all very new and I may be
18 speaking out of turn, but I think there will be a very
19 strong effort to make sure that if there's a proposal
20 that affects a community or communities, that those
21 tribes know that this proposal is out there and they
22 have the oppor -- they know about their opportunity to
23 comment. I think that will probably -- I don't know if
24 I'm speaking out of turn on that but that's sort of
25 maybe my own idea of how we need to -- some of the
26 discussions we've had in the office of how -- how are
27 we going to implement tribal consultation.
28

29 The other thing is, you know, we will
30 have, as we had last fall, a place on the agenda where
31 tribes can comment on the proposal analysis. But as
32 you know, I mean we've always had that, you know, you
33 have your list of.....
34

35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, sure.
36

37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:of all the
38 people you ask for comments.
39

40 So in a sense it's not -- it's just
41 recognizing that we're consulting but we've always been
42 consulting, I think, in essence, by asking for comment
43 from the Native organizations in the region. We've
44 always done that at the Council meetings.
45

46 But your question, it does not take
47 away from the importance of the Regional Advisory
48 Councils, not in any way.
49

50 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And I might look to
2 Glenn Chen has been on the work group and if you have
3 anything you want to add to what I said or if I spoke
4 out of turn, I said something wrong.

5
6 DR. CHEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
7 Council members. My name is Glenn Chen. I'm the
8 subsistence branch manager for the Bureau of Indian
9 Affairs and I've been one of the Federal participants
10 in the tribal consultation work group effort.

11
12 And I think, Mr. Quinn, your point has
13 indeed been raised by some of the other Council Chairs
14 as well as members of the public and even our
15 Solicitor's Office, on the matter of retaining the
16 Board's deference to the RACs on recommendations and
17 that, as Ms. Armstrong pointed out, will certainly be
18 retained. We won't deviate from that requirement.

19
20 The Federal government also has another
21 requirement for government to government with tribes.
22 And while this policy has been in place for some time,
23 it has only been under this recent Federal
24 administration that there's been a major push to get
25 that on the books and for the Department of Interior
26 and other Federal agencies to do that. And so what
27 we're seeking to arrive at in this document is a way to
28 balance those two requirements. Deference to the RACs
29 as mandated under ANILCA, and also the government's --
30 Federal government's requirement to consult with tribes
31 on subsistence matters. And so it's fortunate, I
32 think, if you look at perhaps the history of where
33 tribes and Councils have landed on recommendations to
34 the Board, there's really good coordination that most
35 of the time the tribe's positions are often very
36 similar to the Council's positions. But there are
37 those times when the Council's positions might defer
38 from that of the tribe and so in that case the Board
39 then has to give weight and consideration to both the
40 RAC recommendation as well as the tribe.

41
42 So probably this isn't -- probably not
43 -- you mentioned the phrase of the tribes may be using
44 this as a way to circumvent the Councils and it's
45 certainly not probably the purpose of the tribes or
46 this policy. I think, you know, we want to foster a
47 good working relationship between the agencies and the
48 Councils and the tribes and in many cases I'd point
49 out, all of those seem to converge pretty well. The
50 tribes and the Councils have similar recommendations.

1 And where there are differences there needs to be a way
2 for the Federal government to consider again the
3 position of the Councils as well as the tribes.

4

5 I hope that helps.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: I might add, too,
10 and maybe Sandy and Glenn could tell me if they
11 disagree, I mean I don't have statistics on this but
12 the number of times that we have a disagreement between
13 a tribe and a Council, it's very low, I would say, you
14 know, just in my 20 plus years of working in this
15 program, I think generally the Councils support the
16 tribes positions.

17

18 DR. CHEN: Add, Mr. Chair, if I could
19 add some other additional comments.

20

21 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Sure.

22

23 DR. CHEN: In some cases there's been a
24 need, perhaps to increase our involvement with tribes
25 on Federal Subsistence regulatory matters and so this
26 would then provide that mechanism. This has been
27 pointed out by some of the tribes throughout our
28 program, and so this consultation policy will then be
29 the avenue by which we can formalize the tribes ability
30 to interact and provide feedback to the Federal
31 Subsistence Board on regulations that affect the tribe.

32

33 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Any
34 questions from the group here.

35

36 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair. I have a
37 comment.

38

39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Peter.

40

41 MR. BUCK: Talking about tribal
42 consultation. I think that the tribes should be
43 consulted on any issue and I'd like to say as an
44 example would be Pebble Mine and a lot of people don't
45 want to talk about it but you have tribal consultation
46 and it goes out to the tribes and they're talking about
47 the Pebble Mine and a lot of Native organizations are
48 -- have their own reasons for opposing Pebble Mine, and
49 White Mountain's opposed to Pebble Mine.

50

1 But you send out consultation to the
2 tribes and they give their reasons for opposition for
3 something but what I'm thinking about, they go back to
4 you, how do you react to that, their reaction. You
5 need to make a report, these villages opposed the
6 proposition, and you -- even though you don't agree
7 with it, you have to say these Native Corporations
8 oppose these propositions and make a report to us, and
9 that's the only way I think we can do it.

10

11 So even though we have tribal
12 consultation doesn't mean we're going to get a reaction
13 back to you, we have to have a two-way thing. So
14 consultation is -- that's what I think.

15

16 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Buck. What I'm
17 hearing you say, I think, is -- I'm wondering if you
18 want that even in the consultation policy, that you
19 would want -- I think this is where you might have been
20 going, if I'm not thinking.....

21

22 MR. BUCK: You can consult with the
23 tribes.

24

25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:we don't -- we
26 don't have -- yeah, because we don't have -- you know,
27 we don't get involved in things like Pebble Mine but we
28 have proposals to change Federal subsistence
29 regulations and so what you're saying is that when the
30 tribe is consulted then if the tribes have a comment,
31 for example, on Proposal, you know, WP12-10, that you
32 -- where we always have a summary of how everybody
33 recommen -- what the recommendations were, that it
34 would include what the tribes said; that's what you --
35 that you want the results of that consultation to be
36 provided to the Board and not just let's just consult,
37 okay, we asked your opinion, we want to know -- if
38 that's what you're saying? Is that clear? Did you
39 understand what I said?

40

41 Okay.

42

43 DR. CHEN: Mr. Chair. Mr. Buck. Just
44 kind of a follow up to Ms. Armstrong's comments here.

45

46 If you look in your book, on Page 22,
47 and there's a -- about the middle of that page there
48 there's a section on accountability and reporting. And
49 so in our discussions among this tribal consultation
50 work group, that very same issue was raised, you know,

1 once a tribe makes comments to the Federal Board or the
2 Federal Program it's position on subsistence matters,
3 is there going to be follow-up to those comments. And
4 so what the work group wanted to have was have some
5 mechanism for feedback to the tribes and it's captured
6 in this paragraph here.

7

8 Let's see, so about the middle of -- I
9 think it looks like the third sentence, it says:

10

11 The Board will actively seek feedback
12 from tribes on effectiveness on
13 consultation.

14

15 So they wanted to make -- so the tribes
16 want to know were there comments, was their
17 consultation effective. And then those can be an
18 evaluation and a report provided back to tribes. So
19 that -- that point is, indeed, a concern raised by the
20 tribes about, is this going to be meaningful
21 consultation or are we going to just provide our
22 comments and never hear back from the Federal
23 government. So this was a way to try to address that
24 particular issue.

25

26 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Helen.

27

28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

29

30 CHAIRMAN QUINN: On Page 21 under roles
31 and responsibilities it says the Native liaison in the
32 Office of Subsistence Management is the key contact. I
33 guess I didn't know you had that position. How long
34 has that position been there?

35

36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, that's
37 actually -- was a point I was going to cover in the OSM
38 briefing. We've had that position, oh gosh for many
39 years, Carl Jack.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Hum.

42

43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:used to have
44 that position. He retired maybe two years ago and we
45 have just advertised for the Native liaison. They've
46 rewrote the position description. And to be honest, I
47 mean the Federal Board asked the question last May,
48 what's happened with it, we need this to be done, Pete
49 Probasco had told me I don't care what it takes get
50 this rewritten, you figure out what we want to put in

1 the new position description, because of this tribal
2 consultation we knew it was changing, how the Native
3 liaison, what they would be doing, and then Pete fell
4 and broke his pelvis, we had upheaval at work, it went
5 on the side and -- but it's done. The good news is it
6 got done and they did advertise and it closed, I
7 believe, last week. I believe. And there was a lot of
8 outreach for the position. Crystal Leonetti, who's our
9 Native liaison for Fish and Wildlife Service sent it to
10 her thousands of contacts and so we're hoping we get
11 some really good applicants. It is a GS12/13, which is
12 a pretty high level and it's considered to be a very
13 valuable and very important position in our office.
14 The new -- the Native liaison will also be responsible
15 for training and working with the new rural members of
16 the Federal Board and also support -- serves as support
17 to the Federal Subsistence Board Chair. And they serve
18 on the InterAgency Staff Committee as well. So
19 hopefully by your next meeting we'll have somebody
20 hired in that position.

21

22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. All right.

23

24 MR. SMITH: I have one.

25

26 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead Tim.

27

28 MR. SMITH: My comment under
29 accountability and reporting. You know one thing I'd
30 like to see done in addition to asking the
31 representatives of the tribal entities how this is
32 going, ask the subsistence users themselves because one
33 of the comments I hear all the time is that, you know,
34 that the information stops at the top and it doesn't
35 get disseminated to the individuals in the community
36 and I'd like to see an analysis of how well that part
37 is working. It seems like the real goal is to make the
38 individual subsistence users feel like they have a say
39 in what happens and I'd like an analysis to see how
40 well that part of it is working.

41

42 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Are we
43 satisfied.

44

(No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN QUINN: If so, I'm guessing
48 that people are going to want me to call for a lunch
49 break. 12:35. We'll pick up with C.

50

1 REPORTER: It's only 11:22.
2
3 MR. SMITH: It's only 11:22.
4
5 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, man my watch
6 is.....
7
8 MR. GREEN: Your watch is off.
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I never set it last
13 fall.
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 MR. GREEN: Are you living on Tulsa
18 Time?
19
20 (Laughter)
21
22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I'm living on Tulsa
23 Time, hey, well let's keep going then. I'm doing
24 better than I thought.
25
26 (Laughter)
27
28 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, great, then
29 I bet Sandy gets to sit down and give us this stuff on
30 the collection of antlers.
31
32 MR. RABINOWITCH: Good morning, Mr.
33 Chairman and Council members. I'm Sandy Rabinowitch
34 with the National Park Service.
35
36 I've been before you to talk about this
37 item but the good news today is that we've actually
38 finally completed the document we've been talking about
39 for several years.
40
41 So hopefully all of you have gotten one
42 of these in the mail. And if you haven't gotten one of
43 these in the mail from us it's in the mail and will
44 hopefully arrive. So this is a complete environmental
45 assessment that we've completed on this project. In
46 your Council book a briefing on this starts on Page 32.
47 And what I'm going to do is kind of walk you through
48 what's in your book. Everything in your Council book
49 comes right out of here, and it's really kind of the
50 meaty, you know, cook it down, what is it really about,

1 that's what's in here. So you've got 23, 24 pages in
2 your Council book.

3
4 So the first thing, let me back up
5 because there's a couple of new members and I'll just
6 say this briefly. So we've written what's called an
7 environmental assessment for collection by subsistence
8 users of shed or discarded animal parts, so it's horns,
9 antlers, bones, hoofs, et cetera and plants from NPS
10 areas in Alaska. So technically it is not lawful to
11 collect any of those of things from NPS areas. So, you
12 know, locally here we're talking about Bering Land
13 Bridge, and to put it even more plainly the point is if
14 you walk out in the Bering Land Bridge National
15 Preserve and you see an antler and you pick it up and
16 take it home that's not legal. So what we're talking
17 about is liberalizing the Park Service regulations and
18 making something like that legal on the books.

19
20 And we have a number of regulations, it
21 gets complicated pretty quickly, but we have a number
22 of regulations that all lead us to the situation that
23 we're in. It's not legal, we're looking to change
24 that.

25
26 So one of the things we do is we follow
27 Federal law, which is a National Environmental Policy
28 Act, you've probably heard it called NEPA and this
29 environmental assessment, again, I'll just keep holding
30 it up, is what we do to comply with that law. This
31 assessment's a very long document because this is a
32 statewide project. If it were just for Bering Land
33 Bridge it would be probably quite a bit smaller -- it
34 would definitely be quite a bit smaller.

35
36 So the comment period, kind of get into
37 your book here, the comment period actually opens
38 today, it's tagged with this meeting that we're all
39 sitting here in and runs for 60 days. It's actually
40 twice the normal range of what we do for a document
41 like this. So there's a fairly long window for people
42 to comment. In here are my name, another fellow named
43 Bud Rice, the two of us have kind of been the lead on
44 this, our phone numbers are in here, you're welcome to
45 call us at any time. And also there's a web site where
46 anybody can go and actually find this whole document on
47 the web. We realize in rural Alaska that trying to
48 download something like this may not work so well,
49 probably doesn't work so well for most people, and
50 that's why to all the Council members we just put these

1 things in the mail directly to you. And we did that
2 with all the Councils in the whole state, we also did
3 it with all the NPS Subsistence Resource Commissions.

4
5 So we've printed several hundred of
6 these documents and have them in the mail. We're also
7 circulating copies of the summary in your notebook to a
8 lot of other entities in the state electronically.
9 We've got this thing down to a manageable, you know,
10 file that most computers should be able to handle and
11 giving people a summary telling them if they want the
12 whole thing, let us know and we'll put one in the mail.
13 But we're trying to be pragmatic about how many we
14 print because these things aren't cheap and it is
15 taxpayer money.

16
17 So comment period's open as of today,
18 runs for 60 days.

19
20 What we're talking about doing, as I
21 said, is to liberalize Park Service regulations to
22 allow qualified subsistence users and I'll make a
23 distinction, so I live in Anchorage I'm not a qualified
24 subsistence user, I would not be able to benefit from
25 these liberalizations, all of you are a qualified
26 subsistence users, you all would be able to benefit.
27 So all of that sort of urban population of the state's
28 not on the table here, okay. It's just an important
29 distinction at the get-go.

30
31 The next part is, that, as we get into
32 this and we'll get to a table where I'll walk you
33 through this in a minute, there are four alternatives
34 and our Regional Director has chosen Alternative D, D
35 as in Dog, as per preferred, and, again, I'll get to
36 that in a minute. I'm just kind of walking through
37 these pages. That's a comment on Page 34 in your book.

38
39 On Page 35 we ask questions, three
40 questions; does anybody need a full copy, one of these
41 as opposed to the summary. We're particularly
42 interested in comments from any and everybody about
43 which alternative or collection of alternatives because
44 you might like part of one alternative and you might
45 like part of another and you might tell us why don't
46 you combine a couple things together, you know, make a
47 different alternative. That's a good comment if that's
48 what you think. So which ones are best for your areas
49 and we appreciate some understanding of why you think
50 something might be a good result for you.

1 And, again, this is all aimed at
2 collecting these things and then turning them into
3 handicrafts and selling them. I think maybe I've not
4 said that so it's important for me to say. So
5 collection, turning into handicraft and then sale of
6 the handicrafts.

7
8 If you turn the page then you get to
9 this colorful page, that's just the cover of the EA.
10 And then on the following page, again, we have the web
11 site. And then if you keep turning you get to a map
12 that looks like this, green, colorful, so that's just
13 trying to key everybody into the where, where we're
14 talking about in the state. Obviously all of you know
15 where you are, obviously all of you know where Bering
16 Land Bridge is, but there's possibly people that will
17 look at this that aren't so familiar.

18
19 Then the next couple of pages after the
20 map, what we've done is we've provided the incoming
21 letters to the Park Service that essentially were the
22 request to really -- why are we doing this, well the
23 answer is we got two requests, okay. So copies of
24 those request letters are here. One of them is from
25 the Eastern Interior Council so it's like your
26 brother/sister Council in Eastern Interior, made the
27 request and you can read through that. The next page
28 is our Regional Director's response back to the Council
29 at that time and then as you keep rolling along and I'm
30 on Page 43, then you see the request from the Gates of
31 the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission, so it's a
32 little different group but their request and then
33 following that the response letter back to them.

34
35 So that's the how we got started.

36
37 And if I take you up to Page 46 in your
38 book, you'll see a table and if I had to pick one piece
39 of paper that I'd encourage you to really look at this
40 would be the one because this is sort of the meat on
41 the bone and this is sort of kind of the juicy piece
42 right in the middle to really pay attention to. This
43 table summarizes those four alternatives I spoke about,
44 again, I'll remind you our Regional Director has at
45 this point chosen Alternative D, now that's not a final
46 decision, it's kind of an at this stage of the process
47 decision. You may agree with that, you may disagree
48 with that, that's part of what we want to hear from
49 you.

50

1 So let me, in a summary fashion, try to
2 go through this table for you.

3
4 So the first, and I'm kind of starting
5 at the left-hand column, the first entry is just a
6 statement which says, requires promulgation of new
7 regulations. So what that means is that if the Park
8 Service decides to move forward with either Alternative
9 B, C or D we will have to write new regulations. It's
10 not a big deal but it's an important point.

11
12 The next point is that we have three
13 kinds of NPS areas, the one most -- the one close by
14 for all you is a Preserve but in other parts of the
15 state we have Parks and Monuments and there are some
16 legal distinctions on the differences between those,
17 and because of those we have separated things out in
18 this sort of sell on the table, whether you're looking
19 at a Park or a Monument or a Preserve.

20
21 So under the no action alternative, and
22 a no action alternative's required, we have to put one
23 in a document like this, basically nothing would change
24 and it would remain illegal for people to collect, I'll
25 just say a moose antler, probably the most common one,
26 you know, you all would see. But it could be muskox
27 horn, you know, equally.

28
29 So under Alternative B then the
30 eligibility becomes a real key factor for sorting this
31 out and what Alternative B is basically saying is that
32 anybody who has a C&T for any wildlife species in
33 Bering Land Bridge Preserve, so they could have C&T for
34 moose, caribou, for wolf or whatever, just any one, if
35 you have that then you'd be eligible to collect any
36 horn, any antler, any plant out on the Preserve, okay.
37 So we put these words in bold, I don't know how well
38 that stands out, but when you see these bolded words,
39 we're really trying to, you know, get your attention
40 because those are key words.

41
42 Under -- and we call that broad
43 eligibility and no permits. We're trying to put names
44 on these that are sort of descriptive of sort of what
45 you get on each alternative.

46
47 Moving to right, in Alternative C,
48 which we label eligibility restricted by areas with
49 discretionary permits. I'm going to read the bottom
50 part of that and it says:

1 People who have Federal Subsistence
2 Board C&T use finding for any wildlife
3 species.....

4
5 So that's the same as B, but it
6 says.....

7
8 In each GMU or subunit.

9
10 So the first one is any animal anywhere
11 in the Preserve, you're in, good to go. In this one,
12 now in Bering Land Bridge Preserve we've got, what,
13 Ken, three subunits, D, E, oh, and B, so, yeah, I think
14 we have three subunits.

15
16 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, and 23 southwest.

17
18 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay. So you would
19 need -- to be able to collect you would need to have a
20 customary and traditional use in each of those GMUs,
21 okay, to collect in that GMU. So it restricts down a
22 little bit who would be eligible. And that's the
23 pattern here, as you go across to the right, okay.

24
25 The other component is that under
26 Alternative C there would be discretionary permits of
27 the local superintendent, in this case, Janette, would
28 be able to limit collection, or not limit collection
29 but she would be able to require permits of people who
30 want to collect, not unlike a Federal registration
31 hunting permit, you know, very similar. We're trying
32 not to invent a new wheel, we're trying to copy things
33 that seem to work, if you will.

34
35 And then in Alternative D, moving to
36 the right most column, which is labeled eligibility
37 restricted by areas and species with required permits.
38 So now on the permit part we get mandatory, okay, and
39 on the collection part it, again, it gets a little more
40 restrictive, it says people who have a Federal
41 Subsistence Board C&T use finding for each wildlife, in
42 the previous one it said any, now it says for each
43 wildlife, in each GMU. So it's kind of like a next
44 down, it narrows down.

45
46 So in the right most, the most
47 restrictive, in the left most the most liberal. And
48 when I mean liberal, I mean you would have more people
49 authorized to collect and then the other part is
50 whether permits to collect would be either not required

1 or required where in the middle would be discretionary.
2 And I think I'll stop there because that's kind of a
3 lot to digest and I'm hanging on these words any and
4 each and stuff like that.

5
6 I think I'll just pause and see if
7 there's any questions or if I've hopefully not
8 thoroughly confused people.

9
10 Any questions?

11
12 MR. KEYES: Yeah, this is Anthony Keyes
13 in Wales.

14
15 MR. RABINOWITCH: Hi, Anthony, go
16 ahead.

17
18 MR. KEYES: Yes, I was just going
19 through that and I was just listening, you know, all
20 these Native things that are from Native animals
21 regardless a book that is being written on each of the
22 animals that is, you know, actually living on our earth
23 whether it be feathers fur, horns, bones, hoofs, it's a
24 customary from long time ago before you and I were
25 here, it's been an ongoing pick up here, pick up there
26 because that was the way that they were making their
27 money, you know, from a subsistence way of living at
28 that time and now we are in the modern world of having
29 to go through a booklet that is being made by you
30 people and we have to go through it and follow your
31 rules when we already had broken them before this book
32 was even born, you know, I don't know why -- I don't
33 see a picture of just want -- you want to take
34 everything. You ought to walk into an old elderly's
35 house and ask for a piece of bone that they found and
36 they're not going to understand what is going on.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you, Anthony.
41 I've been -- as I've been listening I've been nodding
42 my head up and down because I agree with an awful lot
43 of what you just said.

44
45 You know the situation that I'm in
46 obviously is I work for the National Park Service,
47 which is one of the agencies in the Federal government
48 and when ANILCA was passed in 1980 it, so to speak, put
49 the National Park Service into business in a lot bigger
50 way in Alaska.

1 So when our regulations, of course,
2 which come -- you know, originally come from the Lower
3 48, that's where we get the prohibition that I'm
4 talking about, the technically speaking it's not legal.
5 But our goal here today.....

6
7 MR.KEYES: This is Anthony.

8
9 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes.

10
11 MR. KEYES: Yeah, what you see down in
12 the Lower 48 or down beyond our country here, it's a
13 lot different up here, you know, our lifestyle. We
14 have more of a better collection here and we want to
15 keep it that way because it was born that way. And
16 down in the Lower 48, I don't see why we are taking
17 rules from the Lower 48 and bringing them up here to
18 Alaska and enforcing them on us when we have no
19 considerations and big idea of what's going on down
20 there.

21
22 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, again, I agree
23 with a lot of what you say. But, you know, I guess
24 what I would say is Alaska is a state within the United
25 States and we all have more rules to deal with than we
26 wished we did. But in this case our goal is to try to
27 liberalize and make things more like what I hear you
28 saying, and to make that legal under our regulations.

29
30 So I believe we're trying to move in a
31 direction, I don't want to put words in your mouth, but
32 try to move in a direction that I think you would find
33 favorable. Now, in reality is it going to change
34 anything that people do, my pragmatic guess is probably
35 not.

36
37 MR. KEYES: My question to you now is
38 what is the big word in criminal -- criminalization if
39 a person was to be caught with something that they
40 weren't supposed to have and have to face jail time,
41 fine or whatever, for no respectable reason.

42
43 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm not sure if I
44 understood your question exactly but, again, what we're
45 trying to do is make it so that collecting would be
46 legal, and so that people wouldn't face that kind of
47 problem.

48
49 MR. KEYES: Well, come to think about
50 it, I think, you know, looking at this book is not

1 going to change anything regardless of how far and how
2 -- how professional you may be from any field. Any
3 hunter, any time of the year, they see it, they find
4 it, they'll collect it regardless.....

5
6 REPORTER: Sandy. Sandy, could you
7 turn the microphone on. Sandy.

8
9 MR. KEYES:if there's a law
10 behind it or if there's a criminal tress -- you know,
11 criminal trespassing on that, you know, it hurts the
12 individual to have to go through this kind of
13 situation.

14
15 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, again, I would
16 just say I agree with you and we're trying to make it
17 so people don't have to go through that.

18
19 And, Louis, you got a question or want
20 to jump in.

21
22 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

25
26 MR. GREEN: Sandy, just I think to
27 clear it up for Tony, I think -- Tony, this is Louis.
28 I think what Sandy's bringing to the table is the
29 option to get to the point where we do legalize it
30 because, as you've said and I think I heard Sandy said,
31 it's not going to change anything because these
32 practices are already in place and people are already
33 doing this and they've been doing it for 10,000 years.
34 The Federal government is stepping up to the plate and
35 saying here's the options, we want to change this, we
36 want to legalize to the best of everybody included
37 here.

38
39 Am I to understand that correctly?

40
41 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes.

42
43 MR. GREEN: Thanks, Sandy.

44
45 MR. KEYES: Well, even if we were to
46 legalize it, it's still going to be broken somewhere
47 along the line.

48
49 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman.

50

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Tim.
2
3 MR. SMITH: I've got a couple questions
4 for Sandy.
5
6 On Page 55, under No. 4, that -- No. 4
7 could be worded a lot more clearly. I think I
8 understand what it means but I'm not sure. It could --
9 you know one way you could read this is that you can't
10 pick -- you can't collect a skull with a horn or antler
11 attached. I don't think that's the intent is it?
12
13 MR. RABINOWITCH: The -- you know I'm
14 just rereading the words again. The intent here -- and
15 actually just give me one second.
16
17 The intent -- I'm trying to remember
18 the phrasing because there's a couple different phrases
19 but we're trying to not have the handicrafts be trophy
20 mounts and then there's another kind of mount and I'm
21 -- what is it, a European mount, some of you probably
22 know this better than I do -- I know you guys know this
23 better than I do. So we're trying to not have these
24 handicrafts become those kind of products. So if we
25 haven't said it right we're quite happy to get
26 suggestions on how to say this more clearly.
27
28 MR. SMITH: Well, see, you know, the
29 title is possible management conditions for
30 collections. One way you might read this condition
31 four is that you can't collect a skull with horns and
32 antlers attached and I don't think that was the intent.
33 I think the intent is to not have a sale of
34 handicrafts.....
35
36 MR. RABINOWITCH: With them attached.
37
38 MR. SMITH:with the skulls with
39 horns and antlers attached. And so it just needs to be
40 rewritten, if that's the intent and that, you know, my
41 wife and I collect bones all the time and if we find a
42 reindeer skull with antlers attached we'd like to be
43 able to collect the thing, you know, so I'd just like
44 to see clarification.
45
46 My other question is, how does any of
47 this affect marine mammals. I noticed that's not
48 covered. But wouldn't -- isn't that still an issue. I
49 know in the Bering Land Bridge, probably the bones that
50 are collected most are marine mammal bones, mostly

1 walrus skulls with the tusks, so how does -- how do
2 marine mammals fit into this?

3

4 MR. RABINOWITCH: The short answer is
5 this does not affect marine mammals. We have no
6 jurisdiction on marine mammals. I believe NOAA retains
7 jurisdiction, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
8 Administration.

9

10 MR. SMITH: So under the current
11 regulations then you could.....

12

13 MR. KEYES: (Indiscernible - no
14 microphone) bones and ivory's okay.

15

16 MR. SMITH: You can collect marine
17 mammal skulls out of the Bering Land Bridge then?

18

19 MR. RABINOWITCH: I do not know the
20 answer to that one. Ken, I don't know if you know the
21 answer to that or not.

22

23 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair and Council
24 members. Mr. Smith. Ken Adkisson, National Park
25 Service.

26

27 I guess let me just give you at least
28 my general interpretation, and without sitting there
29 with the reg books and reading and thinking some more,
30 you know, I wouldn't swear that this is the most
31 absolute answer you'd get, but I would say that if the
32 product, the skull, whatever, of the marine mammal, you
33 know, was -- as far as the Park Service goes, if it was
34 below mean high tide line it would be governed by
35 whatever rules and regulations were in place with the
36 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the, you know,
37 collection of marine mammals under the, you know,
38 Marine Mammal Protection Act. If it was above mean
39 high tide and was actually inside Park lands, the
40 answer would be currently it would be illegal.

41

42 So I guess the short answer is you'd
43 still be juggling two sets of Federal and State
44 regulations -- or Federal agency regulations when it
45 came to a marine mammal product. You'd have to ask
46 yourself, okay, does this thing govern Marine Mammal
47 Protection Act, which would generally apply, I would
48 think wherever you had a marine mammal product and then
49 you'd have to ask yourself, oh, and does the Park
50 Service regulations matter in this case, and maybe --

1 you know, so I think marine mammals are going to
2 continue to be a little foggy problem.

3

4 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Louis.

5

6 MR. KEYES: Ken, this is Anthony.

7

8 MR. ADKISSON: Go ahead, Mr. Keyes.

9

10 MR. KEYES: Yes, I was just listening
11 to -- while I was listening I was thinking about, you
12 know, having an elder walking by, walking by the Park
13 and see that nice looking walrus head with ivory on
14 there and is not well educated on these new laws that
15 are being pursued to us, you know, eventually
16 somebody's going to have a fall down somewhere. It's
17 not well educated to our individual elders or their
18 youngster at this point, so they don't know the law,
19 only the ones that knows the laws are the ones that are
20 attending the meetings or those, some that might read
21 -- that might read an article that is hanging up and
22 still don't do nothing about it.

23

24 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Keyes. I understand
25 that. You know there's not a really answer to that, I
26 guess.

27

28 One is, is that, you know, the purpose
29 of what the Park Service is currently trying to do is
30 liberalize the regulations to where you don't have to
31 worry about the regulation, that it's more compatible
32 with what you'd be doing, you know, naturally. For
33 those cases that aren't covered under here you've still
34 got a problem and that's a communication problem. It's
35 the same thing with, you know, any law and regulation,
36 is communicating that to the user or the person that's
37 going to be affected by it, you know, and trying to
38 work with them. And so, you know, that's a whole
39 'nother topic.

40

41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, Louis.

42

43 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair, I have a
44 question.

45

46 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Hang on, Peter.

49 Louis.

50

1 MR. GREEN: Does this apply to fossil?
2
3 (Laughter)
4
5 MR. ADKISSON: Well, I'll give you my
6 answer to that -- Mr. Green and through the Chair. No,
7 it does not. But if I'm incorrect in that, Sandy can
8 correct me.....
9
10 CHAIRMAN QUINN: That's a little
11 different law.
12
13 MR. GREEN: I just wanted to know.
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 MR. GREEN: I wanted to know.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 MR. GREEN: It's on the record.
22
23 CHAIRMAN QUINN: One of you better sit
24 down somewhere else so you can't pass the buck.
25
26 MR. RABINOWITCH: Naw, we're not
27 passing, Mr. Chairman, because I agree with Ken. What
28 I would do is point out that there's a list in this big
29 document that you all got in the mail, it's on Page
30 2.2, but we have a list of things that are not
31 considered here and marine mammals on the list and what
32 you just said, like migratory bird parts and threatened
33 and endangered species and so on. There's a listing
34 here. As we started to get questions, as we worked on
35 this, just like these, we started to sift through what
36 we believed the correct answers would be and then put a
37 list up here in the front of the document.
38
39 But you guys are right on track here.
40
41 (Laughter)
42
43 MR. RABINOWITCH: You're hitting it
44 very well.
45
46 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Peter, I'll get you,
47 don't worry, but I'm going to take a turn.
48
49 I'm glad to see that you're making
50 things more legal but I'm just really disappointed that

1 all my tax dollars were wasted on a bunch of hoopla
2 that just really doesn't seem necessary. I kind of
3 have a few questions here for you Sandy.

4

5 MR. RABINOWITCH: Uh-huh.

6

7 CHAIRMAN QUINN: You know, first of
8 all, almost all the units that this stuff applies to
9 were created in 1980 and I thought ANILCA specifically
10 said subsistence activities will be allowed. Well,
11 this is a subsistence activity why do we need all this?

12

13 MR. RABINOWITCH: It's the same answer
14 that I gave a little earlier and that is we have
15 national regulations that are in place in the Lower 48
16 -- I mean I know you don't want to hear this but it's
17 the answer.

18

19 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, is that the right
20 answer because these units were created in 1980.
21 ANILCA applies to these units. Are you saying that
22 those -- did somebody throw a big book on top of ANILCA
23 and say, here for Parks and Preserves this applies too?

24

25 MR. RABINOWITCH: No. It's a weighing
26 and balancing of how the laws interact, okay. The
27 National Park Service was established by, what's called
28 the 1916 Organic Act.

29

30 CHAIRMAN QUINN: But these units
31 weren't established in 1916.

32

33 MR. RABINOWITCH: No, in 1980, just as
34 you said. And my point is that the laws have to fit
35 together and the fitting together is often a challenge.
36 And so what our lawyers have told us, I mean we don't
37 just sit around and make this stuff up.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, I'm skeptical
40 about that Sandy.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, you can be
45 skeptical all you like and that's fair enough. But I
46 don't sit around and make this stuff up.

47

48 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, that's because
49 you're not high enough in the chain.

50

1 MR. RABINOWITCH: That's for you to
2 decide.

3
4 But the lawyers guidance to us is that
5 subsistence uses, the legal definitions in regulations
6 defining subsistence uses doesn't overcome the National
7 Park Service national regs. So we have -- and I
8 brought this here -- so these are like all the National
9 Park Service regs in the whole country, okay, in this
10 one book, and there's a chapter.....

11
12 MR. KEYES: And these lawyers are from
13 where?

14
15 MR. RABINOWITCH: They're from here in
16 Alaska.

17
18 And in this book we have national regs
19 and we also have a chapter for Alaska, okay, it's
20 called -- we refer to it as Title 13, just number 13,
21 and so what we have to do is make these things work
22 together and it's the national prohibitions that the
23 Alaska regs have to fit into and that's why
24 liberalizing these along the lines of what we're
25 proposing, that's how we accomplish it. That's the way
26 it's been accomplished the last 31 years, with a
27 variety of things that have been liberalized for
28 National Park Service areas.

29
30 So that's the process we have to work
31 with.

32
33 You know in terms of doing this whole
34 thing, it's a Federal requirement under NEPA, we have
35 to abide by that and so we do.

36
37 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Then you said
38 that the Regional Director has currently chosen
39 Alternative D.

40
41 MR. RABINOWITCH: Correct.

42
43 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Who's the Regional
44 Director and where is that person?

45
46 MR. RABINOWITCH: Her name is Sue
47 Masica and she's in the Anchorage office, the same
48 building that I work in.

49
50 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Well, I'm

1 pretty disappointed to see that, too, because she's
2 chosen the most complicated alternative. You know it
3 just -- it isn't very good, you know, you're taking an
4 activity that was going on long before some President
5 and Congress even created the National Park Service and
6 saying, well, oh, gee, that's illegal and it's just as
7 much a natural thing as having a wolf crap on the
8 tundra, and now this person wants to choose the most
9 restrictive alternative. I mean what's the point. I
10 mean we're better off to just lie and say we never got
11 it from Federal land, from a Park in the first place,
12 it seems like. She certainly should have chose
13 Alternative B and let things happen, you know, somebody
14 gets dissatisfied down the road because somebody made
15 -- a Park made too much money or not enough antlers
16 dissolved to feed the mice well then you could change
17 the program, but it's pretty offensive to me, anyway
18 that a person sitting in Anchorage, whose life isn't
19 affected by this, who's paid with my money and all the
20 other people's money who are affected by this chooses
21 the most restrictive alternative. That's just a total
22 lack of respect for the people who are dependent upon
23 these resources.

24
25 You know, obviously the Subsistence
26 Board doesn't regulate picking up antlers and
27 harvesting berries but those are still important things
28 to some people out here.

29
30 So, Peter, your turn.

31
32 MR. BUCK: Okay. The subsistence
33 collection of uses of shed and discarded animal parts
34 and plants from National Park Service, we just got that
35 -- right now I just got that booklet last week and it
36 tells a lot of lot of things in there about a lot of
37 things and right now I can't digest that whole booklet,
38 it's just too new to me. I need time to think about
39 it. I think that we all need time to look at it.
40 Maybe one of us can comprehend what it says, you know.
41 So that's what I think.

42
43 I think it's just too new -- it's too
44 much to comprehend right now, that's a big booklet and
45 so I'm going to leave it at that from myself.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MR. KEYES: This is Anthony Keyes. I
50 agree with Peter 100 percent because, you know, going

1 through this booklet, I never even got done and I just
2 got it like a couple of days ago, and the mail hasn't
3 been very good up in this area.

4

5 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Tim.

8

9 MR. SMITH: Well, you know, I sure
10 understand what you're saying, Peter, and, Tony, too,
11 but I don't think we should miss an opportunity to
12 comment on this. You know, I understand it well enough
13 to know that I want the least restrictive alternative.

14

15 I don't see the problem really.

16

17 You know, I can understand why in
18 Yellowstone you might need to restrict collecting, but
19 you sure don't in Bering Land Bridge. Nobody's picking
20 up even, you know, one-tenth of one percent of the
21 bones and antlers that are up there, and so I think in
22 order to get on the record that this Council should say
23 something. I think that what we should say is to have
24 the least restrictive alternative.

25

26 You know, in my experience nothing ever
27 gets more liberalized. Once you establish a regulation
28 it will never be more liberal than it was, it will only
29 be more restrictive. And so to start out with
30 Alternative D, I think would be a big mistake
31 considering that there really is no problem.

32

33 I don't think we need to be critical of
34 Sandy, I think this is a good step in the right
35 direction. I didn't know any of this stuff was
36 prohibited. And I'm sure that nobody else here knew it
37 either.

38

39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: No, it's been going on
40 for awhile. You got into the Council last year.....

41

42 MR. SMITH: Yeah.

43

44 CHAIRMAN QUINN:but Sandy's been
45 bringing this to us for awhile. This is just finally,
46 after what, two or three years, four.

47

48 MR. SMITH: Well, the general public.

49

50 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, there you go,

1 yeah, well that part's right. The general public
2 doesn't know.

3

4 MR. SMITH: The general public didn't
5 know anything about this and so legalizing what has
6 been done is a good idea, you know, generally nothing
7 happens but every now and then, you know, like a bolt
8 out of the blue law enforcement decides that they're
9 going to slap the cuffs on somebody for picking up a
10 skull out there. Well, that's not right, when the
11 person -- when the public doesn't know that what
12 they're doing is illegal, it's just not right to do it
13 that way. So this is a big step in the right direction
14 but I'd like to -- I don't know if we're ready for a
15 motion but I sure think we should get it on the record.

16

17 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Let me ask one
18 question, Sandy.

19

20 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes.

21

22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: That Regional Director
23 in Anchorage chose Alternative D?

24

25 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes.

26

27 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Is that the same
28 person who sits on the Federal Subsistence Board for
29 the Park Service?

30

31 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes.

32

33 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, there you go,
34 she answers to us.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Entertaining a motion,
39 certainly.

40

41 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman. I'd like to
42 move that this Council adopt a motion to support
43 Alternative B and that we establish a record as to why
44 we support that alternative.

45

46 MR. GREEN: I'll go ahead and second
47 it.

48

49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, discussion.
50 I've got one piece of discussion. Ken, since your boss

1 ain't here, you get this question -- how come your boss
2 ain't here? You can tell her I'm disappointed.

3

4 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Normally she
5 would. She's been on maternity leave, and she's still
6 dealing with some child care issues with her newborn.

7

8 CHAIRMAN QUINN: She was at the
9 basketball game Saturday, she could have come to this
10 meeting.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MR. ADKISSON: And she's on a reduced
15 work load schedule too. So, you know.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN QUINN: It's a small town.

18

19 MR. ADKISSON: No, but there's a lot
20 that's going on in the Parks too, and so you know I
21 suppose.....

22

23 CHAIRMAN QUINN: No, no, you're right.

24 All right.

25

26 MR. ADKISSON: I would say that
27 regretfully, you know, she's not here but normally she
28 would.

29

30 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I know. So the
31 question, Ken, is, you know, under this Alternative D,
32 apparently most of the folks that actually want to
33 advantage of this new alternative may actually have to
34 come to you guys for a permit. Is that right, Sandy?
35 Is it, it could end up that they've got to get a permit
36 from the unit superintendent?

37

38 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes.

39

40 (Conference call interruption)

41

42 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Do you guys really
43 want to deal with that for something that's pretty
44 inconsequential?

45

46 MR. ADKISSON: Do you want to answer
47 that or do you want me to go ahead and answer it?

48

49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: No, you have to answer
50 it because you're speaking for the superintendent.

1 MR. ADKISSON: Our preference is not D
2 frankly, okay.

3
4 CHAIRMAN QUINN: That's a very good
5 answer.

6
7 MR. ADKISSON: And just a little bit of
8 quick history for you. I had much -- since this
9 process began I've had much the same comments that you
10 have offered and I've lost, okay.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MR. ADKISSON: Part of the problem and
15 sort of the way the reg -- the Federal regs come
16 together, the Park Service and the subsistence
17 regulations and part of the thing with the Federal
18 subsistence regulation, it's a focus on the use of non-
19 edible byproducts taken for personal consumption. In
20 other words, I go harvest a moose, okay, that's my
21 moose and I can make and sell handicrafts out of the
22 non-edible byproducts. And so as Sandy pointed out, it
23 really doesn't address this whole other area, in fact
24 it doesn't address plants. And if you go look in the
25 Park Service regulations you'll find a few cases early
26 on where the Park Service tried to address plants with
27 a special regulation, but those are far and few
28 between, Kobuk Valley has one. There may be one or two
29 others, but they're not really common.

30
31 So we have this whole broad area out
32 there that's just a big regulatory no-man's land,
33 except we have these nationwide Park Service
34 regulations that were designed largely for, you know,
35 Lower 48 situations, that because there's this vacuum,
36 those regulations apply. And so what the Park Service
37 is trying to do is fix that by liberalizing its
38 regulations to be more compatible.

39
40 And I've had much the same arguments
41 and I've lost and, you know, it's good to get on -- as
42 Tim has said and others, you know, it's good to get on
43 the record because I think -- you know, I have enough
44 problems just trying to deal with the Federal
45 Subsistence Management Program and it's permitting
46 system and stuff let alone.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, sure.

49
50 MR. ADKISSON:to get on a whole

1 'nother, you know, every single individual that wants
2 to collect something is going to need a permit. So
3 frankly that's not my favorite, but, hey, I work for
4 the system and, you know, I'm hoping it doesn't come
5 out D, but if it comes out D I'm going to have to live
6 with it.

7
8 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Cool. All right, any
9 other discussion.

10
11 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman.

12
13 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Tim.

14
15 MR. SMITH: This is Tim Smith. And
16 just in the interest of establishing a record, you
17 know, I'd like to see us draft a letter and submit it
18 as comments on this issue within the 60 days we've got
19 to do that.

20
21 I would -- again, it's just like the
22 chum salmon bycatch issue, I'd like to see an option
23 that was more liberal than Alternative B. I really
24 don't think there needs to be any restriction on it. I
25 think it should just be legalized and possibly
26 monitored and if there is a problem, I can't anticipate
27 what it might be, but if there is a problem well then
28 possibly go with more restrictive regulations.

29
30 But my preference would be to have an
31 alternative that's even more liberal than Alternative B
32 and just legalize it to everybody.

33
34 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Sandy.

35
36 MR. RABINOWITCH: You kind of touched
37 on where my question was going to be right at the end
38 there. We wrote Alternative -- so I just want to
39 clarify your comment, Tim.

40
41 We wrote Alternative B to be as broad
42 and liberalized as we thought made sense given the
43 requests that we got. And so to make Alternative -- to
44 make something more liberalized than Alternative B, I
45 think and I'd have to, you know, think some more, but I
46 think the only place we could go is that instead -- so
47 let's think about Bering Land Bridge, so right now you
48 heard me say earlier all of you would be -- in
49 Alternative B all of you'd be eligible in Bering Land
50 Bridge but I would not because I live in Anchorage, so

1 making it more liberal, I think where you're going is
2 you're letting me and everyone else from Anchorage and
3 Fairbanks and wherever.....

4

5 MR. SMITH: Uh-huh.

6

7 MR. RABINOWITCH:okay, and then
8 we actually maybe have to think about non-residents,
9 too, I'm just doing this off the top of my head.

10

11 So that's where I think you could go to
12 be more liberal than that.

13

14 MR. SMITH: Yes.

15

16 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay.

17

18 MR. SMITH: And that's exactly.....

19

20 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm just trying
21 to.....

22

23 MR. SMITH:what I had in mind
24 would be just to make everybody eligible until there's
25 a problem. You know, for example, you know, you have
26 -- sometimes you have hundreds of thousands of caribou
27 shedding antlers in the Bering Land Bridge and, you
28 know, why shouldn't a non-resident or a non-resident
29 alien be able to pick up those antlers. I don't see
30 the problem. They're just going to go away anyway, you
31 know, antlers don't lay on the tundra for very long,
32 something eats them, and so why not -- why restrict
33 those people if there's not a reason.

34

35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Ken.

36

37 MR. ADKISSON: To Mr. Smith and through
38 the Chair and Council members. Maybe just a little bit
39 of context, you know, the National Park system is
40 different from most other Federal land managing
41 agencies, in that, it's more protection oriented,
42 almost even in conservation oriented. It's set up to
43 focus on natural systems. It's focused to set up on,
44 you know, visitor experience and qualities as key
45 features of it and you'll hear comments, especially
46 from the Lower 48 things like, you know, take nothing
47 but pictures, leave nothing but footprints. You know
48 you'll see pictures of a marvelous set of caribou
49 antlers out on the tundra maybe near Serpentine Hot
50 Springs and from the Park Service's point of view, and

1 not everybody is going to agree with this perhaps but,
2 you know, that's part of the ambience, the impression
3 that people get of the place and having people come in
4 and just simply remove this stuff, you know, generally
5 in most parks, especially in the Lower 48 is just
6 considered non-acceptable. It's the same thing if you,
7 you know, go in and start picking up potshirts (ph) or
8 arrowheads out of a park in some cases, the only
9 difference is in one case it's non-renewable and in the
10 other case it's renewable to some extent.

11
12 But still -- you know, and so they
13 don't allow this kind of thing for non-residents and
14 aliens and other people to go into Yellowstone or
15 Yosemite and do that kind of thing, and the Park
16 Service isn't really interested in letting them do it
17 up here either for the same reasons. It's really neat
18 for some people who may be able to get into Serpentine
19 Hot Springs maybe to -- as part of that experience to
20 see those shed antlers or something, it's part of what
21 they take home with them, is that feeling. And it's
22 hard to, you know, get people to maybe totally buy into
23 some of these concepts but that's part of what the Park
24 Service is about. And so the challenge is taking those
25 Lower 48 set of values and adapting them to fit, you
26 know, local people subsistence practices, you know,
27 consistent with what I think we all agree, sustainable
28 rural communities and on and on. And so, you know,
29 we're doing a balancing act.

30
31 I'd only also point out that while, you
32 know, the Regional Director, as Sandy has pointed out,
33 has picked maybe a preliminary preferred alternative
34 and I've expressed my opinion that, you know, that
35 wouldn't be mine, I would also point out that we have
36 some places like Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
37 Preserve that are road-connected and closer to a lot
38 more urban population centers and they have some
39 concerns, I think, perhaps real about potential impacts
40 and this is a statewide process that we're dealing
41 with, it's not something just set up for Bering Land
42 Bridge or set up for Noatak National Preserve, it's to
43 cover statewide, all of these things, and, so, you
44 know, it is a balancing act and there is some other
45 concerns out there except our immediate ones.

46
47 That's part of what we're living with.

48
49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

50

1 MR. KEYES: Hey, Ken, this is Anthony.

2

3 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Anthony.

4

5 MR. KEYES: Yeah, you know, if we were
6 to open the door for using permits, we are opening an
7 opportunity to mess up our heritage and our Native
8 lands because, you know, we have tourists that come up
9 in this region. They get a feel and they read that
10 note and say, hey, I can get a permit, now I can go
11 there and I could get a bone or I can get whatever's
12 there, you know, never mind the Natives, you know, I
13 got all the rights and if I were to have a permit to
14 try and go to there and retrieve what I think I found,
15 I'd still get in trouble.

16

17 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Keyes. Ken Adkisson,
18 through the Chair. I don't think you'd get in trouble
19 if you had a permit. You know, in fact I really doubt,
20 you know, that you'd get in trouble without one but
21 there's always that possibility. And part of the whole
22 reason for this is, I think, to allow local people to
23 do things they've been doing and give them a margin of
24 protection from the rest of the world.

25

26 So it's sort of like local resources
27 for local people.

28

29 And the question is, is, you know, how
30 much is.....

31

32 MR. KEYES: Well, that's why IRA -- IRA
33 Councils were here to be put in place for people to
34 have permission to go out on our lands because we do --
35 we do put (indiscernible) on them before they go step
36 off our lands, off our roads.

37

38 MR. ADKISSON: Understood, yeah.

39

40 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. I kind of been
41 neglecting to say let's call the question in the past
42 when we voted so are we ready for a question on our
43 proposal -- motion.

44

45 MR. SEETOT: Question.

46

47 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, question's
48 been called. All those in favor of the motion say aye.

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Any opposed.
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, motion carries.
6 Well, I guess we can wrap that up and I suppose now
7 it's time for lunch. Thank you, Sandy, Ken.
8
9 MR. RABINOWITCH: You're welcome.
10
11 MR. ADKISSON: You're welcome.
12
13 MR. BUCK: So what time?
14
15 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, let's do an
16 hour, try and be back here at quarter after 1:00 and
17 we'll wrap things up.
18
19 (Off record)
20
21 (On record)
22
23 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, I'm going
24 to call us back to order. We're ready to move on to
25 new business and the only thing we got listed is the
26 Gates of the Arctic proposal. Is that going to be you,
27 Helen?
28
29 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: Nope.
30
31 CHAIRMAN QUINN: It's going to be you,
32 okay.
33
34 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you, Mr.
35 Chairman. Sandy Rabinowitch from the National Park
36 Service. On Page 56 of your book you'll find a two
37 page document that's labeled hunting plan
38 recommendation, 11-01. Let me in a minute or so try to
39 explain what a hunting plan recommendation is.
40
41 So there are two kinds of commissions
42 set up under ANILCA, one of them are the Regional
43 Advisory Councils, that you are, you're all sitting
44 here. The other are called Subsistence Resource
45 Commissions, they're set up under ANILCA, Section .808,
46 so this is from one of those groups. The group is from
47 Gates of the Arctic National Park. Each National Park
48 and each National Monument have one, so we have seven
49 of these around the state. Those groups, we refer to
50 them as SRCs as the shorthand. The SRCs have the

1 authority from ANILCA to make hunting plan
2 recommendations from their group to the Secretary of
3 the Interior. There is no Federal Subsistence Board in
4 the picture, if you will. So that's what this is.

5
6 Gates of the Arctic in 2011 had one
7 hunting plan recommendation. And the crux of this is,
8 you know, maybe reading it and can get ahead of me, but
9 they would like to see an increase in per diem rates
10 for the SRCs and they also included the RACs, the RAC
11 groups that you're part of here today. They understand
12 that there have been previous requests made to the
13 Secretary through the Federal Board on this topic, some
14 of you may know that or remember it, some of you may
15 not. But this is a little different approach,
16 procedurally, is to come from a Subsistence Resource
17 Commission to the Secretary.

18
19 Now, when an SRC makes a hunting plan
20 recommendation, the process that the Park Service uses
21 and that's why I'm sitting here, is we take these
22 around to the Regional Advisory Councils because
23 there's some direction in ANILCA to do that, okay, and
24 provide you all the opportunity to comment so you can
25 be supportive of this, you can not be supportive of
26 this or you can be silent, it's up to you all what
27 action you want to take.

28
29 But it's really as simple as increasing
30 per diem rates, the arguments here are made about
31 attracting and retaining people like yourselves, you
32 know, many of you have been on this Council a long
33 time, you know, we all understand that it takes
34 substantial time and energies. Often you have to walk
35 away from jobs and not be paid and so on and so forth,
36 it's a real commitment and we understand that, and
37 obviously the Gates of the Arctic SRC understands that
38 also. So that's what they're trying to pitch.

39
40 And I think I'll stop right there and
41 see if you have questions and then, again, it's up to
42 your body here whether you want to make a motion one
43 way or the other or be silent.

44
45 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, I'm a little
46 confused. I mean that SRC monies come from the Park
47 Service?

48
49 MR. RABINOWITCH: That's correct.

50

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: So, you know, you
2 could certainly make a proposal to the Park Service to
3 increase per diem for SRCs, you guys don't provide the
4 money for us.

5
6 MR. RABINOWITCH: That's correct also.

7
8 CHAIRMAN QUINN: So what's this got to
9 do with us?

10
11 MR. RABINOWITCH: The recommendation,
12 as it is written, and let me look down for a second and
13 I'll find -- I thought I had it underlined, it's
14 actually on the third line of the full text, the third
15 line counting down from the top where it says:

16
17 The SRC proposes hunting plan 11-01,
18 which states there should be an
19 increase in the per diem rate for all
20 Subsistence Resource Commissions, as
21 well as the Federal Regional Advisory
22 Councils.

23
24 So they included, not only their
25 groups, but these groups in their recommendation and we
26 thought it appropriate to bring this to you also, so
27 you were aware of their concern.

28
29 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Does that hunting plan
30 hunting recommendation go to the Subsistence Board, as
31 well as to the Park Service?

32
33 MR. RABINOWITCH: No. It goes directly
34 from the Subsistence Resource Commission to the
35 Secretary of Interior.

36
37 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, okay.

38
39 MR. RABINOWITCH: There's a different
40 process in the two different sections of ANILCA that
41 establish the Regional Advisory Councils and for the
42 SRCs -- I always think of it as they have like a direct
43 line telephone, they pick it up and at the other end is
44 the Secretary of Interior, there is no Federal Board in
45 between. That's just my analogy, okay.

46
47 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Peter.

50

1 MR. BUCK: I have -- it's all well and
2 good that we have this consideration for per diem
3 increase but I was just looking at this and this is the
4 first time I've heard about the Subsistence Resource
5 Commission. I've been on this Board for quite awhile
6 and I have not heard anything about the Subsistence
7 Resource Commission. How do they determine the
8 membership for the Resource Commission, are the tribes
9 consulted on who's going to be on the Subsistence
10 Resource Commission or what -- how is that Commission
11 selected?

12
13 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'd be happy to
14 answer. First, probably why you haven't heard of them
15 and others may not have either is because there aren't
16 any in this region. Again, you have to have a Park or
17 a Monument and Bering Land Bridge is a Preserve. So,
18 you know, that probably explains that.

19
20 In terms of membership, members are
21 appointed from one of three sources. The Secretary of
22 Interior appoints a third of the members, the Governor
23 of Alaska appoints a third of the members and then
24 actually in other regions, Regional Advisory Councils,
25 just like this group, appoint one or more members. But
26 because there's no Parks or Monuments in this area,
27 this group doesn't do any appointing. But if you, for
28 example, sat on say the Western Interior or Eastern
29 Interior RAC you might -- every couple years you might
30 get an appointment that would come in front of you, but
31 here in Seward Peninsula you just don't see that.

32
33 Are tribes consulted, yes, lots of
34 local entities are. The process for getting nominated
35 is similar to what goes on for these Councils but a
36 little less formalized.

37
38 MR. BUCK: So the Subsistence Resource
39 Commission was established without us knowing it and
40 they're considering our subsistence resources so I'm
41 just confused; I've never heard of it.

42
43 MR. RABINOWITCH: They were established
44 in the same law same, in the same title, ANILCA, Title
45 VIII, as these commissions were so they've been around
46 -- on paper for 31 years and they came into being
47 probably -- I believe I actually went to the first
48 Subsistence Resource Commission that was every held and
49 I think it was 1983 so they've been in place for a long
50 time now.

1 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah.

4

5 MR. SMITH: Has Mr. Goltz had a chance
6 to look at this and render an opinion on whether it
7 could be done. It seems to me that it might be a
8 problem to have variable Federal per diem rates.

9

10 MR. RABINOWITCH: The answer is as far
11 as I know the answer is no, that I'm not aware that
12 Keith Goltz, who's one of the attorneys to the Federal
13 Subsistence Board, I'm not aware that he has seen this,
14 it's possible, you know, that he has and I might not
15 know that. And as to your point with differing per
16 diem rates, you know, I think that's a fair point, that
17 it could create some challenges if there were differing
18 rates.

19

20 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, well, thanks
21 Sandy.

22

23 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay, thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Agency reports. Helen
26 gets to start.

27

28 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
29 Chairman. Members of the Council. Helen Armstrong
30 again. The OSM report is on Page 58 in your books. We
31 have a number of things we just wanted to make sure
32 that you were aware of.

33

34 We did develop a proposed regulation to
35 increase the membership -- oh, I'm sorry, this is --
36 this status report is on the Secretarial
37 recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Management
38 Program. So you remember that we had the Secretarial
39 Review and it's been ongoing for a couple of years.
40 And so one of the things that has come out of that
41 Secretarial Review is that we did have a regulation to
42 increase the membership on the Federal Subsistence
43 Board to include two additional public members
44 representing subsistence users. And when this was
45 written we had applications in, but as of January 27th
46 it was announced who those two new members are and it
47 was too recent to have gone into your books. But I
48 passed this out so you each got a single sheet
49 announcing who those two members are. And they are
50 Charlie Brower of Barrow, and Anthony Christianson of

1 Hydaburg. And both of them are lifelong Alaskans with
2 deep personal knowledge and experience with
3 subsistence.

4
5 Anthony Christianson is a lifelong
6 resident of Southeast and he's currently the natural
7 resources director for the Hydaburg Cooperative
8 Association, which is a Federally-recognized tribal
9 entity and he also serves as Mayor of the city of
10 Hydaburg. He's participated in a number of programs
11 and studies related to the fish and wildlife in
12 Southeast Alaska, including some that we funded through
13 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

14
15 And then Mr. Charles Brower, Charlie
16 Brower is a lifelong resident of Barrow and he's
17 currently the special assistant to the vice president
18 of the Ukpeakvik Inupiat Corporation, the Barrow
19 village corporation. He formerly was the wildlife
20 department director for the Native Village of Barrow
21 and wildlife department director for the North Slope
22 Borough. He's also been on a number of wildlife
23 commissions, including the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-
24 Management Council and the Alaska Nanuuq Commission and
25 the Eskimo Walrus Commission.

26
27 So those are our two new members. They
28 did get, I think about 35 applicants, so that was good
29 to know and I -- my understanding is that there were --
30 that it was a tough choice, there were a lot of really
31 good applicants.

32
33 So that's exciting that we have the two
34 new members on.

35
36 And just to refresh your memory, those
37 of you especially who are newer, the existing Federal
38 Subsistence Board is made up of the directors of the
39 Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Fish
40 and Wildlife Service, Forest Service and.....

41
42 MR. SHARP: BLM.

43
44 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:BLM, Bureau of
45 Land Management, and the Chair, who's appointed by the
46 Secretary, who, right now is Tim Towarak.

47
48 There's ongoing -- the review, you may
49 recall at last winter's meeting, I think, we had the
50 memorandum of understanding with the State, we had

1 comments come from the Council members and those
2 comments were summarized and reviewed by the Board in
3 the summer of 2011, and the Board proposed to the State
4 that they have a joint work group to reestablish and
5 address the changes recommended by the Councils. So
6 now they're forming an MOU work group and they've had
7 several meetings and they're supposed to report back to
8 the Board by May of 2012.

9

10 And then this doesn't have a whole lot
11 of effect here in this region but the -- there has been
12 a decision by the Board to address the rural
13 determination process determining which communities are
14 rural and present those recommendations for regulatory
15 changes. And at the January meeting the Board
16 discussed this and decided to publish a proposed rule
17 to solicit comments from the public on the rural
18 determination process and the current rural/nonrural
19 determinations. And then it will -- it'll be coming
20 back to you in the near future, you'll be asked for
21 comment, and then they'll do probably a new rulemaking
22 and it'll go through the whole long process again.

23

24 So any questions on any of that?

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The rural really
29 kind of came to a head because of the determination by
30 the Board the last time we did the rural determinations
31 to -- the Board determined that Saxman would no longer
32 be rural and would become nonrural and there's been
33 continuing controversy around that and so now through
34 the Secretarial review they've asked that this all be
35 reexamined so they're looking at it again.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

40

41 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: Okay. And then the
42 only other thing, I'm not going to read through this
43 but on Page 59 we have had a lot of changes and I hope
44 you're understanding because there are more to come,
45 the aging Federal government is quickly retiring and I
46 think you'll see a lot more retirements in the near
47 future. The Department of Interior just put out an
48 early retirement -- it's not an offer with money but
49 it's, you know, saying you can retire earlier with your
50 full retirement benefits and so I think some people

1 will be taking advantage of that. I heard at a meeting
2 recently that out of 350 Fish and Wildlife Service
3 employees, 200 of them qualify for early retirement.
4 So it kind of tells you how old our Federal government
5 has become. So get those young people out there to get
6 those Federal jobs.

7
8 MR. BUCK: I just had one question, is
9 this Barbara Atoruk, was that Barbara.....

10
11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Armstrong.

12
13 MR. BUCK:Armstrong, used to be,
14 okay.

15
16 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: She retired. And
17 she's living with her new husband Atoruk in Kiana and
18 quite happy back to her roots.

19
20 And the other one of note here that I
21 don't know if you were aware of is that Polly Wheeler
22 has left us permanently and she's now the Deputy
23 Director of Refuges for Fish and Wildlife Service.

24
25 And I think, you know, we didn't do --
26 we didn't go around and do introductions early on but I
27 think most of you remember Ann Wilkinson or a lot of
28 you remember Ann Wilkinson, and she had retired, Carl
29 Johnson, who's sitting over here has taken Ann's place
30 as the chief of Council coordinators.

31
32 So those are things that will directly
33 affect you and actually Cole Brown has left as well.
34 She went and took a job down in Colorado.

35
36 I'm not sure a lot of these positions
37 you would have necessarily known -- well, Larry Buklis
38 also had left but I think you knew that, too, so any
39 questions on that.

40
41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go any applications?

42
43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, we did have --
44 actually we were advertising for Council coordinators
45 -- wait, is that out -- that's closed?

46
47 MR. JOHNSON: That's closed.

48
49 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's closed, yeah.
50 We're hiring two new Council coordinators, and that's

1 closed. And we just recently hired Carl. We'll
2 probably be hiring the new policy coordinator, I've
3 heard. I think eventually they'll hire a new wildlife
4 biologist, but probably they'll wait until we get --
5 we're in the fish cycle right now so I think they'll
6 wait a little while for that. I think we're going to
7 be hiring some new fish biologists.

8

9 So we have openings for sure.

10

11 And the other thing that I'll just make
12 a note of that I think is great that the Fish and
13 Wildlife Service is doing, you see here this fisheries
14 SCEP student, and SCEP is Student Career Employment
15 Program, I think. It's going to be changing to
16 something called Pathways. But the Fish and Wildlife
17 Service is really pushing all of us to hire more
18 students and so we're funding -- and we're going to do
19 one more, an anthropologist, I'm looking at
20 applications right now but we're funding students in an
21 effort to get young people into Federal agencies. This
22 is one way to do it. So while they're in college, to
23 help support them in their studies, if they're in
24 graduate school, to help them with their research, and
25 then hopefully if there's a job opening then they can
26 be hired. And one of them, Kay Larson Blair, who we
27 had had as a SCEP student in the past and then rehired
28 her, she's a Native from the Dillingham area and she's
29 finishing her Master's Degree. And I think she's one
30 of the first, I think, if I have this right, Master's
31 degree students to be finishing under the ANSEP
32 program, which Fish and Wildlife Service also supports
33 quite heavily, the Alaska Native.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Science?

36

37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:something Engin
38 -- Science and Engineering Program, yeah, which is a
39 great program.

40

41 So lots of possibilities, get.....

42

43 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

44

45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:those young
46 people to.....

47

48 MR. BUCK: I'd just like to say that
49 the people that are retiring that really affected this
50 RAC group was Ann Wilkinson and Barbara Atoruk, and I'd

1 like some kind of recognition to them that we really
2 appreciate what they did for this RAC.

3
4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That would be really
5 nice. We'll make sure -- do you want that in the form
6 of a letter or should we get a card to have people
7 sign.

8
9 MR. BUCK: Something. I'll leave that
10 up to whoever makes it up.

11
12 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Write them a letter.

13
14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay, we'll do that.
15 That will be very appreciated. I know they both really
16 enjoyed working with this Council. And, Ann, certainly
17 got her roots in the program as the coordinator for
18 this Council.

19
20 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, okay.

21
22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
23 Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: You bet. Ken, you're
26 next. Have you got much to go over?

27
28 MR. ADKISSON: No.

29
30 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, go ahead, Ken.

31
32 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council
33 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. No, I'll
34 be relatively quick.

35
36 You all have a handout here which is
37 sort of a newsletter put together by our Arctic Network
38 Inventory and Monitoring Program kind of about some of
39 our monitoring efforts and a few projects that'll be
40 ongoing, and it's worth looking through. I won't --
41 there are some things in it like the yellow-billed loon
42 efforts and stuff, we're not actually doing anything in
43 the Park this summer, but it's worth looking at in
44 terms of what they're -- how they go about monitoring
45 the loons and why they're doing it.

46
47 There's also a piece about in the Kobuk
48 Valley National Park about some non-invasive, basically
49 scat analysis for black bears, looking at genetics and
50 diet and stuff as a non-invasive way of getting

1 information on black bears.

2

3 So there's a lot of information in
4 that.

5

6 As I've pointed out in the past, with
7 our low levels of staffing and things, we really are
8 integrated to a large degree with our Arctic Network
9 and Inventory and Monitoring Program, and a lot of what
10 we do focuses around monitoring what we call our vital
11 signs, several of which feature on key wildlife species
12 like caribou, muskoxen, dall sheep, those kind of
13 things. And we also supplement that a lot with some of
14 our own Park funds and Park base, and Staff for things
15 that aren't picked up by the Arctic Network and
16 Inventory and Monitoring Program.

17

18 But what I'd like to call your
19 attention to really are just some things that, for now,
20 are specific to Bering Land Bridge, and will be
21 upcoming. Probably key of which will be -- this is the
22 year that we're going to redo the InterAgency effort to
23 redo the muskoxen population estimate, and in addition
24 they'll be doing composition work and you'll see a
25 calendar for the Park Service participation in that on
26 the front page. We've also got one more year of the,
27 what we call the Burger-Adams Comparative Muskox Study,
28 which compares the muskoxen in Cape Krusenstern and
29 Bering Land Bridge. We've extended the collaring
30 period, so this spring we'll be out collaring several
31 more animals to maintain the number of collars out
32 there and increasing our monitoring to see if we can
33 get a little better hold on some of the mortality
34 issues that we've been experiencing. Collared animals
35 on both the Federal and State side projects have been
36 experiencing fairly high levels of mortality as you've
37 heard before.

38

39 The other things that we'll be doing in
40 Bering Land Bridge under the Arctic -- the Inventory
41 and Monitoring Program, we've got -- there were four
42 weather stations planned to go out, three of those went
43 out in the Preserve last summer, the fourth one will go
44 out this year, this summer.

45

46 We've also got a couple of more EAs
47 that we're working on, one of which will be an
48 amendment to the general management plan for the Park
49 that'll focus on development in the Serpentine Hot
50 Springs area. The other one that's of probably of

1 interest especially to this group is, and you've heard
2 from us before on it, is Bering Land Bridge is moving
3 towards a development of the concession contract guided
4 sporthunting program. And, you know, we've had a
5 number of conversations with guides in the communities.
6 We've consulted with the communities. And we've got
7 basically several alternatives tentatively mapped out
8 and some descriptive material and that's gone to a
9 contractor who's going to be producing the basic draft
10 environmental document for the project and it'll
11 probably be this summer sometime when that draft comes
12 out and it's finally ready for public review. So I
13 doubt if we're going to actually implement any kind of
14 a program, if we do, in time for this year's hunt. But
15 if things chug along as they do, by 2013, maybe the
16 fall of 2013 we may be in the process of issuing.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN QUINN: A commercial use
19 permit?

20
21 MR. ADKISSON: No, they won't be
22 commercial use permits, they'll be concession
23 contracts.

24
25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, yeah, okay, okay.

26
27 MR. ADKISSON: So basically what's
28 involved there is you put together a -- basically like
29 a perspectus and those go out and then people respond
30 to those and then we evaluate them and select them so
31 it's a lot more complicated than the commercial use
32 authorizations like the transporters operate under.

33
34 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Hum, okay.

35
36 MR. ADKISSON: And those will all be
37 available -- when they come out, we'll have copies of
38 them available and they'll also be available on line.

39
40 We're also working on a long-term
41 monitoring program, range monitoring program in the
42 Preserve, mostly in the Eastern and Central and
43 Southern parts of the Preserve that is going to involve
44 putting 18 exclosures out in various locations,
45 essentially on winter range and high lichen cover range
46 to basically evaluate the long-term trends out there
47 and vegetation. And that's still not out for public
48 comment, but will be shortly. And most of these things
49 are available, when they do come out on line through
50 the -- what's called the Park Service's environmental

1 permitting system, PSEPS, and I can provide you with
2 addresses and things if you want to on that.

3

4 The only other thing I really wanted to
5 bring to your attention today -- unless there's any
6 questions on any of that material I'll move to the one
7 other item I've got, which was to update you on the
8 muskoxen hunt for the 2011/2012 hunt year.

9

10 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

11

12 MR. ADKISSON: Okay. Some of you may
13 have known the picture may be less than rosy, i guess,
14 or we've been seeing or we've been seeing some downward
15 trends, in some cases numbers, others bull/cow ratios,
16 recruitment, productivity, higher increases in some
17 mortality in varying degrees throughout the Peninsula,
18 the effect of all of this was for the 2011/2012 hunt
19 year was that overall harvest, allowable harvest levels
20 were reduced. Some cases some hunt areas may be just
21 slightly, other cases fairly severely.

22

23 And the effect -- one of the effects of
24 all of this, I think, in lowering the allowing harvest
25 levels may have contributed too, to shortening the
26 actual hunting opportunity and seasons and we, in
27 cooperation with the Department of Fish and Game did
28 several closures.

29

30 Probably the first one that we did was
31 in the 22D remainder area, which closed in October,
32 around mid-October, and you may recall that in the
33 prior regulatory year there was a proposal submitted to
34 split out the eastern part of 22D from that sort of
35 central area of 22D, and it's probably a good thing
36 that that passed and we did that because like I said
37 the 22D remainder, that central closed in October,
38 which still allowed hunting in the Kuzitrin Pilgrim
39 area, so that was a plus. Unfortunately, however, the
40 Kuzitrin Pilgrim area basically -- there wasn't really
41 much hunting on Federal public lands, if at all, in the
42 fall and hunting really didn't get underway until the
43 State season opened in January, and when it did the
44 hunt lasted about two days. And of the nine -- what is
45 -- roughly.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Nine.

48

49 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah. The nine
50 allowable harvest, the actual harvest came in, I think

1 close to double that. So a short hunt and high harvest
2 north of Nome.

3
4 We just now closed the 23 southwest,
5 actually that closed -- yeah, that closed the 12th so
6 -- of January, I think, so, yeah, so -- and then we
7 also closed the 22 -- 23 southwest hunt and that was
8 another short one. They saw their harvest reduced --
9 allowable harvest reduced by almost half up in the
10 Buckland/Deering area and that hunt basically just made
11 it about a little less than 10 days or so and closed.

12
13 So right now the only subsistence
14 muskoxen hunting that's still open on the Peninsula is
15 over in 22B and 22E.

16
17 And if there's a positive note, I
18 guess, as I've indicated is the InterAgency's count is
19 coming up shortly and the comp work will be done in
20 conjunction with that. And, you know, once that data
21 gets analyzed maybe we'll have a lot better picture and
22 perhaps Tony will have a chance to fill you in, ADF&G
23 will have a chance to fill you in on some of that, but
24 we may just have to just wait until it's all in and
25 we've gone through it.

26
27 That's it.

28
29 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. All right,
30 thanks.

31
32 MR. SEETOT: Muskox quota was closed,
33 at least for 22D. I know that in the past, that we --
34 or at least the Federal -- or National Park Service did
35 away with going to the communities of Teller, Brevig,
36 Wales, Shishmaref for the Federal quota, now that just
37 a majority of the hunters I guess are pretty much Nome
38 based compared to the ones that are what's in Teller
39 Brevig for 22D. I -- I do not see any problem with
40 that other than that priority hunting is taken over by
41 interested people that have not yet bagged a muskox or
42 so but in these communities I guess we are going to run
43 into problems sooner or later on the availability of
44 wild game meat. We're pretty much predominately sea
45 mammal and occasionally land animals, other than the
46 caribou, which we'd have to travel for 100 miles just
47 to harvest.

48
49 In the future no sign of reviving the
50 Federal quota for the communities like Brevig would get

1 so much, Teller would get so much. I know Wales --
2 Wales and Shishmaref, they're in the area where the
3 population hunt -- the population of muskox is high, I
4 think in Unit 22D, it's just a matter of trying to
5 break out a certain percentage of muskox to be harvest
6 from, you know, the total population.

7

8 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Seetot, through the
9 Chair. Let me kind of maybe go over review how the
10 permitting system works.

11

12 There really isn't a single Federal
13 quota and we haven't had that since about 1998, when we
14 started the joint hunting. The first '95, '96, '97
15 there was a Federal quota and there were only Federal
16 permits and it was only a Federal hunt. After we
17 started the joint -- jointly managed hunts with the
18 State, basically there is a single quota and that's
19 shared by hunters who are hunting either under the
20 State program or the Federal program, there is no
21 allocation of animals to specifically one hunt or the
22 other, it's a shared quota. Yes, especially up until
23 very recently we used to make a lot of effort and go
24 out to the communities and issue Federal permits. As
25 an experiment and I'm not sure it's succeeding very
26 well, I'm not really happy with it, but, yes, last year
27 and this year we didn't go to the communities on
28 Federal permits. We did provide information to the
29 communities. What's happened is the OSM, Office of
30 Subsistence Management, the Federal permitting process
31 is now on line and it's added some workload burdens to
32 our Staff and so as an experiment we basically tried
33 handling the request for Federal permits by phone,
34 telephone. I can't say that that's been a real success
35 and we may have to look at, you know, going back
36 printing up permits in advance and going out again and
37 issuing them in the communities.

38

39 On the other part of the side is that
40 there's actually -- even when we did that, in the last
41 few years when we were issuing Federal permits, there
42 was very little Federal harvest under the Federal
43 permit system. That doesn't mean that there were --
44 the people who were harvesting were not eligible
45 Federally, it just means that they weren't using,
46 necessarily -- they were not using the Federal permits.
47 And why is that? That's because, especially, you know,
48 throughout the joint State and Federal programs, the
49 regulations read that if you're a Federally eligible
50 user, you can hunt on Federal lands using either a

1 State or a Federal permit, which is like the best of
2 all possible worlds because you can get one permit and
3 you can use it on State managed lands and on Federal
4 lands. Unfortunately, the system doesn't work in
5 reverse. So if you're holding a Federal permit, you
6 can't use that on State managed lands, you can only use
7 it on Federal managed lands. And as we all know the
8 Federal managed lands in most parts for a lot of these
9 hunt areas are a lot more distance from the community
10 and harder to access and on and on and on, which is one
11 of the reasons that, you know, probably limited, you
12 know, harvest success for some of those communities
13 anyway.

14

15 So, you know, we may have to start
16 going back to the communities.

17

18 And the one advantage of the Federal
19 permit right now is after the year kicks over, I
20 believe, and Tony can correct me if this is wrong, like
21 if for the 2011/2012 hunt year, if you get a State
22 permit for the end of 2011 you can use that into that
23 January, February, March part of the hunt. On the
24 other hand if you don't get your State permit before
25 the end of 2011 I don't think you can get a State
26 permit after that date and that's what Tony can correct
27 me if I'm wrong on that. So one advantage of the
28 Federal permit is you can get it from us as long as the
29 season's open. So if you don't have success before
30 January 1 with your State permit, you can come get a
31 Federal permit from us or request one and we'll get one
32 to you and you can use that on the Federal lands.

33

34 MR. SEETOT: And the harvest of
35 muskox.....

36

37 MR. GORN: You can get a State
38 permit.....

39

40 MR. ADKISSON: Oh, throughout the whole
41 hunt season.....

42

43 MR. GORN: (Nods affirmatively)

44

45 MR. ADKISSON:okay, great, so
46 there's almost no advantage to a Federal permit then.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 MR. SEETOT: The harvest of muskox.....

1 MR. ADKISSON: Except for one -- let me
2 correct myself, there is one, under the Federal system
3 you can use the designated hunter permit, which is
4 considerably more liberal especially in places like
5 22E.

6
7 MR. SEETOT: The harvest of muskox is
8 pretty new to our residents. Another new species was
9 moose, which weren't available 50 years ago, you know,
10 just a matter of introducing people to new species,
11 it's just a matter before the people acquire a taste
12 for these animals.

13
14 I was one of the first persons of the
15 two ticketholders to harvest a muskox and I was able to
16 get that at the last day of, you know, the season.
17 Since that time I haven't been able to get at least no
18 more than five since that time, just a matter of people
19 acquiring the taste for muskox. And way of processing
20 the meat. You know, like some communities process it,
21 pretty much ground -- ground it up, the whole works, in
22 the communities, you know, it's pretty much more the
23 drying process or having the meat fresh and no other
24 way -- fry and stuff like that and just -- we just need
25 to find ways to prepare meat like that.

26
27 MR. BUCK: I also have -- I agree with
28 Elmer. White -- the White Mountain guys, I learned
29 about muskox first -- they got muskox. Now, they're
30 learning that the -- the younger ones are a lot more
31 tender and they got a lot better meat and -- and the
32 lady's are learning how to cook them and so it's a
33 learning process for us. We're learning.

34
35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, thanks Ken.

36
37 MR. ADKISSON: You're welcome.

38
39 MR. KEYES: Hey, Ken, this is Anthony
40 from Wales.

41
42 MR. ADKISSON: Yes, Mr. Keyes.

43
44 MR. KEYES: Yes, I was talking to Alex
45 quite -- like a couple of months ago or like last
46 month, on this muskox hunting in a way that
47 (indiscernible) one person for a hunt, for -- you know
48 to be a hunter to another person. I would strongly
49 suggest you add another person making it two persons to
50 go out to retrieve any kind of animal for the elders

1 because using one person out in the country is a little
2 too hard on, you know, one body by himself. I think
3 it'd be a lot more wise to bring in another -- I'd
4 suggest that you have two designated hunters for an
5 individual that needs, you know, whatever they need.

6

7 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Keyes. Ken
8 Adkisson, through the Chair. Yeah, that's an
9 interesting idea. I was looking at the write up in the
10 draft RAC report and I noticed that and I got to
11 thinking about it and I think I understand what you're
12 saying. And I guess there's two ways that immediately
13 come to mind that that might be addressed.

14

15 One would be to submit a proposal to
16 modify the designated hunter system and the other one
17 would be to shift to a system of community harvest
18 limits. I don't know how that would go over right now
19 since we're no longer in the wildlife regulatory cycle
20 since the Federal Board just acted on the proposals for
21 2012 -- through 2014 so until the next cycle comes
22 around but that's something that could be addressed --
23 OSM, on you know a new proposal or whatever it was.
24 But those are the two ways that I could think of right
25 now that we could maybe get at that issue.

26

27 MR. KEYES: The reason why I brought
28 this up was because the safety, you know, out in the
29 country especially with the weather conditions that we
30 are now encountering of are a lot more work than what
31 we are -- you know, what we used to see back in the
32 earlier days, now it's starting to get rougher. So,
33 you know, I would strongly suggest that two, you know,
34 for hunting would be a much more -- instead of having
35 one out in the country, you know, separated and get
36 lost or get hurt or, you know, safety is a concern for
37 all hunters in any region.

38

39

40 MR. ADKISSON: Right, I understand
41 that. And, you know, with the unlimited number of
42 permit systems that's been in effect the last several
43 years, you know, there's nothing that would prevent
44 hunters from basically each getting a permit and
45 teaming up to go hunt, but what you're describing with
46 the designated hunter program might be more of a
47 challenge because I think what you're saying is that
48 you would like more than one individual to be able to
49 hunt for a single recipient and I think that would take
50 some discussion with OSM as to whether that could be

1 worked out and how it could. But, yeah, I understand
2 what you're saying and right now if you look at the
3 regulatory system and the permit system, you know, a
4 lot's been done to try -- like through the designated
5 hunter program to get the regulations to more reflect
6 traditional practices. But I think that question you
7 raise shows that we're not there yet and that there is
8 still some issues with the programs being compatible
9 with the way people actually hunt and harvest and
10 share.

11

MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman.

12

CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

13

14

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CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. How big's -- or
how long is your.....

MR. SHARP: It depends on if we get
into the weeds or not, I can be very brief. I'm just
hear to bring the information.

CHAIRMAN QUINN: Are you in a hurry
Tony?

MR. SHARP: Tony could -- anybody can
go first, it doesn't matter.

CHAIRMAN QUINN: Do you want to go next

1 so that you can be done.

2

3 MR. GORN: Whatever you want to do,
4 Mike.

5

6 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, you go
7 ahead and hopefully we can be brief. Maybe we'll even
8 need Tony's input on what you got there.

9

10 MR. SHARP: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
11 name's Dan Sharp. I serve as the statewide subsistence
12 coordinator for the Bureau of Land Management and also
13 serve on the InterAgency Staff Committee. My purpose
14 here today is to, I guess, to bring some information to
15 the Council.

16

17 As you may be aware the Alaska
18 Department of Natural Resources, I believe, in 2007
19 initiated a -- they're trying to reinvigorate their
20 guide concession program and basically carve up the
21 state for guide concessions. I put maps in front of
22 all of you which is -- I just took these off the DNR's
23 web site. The first thing I'll point out to you is the
24 -- up in the upper left corner it says May 2009 draft,
25 that's the most recent copy that's available, but as
26 you look at the map these are the -- the red lines
27 distinguish guide concession areas. There's a small
28 black number under those, those are the number of --
29 this is a draft number again, these are the number of
30 guides the State is proposing to authorize on State
31 lands. There's also a smaller map that I also included
32 that has more of a -- a better view of Kotzebue Sound
33 and the Peninsula for those whose eyesight is similar
34 to mine.

35

36 What the Bureau of Land Management is
37 doing is somewhat in parallel with what the State
38 initiative is, is we're going to try to come up with a
39 number of guide concessions that will be allowed to
40 operate on BLM lands. So, again, these numbers that
41 you see underneath the guide areas, those are State --
42 proposed State permitted guide concessions. The State
43 is asking us to come up with a comparable number for
44 guide concessions that would operate on BLM lands.
45 Now, this doesn't -- this isn't a consideration of
46 number of clients, number of animals killed or so, it's
47 simply a guide concession. And I realize there are
48 some areas of the state that are hotly contested,
49 Squirrel River, of course comes to mind, Dalton Highway
50 sheep is another where BLM has had to address this -- I

1 won't say preemptively but simply because of the
2 popularity and the use of these areas and the conflicts
3 that are already occurring.

4
5 So what BLM is proposing to do is go
6 down the NEPA road, similar to what Sandy had
7 presented, doing an environmental assessment. I'm
8 hoping it doesn't take four years to work through this
9 process but what -- that is essentially what I'm
10 presenting here is that is a head's up, that we're
11 going down that road to try to come up with a number of
12 concessions that would be allowed to operate on BLM
13 managed lands. And, again, there are areas that we're
14 already dealing with, Squirrel River comes to mind and
15 I believe in the land use plan that's in effect now,
16 it's those -- those concessions are frozen at 2004
17 levels. This particular approach isn't meant to
18 subvert those things that have been worked through to a
19 point, I believe the next step and I'm not even sure of
20 the status but was -- I think the next step mentioned
21 in the plan was a recreation area management plan to
22 further refine that guide number that would be allowed
23 to operate in the Squirrel River.

24
25 Another thing is this plan is not
26 addressing transporters, it's purely commercial big
27 game guides. I suspect transporters will probably be
28 the next up without question but BLM already has the
29 ability with respect to commercial permitting to limit
30 those and to, I guess, provide some -- some level of
31 management.

32
33 So, again, this is just sort of a
34 head's up that BLM is going down -- starting to prepare
35 an environmental assessment for distributing
36 concessions on BLM lands statewide.

37
38 And I'll leave it at that then if folks
39 have questions.

40
41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, the Park Service
42 in their picking up antlers and plants stuff, that was
43 kind of venturing into a new area, you guys are already
44 permitting guides on your areas, what do you need to do
45 a NEPA assessment for just to continue permitting
46 guides on your areas?

47
48 MR. SHARP: Right now we're not
49 permitting guides on all areas. It's the areas that
50 are in -- certainly in -- that are in serious

1 contention. We're required by both ANILCA and -- if
2 we're permitting use we have to go through NEPA. The
3 land use plan is a NEPA process in itself. We're
4 trying -- one of the -- one of the issues is we are the
5 only Federal agency that hasn't gone through this
6 process. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Park Service
7 and Forest Service have all gone through this to
8 establish concessions. So -- I'll correct myself, I
9 know we do permit every -- it -- we do permit guides
10 everywhere, we don't have a process for establishing
11 number of concessions. Right now it's not -- we're not
12 running up against a hard number in all areas to where
13 guide are tripping over each other.

14
15 The other issue that's of concern, is
16 if the State has their guide use areas established and
17 they -- they permit guides, BLM conceivably is going to
18 be left with leftovers of guides, folks who didn't get
19 concessions are going to be coming, looking at BLM
20 lands for where else they can operate a business. I
21 guess we don't want to get to that point. So, again,
22 the State is asking us to come up with a number to
23 match or go parallel to theirs for concessions that
24 will operate in these areas.

25
26 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I'm sure the NEPA
27 assessment won't take near as long as the time you guys
28 are going to spend in court along with the State once
29 this thing tries to be implemented.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MR. SHARP: I won't disagree.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

38
39 MR. SPARKS: Mr. Chair. Maybe I could
40 just add a little bit. Tom Sparks.

41
42 We go through a NEPA evaluation with
43 every permit that we issue at the field office level.
44 So every guide that gets a permit from BLM goes through
45 a NEPA process currently.

46
47 Just some things that came up, we have
48 a -- our basic framework is the land use plan and for
49 this area it's the Kobuk Seward Land Use Plan. And
50 when that was implemented, it was just a few years that

1 that was signed, the record of decision was signed in
2 2008, and that land use plan froze the number of
3 commercial big game guides in the Squirrel River area
4 and it also set about a process so we would address
5 transporters, mainly trying to get a hold of the
6 numbers that were up there. That area is handled out
7 of our Fairbanks office, it's not handled out of the
8 Anchorage office, it's the Fairbanks District Office.
9 And one of the things that came up with Squirrel River
10 is that all the area around that, if you look at the
11 land status map, is there was so many areas that were
12 controlled by Fish and Wildlife Service and where they
13 set hard numbers on the commercial game opportunities
14 for big game guides. So Squirrel River became kind of
15 a mecca for big game guides to do operations. And we
16 also go through a subsistence evaluation before any
17 permit that we give out. So generally if there's a lot
18 of game in the area and it's not a subsistence concern
19 then the way that BLM looks at it, is that, it's a
20 regulatory matter in terms of the State numbers of
21 animals that are permitted.

22

23 So just kind of clarify some of that.
24 There is no area on the Seward Peninsula where we have
25 curtailed or set hard numbers. So each guide that
26 comes before us is an individual case by case basis.

27

28 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, well, thanks,
29 that's good information and we'll see how it goes down
30 the road. And I guess we're ready for the State folks
31 to sit down.

32

33 Go ahead, start when you're ready.

34

35 MR. GORN: Good afternoon, Mr.
36 Chairman, and RAC Members. My name is Tony Gorn. I'm
37 the Unit 22 area biologist. And sitting next to me is
38 my assistant, AB in Nome here, Letty Hughes. We have a
39 pretty short report but we'll be here just to address
40 any kind of questions you might have.

41

42 Basically Letty is going to real
43 quickly just kind of go over management of hunts that
44 we've had recently. Ken already went over several of
45 the muskox hunts. And then after she does that I'm
46 going to go into the very exciting overview of the
47 results from the November Board of Game meeting, and
48 that'll be pretty quick but it'll just update you guys
49 on what the Board of Game did up in Barrow this
50 November.

1 So go ahead, Letty.

2

3 MS. HUGHES: Okay. Ken pretty much
4 touched on the muskox hunts. There's just a few things
5 I was going to expand on that.

6

7 So the areas that still remain for
8 muskox is up in 22E, the RX104 hunt. 22B west of the
9 Darby Mountains. We've had four animals harvested out
10 of 15 up there. And then in 22B east, the Koyukuk Elim
11 area, you know, the quota up there is three and we
12 haven't had any taken. And then the 22C area, as I
13 think we probably talked about at maybe the last RAC
14 meeting is -- we changed that to the cows permits,
15 first come first served, we issued eight of those. One
16 was, was formerly known as the closed area, we turned
17 that into a weapons restrictions so shotgun, you know,
18 muzzle loader or archery. And that's -- we've only had
19 one harvested since then but since weather's warming up
20 maybe, you know, others who picked up permits might
21 take advantage of that.

22

23 And then on the moose side, you know,
24 we had remaining moose leftover from the quota from 22D
25 from the fall. 22D Kuzitrin and southwest. So the
26 quota was 54 and we ended up with a harvest of 44
27 bulls. So that left us with 10 so we issued an
28 emergency order opening to have the hunt open up on
29 January 1st because we have it in the reg books as to
30 be announced. So we had one bull, antlered bull
31 harvested during January and, you know, I can only
32 speculate it's probably due to the cold weather that we
33 had for the whole month.

34

35 And out in 22B west, the Darby
36 Mountains we had -- there's a winter hunt for eight
37 antlered bulls and we had two harvested in that area.

38

39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Hum, that's pretty
40 low.

41

42 MS. HUGHES: And, you know, for our
43 moose census projects that we've got going on, we'll be
44 starting to do our moose census in 22A out in the
45 Unalakleet River drainage so we'll begin that on
46 February 20th and hopefully get that done and we'll
47 have something to report for new moose numbers out in
48 that area.

49

50 And I know in the past there's been a

1 request for -- you know, from St. Michael Stebbin folks
2 about, you know, what's going on with the moose down in
3 their area, providing that weather works out and we can
4 knock out this moose survey, Tony's plans, we're going
5 to send a couple cubs down further south to look at
6 spring recruitment.

7

8 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Tony.

9

10 MR. GORN: Okay, so, I'll quickly just
11 go over what happened in Barrow this November. We
12 actually had a pretty light load for Unit 22 for
13 proposals. There's been years where we've had around
14 30 proposals and boy this year I think we had less than
15 10. But I'll just kind of go through them quickly.

16

17 The first proposal talked about Unit
18 22C brown bear regulations and the Board of Game
19 lengthened the Unit 22C brown bear season to May 1st to
20 May 31st. The old season was the 10th through the
21 25th, so we got some days added on the front end and
22 the back end of the Unit 22C brown bear season. And
23 that covers any kind of brown bear hunting in Unit 22C,
24 those dates will be applied.

25

26 MR. SMITH: Could you say again the
27 dates?

28

29 MR. GORN: May 1st through the 31st,
30 are the new dates.

31

32 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

33

34 MR. GORN: Not this spring, but
35 beginning next regulatory year, that's how we'll start
36 hunting brown bears in 22C.

37

38 I'm going to spend a moment and just
39 kind of go through a suite of muskox changes that the
40 Board of Game considered. Nothing real high profile,
41 more of just planning for the future.

42

43 The first thing the Board of Game did
44 is they took a look at in code, of the geographic area
45 used to define the Seward Peninsula muskox population
46 and how that relates to the amount necessary for
47 subsistence number. In years past it was just defined
48 as the Seward Peninsula. In 2010 when we surveyed
49 muskox, that was the first year that we were able to
50 expand the survey area and look at, formally, for the

1 first time, take a look at areas like northern 22A,
2 take a look at areas of Unit 23 east of the Buckland
3 River, going over into really the drainages that start
4 to flow into the Galena area. So what happened was is
5 we come up with these new animals and the Board had to
6 decide where exactly they fit in all of this stuff. So
7 what they did is they just added those areas, or those
8 animals to the old ANS. So now when we talk about
9 harvestable surpluses, we talk about Tier II or
10 registration hunts, we have to consider those areas as
11 well. We don't have to have hunts there and currently
12 there is no hunting in those two areas I mentioned
13 before, but at least when we think about where they fit
14 out here, you know, the Board of Game better defined
15 exactly where those animals are going to go.

16
17 The next thing they did is -- I gave a
18 -- and you guys have all heard it several times so I
19 won't do it again, but I gave a very detailed overview
20 of the population at the Board meeting and, you know,
21 without sticking my neck out too far, asked the Board
22 that the Department needed to be prepared legally in
23 code to be able to administer either registration or
24 Tier II hunts. And this is the behind the scenes thing
25 that, you know, most people aren't aware of but I can't
26 -- the Department just can't go into Tier II, you know,
27 we just can't go into a drawing hunt scenario, the
28 Board has to authorize that stuff. So what they did
29 behind the scenes is they rewrote the section of muskox
30 code that basically gives us options now so depending
31 upon what we find this spring we'll be able to continue
32 with the registration hunt or, if need be, we could go
33 ahead and enter into a Tier II hunt scenario. We just
34 have the flexibility in the code now to do that.

35
36 The second thing, or maybe the third
37 thing, I guess, that the Board did that is pretty
38 significant, I think, is they took a look at our ANS
39 value and you guys are familiar with our ANS on the
40 Seward Peninsula, you know that there's nested ANS for
41 22E. It is right now 40 to 50, and what they did is
42 they lowered that, so beginning next year the ANS for
43 22E will be 10 to 25. And what that -- what that does,
44 realistically, is it preserves or at least produces
45 some type of opportunity for drawing hunt scenarios, if
46 the harvestable surplus is above 25 muskox in Unit 22E.
47 So they lowered that ANS. They did not lower the
48 overall ANS, it's still 100 to 150, but just in 22E it
49 got reduced from 40 to 50 to 10 to 25.

50

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Tony, when you give
2 ranges for ANS, how do you decide which of those
3 numbers to use and when to use them?

4
5 MR. GORN: That's an outstanding
6 question. And basically -- and I asked for it
7 specifically this time, these are one of these things
8 that were just assumed, but if we get the Board to put
9 it down in that big thick code book, management Staff
10 like myself can be even more transparent because we can
11 just point to it and say this is what happens.

12
13 So in 22E, basically if the harvestable
14 portion is nine muskox or less it's a Tier II hunt
15 scenario, it's below 10. If it's nine to -- nine
16 muskox to 25 muskox it would be one muskox by
17 registration permit only because we're within that
18 range. And then if we're greater than 25, so if the
19 harvestable surplus is greater than 25, so 26 or above,
20 we would be in a registration hunt scenario for the --
21 it would be a Tier I subsistence hunt, which we're in
22 right now and then those animals -- that 26th animal
23 and above would be made available as a drawing permit.

24
25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Hum.

26
27 MR. GORN: Now, I just, you know, spent
28 a couple minutes going through what the Board of Game
29 did, I mean kind of the underlying factor here that --
30 I mean I know you guys all appreciate, but really going
31 back, you know, 20-some years, I think we've set the
32 standard out here for cooperative management with the
33 Feds. And out here that's primarily the National Park
34 Service and BLM and those -- all these regulations
35 historically have always kind of worked their way
36 through the cooperators and gone to the Board of Game.
37 But at this point, you know, this is what the State
38 did. And really we don't have to look into it too
39 deep, I don't think, the underlying theme here is that
40 the State has the ability now, depending upon what we
41 find from our distant sampling population survey and
42 rangewide recruitment surveys this spring, if we come
43 up with animals -- a harvestable surplus that doesn't
44 meet ANS we have the flexibility now to go into Tier
45 II.

46
47 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

48
49 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman.
50

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

2

3 MR. SMITH: This is Tim Smith. What
4 was the rationale they used for reducing the ANS that
5 low? It seems pretty low to me. What was the
6 rationale?

7

8 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Member
9 Smith.

10

11 What the Board did is they looked at
12 historic harvest from Unit 22E villages, going back
13 through time, and that range there fit what we've seen
14 from Unit 22E resident harvest. It actually put a
15 little above it and they put some below it. It's an
16 interesting -- really to me, if you've been following
17 this since the beginning, it was really kind of an
18 interesting exercise because all those years the Board
19 asked the cooperators and the public to sit down and
20 come up with these numbers ourselves. That was at a
21 time when we had no harvest history, you know, and a
22 lot of you guys were parts of those meetings and it was
23 very difficult to speculate exactly how many muskox
24 does everybody need. And so this was one of the first
25 ANS exercises that I've been a part of where the people
26 that had to make the decision had years of harvest
27 history to go back and look and say, well, this is what
28 they've taken historically, you know, under a condition
29 where harvest quotas were very high, permits were
30 readily available, this is what people took. And they
31 kind of worked through that process and came up with 10
32 to 25.

33

34 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, one of the
35 things that I foresee happening now with the muskox is
36 just not this last cycle of wildlife proposals, but I
37 think the one before that we removed closures on muskox
38 hunting on Federal land in a couple -- one or two
39 subunits in this area, you know, the population had
40 gone up and the Tier I hunts were in full effect, well,
41 now we're going to drop back down into Tier II or
42 reduce harvest and even in 22E, so I'm going to assume
43 that this Council is just going to go backwards and --
44 with such low harvest numbers available they're going
45 to go back to the Subsistence Board with a new proposal
46 to reinstitute closures and that doesn't exactly affect
47 you guys but -- at least it's going to end up on paper,
48 I assume. We'll see.

49

50 MR. GORN: So I can just quickly wrap

1 this up and then respond to questions if anybody has
2 them.

3

4 There was a whole suite of proposals
5 submitted that talked about ANS and C&T findings for
6 all kinds of different animals in Unit 22. So the
7 Board had to address those proposals and they came up
8 with -- for Unit 22, a positive C&T finding for wolves.
9 The ANS that they came up with was five to 20.

10

11 They did the same for ptarmigan, a
12 positive C&T finding, the ANS was 125 to 900.

13

14 Let's see -- and that's it, that's the
15 Board of Game summary.

16

17 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman.

18

19 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

20

21 MR. SMITH: How in the world do you get
22 a range from 125 to 900, you know, that's a weird thing
23 to do to me?

24

25 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Member
26 Smith. I'm not even going to take the bait on that
27 question. We all sat there. I was very grateful that
28 I didn't have to sit at the table and be a part of that
29 process, Subsistence Division got engaged, you know, I
30 -- we just maybe took a moment before and talked about
31 our struggles with finding out -- or determining ANS
32 values for muskox, but at least with that exercise we
33 had some harvest history and some type of measures of
34 population trajectory and things and, yeah, I mean they
35 worked through them, furbearers and ptarmigan and
36 wolves.

37

38 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, you're not going
39 to be expected to go out and start trying to come up
40 with a wolf number or a ptarmigan number and then
41 decide whether we have general season, Tier I or Tier
42 II hunts for those species, are you?

43

44 MR. GORN: Mr. Chair. I'm not going to
45 say that that's a priority in my current S&I (ph)
46 programs.

47

48 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, no, I know that
49 you can use your ability to reason to do things fairly
50 well but you're not going to have people above you

1 saying that are you, or the Board of Game, well, we
2 gave you an ANS, are you going to go count them?

3

4 MR. GORN: Yeah, I'm not going to
5 speculate on what the people above me are going to do
6 but, no, right now we're not planning any -- I mean if
7 -- if those numbers were readily available to get and
8 -- I mean actually there's always progress being made
9 with non-game and small game surveys and things like
10 that, if they were obtainable through our other high
11 profile population survey efforts, certainly, I mean
12 we'd collect the data, but at this point in time, no,
13 I'm not going to stop doing a GSPE moose census or a
14 distant sampling muskox survey to estimate the number
15 of ptarmigan in Unit 22.

16

17 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Did you also attend
18 the meeting in Anchorage, the statewide meeting?

19

20 MR. GORN: I did not attend that
21 meeting. I could quickly address maybe the proposal
22 that you guys are probably interested in.

23

24 This proposal has had several different
25 numbers. It took two years to work through and a
26 considerable amount of time by Department Staff. But
27 the proposal looked at basically the Department's
28 discretionary permit authority, I think it's 92.052 in
29 code. And like I said it went through several
30 different Board meetings and was deferred several times
31 and ultimately the proposal failed 3/4. So basically,
32 yeah, our discretionary permit authority is unchanged
33 except -- I'm glad you mentioned that Mike because the
34 last thing that the Board of Game did in November,
35 which will really affect Seward Peninsula muskox hunt
36 management is they added some discretion for muskox
37 management in 92.052. Historically the Department has
38 the ability to manage hunts based on sex so those
39 harvest quotas that you guys are familiar with might
40 say the harvest quota is 20 up to five cows can be
41 taken. What the Board did in November is they gave us
42 the discretion to manage based both on sex and age
43 class.

44

45 So now -- I won't get into it right now
46 because I won't be able to stop talking for an hour,
47 but you've heard me in my population overviews for
48 muskox talk about declining bull/cow ratios and one of
49 the things we can do now is set up that same quota and
50 say the harvest quota is 20 up to five cows and up to

1 five mature bulls can be taken and after we get those
2 animals that portion of harvest is closed for that
3 hunt. So it's a new tool in our toolbelt to help
4 protect segments of the population that, you know,
5 we're trying to rebuild.

6

7 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, you got a
8 question, Elmer.

9

10 MR. SEETOT: No, just a comment. Good
11 scenario for those that dislike the muskox who have
12 been moaning and groaning on the east western part of
13 Seward Peninsula that they're a nuisance, I guess for
14 people that don't hunt muskox or hunt big game, you
15 know, that that's a problem for them but an opportunity
16 for those that, you know, go after big game like
17 muskox, moose, people new to this area. Just a matter
18 of making sure that what we kick out another -- another
19 species does move in and then, you know, dominate --
20 dominate the area pretty much like what they say when
21 they're -- in our annual letter saying that the muskox
22 are stubborn. I think it's the way that they are, that
23 they grow up and that's their characteristics of just
24 being a muskox, just a matter of pleasing the eastern
25 or the western portion of Shishmaref and Wales mostly
26 because they had a lot to gripe about of muskox, you
27 know, being in their area such as greens and berries.

28

29 MR. GORN: Mr. Chair. There's just one
30 last thing that I want to clarify because you never
31 know when this stuff will come back and haunt you.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. GORN: Ken did a really nice job of
36 talking about some projects that we're involved in and
37 pointed out some red flags in the population but he
38 told you guys that one of the population metrics that
39 is alarming right now is productivity and neither I or
40 anybody I'm aware of is engaged in any type of survey
41 or project that's evaluating productivity. Our
42 recruitment rates are declining, there's natural
43 mortality but specifically looking at productivity, I
44 can't say that we actually understand that right now.
45 So I just wanted to clarify that.

46

47 CHAIRMAN QUINN: You mean with respect
48 to muskox?

49

50 MR. GORN: Correct.

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.
2
3 MR. BUCK: And does this include the
4 moose, too, the productivity of the moose?
5
6 MR. GORN: Yeah, through the Chair to
7 Peter, that is true. Right now we're also not engaged
8 in any type of research that is looking at productivity
9 for moose -- in the moose populations.
10
11 MR. BUCK: Okay.
12
13 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, thanks guys,
14 girls.
15
16 MR. GREEN: Folks.
17
18 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Folks. So, George,
19 you just provided this for our own viewing pleasure and
20 we can read it and interpret it any way we want and go
21 forward with it.
22
23 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
24
25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, well, that
26 should be interesting. I'm glad that they got you to
27 do that.
28
29 Are there any Native organizations that
30 wish to make a report or comment.
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Then
35 we'll.....
36
37 MR. BUCK: I -- I have.....
38
39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, okay, go ahead.
40
41 MR. BUCK:something from -- well,
42 it's not a -- yeah, it's an IRA Council in White
43 Mountain. They have been doing a watershed survey
44 that's been going on in White Mountain for the past
45 three, I think they're going on the third year now.
46 Even after the first year they noticed that the water
47 temperature is going up. And the survey is still going
48 on. And they also -- with their project they also took
49 -- they look at the microscopic, the real fine micros
50 or the animals on the bottom of the river and evaluate

1 them so that's what they're doing. And if -- I do know
2 that the water temperature is rising. If they ever --
3 if they give me any more information I'll pass it on to
4 this organization.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, thanks, Peter.
9 So I guess our next item is the elections.

10

11 Alex, let me ask you a question. I
12 probably should have been smart enough to look at the
13 minutes from the last minute, but didn't we have an
14 election at the last meeting?

15

16 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Last meeting you
17 had an election because you deferred the election to
18 that meeting from the previous meeting.

19

20 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, all right. So is
21 normal practice for this Council to have officer
22 elections each February, is that.....

23

24 MR. NICK: I will need Carl and Helen's
25 help on this one. But I understand that what our
26 program want to do now, from these meetings, is to
27 begin election of officers during the winter meeting
28 because the Council -- the new Council members will be
29 appointed at the end of the year. For example, several
30 of your terms are going to be ending this year and I
31 assume that people like yourself and Elmer, you've
32 reapplied for your seat. But, you know, as the process
33 goes we never had a guarantee that each member or some
34 of the members will be seated again, you know, with
35 that -- with that in mind winter election, I guess, is
36 good.

37

38 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

39

40 MR. NICK: Yeah, because the fact that
41 some members might not be reappointed. I'm not saying
42 that you will not be reappointed but.....

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. NICK:you know it really is
47 entirely up to the Secretary.

48

49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, well, we'll
50 proceed with that.

1 I want to say that I'm probably moving
2 to an urban area this summer. I'll continue my seat on
3 the Council until such a time that I feel it's time to
4 resign and that'll be at or slightly before when I do
5 move.

6
7 I'll open the floor to nominations for
8 Chair, obviously I don't think I'm a very good
9 candidate at this time. I have not reapplied either,
10 since I'm expecting to no longer be a qualified
11 subsistence user and I don't want to make everybody go
12 through the motions and then move away, I can reapply
13 in the future if I end up staying here or move back.

14
15 But, anyway, so go ahead.

16
17 MR. BUCK: I'll make a motion to
18 nominate Louis Green, Jr., for Chair.

19
20 MR. SEETOT: Second. I second.

21
22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Second. Any
23 other nominations.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MR. BUCK: Cease. Cease nominations.

28
29 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, then -- isn't
30 the next thing we do is close the floor to nominations
31 or do we vote.

32
33 MR. SMITH: Close nominations.

34
35 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman.

36
37 MR. GREEN: You close and ask for
38 unanimous consent.

39
40 MR. BUCK: Move to close and get a
41 second. Move to close nominations.

42
43 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman.

44
45 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

46
47 MR. SMITH: I move to close
48 nominations.

49
50 MR. BUCK: Seconded.

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Oh, okay,
2 okay, I'm sorry, yeah, good. Seconded. All right. So
3 we have one nomination, I'll just ask for a consent
4 since there's nothing we need to vote on.

5
6 REPORTER: A unanimous consent.

7
8 CHAIRMAN QUINN: And everybody got
9 consent of Louis being Chair.....

10
11 (Council nods affirmatively)

12
13 MR. GREEN: Unanimous consent.

14
15 (Laughter)

16
17 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Unanimous consent.
18 Okay, we'll take it at that.

19
20 MR. GREEN: Okay.

21
22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Does that sound okay.

23
24 Should I let Louis continue the meeting
25 now, okay, so then we got the two other officers.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, we have two
28 other officers, I guess this is my.....

29
30 REPORTER: So switch mics, or not
31 switch them, but Mike turn yours off, and Louis turn
32 yours on.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: This is Louis
35 accepting the Chair's seat, thank you for your
36 graciousness folks.

37
38 I suppose the next -- my first action
39 here is to open nominations for vice Chair.

40
41 MR. QUINN: Okay. I'll make a
42 nomination for Tim Smith to be vice Chair.

43
44 MR. BUCK: Seconded.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

47
48 MR. QUINN: And I'll move to close the
49 floor to nominations.

50

1 MR. SEETOT: Second.
2
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, there's a motion
4 and a second on the closure. I would.....
5
6 MR. BUCK: Question.
7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm sorry, Peter.
9
10 MR. BUCK: Question.
11
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The question's been
13 called. All those in favor.
14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.
16
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, the next one is
18 the Secretary, nominations are open.
19
20 MR. QUINN: And I'll move for Mr. Buck
21 to continue his role as secretary.
22
23 MR. SMITH: I'll second.
24
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: First and second on
26 the nomination for Peter Buck.
27
28 MR. KEYES: Question.
29
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tony, was that you?
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tony Keyes.
35
36 MR. KEYES: Question.
37
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I couldn't hear you.
39
40 MR. SHARP: He called the question.
41
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, he called for the
43 question. Question's been called. All those in favor.
44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.
46
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, there you have
48 it, your officers are elected.
49
50 And on the agenda, where are we at

1 here, we're talking about future meetings. Didn't we
2 do that at the last meeting where we set.....
3
4 MR. QUINN: Yeah, kind of, I think we
5 always end up doing it again to be sure.
6
7 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.
8
9 MR. QUINN: Alex.
10
11 MR. NICK: On Page 61 you can find your
12 calendars -- or rather the calendars for the fall and
13 winter meetings. The last meeting you chose October 3
14 and 4, what you need to do is reconfirm that -- or
15 confirm that date, and establish a winter meeting date.
16
17 Mr. Chair.
18
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Alex.
20 Okay, this is for the fall meeting.
21
22 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.
23
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Does anybody have
25 any.....
26
27 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair. I make a.....
28
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Peter.
30
31 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair. I make a motion
32 to keep the meeting as October 3 and 4.
33
34 MR. SEETOT: Second.
35
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, motion made by
37 Peter and seconded by Elmer to keep the meeting.....
38
39 MR. KEYES: Question.
40
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN:the same.
42
43 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman.
44
45 MR. QUINN: Go ahead.
46
47 MR. SMITH: Is this overlap going to be
48 okay.
49
50 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It's fine. If we

1 have more than two meetings a week it becomes a problem
2 but.....

3

4 MR. SMITH: Is it okay, this one here?

5

6 REPORTER: It's fine.

7

8 MR. SMITH: Okay.

9

10 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:that particular
11 overlap is fine.

12

13 MR. SMITH: Okay.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mr. Keyes, I heard you
16 in the background, did you call for the question.

17

18 MR. KEYES: Yes, I did.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

21

22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Excuse me, Mr.
23 Chair. Could I ask, in case it's only a one day
24 meeting, do you have a preference for the 3rd or the
25 4th because with not having any fish proposals.....

26

27 (Conference call interruption)

28

29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Sorry Tony. So it
30 may be that it'll only be a one day meeting because
31 there aren't any fish proposals that you've -- you've
32 got here to address, you may have some from YK, so if
33 you just had a preference for the 3rd of the 4th or
34 does it matter?

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I don't think it does
37 unless somebody else has a suggestion here.

38

39 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: And what we'll do is
40 we'll call you ahead of time and we'll -- once we know
41 what the agenda is then we'll confirm with you what
42 date you would like.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think that's a
45 better idea there.

46

47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks. But anyway
50 there's a motion on the floor, all those in favor of

1 the motion.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Those opposed, same
6 sign.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Motion's passed.
11 Meeting set for October 3rd or 4th and with Helen at
12 the helm deciding if it's a one day or two day and
13 we'll be notified by the.....

14

15 MS. A. ARMSTRONG: We'll probably know
16 within probably about six to eight weeks ahead of the
17 meeting we'll know whether it'll be one or two days.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you.

20

21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And then we need to
22 do the winter meeting, which is on Page 62 and you're
23 the first Council to have a meeting so it's wide open,
24 your choice.

25

26 MR. KEYES: On the weekend.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Staff needs the
31 overtime, uh.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody have any
36 ideas?

37

38 MR. QUINN: Tom Gray is always picky
39 because I think this February is some sort of deal for
40 him for going down to the states and trying to drum up
41 some guide business. But I got no idea what his
42 preferences are.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Follow up on that, how
45 long is he.....

46

47 MR. KEYES: No, the weather up here is
48 no good within that timeline.

49

50 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Say that again Tony.

1 MR. KEYES: The weather up here is no
2 good in that time range.
3
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm not sure we
5 heard.....
6
7 REPORTER: The weather up there is no
8 good.
9
10 MR. QUINN: Oh, okay.
11
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Right, yeah, okay.
13
14 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.
15
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Peter.
17
18 MR. BUCK: I'll make a motion to have
19 the meeting on February 12th and 13th. It seems like a
20 good time to have it.
21
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, is there a
23 second.
24
25 MR. SMITH: I second it.
26
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Seconded by Tim. A
28 call for the question.
29
30 MR. QUINN: Question.
31
32 MR. KEYES: Question.
33
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those in favor of
35 the 12th and the 13th say aye.
36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.
38
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against,
40 same sign.
41
42 (No opposing votes)
43
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The motion passes.
45 The meeting is for February 12th and the 13th.
46
47 Okay, where am I at now.
48
49 MR. QUINN: Closing comments.
50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, closing
2 comments. Well, we have the portion of the closing
3 comments and I think I'll -- since the guy's talking
4 about leaving I'll let him start first, and then we'll
5 go around the room.

6
7 MR. QUINN: Okay. Well, I just want to
8 tell everybody how much I've enjoyed this. Hopefully
9 on occasion we've made a difference in people's lives
10 and helped them out some.

11
12 I want to thank everybody for putting
13 their faith in me in times past and hope I've succeeded
14 in meeting their goals.

15
16 Generally things to pretty good in Unit
17 22. Well, we've got some fisheries issues, they're not
18 as good as it could be, but all in all things are
19 pretty good around here. And one of the things I like
20 more about this side of the management is we seem to
21 respond more accurately and I'll say legally to changes
22 in wildlife populations than the State side does. When
23 things have gotten better we've opened, you know,
24 eliminated closures and allowed more people to hunt and
25 mostly I've been here from the smaller time to the
26 better time, I guess, and I know that you guys will
27 continue the same way, if things get worse, so I've
28 been real happy with that.

29
30 You know, obviously I'm kind of sorry
31 that I can't continue, at least, that's the way it
32 looks so far because you don't really get to do this
33 stuff as much in the urban areas, so, anyway, thanks
34 and I've really enjoyed it.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mike. Mr.
37 Buck.

38
39 MR. BUCK: I'd like to thank Mike for
40 the time that he's been Chair with us -- for us. I'd
41 like to say that we just didn't make a report -- I
42 didn't make a report on the fish of last summer. The
43 White Mountain area was fortunate that we did have
44 enough humpies and stuff for fish and we did put away
45 enough subsistence fish for last summer.

46
47 Right now the ice outside of White
48 Mountain in the ocean is busted up, this year it's
49 busted up and that's going to affect our crabbing for
50 our area. I don't think it's going to affect our

1 oogruk hunting but it's going to affect our crabbing
2 for -- subsistence crabbing for White Mountain area and
3 that's -- and the other thing that is happening this
4 year is we have lots and lots of rabbits in White
5 Mountain this year. And so the predators are
6 increasing, the lynx, the wolf, the fox are increasing
7 but we know that the rabbit population will eat itself
8 out and they'll disappear but right now the rabbit
9 population is way up there, and so I'd just like to
10 report that.

11

That's all I have for now.

12

13

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Peter.

14

15

Mr. Smith.

16

17

18

MR. SMITH: I hope that everybody goes
19 back to their communities and talks to people about the
20 upcoming decisions on chum salmon bycatch in the
21 pollock trawl industry. It's a pretty important issue
22 that I don't think is getting nearly enough attention,
23 particularly compared to the amount of attention we
24 gave to Area M interception; there's just no
25 comparison, you know. When we were dealing with Area M
26 issues actively in the '90s there were hundreds of
27 people that testified. And this issue, even though the
28 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council met here in
29 Nome there really weren't very many local people that
30 talked to the Council. And when they choose this
31 preliminary alternative in March and April, that's
32 pretty much the final decision, they're not likely to
33 deviate from this preliminary decision -- alternative
34 -- preferred alternative. So this upcoming meeting in
35 March and April is really important. It's really
36 important that people get in comments. They have a
37 really good system for accepting written comments. If
38 you can't make it to the meeting -- it's an expensive
39 meeting to attend, even in Anchorage, and not
40 everybody's going to be able to go but you can get
41 written comments in. I sure would hope that we get as
42 many as possible. I think that, you know, the highest
43 alternative being considered is 325,000 fish a year,
44 that's a lot of fish. That's more than Norton Sound
45 has ever harvested. We had one harvest that high,
46 commercial harvest of 325,000 fish, that was 1983,
47 that's an awful lot of fish. That's what we're look --
48 that's what potentially we're looking at and so we hope
49 we participate in this.

50

1 Muskoxen, you know, I came to Alaska in
2 1972 as a young grad student to study muskoxen on
3 Nunivak Island. That was the early days of the muskox
4 introduction program, that's when we first started
5 bringing muskoxen back into Alaska as a wild animal.
6 And I'm really proud of the results, the success that
7 we've had in establishing muskoxen here. I think we're
8 looking at a real serious conservation problem here on
9 the Seward Peninsula. And muskox populations can go up
10 very rapidly but we've also seen they can go down just
11 as fast or even faster. We don't know for sure what's
12 going on and that's worrisome, it's hard to manage a
13 population if you don't know what's happening. But I
14 think we're looking at a conservation issue and
15 probably severe cutbacks in hunting and we need to be
16 readily prepared to do that. The last thing we want to
17 do is continue heavy hunting as the population is
18 declining, you know, we don't want to drive this
19 population into the ground. That would be a real
20 travesty after all of the success we've had in building
21 the population from nothing in the first place.

22

23 I know that some people have viewed
24 muskoxen as a nuisance but I guarantee you that will
25 change. That's been the case with new species. People
26 didn't -- when I first came to this area most people
27 had very low regard for moose, you know, except for the
28 people in Nome, the people in Shishmaref, Wales didn't
29 really have much use for moose but that's all changed
30 now. When people become more familiar with them, they
31 find out, hey, they're good eating and so are muskox.
32 And having a diversity of wildlife is really important
33 for subsistence, you know, sometimes one population is
34 good and another population isn't. And so having a
35 diverse number of species to harvest from is real
36 important. So I think we want to try to protect our
37 muskox stocks for the future.

38

39 I'm sure that we will.

40

41 That's all I had to say, thanks.

42

43 MR. QUINN: Thank you, Tim. Tony,
44 you're on the speaker phone?

45

46 MR. KEYES: Yes, I am.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any comments, final
49 comments.

50

1 MR. KEYES: Yeah, this is Anthony from
2 Wales. I'd like to thank Mike, he brought us more than
3 a mile in opening up new places for us, he got us to
4 going in the right direction of having to see what the
5 changes that are being made in front of us without us
6 knowing and then now we know more about what to
7 encounter when the time comes.

8

9 And by the way send my money, I want to
10 buy a bag of bones.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you Tony.
15 And I'll go to my left here for Elmer Seetot -- oh,
16 we'll reach over to Reggie then.

17

18 MR. BARR: Thank you. I just want to
19 voice my concern about the situation with ray and king
20 salmon in the Teller and Brevig area and all the
21 Pilgrim River. I know there was concern about fish
22 racks in Nome. I think Fish and Game, the State Fish
23 and Game needs better management in that area. And I
24 know they're trying to do something on the Pilgrim
25 River, enforcing the rules and regulations that they
26 never did before. Last year was the first time, I
27 guess. I'd like to see better management on -- in that
28 area -- on the Pilgrim River and the Salmon Lake area.

29

30 As for muskox they're mostly a nuisance
31 for plants, not only for plants and greens but also for
32 the bird and duck population, that they affect in that
33 area.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Reggie. I
38 think you have the floor, Mr. Seetot.

39

40 MR. SEETOT: As you can see we have
41 very few public participation, also Staff, I think it
42 is pretty low. This is the lowest number of Staff that
43 I've seen that support our RAC.

44

45 Due to climate change, this was the
46 first year also that I have seen some seals wintering
47 in Imuruk Basin, it's pretty much a freshwater basin,
48 and this was the first time that I have seen, you know,
49 seals basking and that was just pretty much -- the last
50 comment, whitefish are being caught. As of now there

1 are only two under ice nets that are fishing at the
2 mouth of Kuzitrin River and I have been able to follow
3 my nephew check his net. And around Imuruk Basin there
4 are at least three communities that pretty much protect
5 Imuruk Basin through representation we have two from
6 Brevig, we have at least three from Nome and two from
7 White Mountain that are on the Seward Peninsula RAC and
8 I think the people that use Imuruk Basin or at least
9 22D we have the most use for that area, yet a lot of
10 participation is going at all levels for that area.
11 Even though we have restrictions now with Pilgrim
12 Spring being under new ownership, I don't think -- I
13 don't think that will preclude me from stepping on
14 their private lands because I have been using that area
15 for a long number of years and for new management to
16 say that we're not allowed to hunt or gather or
17 harvest, you know, that's something that has been
18 imposed on us without regard to what have been
19 harvested and used in the past in that area.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. I
24 suppose this is my turn and I'd just like to say thanks
25 in your confidence in voting me as your Chair, it's
26 been a long time since I served in this capacity.

27

28 One of the things that I would ask of
29 the members is that, you know, I listen to Mike, Mike
30 makes a lot of comments, you know, he's not bashful and
31 I think that I would consider that all of us have that
32 same charge, not to be bashful, and to ask good
33 questions and I find that, you know, doing this stuff
34 in the past that I would really try to go through --
35 you know if you got to call another member to talk to
36 them about it, don't hesitate to do something like that
37 and it would help bring more to the table from
38 everybody.

39

40 Anyway, thank you, and thanks for the
41 Staff's time here. Alex, especially you. I'm like the
42 phantom, you know, I'm the guy that you could never get
43 a hold of, now I got a noose around my neck.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I appreciate your
48 work, Alex, thanks.

49

50 I guess is.....

1 MR. BUCK: I have.....
2
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN:there any other
4 comments.
5
6 MR. BUCK: I have one last comment.
7 I'd just like to congratulate Louis on appointment of
8 Chair. I remember mom and dad and he had a lot of
9 respect for my mom and dad and ever since he was a
10 little kid he's always been respectful of his elders
11 and I'm really proud to appoint him for the Chair.
12
13 Thank you.
14
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody else. Well, I
16 guess if there's no further comments to be made we're
17 looking at.....
18
19 MR. SMITH: I make a motion to adjourn.
20
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN:having a motion
22 to adjourn.
23
24 Tim's made a motion, is there a second.
25
26 MR. BUCK: Question.
27
28 MR. KEYES: So moved.
29
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: A second.
31
32 MR. BUCK: Question.
33
34 MR. KEYES: Second. Question.
35
36 (Laughter)
37
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those in favor --
39 no, I'm kidding, what should we.....
40
41 REPORTER: I got it, let's go.
42
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Let's go, we're done,
44 we're adjourned.
45
46 (Off record)
47
48 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

