

1 SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7 VOLUME II

8
9 Aurora Inn
10 Nome, Alaska
11 October 8, 2014
12 9:00 a.m.

13
14 Members Present:

15
16 Timothy Smith, Acting Chairman
17 Reggie Barr
18 Peter Buck
19 Tom Gray
20 Ted Katcheak
21 Scott Lockwood
22 Charles Saccheus
23 Elmer Seetot

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28 Acting Regional Council Coordinator - Robert Larson
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2
3 (Nome, Alaska - 10/8/2014)

4
5 (On record)

6
7 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah. Dan, this is
8 Tim Smith. If you would like, could you take a few
9 minutes to clarify something that's been ongoing for --
10 just about every meeting we talk about -- we're looking
11 -- what the committee is looking for, or what the
12 Council is looking for is a nexus between Federal
13 jurisdiction and the information needs that we have on
14 fish and wildlife resources. And we're always trying
15 to find the connection.

16
17 MR. SHARP: I understand. I think it
18 happens about every fisheries cycle, this question
19 comes up, and we sort of grapple for.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, you want to go
22 through and clarify? Maybe we can put this to rest
23 now, though, you know, we're going to -- you know, we
24 have a need for -- we have lots of information needs
25 here, and we're just trying -- and there's inadequate
26 funding for research. We're looking for some way to
27 get Federal funding to do research on Seward Peninsula
28 issues. And so can you just brief us on the problems,
29 the jurisdictional problems? There was a disagreement
30 yesterday on how it works with Federal lands and
31 Federal interest lands and navigability and all that
32 stuff. Can you kind of put that together for us.

33
34 MR. SHARP: I can try and I've stumbled
35 over this myself. And like I say, this has been a
36 recurring issue. There has been some I guess
37 background emails flying around trying to address that
38 question as it came up from people listening. I can do
39 what I can. I think Bob Larson maybe has been party to
40 those emails, too, if I misspeak or so, but I think we
41 can get there. But I think the situation almost
42 remains the same. It's a difficult link for us to make
43 with respect to Federal funding, and competing with the
44 dollars and the regions it has to -- it's hard to get
45 projects in that area to rise up.

46
47 But especially with Federal subsistence
48 management, and generally we don't necessarily manage
49 the subsistence fish. That's mostly done by the State.
50 And that's common. It's an artifact of dual

1 management. And without the State's participation, and
2 it also being a State priority, it makes it doubly
3 difficult to get things off the ground. One, competing
4 for limited Federal dollars where there are significant
5 priorities everywhere; and then the -- just where those
6 fisheries occur, in generally a State-managed fishery,
7 the information we'd be getting wouldn't really have
8 in-season management implications. You know, it's
9 tough.

10

11 I know we've had this question before,
12 and it won't go away either. I'm willing to do what I
13 can, but I just -- I think the Federal nexus has been
14 pretty difficult. Just the fact that there are -- you
15 know, they don't really -- the subsistence fisheries
16 don't take place in those water, you know, they take
17 place in State waters. So I think the State in any of
18 these projects and information needs has to be a big
19 player.

20

21 But with respect to the navigability
22 issue, I believe Theo chimed in on an email. When it's
23 outside of its CSU, navigability, when it's navigable
24 waters, yes, there's Federal management. When it's not
25 navigable, no. I think I -- I'll check my message
26 again to make sure I didn't reverse that. But the
27 Unalakleet River is our strongest nexus, and that's
28 where we have something going on.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Does anybody
31 have any questions on that? It would be nice to, you
32 know -- I'm suer we're not going to give up on it, but
33 I mean that really is pretty standard now.

34

35 MR. SHARP: Well, I know -- and as you
36 know, I'll echo the concerns and, you know, the
37 priorities, and you guys are sort of getting the short
38 end of the stick. BLM lands are sort of scattered. We
39 just don't have that same contiguous boundary, and it
40 doesn't work as well, and, you know, unless we'd have
41 those sort of wild and scenic designations on BLM
42 lands. You know, unless you have a God-awful mine up
43 there that we're permitting and doing something
44 horrendous to your waters -- that would get some
45 attention.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, we can always
48 hope. We do have the largest uranium deposit in
49 Alaska, so we can always hope that they'll come up and
50 irradiate everybody.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. SHARP: And there's probably
4 someone willing to try. But, no, I'm sure we can
5 discuss it, and I think there's probably a number of
6 people at the meeting who have been privy to the
7 discussion.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Thanks. And
10 Bob wants to say a word or two about that.

11

12 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
13 regarding the emails that have been distributed, if
14 anybody cares, the lands under Federal jurisdiction or
15 lands that are excluded from Federal jurisdiction are
16 clearly identified in Federal regulations. And you can
17 find those in 50 CFR 100.3. The (a) section says what
18 areas are excluded. Those include national parks and
19 things like that. The (b) section includes some
20 special cases where lands or waters are included.
21 Section (c) is all those conservation units, they're
22 all listed individually, and there's -- if you go to
23 those, you'll find the exact boundaries. And then in
24 (d), and I'm -- maybe I'll read this so we're clear as
25 to what it is, is that -- Section (d) says, the
26 regulations contained in this part apply to all other
27 public lands, other than to the military, Coast Guard,
28 Federal Aviation Administration's lands that are closed
29 to access by the general public. So it's closed to
30 access by the general public, then we don't have
31 jurisdiction. And it says then -- it follows up,
32 including non-navigable waters located on these lands.
33 So if it's outside of (c), of a conservation unit, and
34 it's navigable, then we do not have jurisdiction. If
35 it is outside of a conservation unit, one of those 30
36 that are listed in part (c), then we do have.

37

38 Now, my understanding of the way that
39 the BLM administers the navigable or non-navigable
40 identifications is that they're concentrating on what
41 waters are navigable, but those waters that are not
42 navigable may or may or may not be non-navigable. So
43 their issues are with navigability, not with non-
44 navigability.

45

46 So I think for all practical purposes
47 that for your purposes, and for those things that
48 you're dealing with, you're actually talking about
49 waters within conservation units. That's the easiest
50 thing.

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Thank you.
2 Well, and that -- you know, there's certainly lots of
3 needs on the Unalakleet River. You know, what's
4 happening to kind salmon there is a tragedy. And as
5 usual, the Norton Sound is kind of being overlooked.
6 You know, all they're proposing to do is count the fish
7 harder, which is what we've done here with everything,
8 you know, we just count and count and count until we
9 don't have any more. And we need to take it to the
10 next level. So, I mean, that's -- there is enough of a
11 nexus there.

12
13 It's too bad we don't have
14 representation from Unalakleet. You know, they need --
15 there's a lot of things they need to be doing down
16 there that they're not doing. You know, especially
17 when you come back from these meetings and you look at
18 what's going on on the Kuskokwim. Because it's
19 entirely within the Yukon Delta National Wildlife
20 Refuge, the level of effort put at studying that
21 situation and involving the public in it is 1,000 times
22 greater than what we have here. You know, it makes a
23 world of difference.

24
25 So it's too damn bad we don't have
26 anything, because the State's not -- for some reason,
27 one reason or another, is not really doing anything on
28 the Seward Peninsula, and they're just counting fish.
29 Just documenting -- or counting fish and game and
30 documenting how little we have. You know, we have --
31 we do have a better idea of how little we have, but
32 that's about the best we're getting. As far as I know,
33 there are no plans for any major research on anything
34 out here. And you can't really manage fish and
35 wildlife populations without knowing what's going on.
36 And so that's where we're at.

37
38 I guess that brings us -- I'm going to
39 turn the floor over to Ken know to talk about -- you're
40 talking about bears I guess.

41
42 MR. ADKISSON: Good morning, Mr. Chair
43 and Council members. My name is Ken Adkisson. I'm
44 with the subsistence program for the Park Service, and
45 I'm based here in Nome with the Bering Land Bridge
46 National Preserve, but also serve the three northern
47 park units around Kotzebue that are part of what's
48 called the Western Arctic National Park Lands
49 Management Unit.

50

1 Yesterday I mentioned to you that the
2 Park Service is proposing a set of regulations that are
3 unique to the Park Service, but they do have
4 connections and nexus to subsistence, various aspects
5 of subsistence, and we would like to keep you informed
6 about that process, and to solicit input or comments at
7 various stages relating to that. And there are three
8 areas that we're looking for currently.

9
10 One of this relates to something that
11 you've heard before, or some of you, depending upon
12 when you came on the -- joined the Council, but it
13 relates to the collection and use of plant products and
14 naturally occurring shed, discarded animal parts. So
15 you may recall that we had in the presentation that Bob
16 gave a discussion of you could use for making -- under
17 Federal subsistence regulations, you could make and use
18 for like handicraft sales, you could use the inedible
19 parts of wildlife that you had harvested. And that's
20 true, and that's good for the Park Service, too. But
21 the key there is that, you know, somebody -- you had to
22 harvest the animal for personal or family consumption.

23
24 What we're talking about now are all
25 the things that are outside the scope of that. I'll
26 just give you one really good example close to home.
27 Several years ago in a massive freak storm, we had a
28 big bunch of slushy water wash over part of the Cape
29 Espenberg area up east of Shishmaref. And the rest was
30 it took out about 50 musk oxen in one big flood event.
31 And so we had all these dead animals out there in the
32 preserve. And musk oxen horns, of course, are pretty
33 interesting, and so there was a real sort of flurry of
34 interest in being able to go up and salvage those
35 horns. And animals die of would age; they die of
36 predation; they die in accidents, and they're out there
37 on the landscape. And so some people like to collect
38 parts from those animals and use them for making and
39 selling handicrafts. And currently all that kind of
40 thing is prohibited under Park Service regulation, so
41 what we're trying to do is legalize that kind of
42 activity in a way that reduces impacts to resources.

43
44 The second area that we want to talk
45 about is specifically focused on the use of bait and
46 bait stations for harvesting brown bears. We'd also
47 like to collect information related to potential
48 traditional knowledge and uses related to black bear,
49 too, along that line.

50

1 And then the third area is a more
2 extensive package of wildlife restrictions that are
3 essentially aimed at sport and general hunting.
4 They're not directed towards hunting under Federal
5 subsistence regulations, but that whole package does
6 include some overhauls of what could be seen as dated
7 subsistence regulations that the Park Service has.

8
9 We actually had regulations unique to
10 the Park Service that focused on subsistence going back
11 to like 1979 and '80 before there was really a Federal
12 program of any sorts, and before the stuff was all in
13 50 CFR and all of that. And we've had those
14 regulations now since, like I said, 1980, and a lot has
15 changed in subsistence. Everyone thought that, you
16 know, the State would gain management authority back,
17 but they never did, and it doesn't look like the
18 Federal program is going away, and things evolved, and
19 so now we have these unique Park Service regulations.
20 And so one of the things we will want to do is to try
21 to update those and get them in line with Federal
22 program regulations and some other things.

23
24 But what I will do this morning, we'll
25 go over each of those areas, beginning with the so-
26 called horns and antlers, or the collection and use of
27 these products; go onto the baiting of brown bears; and
28 then the reg package. And Clarence Summers, who's a
29 subsistence manager with the Park Service in our
30 Anchorage office will lead the discussion and the
31 conversations related to each of those topics, and I
32 will help out if needed, or provide answers.

33
34 So, Clarence, are you on the line?

35
36 MR. SUMMERS: Yeah. Ken, can you hear
37 me?

38
39 MR. ADKISSON: Yes.

40
41 MR. SUMMERS: Yeah. Mr. Chairman and
42 Council members. My name is Clarence Summers,
43 subsistence manager, Alaska Regional Office.

44
45 And I'd like to bring to your attention
46 the fact that the Park Service is now scoping for input
47 on our most recent decision to promulgate regulations
48 to allow the collections of shed and discarded animal
49 parts and plants in National Park Service areas. And
50 just recently with this decision we contacted our

1 Subsistence Resource Commissions for input, and at
2 their round of meetings statewide, there are seven
3 National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commissions,
4 that are considering the alternative which would allow
5 for collections. More specifically we'd like input on
6 the type of authorization which would occur in each
7 National Park Service area.

8

9 National Park Service-qualified
10 subsistence users will have an opportunity to comment
11 on the type of authority through either a written
12 authorization, and different examples: You could have
13 an individual permit for collections. But the idea is
14 we want input from our qualified users on how best to
15 implement this regulation.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Let me just ask a
18 question. Is it an option to just open it up like it
19 is on State lands? On State lands, you know, there's
20 no restrictions. Is that a possibility?

21

22 MR. SUMMERS: Well, I'll tell you,
23 currently our regulations prohibit collections without
24 approval from the superintendent. The Gates of the
25 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission petitioned the
26 Park Service, and I think it was the Eastern Interior
27 Regional Council petitioned also, to promulgate a
28 regulation that would make this legal. Currently, if a
29 subsistence user takes, let's say, an animal legally
30 under current regulations, you can utilize the animal
31 and parts for subsistence purposes. But the general
32 collections of shed antler, discarded animal parts, and
33 plants currently is prohibited with the exception of
34 regulations I believe in Gates of the Arctic National
35 Park, and I believe it's Kobuk Valley, where there's
36 currently an opportunity to do this type of collection
37 of plants specifically.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Clarence, that's not
40 exactly what I was asking though. I'm just asking, is
41 there an option under -- are you considering an option
42 that would just legalize collections.

43

44 MR. ADKISSON: Clarence, maybe I could
45 jump in there on that real quickly.

46

47 Council members through the Chair. Ken
48 Adkisson.

49

50 Some of you who were with this process,

1 and this process of getting here has gone on for
2 several years now unfortunately, but you may recall we
3 produced an environmental assessment, and that
4 assessment had a series of alternatives in it that
5 range from what Tim is looking about, almost no
6 control, no anything, just sort of wide open, everybody
7 could do anything, to very tightly, highly restricted
8 individual permit systems and things.

9
10 And in all honesty, inside the Park
11 Service that generated a lot of concern and issues, and
12 back and forth. And opinions, depending upon your park
13 and your orientation, parks and park managers often had
14 different views on it.

15
16 What happened was we finally got
17 through the EA process, got a finding of no significant
18 impact out of it, and a FONSI, but in the process of
19 doing that, certain things were set kind of as
20 parameters, as kind of compromising and so forth. One
21 of these was to restrict the use of eligibility to
22 people who had Federal C&T for various kinds of
23 products.

24
25 The other thing was some sort of
26 definite, written authorization to collect. And part
27 of this was generated by local people and their
28 feelings. For example, I mentioned the musk oxen die-
29 off. We have a number of pilots who had access to
30 aircraft were just hot to trot to go up there. And a
31 lot of people from Shishmaref felt that that was
32 unfair, that they wouldn't be able to get out and do
33 it, you know. And so I would say that there was again
34 this concern of local people who felt that they should
35 have a priority on being able to collect versus anyone
36 in the state who could find -- can afford access to an
37 area.

38
39 The second thing that we're finding is,
40 is that through these kind of meetings and so forth, is
41 that there are real concerns for things that might fall
42 outside the area, that might have some sort of maybe
43 perhaps not obvious to everyone, but cultural
44 significance to a community or a group, that might mark
45 some kind of traditional site or activity, and have
46 special meaning to them, and they're not especially
47 interested in having everything scavenged off the land.

48
49
50 The third area that we're finding is,

1 is that, you know, we ourselves in the Park Service
2 have these other mandates, like visitor use and
3 enjoyment part, it's the wilderness and the experience
4 of things. We had a case recently at Krusenstern where
5 we had a Sierra Club group go into Cape Krusenstern,
6 and they really just wanted -- one of their top things
7 was to see musk oxen. They never really saw a live
8 musk oxen, but they found a skeleton of a musk oxen
9 that had died, and that was very important to them, and
10 had somebody scarfed all that up from that area, that
11 wouldn't have been available for that experience.

12

13 And so, you know, we're trying to
14 balance this, so the answer is, I think, to Chairman
15 Smith is, we've got those constraints. We're not going
16 to just open it up to everybody and allow collections,
17 and that's not an option. But what we're looking at is
18 for compromises and balance, and things that local
19 people feel is important that maybe needs to be
20 protected and so forth.

21

22 So again, like Clarence said, what
23 we're looking for is are there things, products,
24 species, categories of materials that you think maybe
25 should be off limits, or should be included to allow
26 collections. Are there areas and conditions that, you
27 know, you think maybe it shouldn't. And you're welcome
28 to, you know, express an opinion that it ought to just
29 be wide open, but having gone through the EA process, I
30 can tell you that's probably not going to happen. But,
31 you know, we're also not very interested locally in
32 terms of Park Service management, of having a really
33 cumbersome, highly, you know, developed regulatory
34 system requiring tons of permitting, so that we're not
35 -- locally we're not going to want to go there, and
36 we'll resist that, so what we're looking for, you know,
37 this is where we're at, and if you've got any concerns
38 or comments or additional at this point, it would be
39 great.

40

41 And like I said, I think Clarence went
42 over it, but the two areas in there that we're really
43 looking for are which type of written authorization
44 would be best for your area and why. And those range
45 again, as Clarence mentioned, from individual permits
46 to, for example, posting in a park compendium a list of
47 communities that could have eligibility -- that would
48 be eligible to collect certain kinds of things in a
49 given area, and then be done with it, so, you know. So
50 it could range from those kind of things, and maybe

1 there's some other ones out there. Clarence mentioned
2 individual permits, written author -- let's see,
3 provides -- yeah, and so it can be a variety of things.
4 And if you can think of something that would work for
5 local folks, that would be great.

6
7 And then the other thing is, you know,
8 are there categories and things of things, which areas
9 or resources should be opened up for it, which
10 shouldn't. And that's basically what we're looking for
11 information on.

12
13 MR. SUMMERS: And another -- Mr.
14 Chairman and Council members. Another question that we
15 would like for you to consider providing this input on
16 is what should be included in a public education
17 program. Like Ken mentioned, if there are sensitive
18 sites in your region, some other concern locally about
19 this type of activity, collections, like qualified use,
20 we'd like to use your ideas in a public education
21 program.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I think the worst
26 thing we can do, and I feel this way about all the
27 laws, is that we shouldn't make -- we shouldn't
28 promulgate regulations that we're not going to enforce,
29 and I don't anticipate anybody ever being cited for
30 picking up caribou antlers, for example, in Bering
31 Straits Land Bridge. What's the point of -- you know,
32 I would hope that we don't do that, that we don't make
33 that illegal, and then have people doing it anyway.
34 You know, that's always a bad -- I think that's just a
35 bad idea. It creates disrespect for laws, and it kind
36 of ruins your wilderness experience when you're out
37 there knowing that you're violating, you know.

38
39 And I think if you require written
40 permission, nobody's going to get it. That's just the
41 way things are, you know. A few years ago Anatuk (ph)
42 made it mandatory that you have a permit to go to
43 Pilgrim Hot Springs. I'm probably the only one that
44 ever got a permit to go to Pilgrim Hot Springs. Okay.
45 Well, there's two of us in the room. And I don't have
46 one this year, but I wouldn't hesitate to go to Pilgrim
47 Hot Springs, you know, and so -- and I'm sure that, you
48 know, there's other people that have been to Pilgrim
49 Hot Springs since that requirement. I think it's just
50 a bad idea. I don't -- you know, if you don't really

1 need it, you shouldn't have it.

2

3 And so I'd like to open it up for
4 discussion. Let's just.....

5

6 Are you done with your presentation on
7 this issue?

8

9 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, I am. I think --
10 Clarence, are you okay to just open it up to the
11 Council?

12

13 MR. SUMMERS: Please continue.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Let's just do
16 these things one at a time, Ken. We'll just talk --
17 let's talk about this for a few minutes, and then we'll
18 move on to your next one.

19

20 Go ahead, Tom.

21

22 MR. GRAY: I guess one of the most
23 important issues out of this whole thing is who's
24 eligible and who isn't. You know, we talk about the
25 park. I've been there on snowmachines in the lava bed
26 area, for example. And the Nome people are going to be
27 in the lava bed area. You're going to take Shishmaref
28 people are going to be up by Serpentine and that area.
29 There's a lot of Nome people flying into the Serpentine
30 area. There's a lot of users that actually go into the
31 park that just the common day folks don't know. So I
32 think it's really important that people understand
33 who's eligible and who isn't. Is Tom Gray eligible to
34 go into the park and take antlers out or tusks out or
35 whatever it is, take it out. And is there a line? Is
36 there going to be Nome people can go to as far as
37 Serpentine, and can't take anything beyond Serpentine.
38 You know, if we're going to micromanage this.

39

40 I think Tim is right in the sense that
41 you guys are not -- you're going to create regulations
42 that are never going to be enforced. And, you know,
43 the other side of the coin is I think we need to make
44 it usable for the people. You know, we don't want to
45 make criminals out of people that have been doing this
46 for thousands of years. And just because in the last
47 50 years a park came along, you know, we've been -- our
48 people have been using this area long before it was
49 designated as a park. So, again, don't make criminals
50 out of people that with regulations and, you know, a

1 lot of us are kind of ignorant folks that we might pick
2 something up and be fascinated with it, and put it in
3 our pocket or throw it in a boat or airplane or
4 whatever, and we don't realize we're breaking the law,
5 so now you need to make sure, once these regulations
6 and stuff are in place, that the public is fully
7 informed. I mean, it's going to be very important,
8 because Tom Gray's going to say, I didn't know. What
9 are you going to do? And, you know, unless we're
10 informed, the public's informed about all of this, you
11 know, I think we're spinning our wheels again.

12
13 But I do have a problem with -- I know
14 there was a company that went up into the Kotzebue area
15 and chartered a helicopter and went around and picked
16 up caribou horns, and took out caribou horns, thousands
17 of pounds of caribou horns and sold them. Tom Gray
18 picked caribou horns, I picked up three sled loads of
19 caribou horns in my area one time, sold them, and paid
20 for my kid's orthodontist bill. You know, that
21 shouldn't be. So there needs to be some lines drawn,
22 but, again, you need to make it user friendly to the
23 local residents of this area.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Anybody else wants to
26 comment on this.

27
28 MR. KATCHEAK: I have a question. Ted
29 from Stebbins.

30
31 In the Yukon Delta Wildlife Refuge,
32 we're on that same area, people come around and pick up
33 antlers, reindeer antlers, and I guess most of the time
34 that's what they are, reindeer antlers. Is it against
35 the law to pick those antlers that are on the ground?
36 They're either in corporation land or Yukon Delta
37 Refuge.

38
39 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Katcheak, through
40 the Chair. I really am not familiar with specific
41 regulations related to Fish and Wildlife Service units.
42 That would be a question that would have to be directed
43 to that. I could do a little bit of research and come
44 up with an answer, but I don't have that familiarity
45 with their specific regulations at my fingertips. So
46 unless we have a Fish and Wildlife Service employee on
47 the line that could answer that, I can't.

48
49 In terms of corporation lands and
50 things, those are a whole different set of stuff.

1 They're considered private lands. And, you know, I
2 know a number of corporations have policies or
3 guidelines related to things like that. Others don't.
4 You know, some don't mind if their shareholders do
5 certain things, but they don't want non-shareholders
6 doing the same thing. And so, you know -- and then if
7 you're on State lands, there are various kinds of
8 things that, you know, protect antiquities and stuff
9 and how do you tell an antiquity from something
10 natural. So it really is a complex topic, and you've
11 just I guess got to be careful where you're at and try
12 to understand as best you can what the regulations or
13 the restrictions or conditions under which you can do
14 various kind of things on those lands depending on
15 ownership and management.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Chuck, do you have
18 some insight in this?

19
20 MR. ARDIZZONE: Well, Mr. Chair, I was
21 just going to say I do work for the Fish and Wildlife
22 Service, but I'm not a Refuge person, so I can't
23 specifically speak to what can be done on a Refuge. I
24 wish I could, but we can do some research, and find
25 out, and see if I can get back with.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah. And maybe we
28 can get an answer later.

29
30 MR. ARDIZZONE: And it's more just
31 directed at antler collection. I'll send an email, see
32 what I can find out.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I'm wondering if --
35 you know, this has been going on for a long time. It
36 was real surprise to me that there was even -- that
37 there were even restrictions. I didn't know about
38 them, I doubt if anybody else does. But I wonder if
39 what we want to do is make a motion and then write a
40 letter in response. That might be the best thing we
41 can do. Has anybody got an idea on what we'd like to
42 put in that letter?

43
44 You know, personally, I would like to
45 just, you know, go with the alternative where there is
46 no restriction. You know, I don't see the --
47 particularly on antlers. You know, it deteriorates
48 incredibly fast. Things eat antlers up, you know.
49 They don't -- they just disappear like they melt. You
50 know, everything eats them, even reindeer and caribou

1 eat antlers. And so, you know -- because there's
2 minerals in them. And so if they're not picked up,
3 they aren't going to last that long, and so I don't see
4 a big problem with having somebody pick them up.
5 There's an awful lot of them produced every year.

6
7 There were some conflicts on the Kobuk,
8 granted, from hunter-killed antlers, you know, that
9 there were some -- like Tom says, some commercial
10 operations going in there and trying to monopolize the
11 antlers that used to be just piled up and left and then
12 all of a sudden they became valuable and so people
13 started monopolizing them. And then now it's
14 prohibited. You can't -- it's restricted, you can't
15 pick up antlers on the Kobuk any more.

16
17 But in most places there isn't --I
18 don't see a conflict. There just isn't enough interest
19 in it, and the access is so difficult, that I think it
20 would be easy just to have everything wide open. You
21 know, I could see -- well, one thing I was thinking of
22 is you could have a requirement that your last name has
23 to be Smith in order to pick up walrus ivory, for
24 example, that would be a good regulation.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 CHAIRMAN SMITH: You know, I doubt if
29 anybody's going to stop doing it. That's the
30 situation. I really doubt that anybody's going to pass
31 up something that they really want because it's
32 prohibited.

33
34 And so my preference would be for this
35 body to support the least restrictive alternative, but
36 you guys might have different ideas on that.

37
38 Go ahead.

39
40 MR. GRAY: You know, I don't mind the
41 least restrictive to a point, Tim. I guess again I
42 have problems with commercial operators coming in and
43 capitalizing on situations. I do think -- and a good
44 example that Ken threw out was the locals in Shishmaref
45 should have access to those animals prior to Joe Blow
46 with an airplane from Anchorage, you know. Very easy
47 to hop in a plane and fly somewhere and take advantage
48 of a situation. And even Nome people, you know. I was
49 driving around the other day, and I see lots of walrus
50 tusks at this one guy's house, and I thought, geez, you

1 know, that guy can' shoot walrus. He's -- I mean, so
2 he's gone through a process of picking walrus up off
3 the beach that's legal, and has a whole pile of walrus
4 ivory, more so than most Natives. And is that right or
5 wrong? I know he's picking up all this stuff with an
6 airplane. And it gives him the edge I guess where the
7 locals don't have that advantage.

8
9 So, you know, again I feel that local
10 residents in this area should have the upper hand on
11 access to this stuff, and, you know, if there's
12 requirements of you have to use a snowmachine or you
13 have to use an airplane or whatever, these requirements
14 are specific. They're spelled out very clearly what's
15 usable and what isn't usable, because again I think
16 that it's like these musk ox horns you were talking
17 about, you know, 40 musk ox at \$500 apiece, that's
18 worth jumping in an airplane and going and getting it.
19 And is it right? Is it wrong? You know, somebody
20 going after them with an airplane is going to sell them
21 to pay for the fuel and so on. Somebody in the village
22 might pick up a musk ox horn and make an artifact and
23 sell it to pay their store bill. So there's a big
24 difference in where the money's going. So I really
25 believe we need to protect the subsistence users, the
26 local folks.

27
28 And, you know, when it comes to this
29 Board, we're all about subsistence anyway. We
30 shouldn't even be talking commercial. We should be
31 supporting subsistence and that lifestyle.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Ken, is -- what are
34 the boundaries of this? Is a walrus that's below high
35 tide, is that in State waters?

36
37 MR. ADKISSON: If it's below high tide
38 (Indiscernible - away from microphones).

39
40 REPORTER: Ken, turn your mic on.

41
42 MR. ADKISSON: I forgot. Mr. Chair, if
43 it's below mean high tide, it's not in Park Service
44 jurisdiction basically. And, you know, things like all
45 that are complicated, too. I mean, it's -- I'll just
46 give you another example. We had an individual fly
47 into Serpentine from the Peninsula. And basically that
48 was his intent, was to scarf up, you know, things like
49 antlers. And Serpentine Hot Springs is probably the
50 most well known, most heavily visited single location

1 in a lot of the parks up here. And if you ever looked
2 in conservation books and tourism books, one of the
3 most photogenic things you see is people's experience
4 is a big caribou rack on -- the antlers on the tundra
5 or something. And so, you know, very likely we would
6 want to put something in that gives added protection to
7 that aesthetic quality for Serpentine, because there's
8 almost unlimited options to collect antlers anywhere
9 but there. So I think, you know, that's the kind of
10 balance I think that we're looking for.

11
12 Does that mean we can enforce every
13 violation of it? Maybe not. But I think had this one
14 individual that I just happened to mention, had we been
15 able to get ahold of him, and we had, you know,
16 whatever, very likely they would have wound up with
17 some kind of violation.

18
19 And that's the thing, like Member Gray
20 said, I mean, what we want to do is legalize these for
21 the people that really need it, but protect the park
22 values for the people that really don't. And how we
23 get there is really hard, so if anybody -- if you have
24 ideas on how we could communicate better, education
25 things, I mean, even just getting people to understand
26 what's in a hunting regulation booklet is hard, let
27 alone all of these kind of things. So any ideas to
28 better improve communication with the public and the
29 members, you know, I'm sure that when this gets out, you
30 know, and if something happens, you know, we would be
31 sending written communications, trying to probably go
32 to communities, and explain the thing to them, and
33 provide them with a list of communities or whatever.
34 So I think there will be probably a fairly extensive
35 form of outreach, and in this day and age, things would
36 probably wind up on web sites and stuff like that. But
37 any specific things that you have in mind that would
38 improve the education would be welcome comments.

39
40 I'm sympathetic to the idea of having
41 wide open stuff, but realistically there I think there's
42 going to be some other areas. We've already had
43 comments from some people I believe in the Interior and
44 through some of these meetings that people -- it's kind
45 of almost a cultural modification which may move it
46 into something else, but use antlers and other things
47 to mark certain kind of places in their home
48 territories, and perhaps would burial sites and other
49 things. and they really don't want those things picked
50 up.

1 You know, I know that, you know, a lot
2 things eat caribou, but there are places where caribou
3 antlers do survive quite long, and, you know, there are
4 areas out here where we have would drive lines and
5 things that are really perhaps -- at that point they're
6 an archeao -- they're a human modified thing at an
7 archaeological site, and they're protected anyway, but
8 a lot of people don't realize that, or if there are
9 parts of it that are laying out there to the side, that
10 people may not put the connection to.

11
12 So, you know, I don't think we're going
13 to go away with no sorts of tying restrictions on this,
14 but it's clear that simply prohibiting everything isn't
15 where we want to go either. So that's the challenge
16 for us, and any way you can help make that better and
17 more workable would be greatly appreciated.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, Council members,
20 any ideas.

21
22 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. Ted. A
23 question for Mr. Adkisson. You mentioned earlier
24 something about high tide, anything that's below a high
25 tide line, there's no restriction? You mentioned.
26 Because we do most of our subsistence gathering, or
27 doing our subsistence below a high tide line. Most of
28 the time that's where things are.

29
30 MR. ADKISSON: To Member Katcheak
31 through the Chair. What I said was, if it's below mean
32 high tide line like in relation to Bering Land Bridge
33 Preserve, it's outside of Park Service jurisdiction.
34 We don't control what goes on there. That doesn't mean
35 that there's not somebody else that doesn't control it.
36 It might be the State, it might be Fish and Wildlife
37 Service through the Marine Mammal Protection Act if
38 there are certain kinds of prohibited things related to
39 -- or requirements related to the salvage of like
40 walrus ivory and stuff from heads and things like that.
41 So it doesn't mean that there's -- it's totally wide
42 open. It's just that as far as the park goes, we just
43 don't have any jurisdiction below that point.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I mean, that brings up
46 -- that is a good example there. I mean, you go around
47 Nome, and everybody's got whale ribs and whale bones
48 laying in their yard. Well, that's all illegal. Those
49 bones have to be registered with the National Marine
50 Fisheries Service. There's no easy way to register

1 them. You know, you'd have to take them to Anchorage
2 and have them see it, have them registered -- whatever
3 they -- I don't even know how they do it, but they --
4 but all those -- it's a requirement that all those
5 things be registered. Well, nobody does it. And that
6 -- it's just you know, my idea of a bad law, when
7 everybody violates it opening, They display them
8 openly in their yard, even though it's all illegal.
9 And, you know, I might even have one or two in my yard,
10 you know. So I don't like regulations like that. You
11 know, it doesn't serve any purpose. You know, if it's
12 not going to be enforced, why have it, and so I
13 anticipate that anything we do here is going to be the
14 same thing. You know, if you've got to get written
15 permission to pick up antlers or to pick up sour dock,
16 you know. I mean, you'd have to have a permit to pick
17 sour dock on Federal lands, well, who's going to do it?
18 You know, it's not going to be that easy to do. You're
19 going to have to somehow figure out how to get the
20 written permission, and most people won't do it.

21

22 MR. GRAY: This written permission
23 thing to me is -- you're right, I don't think it's a
24 good thing. You know, if we're going to create
25 boundaries for people to live in, you know, it's one
26 thing to have the boundaries, and have it in policy,
27 but it's another thing to have people have to go apply
28 for it. You're going to have lots of people applying
29 for something they never go after. And there's going
30 to be kind of a false sense that -- for example, Tom
31 Gray will apply for every permit if I'm going to go up
32 to Shishmaref that's available so in case I stumble on
33 something, I can deal with it.

34

35 And, you know, a good example of that
36 is going after reds, you know. I get a Teller permit,
37 I get a Pilgrim permit, I get an ocean permit. And do
38 I use them? I used the Pilgrim permit for four fish
39 this year. Four stinking fish. And I had a handful of
40 permits for what? You know, to me it's a farce.

41

42 So the permit system, I caution folks
43 on. You know, I really think if we protect the local
44 integrity of this region, we're the people that used
45 all this stuff long before the park ever showed up.
46 Let's protect that idea, and give that -- I don't want
47 to say edge, but give that right to the folks here.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Go ahead, Elmer.

50

1 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig. I
2 think a good example is Bering Land Bridge. I do hunt
3 caribou in and around the lava beds. I don't ask for
4 permission to go there. I had been hunting there for a
5 while. I do see a lot of people that do converge on
6 lava beds or around that area for either caribou or
7 musk ox. And for me to get written permission from
8 someone, but like I kind of agree with Tom that, you
9 know, it's -- I don't think anyone would pay any
10 attention. I have been in and around the Kuzitrin
11 River system ever since I was growing up, and west. I
12 think the Oonuk (ph), Incorporated, or the Pilgrim Hot
13 Spring area consortium of village corporations that
14 want to mine for graphite, and nowadays say that we
15 have to have a permit. And I've been there for a long,
16 long time, or I've been there hunting, gathering
17 berries, hunting wildlife during the late fall, and
18 just looking at scenery. And that's something that
19 many of the people are not used to, getting written
20 permission or getting authorization from someone that
21 says you have to do this, which we have been doing for
22 a number of years, you know, prior to trying to get a
23 permit from someone. And that's pretty painstaking is
24 that you have to get written permission to do something
25 that you have been doing for a number of years, and
26 just kind of -- you just kind of say, oh, I don't think
27 I can do that. You either give up the area that you're
28 trying to pursue plants, animals, wildlife, and just
29 say, oh, that is too much trouble.

30
31 For people in and around these Federal
32 lands, I would say give them priority, or people that
33 use these areas exclusively for, you know, plant
34 picking or animal harvest, because certain plants grow
35 only in certain conditions, and that might be on the
36 Federal land. And people that use these resources will
37 go in and out, you know, to gather these resources
38 to satisfy their needs. And when you're trying to do
39 this for the community, then, you know, you don't have,
40 oh, yes, I think we all need to get permits for this
41 activity. You know, they -- I guess we're just not use
42 to permits.

43
44 But the best way I guess to educate the
45 young is to educate the young people, because in the
46 table are going to talk about this, but, you know, it
47 might take a while for the Federal Government to, you
48 know, pass the recommendations that we put out.

49
50 For me, it's just time consuming. I

1 won't get a permit if I'm going there. Like Tom say,
2 I'll be a lawbreaker. But that's -- put a lawbreaker
3 on that part you notice. If I have to provide for
4 someone or for my family or something that I've been
5 doing for a number of years. I would like to go
6 caribou hunting when the caribou are fat, but I've got
7 no resources to go up where they cross, so I'm happy
8 with what I can get, you know, that is given to me
9 their certain types of a season. And majority of those
10 that harvest do it in good intention, you know, without
11 breaking the law. If there's a moose there, you know,
12 two days later or moose season open in two days,
13 they'll just leave that moose until such time So
14 majority of people are law abiding, but there are some
15 that, you know, want to say, oh, I think that's just
16 too much, the Federal Government can, you know, dish
17 out.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SMITH: That's a very good
22 comment, Elmer.

23

24 This is --if you look at your map, this
25 proposal would only apply to -- in this area, only
26 apply to the blue-shaded area, Bering Land Bridge
27 National Preserve. And so, you know, Reggie, people,
28 you know, from Brevig probably go up there
29 occasionally, and so do you have any thoughts on the
30 issue?

31

32 MR. BARR: I agree with Elmer Seetot.
33 We're not -- we don't really care for permission -- I
34 mean permits and written authorization to go to places
35 that we have been going to for thousands of years. And
36 to get permits and written authorization to those of us
37 who have been doing that is kind of like stepping on
38 our toes, and telling us that we're little kids, too,
39 that we have to do this or do that. And it really
40 doesn't sit well with me.

41

42 If permits and written authorizations
43 were given, who would enforce that, and how would it be
44 enforced. That would be my question I think.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Bob, would that give
47 you enough -- this discussion we've had, would that be
48 enough for you to write a letter on this issue, or do
49 we need to make a motion?

50

1 MR. LARSON: You know, what I would
2 find useful would be assistance in writing a letter
3 from the Council members, so in fact it's, you know,
4 not my letter, it's the Council's letter. And in
5 addition to that, we'll need a motion to send the
6 letter. Yeah.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Do you guys
9 want to try to do that today, see if we can get a
10 letter put together? You know, it doesn't have to be
11 very long. It's a simple letter that would kind of
12 cover, you know, what we've been saying, you know. Do
13 you want to try to do that today?

14
15 Go ahead, Bob.

16
17 MR. LARSON: I do have a suggestion in
18 process, and this is something that's worked well in
19 other Councils at other times, is that if you have a --
20 if we feel we need to get together in an informal
21 session to write a letter, we can write a letter if the
22 Council would just stand down for 10 or 15 minutes and
23 have those people that are knowledgeable about this
24 particular topic get together with me. We'll put a
25 letter up on the board and we'll just build it and have
26 it available for the Council, you know, when they
27 reconvene, but 15 minutes should be okay.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Let's do that then.
30 Let's see if we can -- you know, think about it for a
31 while, and let's see if we can put something together.
32 If we don't get it done, it won't get done. This has
33 been on the table for a while, and we haven't really
34 weighed in on it, and so I think we -- I think we're
35 close enough to having agreement on -- you know, I
36 don't hear anybody really wanting really tough
37 restrictions here. So maybe -- I think we're probably
38 -- we probably can draft a letter on this, and we
39 should before it's too late.

40
41 MR. GRAY: I guess one of my concerns
42 is going to be, you know, we haven't had a whole lot of
43 time to think on this thing, and there's going to be
44 other issues that will come up later. And, you know, I
45 don't have a problem in making a motion if we have to
46 where the Chairman and/or the Vice Chair and our Staff
47 put together a letter and get it moved on later after
48 this meeting. You know, 15 minutes, I'm happy to wait
49 15 minutes, but again there's going to be issues, and
50 I'm glad Ken's keeping notes, because he's probably got

1 better records of the whole thing that the rest of us.
2 So we're going to miss something is what I'm a little
3 bit concerned about. And, you know, we can be as good
4 as we can, and some other twist comes into it later on.
5 So, you know, I wouldn't -- just because we put
6 something forward, I wouldn't say that's the end of it
7 or the final whatever.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SMITH: One characteristic of
10 Federal regulations is it's the would slippery slope
11 applies. You can always restrict things. You can
12 almost never unrestrict things. And I don't see an
13 issue right now for Bering Land Bridge. I don't see
14 that there's a problem on anything. And we don't want
15 to -- I don't think we want to be too restrictive until
16 there's a problem, but if we get overly restrictive
17 now, and, you know, we're never -- that's the way it's
18 going to be for eternity. And so personally I think we
19 need to be careful that we don't get things too
20 tightened down and then find that it impacts things we
21 want to do later on.

22

23 MR. GRAY: Well, my understanding right
24 now is we can't pick anything up and we can't take
25 anything, so it's over-restricted as far as I'm
26 concerned. So, you know, opening the doors, especially
27 to the locals, you know, the qualified users up here,
28 and to the local Seward Peninsula, if it's opened up
29 for those folks, I'm all in favor of it. But if we're
30 going to talk about opening it up to airplanes and
31 people from Anchorage, and those kind of things, I
32 think we need some restrictions.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, my understanding
35 of the situation is it's closed, but that came as a --
36 I think that came as a surprise to everybody, because
37 it's been wide open to people with airplanes and people
38 from Anchorage, and nobody even knew the regulation
39 existed. So, you know, even though you're technically
40 correct, the reality is that no one has ever been cited
41 for picking up an antler in Bering Land Bridge, and so
42 the reality is it's completely unrestricted. Now we're
43 talking about imposing restrictions. I would be
44 hesitant to restrict it too much, unless there's a
45 reason.

46

47 But let's see if we can draft a letter
48 later on today. Think about it for a while.

49

50 Ken, you want to move on to your next

1 topic, is bear baiting.

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. We can
4 do that.

5

6 Clarence, are you still there?

7

8 MR. SUMMERS: Yeah, I'm here. Mr.
9 Chairman. Council members. The next topic, we're
10 still looking for input on the subsistence use of bait
11 to harvest brown bears. I believe it was 2010 the
12 National Park Service used temporary regulations to
13 prohibit the use of bait to attract and take brown
14 bears on NPS lands. We're currently -- we've drafted
15 regulations to have a permanent prohibition to the take
16 of brown bear over bait when sport hunting. Park
17 Service is currently working with our Subsistence
18 Resource Commissions to solicit input on the type of
19 bait used to attract and take bears in NPS areas. We'd
20 like to do the same with the Regional Councils, so
21 we're attending Council meetings, at least the Park
22 Service Staff plans to attend to solicit input from
23 Regional Councils on this topic.

24

25 Under both State and Federal
26 regulations there are definitions of bait, and there's
27 specific conditions if you're going to use bait for
28 taking bears.

29

30 At a meeting, I believe it was at
31 Denali National Park, the Subsistence Resource
32 Commission considered this topic and produced a letter
33 in support of Park Service regulations to prohibit this
34 activity. More specifically we're interested in your
35 area, we'd like to know if brown bear baiting is a
36 traditional subsistence practice in the preserve, and
37 this is specifically for NPS areas.

38

39 And the other thing is we'd like to
40 know the type of material used to bait, to attract the
41 bear during a subsistence hunt.

42

43 And, Ken, would you like to add
44 anything.

45

46 MR. ADKISSON: No, I don't think I have
47 anything at this point, Clarence.

48

49 MR. SUMMERS: Okay. Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Is Drew on -- are you
2 on the line, Drew?

3
4 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair. Drew
5 Crawford, Fish and Game, in Anchorage.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah. Drew, brown
8 bear baiting isn't legal in Unit 22 under State regs,
9 is it?

10
11 MR. CRAWFORD: Let me check on that and
12 I'll get back to you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Sounds good. I don't
15 think that anybody -- well, my brother-in-law tried on
16 the Yukon, tried baiting brown bears one time using
17 fish, and it didn't work at all, you know. And I -- you
18 know, when there's salmon around 00 the only fish
19 you've got is salmon, and when there's salmon around,
20 the bears don't need you to supply them with bait. And
21 so -- and I talked to -- at the April meeting of the
22 Federal Subsistence Board, there was some people from
23 the Interior that had tried baiting, had been baiting
24 brown bears, and it doesn't work that well. You know,
25 you've got to use meat, and you've got to use a lot of
26 it. The only thing that's ever tried and true is
27 killing a moose or something, and that does sometimes
28 work, but that's totally illegal, you know. You can't
29 do -- you know, guides have been cited for that. And
30 so I don't -- I've never heard of anybody doing it
31 here, and I don't think anybody would ever have the
32 resources to do it. The closest thing to baiting is
33 hunting over a walrus carcass, but that's not baiting,
34 because the carcass was there by itself. Naturally
35 there.

36
37 So does anybody -- I don't think
38 anybody does. Have you guys heard of it?

39
40 MR. GRAY: I don't know of anybody
41 that's ever baited brown bears. And if anybody's been
42 around brown bears, it's me. I've been on more kills
43 than I dare to mention, so I just -- I've never just --
44 I've never heard of anybody baiting them. I haven't
45 baited them. And the amount of bears I've taken over
46 natural kills is very minimal. Most of the time we're
47 taking bears on berries or just out in the open. So,
48 you know, I don't think anybody's going to go to the --
49 take the initiative to try and bait these animals. And
50 so I don't have a problem shutting that aspect down and

1 keeping it out of the -- not only subsistence, but keep
2 it out of the commercial side of it. You know, I'm a
3 commercial operator. Keep it out of their hands, too.
4 If you can't kill a bear, brown bear out on a berry
5 patch, you've got no business hunting it.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SMITH: You know that it's
8 kind of sending a mixed message though, Tom. You know,
9 we keep saying we want less brown bears; why should we
10 prohibit any method. I don't think it works very well,
11 but, I mean, if somebody wants to give it a try, I
12 don't really see why it should be prevented. You know,
13 it can create a dangerous situation, that's the only
14 thing. You know, if you just distribute bait, you
15 know, and it works and you bring them in, you know, it
16 does kind of create a dangerous situation maybe.

17
18 Go ahead, Reg.

19
20 MR. BARR: Yeah. Most of us
21 subsistence users don't hunt bear, other than
22 protecting life and property.

23
24 MR. SEETOT: Elmer with Brevig. Yeah,
25 last spring we had a couple brown bears come into the
26 town. You know, I think they smelled the food from the
27 south wind. Bear hunting is not really big in Brevig
28 Mission as far as I know. It hasn't been traditional.
29 The last time I had bear meat was when I was maybe 10,
30 15 years would, so that's been a long, long time. And
31 when you have food that -- when you're going up, then
32 you will constantly hunt it, but if you break your
33 habit from that, then that's another animal that have
34 to process and make sure that, you know, it goes from
35 being killed to the finished product so that takes a
36 lot of work doing that thing. And most of this is not
37 really being passed from our generation to the next
38 generation, at least back home.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, two traditional
41 methods from this area that aren't being used any more,
42 and also aren't legal, that would be effective is
43 hunting with dogs. That was -- you know, that people
44 hunted with their sled dogs in the past. Dogs were a
45 lot more involved in hunting than they are today. And
46 also denning. And both of those things are illegal
47 under current laws, but that was the -- those were two
48 traditional methods that were used. And, you know, all
49 indications are that bears were hunted almost to
50 extinction in the past, just in the past, because

1 they're competition with people.

2

3 Is there any more discussion on this
4 issues? Do you -- are you looking for a motion on
5 this, Ken?

6

7 MR. ADKISSON: Just a minute, Mr.
8 Chair. Let me -- Clarence, do you think we need some
9 sort of formal response on this or just capturing
10 through the series of comments through the transcript
11 of the meeting will suffice?

12

13 MR. SUMMERS: Mr. Chair. Council
14 members. I know that our Staff wants a comment that
15 either -- in the record as an official motion, or a
16 letter. And so that would be very helpful.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, how about we
21 make a combination letter then if we can. Can we come
22 up with something and we'll put this letter that we're
23 going to draft later, just put it together.

24

25 Is there any more discussion on the
26 issue, or do we want to just we'll take a break and see
27 if we can come up with a letter that will be
28 acceptable.

29

30 MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chair. Drew
31 Crawford, Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
32 Anchorage.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, go ahead, Drew.

35

36 MR. CRAWFORD: Yeah. I pulled up the
37 baiting regulations for bear, and you are correct that
38 currently Unit 22 is not included amongst the units
39 where you can -- for brown bear baiting.

40

41 Over.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Thanks for that
44 information.

45

46 Yeah, go ahead, Tom.

47

48 MR. GRAY: I'm curious. Are there any
49 places in Alaska that are legal to bait brown bears in
50 State areas?

1 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes. Unit 12, 20C, 20E,
2 21D, and as of last April 15th, Units 7, 13D, 15 and 16
3 area also legal to shoot a brown bear over a black bear
4 bait station.

5
6 Over.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah. Black bear
9 baiting's been legal for quite a while. And now
10 they've just -- you know, if you're already baiting,
11 you can -- well, it's hard to say, you. You put bait
12 out, you know, and whatever comes, comes.

13
14 At the April meeting, I listened to
15 some people who were doing it, and it's not as easy as
16 it seems. You know, like I say, my brother-in-law
17 tried it. It's not all that easy. And I think, you
18 know, bear densities here -- you know, it seems like
19 that's a lot of bears, but, you know, I see a lot of
20 carcasses that just lay there and nothing gets on them,
21 you know. And so I don't know how -- it wouldn't be a
22 very effective method here, but I don't see any reason
23 to prohibit it either, you know. If somebody wants to
24 give it a try, I don't see any problem with it, and,
25 you know, we keep saying we want fewer bears. We
26 shouldn't really tie anybody's hands if they want to
27 try it.

28
29 I'm bear hunting as we speak here, and
30 I'm not doing very good. They're hard -- it's not that
31 easy, you know. We've got a problem bear up at the
32 hatchery and we've been trying to get it, and it's just
33 not easy. But I wouldn't use bait. I wouldn't attract
34 it in. It's already spending too much time around
35 there now.

36
37 But let's see if we can come up with
38 something to put in a letter on that, and we'll do that
39 a little later today.

40
41 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Actually
42 this baiting of brown bears also ties into the next
43 topic, which is the general reg package that we're
44 talking about that Clarence will go over in a minute,
45 and so, you know, maybe actually if you wanted to do
46 that, you could probably maybe whip a response of all
47 three topics into one letter and be done with it maybe.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Do you want to go to
50 your next topic?

1 MR. ADKISSON: We could, yeah.
2 Clarence, are you ready to go on into the regulation
3 package?

4
5 MR. SUMMERS: Yes. Mr. Chairman.
6 Council members. The last item has to do with a recent
7 Federal Register publication. The National Park
8 Service is proposing a permanent Federal prohibition on
9 practices that are -- that occur in national preserves.
10 And I want to make it clear that the proposed
11 regulation changes would not restrict Federal
12 subsistence hunting on National Park Service managed
13 lands.

14
15 More specifically these proposals would
16 prohibit the take of wolves, of hunting wolf and coyote
17 pups and adults in early summer when they're in the
18 den, and when their pelts have little commercial value.
19 It prohibits the taking of brown bear over bait. It
20 prohibits the use of artificial light to take black
21 bear cubs and sows with cubs in dens.

22
23 Another effect of the proposed rule has
24 to do with addressing some of the current regulations
25 that are -- that affect Federal assumption of
26 subsistence dealing with notice to public for closures.
27 There are also opportunities where qualified
28 subsistence users are allowed to use Native species for
29 bait purposes, commonly salmon eggs for fishing in
30 accordance with non-conflicting regulations.

31
32 The National Park Service plans to
33 conduct a series of public meetings statewide. I
34 believe there's at least 17 hearings scheduled. I
35 believe the meeting in your area, which Ken can
36 address, is scheduled for this month.

37
38 I'll stop with that and let Ken add
39 anything.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Can I ask, does that
44 -- just for clarification, are you proposing to
45 prohibit use of salmon eggs for fishing?

46
47 MR. SUMMERS: No, this is an allowance
48 in our regulations.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Is it prohibited now?

1 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. I believe
2 so. And I think that's kind of akin to the collection
3 thing that we're talking about. Some of these things
4 are driven by nation-wide regulations. And we have like
5 two sets of regulations like in the Park Service.
6 There's a set that applies to everything in the
7 country, and then we have a section that applies to
8 Alaska park units. And the collection part of it that
9 we've been discussing earlier is part of that
10 nationwide package. So, you know, the intent of trying
11 to improve things as to legalize something that's
12 currently prohibited, even though as you point out we
13 could continue to ignore it, or sometimes we could
14 ignore it and sometimes not. And then you have a very
15 unpleasant situation. Well, it's the same thing with
16 this. So what we're trying to do in this new reg
17 package is to legalize the use of various kinds of bait
18 in fishing, natural products from, you know, native
19 species and things like eggs. So, yeah, it's intended
20 to make things more realistic and work better.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SMITH: What about bait for
23 trapping?

24
25 MR. ADKISSON: Actually you can already
26 use baits of various kinds for trapping, and that's
27 covered under State and Federal regs, and bait's
28 defined, and, yeah, you can use bait for trapping,
29 providing, you know, it complies with existing State
30 and Federal regulations.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SMITH: You know, it sounds
33 like this is going to be -- you know, the regulations
34 might be a little too detailed for us to address in
35 this letter we're talking about. Is that -- do you
36 think we could -- could we -- we haven't seen them I
37 guess.

38
39 MR. ADKISSON: That's possible.
40 Actually, you know, this is not -- this is really kind
41 of an informational I think, and a head's up point of
42 view. You actually have a copy of the actual reg
43 package that's been put out in the Federal Register.
44 And there is a website that you can comment on. There
45 is -- we will have a public meeting in Nome. It's this
46 month; it's October 27th, and it will be from 6:00 to
47 7:30 at our headquarters office in the Sitnasuak
48 Building on Front Street. So, yeah, I wouldn't feel
49 terribly compelled to get into the weeds, unless you
50 kind of want an orientation to it now, or want to

1 quickly look it over and have questions or something.
2 But this won't be the end of it.

3
4 The Park Service actually -- this is
5 already out as a proposed regulation, so the comment
6 period on it ends I believe December 3rd, so comments,
7 whether they come at this meeting, come on the inter --
8 by submitting them on the internet, come at the public
9 meetings that the Park Service is having. They're also
10 going to do a web chat, and one-time web chat, and also
11 have a call-in, and they're in the process of doing
12 tribal and corporation Native consultation processes
13 and stuff. So it's not the end of the thing, you know,
14 but as much as you want to get into it or have comments
15 at this point would be fine.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. If anybody who
18 does want to comment on it, feel free.

19
20 MR. GRAY: I have a concern I guess.
21 And it sounded like there's 17 meetings around the
22 State, and here on the Seward Peninsula it's going to
23 be one meeting, is that correct?

24
25 MR. ADKISSON: To Councilman Gray
26 through the Chair. Yes, that's correct. Actually this
27 is the second go-round at it. A few months ago we
28 actually did a public meeting again here in Nome. We
29 actually had telephone opportunities to dial into that
30 meeting. And people could submit written comments to
31 the superintendent of Bering Land Bridge. It did not
32 generate enough interest. We had no one come to the
33 meeting. We had no one dial into the meeting, and we
34 didn't receive any written comments. So, you know, the
35 Park Service is moving along with this, and it's now
36 out officially as a proposed reg, and we'll have one
37 more meeting at least here in town.

38
39 MR. GRAY: Okay. And, you know, I
40 guess the reason I'm touching on this is Nome people go
41 -- they use the Park and go in and out of the park and
42 Serpentine and certain places. Now, they've had their
43 opportunity for this meeting. You've got a community
44 which is Shishmaref that uses that park every day.
45 Daily they go in and out of that. You know, my
46 suggestion would be to schedule a meeting in
47 Shishmaref and let the Nome people call in this time.
48 And go to the people that are using this on a daily
49 basis, and get some input from them. You know, people
50 -- I sit on a lot of boards, and people are not going

1 to go out of their way to get to a meeting. And, you
2 know, again, these folks up in Shishmaref, they use
3 this park daily. This is their life, you know. Those
4 of us in Nome and other parts, Brevig and Teller and so
5 on and so forth, you know, we kind of dabble in that
6 park, and we go in there certain times of year, but go
7 to the meat of -- go to the heart of this thing, and
8 get some good insight.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Does anybody else want
11 to comment on this.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: You know, the problem
16 I see -- you know, I don't disagree with anything
17 you're saying, but the meetings, boy, Tom, I mean,
18 there are so many meetings, and, you know, you can
19 spend your whole life in meetings. It just isn't
20 effective any more. And, of course, the -- you know,
21 we've been saying for years that we want to
22 participate, and, of course, we do, but, geez, I don't
23 know if that's the best way. You know, somebody has to
24 read, and this is quite a bit. You know, this is small
25 print. You know, I don't know how many people in
26 Shishmaref are going to actually know what's going on,
27 or are going to take the time to really study this. I
28 mean, you definitely could hold a meeting there, and it
29 would be good, but you might not get very much input
30 anyway.

31

32 See, what I'm getting at is I think we
33 need to find another way to get public input. And I'm
34 glad to see that you're using things like Web Chat and
35 call-ins, because people in the villages really are
36 learning to use social medium, and it's amazing what
37 Facebook does now for people in the villages, and as an
38 alternatives to meetings, we have to find an
39 alternative to meetings. They're too expensive. They
40 generally don't get very good participation, and very,
41 very few people do their homework before the meeting.
42 And so we've got to look at some -- you know, you can't
43 comment on a complex set of regulations here without
44 having read it. And so, you know, we could a meeting,
45 it's just going to be damn expensive, and I don't
46 really think that it does what we think it should do.

47

48 And that's just a comment. I mean,
49 that's just a general comment.

50

1 I turned it off then, didn't I.

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, I would agree with
4 that, Mr. Chair. And we have, for example, at least in
5 this case, reached out in terms of consultation with
6 the corporations and stuff, and Shishmaref, I'm not
7 sure that's enough in some cases.

8

9 I would point out that the bulk of what
10 we're really talking about here is perceived by the
11 Park Service as a statewide issue, and is largely
12 intended to address hunting under general and State
13 regulations related to a lot of activities in terms of
14 extending seasons, liberalizing methods and means,
15 focus on predators, and that's just the way it is. And
16 these regulations, they're being proposed to restrict
17 certain activities under wildlife. They're not being
18 restricted under Federal subsistence regulations, so,
19 you know, the people in Shishmaref are pretty well, you
20 know, off. And they're basically intended, too, to
21 address certain things that have been traditionally
22 prohibited under State regulation, but in recent years
23 have been liberalized. So, you know, I don't think
24 it's going to have a lot of affect on Shishmaref, but,
25 you know, it's well taken.

26

27 There are some parts of this though
28 that I think are worth maybe you looking at in the end
29 part of it, especially because there are some things
30 that are intended to update some subsistence
31 regulations in our Part 13 regulations, and those
32 largely relate to restrictions and closures authorities
33 that are currently existing, and bring them more into
34 line with the existing Federal program in 50 CFR, and
35 address how we communicate those kind of actions, that
36 the superintendent would have the authority to address,
37 and that sort of thing. So I that sense, that is sort
38 of related to subsistence.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Does that conclude
41 your information?

42

43 MR. ADKISSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. That
44 was my comment, unless Clarence has something else.

45

46 MR. SUMMERS: No, I don't have anything
47 else. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Council members.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you for that
50 presentation. I guess we're going to work on a letter

1 here later today on the first two issues, and we all
2 need to go home and study these regulations and see if
3 we need to go further, but it sounds like we'll get
4 other opportunities. And it's mostly -- just keep in
5 mind it's mostly for -- or it's entirely for people who
6 use the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.

7
8 And next we'll be going -- but before
9 that, I see Dianna Adams is here, and I invited this
10 morning -- speaking of Facebook, I invited people to
11 come down and testify. And we've encouraged people to
12 participate in this process. We wanted local people to
13 participate, and so even though, you know, it's out of
14 sequence, I'd like to, with the indulgence of the
15 Council, I'd like to let Dianna provide her comments
16 and we'll go on with our agenda after that.

17
18 MS. ADAMS: (Indiscernible - away from
19 microphones)

20
21 CHAIRMAN SMITH: We don't really have a
22 dress code or anything.

23
24 MS. ADAMS: That's excellent.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SMITH: You should have worn a
27 tie though, you know, at least.

28
29 MS. ADAMS: Or I could have dressed as
30 an Anchorage soccer mom.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 MS. ADAMS: You know, and I'm at a loss
35 here as to what your entire agenda is, but, you know, I
36 do have some strong feelings, and some experiences with
37 musk ox and other predators here in Nome. I have
38 kept.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Sorry to interrupt,
41 but could you state your name for the record.

42
43 MS. ADAMS: I am Dianna Adams. I have
44 lived in Nome for 34 years. I've lived in the region
45 for 37 years. I have kept sled dogs here in Nome for
46 22 winters.

47
48 The first 20 years I have had bears in
49 my lot. I've had wolves in the lot. I've had loose
50 dogs. I've never lost a dog to any of those wild

1 animals. In the last two years our dog lot has lost
2 two dogs, and we're a very small dog lot, because we're
3 kind of at the attrition program here where we're
4 getting out of dogs and letting them age out, but we've
5 lost two dogs to musk ox. We've had one other dog
6 gored. We have put up pens. We have three different
7 pens both at the Erickson home, my home, and the dog
8 lot. We've had all three pens attacked. We had the
9 dog lot pen destroyed during the last situation.

10

11 For the last two years, you know, the
12 frustration is that I would call the city when we had
13 problems with musk ox being too close. I was always
14 told, you know, Dianna, you can shoot a musk ox to
15 protect your dogs. And I would say to them, really,
16 you want somebody like me shooting within a half a mile
17 of the runway, FAA housing, the roads? You know, I did
18 everything I could to keep from being in that position.
19 And this year I was in the position of having a musk ox
20 in my yard at my house, not 10 yards from the house
21 itself, nose-to-nose with a dog in a pen, and I ended
22 up shooting it, not just because it was there, but she
23 dipped her horns, and I really thought she was going to
24 hook the dog. I have had state troopers tell me over
25 the years, you know, you can use defense to kill a musk
26 ox if you're threatened. I've had Fish and Game tell
27 me this. And in the aftermath of my situation, I was
28 charged with a misdemeanor crime, up to a year in jail,
29 and a \$10,000 fine with the possibility of it being
30 changed to a citation. And in the end it was changed
31 to a citation, and 10 days later after we did lose
32 another dog, they changed it to a warning.

33

34 I'm at a loss of words at times to
35 explain that when you're up against an animal that's
36 going bad, it is hard to describe.

37

38 I'm trying to think of her name.
39 Katherine in Wales, put up a wonderful Facebook video
40 of the musk ox attacking her dog, and it's powerful.
41 These are large animals. They are for the most part
42 docile.

43

44 I can't tell you how many people said
45 to me, well, you know, you should just pen your dogs,
46 or you need a better pen. And, you know, it's like the
47 dog owners here, there's been over a dozen dogs killed
48 in the city of Nome or its outlying areas. The dog
49 owners haven't done anything wrong. This is a change
50 in their behavior, this is a change in our social

1 situation with them.

2

3 You know, my fear is that a human will
4 be hurt. And if you've been around any of the animals
5 that have been attacked by musk ox, you know that the
6 injuries are severe, and they're not always fatal. So
7 the dog that I found the last time at the dog lot was
8 gutted and floating in a pond, and still alive. I hate
9 to think of a human in that situation. It's beyond me
10 to be able to emphasize that although I don't think
11 that all musk ox are bad, I don't think that you're
12 going to be at risk from having them just around you,
13 but the fact that they've been allowed to live in the
14 city of Nome for two years is unacceptable. I don't
15 have an answer, but I feel the situation is
16 unacceptable.

17

18 The cow that I shot was a two-year
19 would cow. I shot her in my front yard in Icy View.
20 She probably lived her entire life in the city of Nome.
21 What kind of life is that for a wild animal?

22

23 I think that -- you know, there has
24 been some discussion on predators, and I really think
25 that is the key. I just Monday came across a cabin up
26 at Banner Creek that had been broke into by a bear.
27 There's a bear out there now that's learned to break
28 doors. All it did was push the bottom of the door hard
29 enough and the doorknob popped. So, you know, all of
30 the animals are having new behavior.

31

32 I've been hanging out with the Davises
33 and doing reindeer herding in the spring with them. You
34 know, we're at a loss as to what to do to keep our
35 fawns. They fawns have all been killed by mid July.
36 You don't see fawns. You don't see moose calves any
37 more in the country. I've been spending a fair amount
38 of time at camp. I haven't seen any wild animals out
39 in the country here today, or this week anyways.

40

41 My testimony I guess is just that it's
42 hard to explain to people who aren't living around musk
43 ox just how severe it is. You know, every morning we
44 would get up, go check the dog lots. Collectively, the
45 people who have dogs at the dog lot by the AC store
46 have done a good job of running them out, and
47 eventually the big herds quit moving up in there. They
48 were coming in and grazing around the dogs. Several
49 dogs up there had been tossed. You know, we kind of
50 had this little phone tree going where every time

1 somebody saw one up there, somebody would go up there
2 and run them out of there with a vehicle, with a number
3 of other methods that people were trying, and we would
4 move them, you know, away. So I think they have the
5 ability to have learned behavior. I think that they
6 can learn that if they're uncomfortable in the city of
7 Nome, they will not come back to the city of Nome.

8

9 People don't let their kids play in dry
10 creek any more. I think you've heard all this before,
11 but people aren't letting their kids play on the bike
12 path. You couldn't use the bike path this summer,
13 because it was full of musk ox. I found that so ironic
14 that people were biking on the highway, because the
15 musk ox had taken over the bike path.

16

17 So to conclude my testimony, and I
18 thank you for letting me just pop in and do this, you
19 know, I just want to really beg the Advisory Board to
20 come up with something, or at least let people defend
21 themselves. You know, it wasn't a decision -- to shoot
22 that animal that day was not a decision I took lightly.
23 I'd taken a gun safety course. I was down to two sled
24 dogs this summer through age and I realized I needed to
25 learn to do something at camp. I used to go to camp
26 with six or eight dogs. I never worried about bears.
27 So I happened to, you know, have this shotgun that I
28 had been practicing with, and I had a good, clear shot
29 on her.

30

31 I am not advocating that animals be
32 killed in the city limits. I think it's dangerous to
33 shoot in the city around house and structures. I
34 didn't know what else to do that moment.

35

36 So, you know, I would like to see that
37 discussion of, you know, what do you do, and people are
38 trying to defend themselves.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you.

43

44 MS. ADAMS: I don't know if you have
45 questions or if that's appropriate even.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you for coming
48 down. I appreciate that testimony.

49

50 And then do any Council members want to

1 -- we spend a lot of time talking about both predators
2 and musk ox in here.

3

4 MS. ADAMS: Okay. Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SMITH: So you're very
7 appropriate.

8

9 MR. SACCHEUS: Do you ever use
10 firecrackers?

11

12 MS. ADAMS: Well, it's my understanding
13 that the use of firecrackers in the city limits is
14 illegal. But I'm going to state to you that
15 firecrackers do not affect musk ox in any great way.
16 Neither does bear spray. And actually the sad part
17 about the day that I shot the musk ox in my yard is
18 that I fired off four rounds of gunfire in a relatively
19 short period of time, and 60 feet away there were six
20 animals staring at me while I was shooting.

21

22 The firecrackers seem to, you know,
23 move them off for 20 or 30 feet, and then they turn and
24 stand and look at you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah. We're finding a
27 growing list of things that don't work to deter musk
28 ox. And, yeah, we've tried all kinds of things, and
29 nothing that anybody has come up with yet is really
30 very effective.

31

32 You know, I started to study musk ox
33 when I was 22 years would, and, you know, I've been
34 studying them all that time, and I never in a million
35 years anticipated that this would happen. It hasn't
36 happened anywhere else in the world where musk ox
37 occur. This hypothesis about they're coming in to
38 avoid bear predation, that might be true. You know,
39 there were a lot of mother moose showing up around
40 houses in June now, too, to have their calves, and it
41 sure does look to me like they're avoiding predation
42 that way. We have a lot of bears out there, and a
43 growing number of wolves. And so that may be it, but
44 we don't really know. And so we need to come up with
45 something.

46

47 Go ahead, Tom.

48

49 MR. GRAY: A couple questions. Would
50 you shoot a musk ox again if your dog was in that

1 situation?

2

3 MS. ADAMS: You know, I'm sorry to say,
4 because I have thought this through a lot, in that
5 situation, I would have shot again. Had the dog not
6 been nose-to-nose, if the dog had been further back in
7 the pen, I wouldn't have shot. Had the musk ox been
8 like five feet to the east, I would have had my
9 snowmachine, my neighbor's two trucks and probably my
10 dog in the line of fire, and I would not have shot.

11

12 MR. GRAY: Uh-huh. Yeah. And I can
13 sympathize with you, because I live on Anvil Mountain.
14 A couple days ago I had musk ox right up against my
15 house eating the grass that's growing out from under
16 the house. You know, we take our dog in the house, and
17 yada-yada-yada. And I told these guys that I'm at the
18 point that I'm about ready to turn my dog loose on
19 these animals, because I'm not worried about her
20 getting gored. She's a Karelian bear dog. But, you
21 know, it's just a struggle dealing with these animals
22 year after year after year, and there's no reason for
23 it.

24

25 But I guess my next question is, do you
26 have any suggestions where we can go, what we can do?
27 I had brought out yesterday there's no reason Fish and
28 Game can't move these animals in March or early in the
29 year way away from -- 20 miles away from this town or
30 something. And at least try that to see if it will
31 help mitigate these problems.

32

33 But do you have any suggestions of
34 where we could go, you know? This is a pretty big
35 issue and it needs to be addressed. Somebody's going
36 to get hurt.

37

38 MS. ADAMS: Somebody's going to get
39 hurt. You know, my personal feeling and practice at
40 the dog lot was that if they came across what we call
41 Reider's Road, or if they came east of Center Creek,
42 you know, kind of in that -- within a quarter mile,
43 half a mile of that dog lot compound, we were running
44 them out. We were moving them out. The down side of
45 that is they were already in the city limits. We'd
46 move them to the north, we're running them into Icy --
47 or into Martinsonville. We move them to the south,
48 we're pushing them into the cemetery and the city
49 itself. We move them to the west, and we're pushing
50 them onto the runway, which I think I did one day

1 accidentally two years ago. We move them to the east,
2 and we're putting them at the AC store, you know, the
3 new cop shop, and Kristen Bay's dog lot, too.

4
5 So my personal feeling is that we need
6 to kind of set our own boundaries around the city, and
7 when those musk ox get within that boundary, then
8 create an active effort to make them uncomfortable.
9 And I hate to use the word harassment, because I think
10 harassment's a malicious thing, but to make them feel
11 that maybe we are also going to be like predators and
12 not leave them alone.

13
14 I'm not a biologist, and so I'm just
15 going on what I've observed over the last few years.
16 I've made what I call a lot of musk ox runs to the dog
17 lot. I've sat and watched them for at times. I've
18 been on foot without any guns and chased them off, and
19 I've been on foot with people guarding me with guns,
20 and had my moment this spring with a bull and decided I
21 was not doing that again. I'm not going on the ground,
22 you know, without a vehicle, without a gun, within 30
23 feet of a musk ox ever again. It's not safe. But yet
24 we were in that position of doing it, because we were
25 concerned for the safety of animals and other things.

26
27 After watching musk ox, I would be
28 hesitant to turn my Karelian bear dog loose on one.
29 I'd still be afraid for the dog.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I think -- you know, I
32 talked about it yesterday, I think the other problem
33 with doing that is I think the reason musk ox are so
34 aggressive to dogs here is that they get harassed by
35 dogs a lot. You know, there's a lot of loose dogs
36 here, and I think they're just fed up with it.

37
38 I haven't -- you know, I lived in
39 Mekoryuk, and I never heard of a dog being killed by a
40 musk ox in Mekoryuk. They've been there since the 30s.
41 It never happened. And this is a unique situation.
42 But there aren't any loose dogs in Mekoryuk.

43
44 And I think what happens a lot is
45 people have their dogs out, you know, loose, they
46 encounter musk ox, and the dog goes after the musk ox.
47 You can't call them back, and so these musk oxen have
48 learned to really -- number 1, they've learned that
49 dogs are not a threat, and so they don't hesitate to go
50 after them.

1 And I think that's -- that's my theory.
2 I mean, we have nothing but speculation on what's going
3 on, but it's definitely a real problem.

4
5 Any other Council members want to
6 comment on this. Go ahead, Elmer.

7
8 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig
9 Mission.

10
11 I think pretty much it lies with the
12 State of Alaska whether it would be a harassment of
13 wildlife or stuff like that, because they're the ones
14 that introduced the animal in 1970s without consulting
15 Seward Peninsula as a whole. They thought it was a
16 good project. Why? I just don't know.

17
18 Nome is a wide diverse population. You
19 have hunters, you have sightseers, you have people that
20 just enjoy staying in Nome or in the surrounding
21 country. And I think one of the problems when they
22 decide to see what kind of uses, you know, the animals
23 would have, whether it would be for harvest or for
24 wildlife seeing and stuff like that, State of Alaska
25 wasn't, you know, right there to enforce whatever was
26 going to come up, like in the animals going to Icy View
27 maybe to pick at their favorite plants, because maybe
28 that's the only place where it grows. I just don't
29 know. You know, musk ox have wide range of plants that
30 they eat. Number 1 is their candy, the lichen, pretty
31 much that sustains them throughout their life cycle.

32
33 And by -- I would say Nome by allowing
34 wildlife viewing without any trying to chase animals
35 out when they first came, the young ones probably, you
36 know, pick up that habit of, oh, yeah, this is where we
37 go during a certain month. Like people flock to Nome
38 in March. Why? Because Iditarod is running. Maybe
39 animals are flocking that same here because certain
40 plants are only abundant in that area. But human
41 intervention of musk ox has not really been active.
42 Why? Because State of Alaska has harassment things on
43 wildlife.

44
45 I went to Nunivak Island a couple years
46 ago, and they said that the musk ox were coming into
47 town when they first got there, like they're going to
48 Nome, like the same period like they do, because they
49 were running around the village constantly. So they
50 continually harassed them or chase them away to the

1 point where they're wild again. And I think people
2 need to do that just to drive them away. Even though
3 it's harassment, you know, it's maybe defense of life
4 and property by somebody's standard.

5
6 This part spring my brother-in-law Doug
7 got gored at Port Clarence spring camp. This is the
8 first time I ever went hunting with my brother-in-law
9 during the spring for harvest of marine mammal, oogruk
10 and walrus. And Port Clarence Spit, or Port Clarence,
11 that's heavily used by musk ox throughout the year,
12 period. Why? It's a narrow strip where the spring
13 camps are. Nobody has access in and out without, you
14 know, people knowing. And those musk ox have
15 constantly gone back and forth, depending on wind
16 conditions. You know, if they smell their favorite
17 food, oh, yeah, I've got to go have that. Wind turn
18 another direction, they kept going back and forth.
19 And, you know, they kept getting harassed. If you keep
20 on doing that, you know, like certain animals won't
21 pose a threat to them.

22
23 Humans will try to intervene, but, you
24 know, we're still learning the ropes on how to best
25 drive the musk ox away, like someone said, yeah, that's
26 what I was thinking about doing, using bear spray. If
27 it doesn't work, maybe water or something, but, you
28 know, that's still harassment.

29
30 So I guess the people of Nome have to
31 kind of make hard choices whether content to have the
32 animals come into Nome for wildlife viewing purposes or
33 to contact Department of Fish and Game on what they're
34 planning on doing, whether it's block or not, just to
35 protect life and property. I think that's the main
36 thing. Nome had a wide diverse population, and there's
37 all wildlife use of every kind, so they just have to
38 kind of balance what is acceptable and what things
39 should do, you know, during times when the musk ox do
40 come into town, because they're wildlife, and nobody's
41 going to say -- you can say all the things you want,
42 but they won't understand you, unless, you know, they
43 understand actions by humans, but that's the only thing
44 that they understand.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SMITH: And do you want
47 to.....

48
49 MS. ADAMS: Yeah, I just wanted to
50 follow up about the incident that I -- the day that I

1 killed the musk ox in Icy View, because I think there's
2 some credibility to musk ox feeling harassed by loose
3 dogs. None of the dogs that we owned that were
4 attacked were loose at the time. In Icy View that day,
5 I had come back from town, and there were 22 of them
6 not 50 feet from this dog pen, and I used my truck to
7 chase them out of my front yard area. This particular
8 dog wasn't barking, so I went back into the house. I
9 had already called 911, I had contacted officials, I
10 had chased the herd, the main herd, away. I came back
11 out, there was one grazing off the left side of my
12 porch. I actually didn't see the one on the right,
13 because she was kind of tucked under. I had fired a
14 round of bird shot in the air. And the cow that I
15 eventually killed on the north side of the porch, she
16 bolted initially at the sound of that warning shot, and
17 then she looked over. And this dog was not barking.
18 It was not running around. It was just staring at her
19 from the pen. She made about two leaps, and then she
20 stopped, looked over at the dog and just completely --
21 the other animal continued to run across the road, and
22 she deliberately walked to the dog pen. And that was
23 when to me the whole game changed, because I felt like
24 that, you know, she was going to -- she was focused on
25 the dog then. It had nothing to do with the dog being
26 noisy or getting her attention, or chasing her. It was
27 -- to be honest, it was kind of scary to watch an
28 animal, you know, be 10 feet away from a gun going on,
29 and then turn and be totally oblivious to everything
30 except what she was looking at, and she was looking at
31 my dog.

32
33 I think -- yeah. I'm just saying, you
34 know, that situation, this dog did nothing to provoke
35 that animal.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, I just.....

38
39 MS. ADAMS: And that's just part of my
40 personal story there.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I think what's
43 happening is guilt by association.

44
45 MS. ADAMS: And that may be.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SMITH: She might have been --
48 that animal might have -- that musk ox might have been
49 harassed 10 times by other dogs previously, and she saw
50 a dog, and, you know, they learn from being harassed by

1 dogs that dogs aren't dangerous to them. And so, you
2 know, that's what I think's going on, is they're
3 getting -- because you don't see this any place -- it
4 didn't happen in Mekoryuk. I lived in Mekoryuk. I
5 studies musk ox in Mekoryuk. It did not happen there.

6
7 And I don't know where this legend came
8 from, Elmer. I've heard it, too. Musk oxen were
9 introduced in Nunivak Island in the 30s, and there was
10 a problem then, because they were hand-reared, and the
11 musk oxen liked people. And they would come up to
12 people and scared the hell out of them. And so there
13 was a problem then. But they'd -- I never heard any
14 stories about anybody harassing them back from
15 Mekoryuk; there never was a problem. They never -- I
16 lived in Mekoryuk. they never came into town. Once in
17 a while an individual animal would come through or
18 something, but there was never herds of 30 or 40 of
19 them in town like there is in Nome. They don't have
20 bears there. And I think that is a likely reason for
21 this is that

22
23 Another thing, as you point out
24 correctly is there's a lot of fertilized grass around
25 Nome all of a sudden. People are creating fertilized
26 lawns. I think that's a big attractant. You know, a
27 lot of times you see them on the lawn eating this, you
28 know, rich grass that doesn't -- you know, it's much
29 better than anything that grows in the wild, so I think
30 that's another attractant. And so we don't really know
31 exactly what's going on.

32
33 But, you know, the laws against animal
34 harassment aren't going to go -- wildlife harassment
35 aren't going to go away in Alaska. You know, there's a
36 tremendous problem with moose in some cities, Fairbanks
37 and Anchorage. You know, a lot of people get killed by
38 moose on the highways. And, you know, we're not going
39 out and harassing moose out of Anchorage. It's just
40 not -- it can't be done. And so I don't think that
41 we're going to do a lot more than what we're doing as
42 far as deterring musk oxen from Nome.

43
44 So other than that, I just -- you know,
45 I think the best long term solution is to protect the
46 dogs with fencing.

47
48 MS. ADAMS: Yeah. Which still doesn't
49 address humans or, you know, the fact that people like
50 to let their kids play out, because the day that I

1 walked out there and saw them in the yard, the first
2 thing I did was look for my neighbors kids, which they
3 weren't out playing yet, but, you know, I think dogs
4 are not the only issue here to be concerned about.

5
6 And I just -- to be honest, I don't
7 think it's good for the musk ox. I don't think it's
8 good for them to live in the city limits. They've been
9 hit by cars. They've been chased by kids. They're, as
10 you pointed out, harassed by loose dogs. They're
11 turning on people. I know Dennis -- I hope they don't
12 mind me saying their name, Dennis and Candace Wideler
13 were chased by a musk ox, and they had their dog on a
14 leash, and it actually came at them. They didn't get
15 close to it. I'm still concerned for just the general
16 safety of, you know, the community.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Are there any more
19 questions or comments.

20
21 MR. KATCHEAK: Just a comment. I've seen musk
22 ox at work, at the time I was working in 2007 to 2010.
23 At times I had to stop my -- go around my work place,
24 because there was musk ox, and musk ox don't move even
25 if I had a truck I'm using to drive to take samples. A
26 lot of samples. And they just -- I think Nome made a
27 mistake of allowing musk ox to populate here. I don't
28 see any use for them. I don't -- because I'm from my
29 village, we don't have musk ox, so we don't have any
30 problem. But it seem to me the only way to take care
31 of this problem is to dispose of those animals, get rid
32 of them someway. Otherwise we're going to have an
33 impending problem or continuing problems here in Nome
34 and around Nome. So that's my thought.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Are there any other
37 Council members want to comment on this issue. Go
38 ahead, Tom.

39
40 MR. GRAY: Again I guess I sat here and
41 listened to everybody talk, and, you know, I'm looking
42 for solutions. And you brought out a solution, let's
43 put a ring around Nome, and anything goes inside of it
44 is fair game basically to be pushed out of that area,
45 and blah-blah-blah-blah.

46
47 I would suggest that Fish and Game put
48 some kind of a project together where if there's a
49 problem musk ox, it's darted, it's tagged, it's
50 identified, and if it's a problem again, it's shot.

1 You know. Some fashion of addressing -- there's
2 communities in Canada that live with polar bears. And
3 they have a process of dealing with those polar bears.
4 And, you know, I think we need to look around the world
5 and see what kind of problem animals and how people are
6 dealing with them. And, you know, capturing them and
7 tagging them, and dealing with them, is probably a
8 first solution, and, you know, Fish and Game's going to
9 come back and say, oh, we don't have money to do that.
10 Well, if you don't have money to do that, you shouldn't
11 be managing these animals. There should be another
12 process.

13

14 So, anyway, I've sat here and, you
15 know, the other option Ted brought out is kill them
16 all, you know. And I don't have a problem with that.
17 Let's introduce some kind of a program where children
18 are shooting animals, you know, 10 or older or
19 something, to get kids involved in hunting where it's
20 supervised. A Fish and Game official goes out with a
21 15-year-old kid and the shoot. Some process like
22 that, I'm all in favor of it. I'm a hunting guide,
23 so.....

24

25 You know, years ago no one had talked
26 about we want to view musk ox. Well, the whole
27 attitude has changed, and a lot of us don't want musk
28 ox in our town, but Fish and Game's still waving the
29 flag of, we want to view musk ox. Well, go view musk
30 ox at Pingak River or somewhere else, you know.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah. I think that,
33 you know, that's been proposed that there are
34 individual musk oxen that are causing a problem. I
35 don't believe it at all. You know, I've studied musk
36 ox behavior many years. I don't believe. I think any
37 musk ox will attack a dog at any time. And so I don't
38 think that's feasible. I don't think you could identify a
39 problem musk ox. And I think they're all problems when
40 it comes to dogs. And so I don't think that will work.

41

42 I don't see any way -- you know, I
43 think you greatly under-estimate the opposition to any
44 plan to either move musk oxen out of Nome or kill them
45 all like Ted wants to do. I think there would be huge,
46 huge opposition to that from all over. And so that
47 can't be done. It's not feasible. And so we have to
48 come up with something else.

49

50 Go ahead, Dianna.

1 MS. ADAMS: Well, I would ask you then,
2 is it feasible to continue living like this and have 8
3 or 10 dogs killed every year in the city of Nome? If
4 this was an Iditarod, you would have PETA all over you.
5 This is not an acceptable number anywhere. And it's
6 not that there's one situation where dogs are at risk.
7 People have had dogs on leashes, people have had dogs
8 tied, in pens. They've had them loose. They've had
9 them in the country. They've had them in town. There
10 is -- the dog factor is an unacceptable number, and I
11 think that everyone who lives here realizes it's just a
12 matter of time, it's going to be somebody's kid. It's
13 going to be somebody's friend. It's going to be
14 somebody trying to save their dog. I mean, I have to
15 tell you, if I couldn't have shot that animal that day,
16 I'd have flown off the porch to try to move that
17 animal, throwing rocks at it.

18
19 And the one method I have found that
20 does work is they don't like handfuls of gravel thrown
21 in their face, but you have to be extremely close to
22 throw gravel at them in their face. But I would have
23 done that. And that's not safe for me. Yeah.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I think people
26 are.....

27
28 MS. ADAMS: I'm not trying to argue.
29 I'm just saying, I have a loss at words at times to
30 emphasize how severe I think the situation is going to
31 be.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I agree with you, but
34 I think we're really, really pushing in on people in
35 close proximity to musk ox. And I agree with you, that
36 once they lose fear of people, there could be -- they
37 could become -- they will become dangerous. I've seen
38 it before. In captivity it doesn't take them very long
39 to become dangerous. And so I think people are being
40 way too casual about getting close to musk oxen. I
41 think the Fish and Game guys are really pushing it.
42 And I'm kind of fearful for that happening. But there
43 again, you know, lots of people are injured by wildlife
44 in Alaska and throughout the country. And we don't
45 usually take drastic measures because of that. Lots of
46 people are. Lots of people -- you know, the most
47 dangerous animal in America is the white-tailed deer.
48 You know, about 25,000 people a year are injured by
49 white-tailed deer, mostly in highway accidents, and we
50 don't do anything to eliminate white-tailed deer

1 because of that.

2

3 MS. ADAMS: Can I speak? Yeah. I
4 guess one of my positions on that, like I said, I've
5 had dogs in Nome for 22 years. I've had wolves come
6 through, I've had bears come through. I had a dog bit
7 by a bear. She survived it fine. I've never lost a
8 dog except to musk ox. I think the difference is
9 because we do live rurally, we live around the edge of
10 wilderness, we expect an occasional bear. We expect an
11 occasional moose. We expect an occasional wolf. I do
12 not expect to have the city of Nome turned into a
13 grazing ground for a herd of wild animals. There was
14 over 100 animals in the city limits this year.

15

16 There was one night I called from the
17 dog lots, I called dispatch to ask them to send
18 somebody to help me move animals out of the dog lot
19 area. They told me Fish and Game was not going to
20 respond, because they were already moving a herd out of
21 the port. You know, I want to say I think they are at
22 a loss as to what to do. I think they are under-
23 staffed. I think they were ran ragged this summer with
24 musk ox calls. I don't really think they know what to
25 do, and I think that they're concerned about taking
26 volunteer help because of liability issues. I know one
27 of the Fish and Game people at the last meeting said he
28 was shocked to find out how many times people on their
29 own had moved animals. And that is the position we're
30 all in, you know. If you're the kind of person to go
31 run and hide in your house and call officials, then,
32 you know, you've dealt with them once. If you're the
33 kind of person to go out and try to move them, you
34 know, because you don't want them that close, then
35 that's what you're doing. And so we are all taking an
36 action here in our own way.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Council members,
39 any.....

40

41 MS. ADAMS: I'm worried, you know.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Any other comments.

44

45 MR. GRAY: Well, I've only got one
46 other comment and I'm going to shut up. You know, I
47 live on Anvil Mountain. One night my wife wakes me up
48 and says, Tom, come here, there's a bear out there.
49 Fifty yards from my window, I was standing in the
50 house, a sow and two cubs killed a moose right in my

1 front yard. And the sow drug that calf off 200 yards.
2 The next day I went down there, and there was just a
3 few bones left. They had eaten everything. The hide,
4 skin, everything was eaten. But I called the city of
5 Nome, and I don't know why. And five hours later they
6 called me and said, are you the one that reported the
7 bears? I said, yeah, they're gone. Don't call me
8 again, and I hung up on them, I was so pissed off.

9
10 So there's very -- you know, there's
11 times that people have a situation and, you know, this
12 is the middle of the night. Who's going to respond?
13 Who to call. I had a problem with who to call. So
14 people need to be educated about this.

15
16 I've heard a lot of hoopla and
17 Facebook, you know. I won't comment on Facebook,
18 because it's kind of a gossip channel, and I don't want
19 to get -- you know, if I'm going to have a place where
20 I'm going to argue with somebody or talk to somebody
21 about something, I want it in a forum like this. And,
22 you know, Facebook has its places, but I really think
23 that Nome people like you and I, that, you know, I was
24 just passed a deal showing pictures of animals right in
25 my yard, right up against my house. And I don't like
26 that.

27
28 But we need to have a meeting or a
29 forum or something, and not so much the -- you know, I
30 think the local guys understand the problems. Tony
31 Gorn and the fish cop and those guys understand. But
32 we need to bring in some heavy guys that have some
33 money, maybe a position needs to be put in Fish and
34 Game to address these issues. Something. There needs
35 to be more than what's been going on. And for two
36 years it's been a he said/she said/they said, you know,
37 and there's been no real focal point of, okay, here's
38 what we're going to do. And, you know, they've tried
39 the balloons, the bear balloons and so on and so forth.
40 You know, again, I think there needs to be an
41 organized, and maybe there has been some organized
42 talks, but there needs to be people involved that can
43 make decisions, create jobs, things like that.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Council members. Any
46 more comments or questions on this issue.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Thanks for

1 coming down. We appreciate it.

2

3 You know, it's not something we're
4 going to solve easily. I mean, we'll adjust to it. I
5 think the example from Churchill is a good one. You
6 know, it's a much, much more dangerous situation there.
7 They have polar bears living right in town. And
8 Kaktovik, too, it's the same. And Barrow. And
9 nobody's come up with really outstandingly good
10 solutions there either. You know, in Barrow, you've
11 got to -- you know, you don't just walk out the door in
12 Barrow in the winter time, you know. You look out the
13 door first to see if there's a polar bear out there,
14 because there very well could be. But, you know,
15 people haven't really come up with really outstanding
16 solutions for these problems anywhere. You know,
17 crocodiles in northern Australia. I mean, they're a
18 lot worse than musk oxen. So there are a lot worse
19 thing than having musk oxen in town. Sharks offshore
20 anywhere, you know, in warmer waters. You know, these
21 are just something -- it's something that people deal
22 with when there are wildlife around.

23

24 MS. ADAMS: Well, I'm going to beg to
25 differ with you on that, because the two days I had to
26 deal with them this summer, those were really awful
27 days.

28

29 I want to thank the Board for being
30 here, and I want to thank you for listening and your
31 input and your consideration on the matter.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you. And with
36 that, let's take a 10-minute break, and then we'll come
37 back and turn the floor over to Palma Ingles.

38

39 (Off record)

40

41 (On record)

42

43 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. I think we'll
44 call the meeting back to order and turn the floor over
45 to Palma to talk about Partners for Fisheries
46 Monitoring Program, strategic plan.

47

48 MS. INGLES: Good morning, Mr. Chair
49 and Council members. Once again for the record I'm
50 Palma Ingles. I work for the Office of Subsistence

1 Management. I'm an anthropologist and I'm also the
2 coordinator for the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
3 program.

4
5 First of all, let me say this is not an
6 action item, and it may not pertain that much to this
7 region, because as Don Rivard explained yesterday, we
8 don't have many fisheries management projects within
9 your region. And one of the requirements currently to
10 participate in the Partners program is that the partner
11 would need to have a nexus to a Federally-managed
12 program for fisheries monitoring within our FRMP
13 project. But what we are trying to do is present the
14 information at all 10 RACs and get some feedback, so we
15 did want to keep you in the loop as well.

16
17 The Partners program was designed to
18 have people out in the field, out in the villages
19 working directly with the fisheries monitoring projects
20 that we have, and also to be able to disseminate
21 information to the villages and the groups that they
22 worked with. We currently have five Partner programs,
23 and they're all funded through Native organizations
24 right now. We'll have a new call for proposals for the
25 next four years of funding, which will come out in
26 either January or February, and the new funding would
27 start January 1st, 2016.

28
29 Currently we're trying to write a
30 strategic plan for the Partners program to make sure --
31 excuse me -- to make sure what direction we're going to
32 take with the program. And so if you look at the
33 handout that I provided you yesterday, under purpose,
34 this is the area that we would like comments back on
35 the RACs, if you have any comments.

36
37 We're looking at, you know, should we
38 change the program. One suggestion had been that maybe
39 we want our partners also working with wildlife issues,
40 not just fisheries. But as we discussed yesterday in
41 the meeting, we have a limited pool of money within the
42 Federal government, so we do have our concerns that if
43 we were to also expand and start doing wildlife issues,
44 it would take away from the fisheries money, because we
45 don't have new money being generated for the project.

46
47 So what we've done to date is we have a
48 vision document looking at what we're doing currently,
49 and just kind of getting feedback from the RACs to see
50 are there more things you want to do with the Partners

1 program.

2

3

4 So far it's been very successful in the
5 five partner programs that we do have. They're mostly
6 partnered -- most of the partners are fisheries
7 biologists, and they come to the RAC meetings in their
8 area. We have one for BBNA, which is Bristol Bay. We
9 have a partner in Bethel at ONC. We have a partner at
10 TCC in Fairbanks. We have a partner on the Kuskokwim
11 in Aniak. And we have a partner in Cordova with the
12 Eyak Corporation. And so they're working with our
13 various projects, and they're on the ground. It's been
14 a really successful program. We have people on the
15 ground, so as new regulations come out, local community
16 members can call up and say, what do you mean you're
17 changing the mesh size? What does that mean for us?
18 When does it start? So they're really a good source of
19 information.

19

20 I would love to see us be able to get
21 more funding so we could have a partner in all 10
22 regions. I mean, that's kind of the over-all goal,
23 whether or not we'll ever have the money to do that, we
24 don't know.

25

26 So mainly my goal today was just to
27 inform you of what the program is, and that we will
28 have a call, but as we said, unfortunately I'm not sure
29 that it has that much to do with your region since you
30 don't have the fisheries monitoring programs here.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Council members. Any
33 questions for Palma.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yes. Again, the
38 change I would like to see is, you know, we make it
39 possible to do something here, you know. It's the same
40 question about doing fisheries research. You know, we
41 need it badly. The State isn't able to do it, or
42 unwilling to do it, and so we really do need Federal
43 assistance in managing and evaluating our fisheries
44 resources. so I'd love to see it here if it's
45 possible.

46

47 MS. INGLES: Mr. Chair. The one
48 suggestion I would have is if your RAC would like to
49 comment on this, please do, because one of the
50 considerations that has come up time after time is that

1 we do have so many fisheries issues. You know, the way
2 the program was designed in 2002 was to make sure that
3 they did have an involvement with fisheries management
4 projects. But we also realize, like in the Bristol Bay
5 Native Association, they've been very successful in
6 getting young people -- excuse me, it's dry up here,
7 I'm losing my voice. They've been very successful in
8 providing opportunities for the youth in their area to
9 participate on the weir projects, and counting towers,
10 and different things like that. And so they're very
11 supportive of pulling away from the requirement that
12 the partner be involved directly with the fisheries
13 monitoring program project, and that they can offer
14 more services to the young people, getting them more
15 involved with all the different projects.

16

17 And that may be a way for your region
18 to approach it, is that they wouldn't -- and we're
19 looking at -- that's one of the questions we're asking
20 people. Should we take away the requirement that the
21 partner needs to have a nexus right there, that they
22 can be involved with an FRMP project. And if you feel
23 strongly that you could be helped by fisheries issues,
24 I mean, these people are on the ground. Most of my
25 partners are under say 30 years would. They're very
26 energetic. They're involved in the RAC meetings,
27 they're going to community meetings. It's a good
28 opportunity for this interface, and they're here to
29 help the RACs, they're here to help the fisheries
30 board. So it might be an option for your area to look
31 at this, and especially if we pull away from the
32 requirement, and I'd like to hear your feedback. You
33 know, if we pull away from the requirement that they
34 need to be involved with an FRMP, then you have a good
35 opportunity to become involved.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yes, Tom.

38

39 MR. GRAY: I guess, you know, I echo
40 Tim in the fact that we need projects, money, blah-
41 blah-blah, but, you know, I guess for your program, we
42 do have Federal lands. We have a park in our area. We
43 have Federal lands. A wildlife refuge down around
44 Stebbins/St. Michael. You know, there's justification
45 for this position. So don't leave us out in the cold,
46 you know. I think we need to be involved. I mean,
47 Unalakleet River is another one that's -- so we've got
48 three areas that justify that position. And, you know,
49 maybe -- it sounds like you've got five areas working
50 right now.

1 And I guess I really struggle with how
2 folks have looked at Norton Sound and dealt with Norton
3 Sound, and we have to live with our fish world. And
4 it's almost like, well, let's wait and see. Let's wait
5 and see. Let's wait and see. And, you know, or
6 there's justification, we can't do it, because. We
7 can't do it, because. Well, there's doors that can be
8 opened through the lands that we have. And, you know,
9 a program or a partner position in our area may open
10 other doors. I mean, who knows where it will go. But
11 don't shut us out is what I'm sorry.

12
13 MS. INGLES: I apologize if I sounded
14 like I was trying to shut you out. And I do encourage
15 you to take a look at this. This is something --
16 currently, the way the program is designed is any
17 community, organization, non-Federal, non-State
18 organization can apply to have a partner. Right now,
19 it just happens that it's five Native corporations. So
20 you may want to look at your Native corporations.

21
22 You may want to look at -- I'm not
23 familiar with all the groups that you have that are
24 non-governmental organizations here. If you have
25 somebody, you know, some group that would be interested
26 in then hosting the partner that they could work with,
27 I encourage you. You know, give me a call. I can help
28 you walk through the steps. I can provide you with the
29 call for proposals that we had out four years ago. It
30 may change a little bit before the call comes out in
31 February, but it's something you need to start thinking
32 about now. And my contact information is on the back
33 of the sheet, so, you know, I'm happy to help as much
34 as I can.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SMITH: It's probably in your
37 handout, but what do you provide for the partner? Does
38 that provide salary?

39
40 MS. INGLES: Currently the way it's set
41 up, you can apply -- the last call for proposals, we
42 allowed you to apply for up to 150,000 a year. And I
43 will say it's contingent, every single year it's up for
44 debate whether or not we're going to have funding for
45 the next year. So it's year-by-year, but the grant is
46 set up to cover you for four years. It's not
47 guaranteed, you know, each year it's up for renewal.
48 But that typically covers the salary of the partner.
49 It covers any overhead. Most of these organizations
50 have an agreed upon overhead, anywhere from I think 12

1 to 25 percent depending on the organization. It covers
2 the partner's travel. Several of them provide science
3 camps for the youth, so it helps provide money to get
4 the kids to science camp. You know, it's foundation
5 money. And then the partners continue to look for
6 other sources of funding.

7

8 I like to use Kuskokwim Native
9 Association as an example of one of our really good --
10 I mean, they've all been good partner organizations,
11 but one of the thing the Kuskokwim Native Association
12 was able to do, the partner there received a small
13 grant for the school system, and they were able to put
14 fish aquariums in -- I think they work with 16
15 communities on the Kuskokwim, and they were able to put
16 fish aquariums in like six of the communities in the
17 school system, and they ordered -- I want to say fish
18 seeds, that's not the right.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Eggs.

21

22 MS. INGLES: Yeah. They ordered -- you
23 know, they were able to order salmon smolt and the kids
24 got to watch all the progression of how a salmon grows
25 up.

26

27 And it just -- you know, the partners
28 when they're in any of these villages, they do travel
29 to the villages and get back information to say, here's
30 what we're seeing with Chinook numbers this year.
31 Here's what happened with chum this year. And while
32 they're there, they also go to the school systems and
33 provide overviews of fisheries. They work with the
34 school system, sometimes they provide coloring books,
35 sometimes they provide -- you know, for the first
36 graders. They provide information all the way through
37 high school age that the teachers can then use to teach
38 about the life cycles of fish. So that's been a really
39 positive program. So there's all kinds of things that
40 the partners are involved with.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah. Incidentally, my
43 wife is an elementary school teacher, and she's been
44 running a classroom incubator project since 2004 in the
45 Nome elementary school, and it's a really, really
46 popular project, and a really good project. They've
47 done it through the Cooperative Extension Service.

48

49 MS. INGLES: Yes, the kids in KNA area
50 have been very excited, even though -- you know, it's

1 interesting. They grow up, they go to fish camp, but
2 they said, the kids, to be able to walk all the way
3 around the aquarium and actually see the different life
4 cycles of the fish, they're just so excited to be able
5 to do that.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Any questions or
8 comments.

9
10 MR. GRAY: So this project here you
11 said it can't be tied to the State? And what was the
12 -- State and Federal?

13
14 MS. INGLES: The way it is set up now,
15 and if you have a suggestion for changing it, we're
16 happy to hear it. Right now we're not giving the
17 funding to the State to host the partner or to a
18 Federal agency to host the partner. So, for example,
19 Park Service could not apply for a partner's position.
20 It's supposed to be more -- it's designed currently to
21 be more the community level. So a community
22 organization, you know, whatever that might be,
23 whatever that might look like, could host a partner.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I'd like to entertain
26 a motion to disconnect, delink the program from FRMP,
27 is that correct?

28
29 MS. INGLES: Right.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SMITH: That would put us on
32 record.

33
34 MR. GRAY: What does FRMP mean?

35
36 MS. INGLES: Fisheries Resource
37 Monitoring Program. It's the pool of money that the
38 Office of Subsistence Management currently receives.
39 It's the projects that Don Rivard was talking about
40 yesterday that are funded. And we had originally set
41 it up that the partners had to be located close to one
42 of our projects, that they could be involved with the
43 project in the summer. But we're looking at the idea
44 that now that the program has been in existence for 12
45 years, and it has many success stories, what we're
46 focusing on and realizing is one of the real strengths
47 of this program is the involvement with youth, and the
48 future of subsistence is involved in the youth. And so
49 we're looking at, you know, do we really want our
50 partner position spending the whole summer out on a

1 weir where they're not in touch with that many people,
2 or would we rather have them working with the schools
3 and the communities and being an interface and actively
4 disseminating information that other people have gained
5 from the projects. And so that's why we're
6 entertaining the idea of, hey, you know, maybe that's
7 not the most important thing that they're involved with
8 the FRMP project.

9

10 MR. GRAY: Okay. I'm make that motion.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Is there a second.

13

14 MR. BARR: I will second.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Is there any
17 discussion. Moved by Tom and seconded by Reggie. Is
18 there any discussion.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I think it's a good
23 idea. I think it, you know, would be another
24 opportunity. One thing that bothers me in this area is
25 we've got grown people, we've got people in their 30s
26 that have never experienced good fishing here. They've
27 never known what good fishing is. And, you know, I
28 think it's -- I think the youth are important, you
29 know. We need to educate them. So I think it's a good
30 plan.

31

32 So the motion is to recommend -- this
33 RAC will recommend that we delink the partnership
34 program from FRMP projects, which are, you know, as we
35 talked about yesterday, are limited to the Unalakleet
36 River pretty much. And so it would allow this
37 partnership to occur in some place other than the
38 Unalakleet River.

39

40 So all in favor say aye.

41

42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Opposed same sign.

45

46 (No opposing votes)

47

48 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Motion carries

49 unanimously.

50

1 MS. INGLES: All right. Thank you, Mr.
2 Chair and Council members.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you Palma.

5
6 And I think the next issue will be --
7 I'd ask Bob to give us a summary, a briefing on
8 extraterritorial jurisdiction. When he's finished
9 scribbling.

10
11 MR. LARSON: Just 30 seconds.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, I think
14 extraterritorial jurisdiction is the next step, and,
15 you know, we've tried everything with the State. You
16 know, we've tried -- Kawerak sued. In 1992 Kawerak and
17 the Native Village of Elim sued over Area M
18 interception and how it affected subsistence, and we
19 lost. And we've been yammering about it ever since,
20 and we haven't gotten anywhere. You know, there's well
21 over a million chum salmon caught in Area M. Some of
22 them are probably -- we know for sure that some of them
23 are headed for Norton Sound, because of a tagging
24 program that was done in 1987. Nothing useful has come
25 out since 1987. A very, very large DNA testing
26 program, Bering Sea wide testing program called the
27 WASSI program, Western Alaska Salmon Stock
28 Identification Program, they just finished up in 2012,
29 and it failed dismally. They weren't able to establish
30 any more than a connection. Some Norton Sound fish are
31 getting caught at Area M -- or some Western Alaska fish
32 are getting caught at Area M, and it didn't work out.

33
34 We -- then there's also a huge problem
35 with bycatch in the pollack trawl fishery. The North
36 Pacific Fishery Management Council has said that
37 they're not going to do anything for us on chum salmon
38 bycatch. They haven't quite said that, and they
39 haven't quite done their final action on that, but the
40 handwriting is on the wall that they're going to let
41 chum salmon bycatch run wild in order to preserve king
42 salmon. And we're the only -- Norton Sound is the only
43 place that really has a chum salmon problem, and so
44 we're getting -- we're taking it in the shorts again.

45
46 The only way that's going to change in
47 my opinion is if the Secretary of Interior decides that
48 protecting subsistence is important enough that he can
49 exert extraterritorial jurisdiction into these distant
50 fisheries.

1 So with that, let's hear from Bob.

2

3 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. Council. In
4 2010 the Native corporation that represents the
5 residents of Angoon, a Native village on Admiralty,
6 petitioned the Secretaries for them to apply
7 extraterritorial jurisdiction in waters of Chatham
8 Straits, Icy Straits, and Peril Straits, and those are
9 all in Southeast Alaska. And the idea would be to
10 close or reduce the area where the State can conduct
11 commercial purse seine fisheries, the idea being that
12 commercial purse seine fisheries directed at pink
13 salmon were intercepting sockeye salmon.

14

15 The petition was filed in 2010. In
16 2012 the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior,
17 they responded and recommended that the action -- any
18 action on their part would be deferred for three years
19 pending further coordination at the local level. They
20 did not want to -- there was a couple things that
21 happened. They were impressed by the arguments, but
22 clearly the argument -- the solution was not really in
23 the Federal jurisdiction. The solution is in the State
24 jurisdictions.

25

26 So in 2012 they said that we're looking
27 for a locally-derived solution, and this is primarily
28 something that the State is going to have to provide in
29 cooperation with the local residents. They asked for a
30 twice yearly report on progress.

31

32 There was an organization called the
33 U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution.
34 That's an organization, it's based in the Southwest,
35 that deal with these kind of high-level conflicts
36 between users and between agencies. And the Bureau of
37 Indian Affairs funded a contract with this group to
38 compile an assessment of exactly what is going on
39 there, and what would be an appropriate response to
40 finding a solution to this issue.

41

42 They recommended that the -- there's
43 two parts. One was an initial assessment, and they
44 took four or five months to provide an assessment of
45 what is reality in that case. And the other a method
46 for moving forward with a collaborative issue
47 resolution. So we're in the collaborative resolution
48 state of that. Where we are right now is that the
49 community's representative for Angoon -- there's the
50 tribe, the local government, and the corporation, they

1 have submitted proposals to the Board of Fisheries.
2 The Board of Fisheries will hear and deliberate those
3 proposals. Then they're all generated at transferring
4 fish from the commercial fishery into the terminal
5 areas where they could be harvested by subsistence
6 users.

7
8 So that's where we are right now. The
9 Southeast Council will meet and deliberate those
10 proposals and provide a recommendation to the Board of
11 Fisheries on October 21st. We've done quite a bit of
12 work in preparation of having that meeting with those
13 guys.

14
15 The Forest Service is addressing the
16 issues regarding the health and welfare of the
17 community of Angoon from more of an economic basis.
18 They're doing what they can to encourage economic
19 opportunities in Angoon. They've had a special
20 emphasis in that regard.

21
22 The State of Alaska has been very
23 proactive, and they've convened stakeholder meetings,
24 involving the three entities, plus the members of the
25 public, plus members of the commercial fishery groups.

26
27
28 Let's see. So I guess that's kind of
29 where we are. We're a couple of years, you know, down
30 this road, but the petition has not been dismissed.
31 It's moving forward for resolution at the local level.

32
33
34 I should remind you now that the bar
35 for intervention by the Secretaries into the State's
36 business is set very high. There's been a couple of
37 petitions already. One's the Area M, and this
38 petition. There was a petition regarding the conduct
39 of the herring fishery in Sitka, which was actually
40 untimely and really never really -- it ended up not
41 being a valid concern, because the time had past.

42
43 We are moving forward, and it's still a
44 topic that is valid, it's timely, and people at all
45 levels of the Federal and State government are working
46 on it, including the local people. And we will see.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Who petitioned about
49 Area M?

50

1 MR. LARSON: You know, I'm not an
2 expert in Area M. I feel lucky to know where it is and
3 what fisheries are involved, but, you know, other than
4 knowing people that participate there, I do not know.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Do you feel like the
7 specter of extraterritorial jurisdiction moved the
8 discussions forward in Angoon?

9
10 MR. LARSON: I think the State is very
11 sensitive to their obligations to provide for
12 subsistence uses. It is a -- this petition does
13 involve a bigger suite of people into this problem. So
14 it's clearly a different perspective for how things are
15 dealt with, but I don't think it's the only way to do
16 business. And certainly it has resulted in a lot of
17 money being spent, but it -- you know, there is no one
18 that does not want the laws and regulations that we
19 have in place to work the way they're designed. So
20 we're all working towards the same -- you know, towards
21 the same -- you know, towards the same goal with
22 providing subsistence without unnecessarily restricting
23 other users. And that's the goal of the State, that's
24 the goal of the Federal government, that's the goal of,
25 you know, the petitioners.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Oh, do you want
28 to add to that.

29
30 MS. PETRIVELLI: Hi. This is Pat
31 Petrivelli.

32
33 And I just had to answer about who
34 petitioned about Area M. Four Councils submitted the
35 petition for extraterritorial jurisdiction. And so I'm
36 sure it would be anyone affected by chum salmon. It
37 would have been Western, Eastern, Y-K, and probably --
38 and I don't know if it was Bristol Bay or Seward Pen,
39 but four Councils submitted the petition. And it was
40 because the Board of Fish increased the commercial
41 fishing time in Area M, and they were concerned that
42 more chum would be caught. And then what the finding
43 was, was that it couldn't definitively make a decision,
44 so they just did not forward the petition to the
45 Secretaries.

46
47 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Sure.

50

1 MR. BUCK: About 12 years ago I was
2 working the extraterritorial jurisdiction, and they
3 sent me and a guy from Kiana to Area M, False Pass,
4 Cold Bay, King Cove. And we spent a week down there.
5 And we spent a week with the fishing down there, and we
6 weren't -- we didn't know about bycatch or anything
7 like that. But after spending a week down there, it
8 was all inconclusive. We couldn't say what happened to
9 the fish that they leave, the False Pass saving, and
10 head up towards Yukon or head up toward Norton Sound
11 area. It was all inconclusive like she said. And so
12 nothing was done about it, because we don't know what
13 happened to the fish after they leave False Pass. But
14 the issue we didn't talk -- or we observed down there
15 was the bycatch. The bycatch is the thing that came in
16 the past couple years.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thanks, Peter. That's
19 very helpful.

20
21 Anybody else got comments.

22
23 Yeah. The other -- you know, this
24 Council has connections to the Yukon through Stebbins
25 and St. Michaels, so that's another issue for
26 extraterritorial jurisdiction would be king salmon
27 bycatch, you know, they have -- strangely enough, you
28 know, now that I say that, you know, the issue with
29 king salmon in Norton Sound is way worse than any place
30 anywhere else, you know, and we've just -- we're off
31 the radar. Nobody even talks about Norton Sound king
32 salmon. You know, ours are gone. They're just gone in
33 most places, and going in Unalakleet and Shaktoolik.
34 And so it seems like that would be another -- you know,
35 in addition to chum salmon, that king salmon would be
36 another really good reason for extraterritorial
37 jurisdiction.

38
39 The North Pacific Fishery Management
40 Council is so dominated by the industry that you can't
41 do anything through that organization. Even though
42 they have the authority, we're not going to get much
43 from them.

44
45 Tom, you had something to say.

46
47 MR. GRAY: Well, you know, I've heard
48 about Area M and on and on, but I've never really been
49 involved in this process. But, you know, I guess my
50 thoughts are if an area's going to fish fish, you would

1 think they would have to justify that they have the
2 habitat and resource in their area to justify the fish
3 that they're taking. And it -- is this thing bothering
4 it?

5
6 You know, I guess there's different
7 angles to get the same results. Why aren't we
8 following up with more implants on fish and turn them
9 loose and getting a better history of where these fish
10 are going. You know, they did a fish study in my
11 river, Fish River, and looked at silver salmon, and
12 found out that, gosh, these fish are going way, way in
13 places that they hadn't believed they went. So there's
14 tools in the box to get the end result. You know, the
15 same end result, but a different way of getting it.

16
17 And Area M, you know, I know they don't
18 have the resource in that area to justify the fish
19 they're taking. But they do have a lot of power and
20 clout and can stave off things.

21
22 Anyway, there's different ways of
23 addressing stuff, and it amazes me that we've gone 20,
24 30 years and we're still at the table saying, poor me,
25 poor me.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SMITH: You know, what's
28 happening with Area M, our side argues it violates the
29 State's mixed stock policy. You know, you're not
30 supposed to be fishing on mixed stocks, because you
31 have no idea what impact that has on weak stocks like
32 the ones in Norton Sound. And so we've argued for
33 years that that violates the mixed stock policy.

34
35 Bycatch in the pollack trawl fish --
36 salmon bycatch in the pollack trawl fisheries violates
37 several of the national standards under the Magnuson-
38 Stevens Act.

39
40 But in this world, money talks. And,
41 you know, our concerns are just overshadowed by, you
42 know, a more than a billion dollar pollack industry and
43 a multi-million dollar, 23, \$30 million fishery at Area
44 M. They just don't see that our concerns are important
45 in comparison. And that's what we need to work on.

46
47 Are there any other comments on this.
48 Charles.

49
50 MR. SACCHEUS: Back in the 1980s there

1 was a program that Fish and Game, they tagged some
2 salmon in Area M, False Pass, and we were getting them
3 in our streams in Moses Point, and Quinhagak River also
4 Tabutulik River. And the next year we get salmon that
5 were tagged in Bethel. And we were getting them in our
6 streams, so they've got them little tags they put on
7 the fin on the back. And them salmon from Area M
8 always go in our streams, and also from anywhere down
9 the coast they always go in our streams.

10

11 And I'd like to say that when we were
12 monitoring the beluga and we had some in our net, and
13 the ones that drowned, five beluga, we opened their
14 stomachs up, and they had -- I'd say about one beluga
15 had maybe five silver salmon whole. They don't chew
16 them when they eat them. They just swallow them. And
17 the next day we get five more, and they all drowned on
18 us, and because of high surf, and the next day one
19 large beluga that is a big large male, he had about
20 eight silver salmon in his stomach, so not only the
21 fisheries down from False Pass on up to Norton Sound
22 always intercept our fish. And I don't know if anybody
23 know if the beluga always be the ones, too, that
24 intercept our salmon, and when we caught them between
25 Yukon Delta and Cape Darby, we count about maybe 70,000
26 beluga all the way across from 10 miles out of Cape
27 Darby all the way to Yukon Delta. And there was a lot
28 of concentration of beluga around the Yukon Delta,
29 north of the Yukon. So when the salmon go up and down
30 and there are streams down there, and I think that the
31 beluga play a big role on eating our chum salmon, not
32 only the -- and trawlers out there, they throw our chum
33 salmon also from their ships.

34

35 And I think in the near future the
36 trawlers will come up this way and try to open up
37 Norton Sound all the way from Nunivak Island up this
38 way out in Bering Sea, and north of St. Lawrence
39 Island. So we've got to fight the -- we've got to kind
40 of get together and try to stop that from coming up,
41 because we've got a lot of sea birds, when they migrate
42 north, there's a lot of sea birds out in our Sound.

43

44 And also the walrus. And our walrus
45 are declining. And they always go all the way to the
46 bottom and eat. And when them trawlers trawl out in
47 the Bering Sea this side of the Aleutian Islands, they
48 always do them big chains on them big nets, and maybe
49 them nets are as big as this house, you know, opening.
50 And they put them on the bottom and they scrape the

1 bottom at the same time, and those big chains always
2 make noise and let the fish go out of the rocks from
3 under.

4
5 So we've got to be kind of fight the
6 fisheries, tell them to keep our northern Norton Sound
7 closed for trawling.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah. Thank you,
12 Charles.

13
14 I mean, you know, the issue of beluga
15 predation has never been talked about at any of the
16 meetings I've attended. You're the first one I heard
17 about that from, and, boy, just think. 70,000 large
18 predators. Just think what an impact.

19
20 MR. SACCHEUS: (Indiscernible -
21 microphone not on) multiply that by 10, maybe 8 silver
22 salmon, that's quite a few salmon.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SMITH: It's a lot of fish.
25 And, you know, nobody's talking about it in any of the
26 meetings.

27
28 MR. SACCHEUS: And then the belugas.
29 Okay. The belugas stay down there year round between
30 Cape Darby and maybe Topkak area, and all the way to
31 Yukon Delta. And there ought to be a lot of beluga out
32 there, and nobody ever mentioned that when they have
33 meetings. I noticed that. Any kind of fisheries
34 meeting, they hardly mention beluga, because Alaska
35 Beluga Whaling Committee been studying belugas for the
36 past 25 years. And when I was on -- I'm on the Alaska
37 Beluga Whaling Committee. Nobody ever mentioned -- we
38 never heard anything by like the fisheries department
39 -- I mean, Beluga Committee members to come over and
40 have our meetings like this.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you for bringing
45 that up, Charles.

46
47 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
48 add to what Charles said.

49
50 The beluga when they come down to

1 Stebbins area and Yukon Delta, they go all the way up
2 Yukon River. Some go as far as Nulato, Holy Cross. So
3 belugas, they have a big range of area that they cover.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, it's a darn
6 shame. Back to what you said about the '87 Egger
7 study. It's a darn shame that the best we got is a 37-
8 year-would study that really wasn't done very well, and
9 all it did was establish a connection. And it's really
10 a shame that the WASSIP program didn't work out, you
11 know. Everybody had a lot of expectations for that.
12 But, see, waiting for that WASSIP data, we didn't do
13 anything else. And now I think the only thing that's
14 going to help is if we put marked juvenile fish out
15 from here, then we could detect them in Area M or in
16 bycatch. And the only way to mark them, of course, is
17 in a hatchery, and so I think that's the next step.
18 But we're not doing very well at getting to that point.

19

20 Do you have a comment, Tom.

21

22 MR. GRAY: Well, I was just thinking
23 about what I caught the tail end of the comments on the
24 beluga. And if you look at our belugas and seals and
25 the sea life that we take out of the ocean, they not
26 only use the Norton Sound, but they go to the edge of
27 the ice below Nunivak, and then go way north. So their
28 food range where they're feeding is a big, big area.

29

30 And, you know, earlier we were talking
31 about these trawlers, coming in. You brought up the
32 trawlers. You know, they're raping and taking feed out
33 of these areas that are originally utilized by some of
34 our wildlife. So it's disconcerting.

35

36 You know, I had heard a little bit
37 about these trawlers coming up and working in our area,
38 and I hope that doesn't happen. I really hate to see
39 trawlers out by St. Lawrence Island or anywhere in our
40 region. And maybe it's happening already. Who knows,
41 you know. I read a book, The Billion Dollar Fish, and
42 it's amazing how powerful that group of people are,
43 but, you know, they've gone -- the pollack industry
44 goes to Russia and gets pollack. They come to the
45 United States. They've wiped out the pollack industry
46 in Japan. They wiped it out. So it's concerning I
47 guess, that we don't need that mentality affecting our
48 -- we're going to have a ripple effect if it happens up
49 here.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Everybody should read
2 that book. It's The Billion Dollar Fish by Kevin
3 Baily. It's a short book. It's got the whole history
4 of trawling in the Bering Sea, and it's just really a
5 good book. And I recommend it highly.

6
7 Any other comments on this issue.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thanks, Bob, for that
12 report.

13
14 I think, you know, it's time for a
15 lunch break now. Let's come back, let's see, it's
16 12:20, what would it be, 2:00 o'clock. 2:00 o'clock,
17 is that too long? Okay. 2:00 o'clock.

18
19 (Off record)

20
21 (On record)

22
23 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, I see we're all
24 here except for Tom. I think we'll call the meeting to
25 order.

26
27 And it looks like Bob's got that draft
28 letter up. Maybe we can read it and start working on
29 it. I don't know if everybody can see this or not.
30 You might want to get a little closer, if you want.

31
32 MR. LARSON: Yeah, I'd like to be able
33 to do something with this.

34
35 Regarding brown bear baiting, I need
36 some words here to capture the intent of the Council
37 regarding the recommendation to the Park Service.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SMITH: It's too bad Tom's not
40 here. He seemed to have some ideas on that. Do any
41 other Council members want to say something about brown
42 bear baiting? Do we want to have a position on this
43 issue.

44
45 Myself, I don't have a problem with it.
46 I don't think it will be very practical out here, but
47 if somebody wants to try it, I don't really -- as long
48 as -- you know, the State regulations do incorporate
49 safety measures. That would be what my one concern is.
50 You don't want people putting baits out just where

1 people are going to stumble onto a baited and bear.
2 But I think the State regulations do a good enough job
3 of dealing with that issue.

4
5 Tom's come, so maybe he wants to
6 comment. What we're looking for, Tom, is a comment on
7 whether or not we want to take a position on brown bear
8 baiting in Bering Land Bridge.

9
10 MR. GRAY: Well, as I said before, I'm
11 not in favor of brown bear baiting. You know, I'm a
12 commercial guide, and I think it's going to set
13 precedence once you start baiting in this region. And,
14 you know, just safety factors like you talk about, it's
15 an issue. I think people, if they're going to
16 capitalize on baiting, it's going to be people like me
17 that can afford it. And the common person is not going
18 to be able to afford it. So -- or be able to justify.
19 You know, for subsistence they're not going to be able
20 to justify baiting. I don't know enough about baiting,
21 but I do know that we don't way to set precedence and
22 it end up somewhere else. So, you know, again, I'm
23 opposed to it.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Does anybody else have
26 any comments on it.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN SMITH: So I don't know, you
31 know, I guess we've got two comments, and myself, it
32 doesn't bother me. Tom's opposed to it, so maybe we
33 want to just not take a position. I mean, I could go
34 either way. Anybody else have any feelings one way or
35 the other. I guess probably we'll.....

36
37 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. Yes, I agree
38 with you. I don't see any need for us to take a
39 position.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Maybe we should leave
42 it at that then, Bob. Let's just say we're not going
43 to -- we don't have a recommendation on that.

44
45 MR. LARSON: Okay. So the Council.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN SMITH: O-E-L-S-A. Yeah. O-
48 F-C-H.

49
50 MR. LARSON: Not have a position

1 regarding this proposal.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: And maybe add that
4 it's not a traditional means of harvesting brown bears,
5 and there hasn't been any -- no one has expressed an
6 interest in allowing it.

7

8 MR. LARSON: Okay. Do we want to start
9 from the top real quick? Let me -- maybe I should just
10 read it. What do you think?

11

12 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Good idea.

13

14 MR. LARSON: Okay. To Jeanette
15 Koelsch, Superintendent, Bering Sea Land Bridge
16 National Preserve, P.O. Box 220, Nome, Alaska. Over
17 here. Dear Mrs. Koelsch, the Seward Peninsula
18 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council is encouraged
19 that the National Park Service is finally adopting
20 regulations that allow the collection and subsistence
21 uses of shed antlers and animal parts in the preserve.
22 Local rural residents have had a long history of
23 collecting and using these products both prior to and
24 after the Bering Sea Land Bridge Preserve was
25 established. The Council appreciates the salient
26 proposed regulatory changes and supports the creation
27 of regulations allowing subsistence collections and
28 uses of shed and discarded animal parts and plants from
29 park areas in Alaska.

30

31 After discussions of the issue -- after
32 discussion of the issue by the Council, there was
33 agreement that local people should not have to get a
34 written authorization to carry out these types of
35 activities on National Park Service lands which have --
36 maybe just Park Service lands. Park Service lands.
37 What do you think? Yeah. Park Service lands.

38

39 Additionally, the uses of these
40 resources by local people should have a priority over
41 other non-subsistence users. Over use.....

42

43 MS. PETRIVELLI: Uses.

44

45 MR. LARSON: Over uses by any other
46 non-subsistence users.

47

48 During the discussion, there were
49 examples provided of issuing written authorizations to
50 specific resident zone communities, or for entire

1 resident zones. We realize that there are no resident
2 zone communities for the Bering Land Bridge National
3 Preserve. We would like to have residents of all the
4 communities in the Seward Peninsula region considered
5 as a resident zone, and provided a blanket written
6 authorization. It doesn't have to be written. We
7 could -- blanket authorization for those -- for these
8 subsistence activities.

9

10 Yeah. Well, we don't need that again.

11

12 The Council also discussed the question
13 of brown bear baiting. Hunting over bait for brown
14 bears is not a traditional means of harvesting brown
15 bears in this region, and no one in this region has
16 expressed an interest in allowing this practice. The
17 State of Alaska regulations do not -- I think we're
18 just going to call State of Alaska. State of Alaska
19 regulations do not allow hunting brown bears over bait
20 in this region. The Council does not have a position
21 regarding this proposal.

22

23 Sincerely, Tim Smith, Vice Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: On the first
26 paragraph, we probably want to add plants.

27

28 MR. LARSON: After animal?

29

30 CHAIRMAN SMITH: After animal parts.

31

32 MR. LARSON: Anything else?

33

34 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Looks good. Any
35 Council member have any additions or corrections? Ken,
36 go ahead.

37

38 MR. LARSON: And I do have one thing.
39 At one time this was your letterhead. So if it's the
40 will of the Council, we'll put -- we had to resurrect
41 this from the archives up in Anchorage, but that was
42 what it was before. It seems reasonable enough to
43 include it again. Okay. We'll do that.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SMITH: It looks good.

46

47 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Go ahead, Ken.

50

1 MR. ADKISSON: This is Ken Adkisson
2 with the National Park Service.
3
4 Can I get clarification on one point of
5 the letter?
6
7 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Sure.
8
9 MR. ADKISSON: Down there where it's
10 talking about local people and priority uses, down
11 there towards the very bottom of that. Hold it. Hold
12 it. I think you just went by it. Go up one -- a few
13 more lines.
14
15 MR. LARSON: Right here, we would have
16 to have the residents -- on, resident like in
17 opposition?
18
19 MR. ADKISSON: No, it's the next
20 paragraph up about priority. Stop right there.
21
22 MR. LARSON: There.
23
24 MR. ADKISSON: The first full paragraph
25 that's in view there, the last sentence, additionally
26 the uses of these resources by local people should have
27 a priority over uses by any other non-subsistence
28 users. Were you trying to suggest, and here's where I
29 want clarification, that somehow local people should --
30 because this is for subsistence purposes. This isn't
31 for any other purposes of collection, okay. That's the
32 purpose of the reg. So are you saying local people
33 should have some kind of priority over any other
34 subsistence users in the subsistence use of those
35 things, or are you suggesting that the collection of
36 these things, like, for example, anywhere in the park
37 should override any other park values, including non-
38 collecting?
39
40 CHAIRMAN SMITH: No, our intent was to
41 give local people priority over outside commercial
42 interests that, you know, like the commercial antler
43 collectors. But I misunderstood the parameters. I
44 guess the limita -- it only applies to subsistence uses
45 then.
46
47 MR. ADKISSON: Right. This is for the
48 subsistence use by whoever the eligible users are.
49
50 CHAIRMAN SMITH: And that would be

1 Federally-authorized subsistence users, Federally-
2 qualified subsistence users?

3

4 MR. ADKISSON: That's the way the
5 current -- that's the way the EA was expressed. And
6 what they came out with in the FONSI. I'm not saying
7 that that can't be changed, but it was to be based on
8 the C&T determinations.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Go ahead, Tom.

11

12 MR. GRAY: And I was going to raise
13 this issue of who's qualified? You know, we talk about
14 residence in the Seward Peninsula Region be considered
15 qualified. The C&T stuff that we're talking about, the
16 way it sets right now, would there have to be some
17 changes made to make Nome people or Elim people or
18 people around the region eligible to fit this sentence,
19 residents -- the local residents would be eligible
20 users would be able to have consideration over, let's
21 say, somebody that flew in from Fairbanks or Galena or
22 somewhere else. Do we need to have anything changed to
23 give us that C&T right or whatever.

24

25 MR. ADKISSON: Councilman Gray through
26 the Chair. Let me just sort of explain some of the
27 background a little bit to this, and the intent,
28 because what came out in the -- when they finally went
29 through the EA and signed off on the environmental
30 assessment for it, was that eligibility would be based
31 on customary and traditional use determinations by
32 species, by whatever were appropriate. So as I read
33 that what that would mean, if you had C&T moose, you
34 could collect moose horns and moose bones and stuff in
35 the preserve. If you, for example, were interested in
36 the musk ox remains, that that would be restricted to
37 people with a Federal C&T for musk ox.

38

39 A little complicated. And part of that
40 was that -- again was generated by that musk ox die off
41 and this idea of collecting from there, because, you
42 know, we received a fair number of comments and stuff
43 from Shishmaref folks especially about, you know, they
44 sort of felt like along the beaches and stuff, because
45 -- and I've actually seen a few airplanes, you know,
46 swoop down. You know, I'd walk by a walrus carcass on
47 the beach, you know, that had washed in and was kind of
48 stuck there by its tusk on the sand, and walked away to
49 do a project. And on the way back saw an airplane
50 land, went back to the site, and that walrus didn't

1 have a head any more. And, you know, they're quite
2 aware -- I mean, they often will take their
3 fourwheelers and go cruise the beaches and stuff
4 looking for stuff that they can use and salvage. And I
5 think they feel like there's a sense of competition,
6 and most of them don't have airplanes, so airplanes
7 often are coming from places like Nome, and they felt
8 that was an unfair advantage in the case.

9
10 And so I think there was a feeling
11 that, you know, those resources really should belong to
12 those people who live there. How wide that gets
13 defined, maybe that's a whole another issue and
14 question. But the way it came out finally after this
15 process up to this point was based on the C&T
16 determinations.

17
18 MR. GRAY: Okay. And this is why I'm
19 wanting to throw it on the table for discussion, is
20 because if you read the letter that we're proposing, we
21 are all -- everybody on the Seward Peninsula is
22 eligible to use whatever. And the process that's in
23 place now, there's certain people will be eligible for
24 certain things. And musk ox horns for example. I know
25 I can go hunt musk ox in the preserve, but there's
26 villages on the Seward Peninsula that can't. So Nome
27 would be included in that, but let's Koyuk, for
28 example, would be excluded. So there -- you know,
29 we're requesting all villages be included in it. And
30 that's not what's there. So there's going to be -- to
31 accomplish what we're talking about, we're going to --
32 there's going to have to be a change.

33
34 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah. And, Mr. Gray,
35 that may be. I mean, you're free to say whatever you
36 want in the letter. I mean, I don't guarantee that the
37 Park Service is going to automatically accept
38 everything you say, but there is no draft regulation at
39 this point, so what they're going off of is what was
40 laid out and analyzed and finally concluded in the
41 environmental assessment. I would not say that
42 couldn't change.

43
44 In terms of like the musk ox and the
45 analogy you used though, I would point out that, you
46 know, you can't hunt musk oxen in the preserve unless
47 you have a Federal C&T for it, so it really doesn't
48 matter what village you're from in terms of harvesting
49 a musk oxen. You're either eligible or your not. And
50 if you're not, you can't legally harvest under Federal

1 regulations.

2

3

4 Collecting things, okay, that gets to
5 be a whole different thing. And the way it's currently
6 set up, is it provides them the closest opportunity to
7 the people that live nearest those animals that died
8 out there or whatever. And it was also pointed out in
9 the analysis and everything in the EA that there were
10 other opportunities, so if you can -- if there are musk
11 oxen in your village, and it's like on State land, you
12 can collect those things. So it's not like you're
13 denying people opportunities to, you know, collect
14 things wherever they happen to be, but it does provide
15 a preference for those people who live closest to it,
16 and are more traditionally associated with those
17 resources.

17

18 MR. SCHWANTES: Maybe one way to avoid
19 that issue would be not to talk about C&T qualified
20 people, but -- subsistence users, but just identify --
21 list the villages that we want to include.

22

23 MR. GRAY: I guess, Tim, the way it's
24 written, it accomplishes what you're talking about. It
25 doesn't talk about C&T users, but it talks about all
26 residents of the Seward Peninsula.

27

28 And, you know, I just wanted to point
29 out that you guys are going to struggle with this one
30 when it hits your desk. And I want to make everybody
31 aware that there's going to be an issue, and somebody's
32 going to have to be the bad guy.

33

34 But other than that, you know, if -- I
35 really don't think people from Koyuk are going to run
36 to Shishmaref to pick up an artifact or something and
37 run home.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, why don't we --
40 and maybe we need to define what we mean by local
41 people, and my suggestion would be to list the
42 communities that we want to consider to be local
43 people. That might be the easiest way to do that.
44 Just the -- and take out local people and just put
45 residents of these communities.

46

47 MR. LARSON: Is there any residents
48 that are not local people?

49

50 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I think Stebbins and

1 St. Michaels would really be stretching it for the
2 Bering Land Bridge, but, you know, I'm not saying that
3 they should be prohibited. It's just that, you know, I
4 doubt that there's very much use there. And personally
5 I would say maybe the whole region, you know, all the
6 communities in the region.

7

8 MR. LARSON: That would be easier to
9 put in a letter. The whole region is.....

10

11 MR. GRAY: Look at the way this is worded, and
12 I like the wording on it, because it says, we would
13 like to have the residents of all communities -- I'm
14 trying to read through you here -- in the Seward
15 Peninsula. It talks about the Seward Peninsula. So
16 Stebbins isn't on the Seward Peninsula. The way this
17 is written, I think it's fair to the local area here.

18

19 MR. LARSON: Shall we just remove the
20 piece that's through the strike-out, and then that will
21 be good?

22

23 MR. GRAY: Yeah. That should be.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Then we're
26 leaving.....

27

28 MR. GRAY: I don't even have a problem
29 with even that.

30

31 MR. LARSON: Well, the.....

32

33 MR. GRAY: It doesn't make any sense.

34

35 MR. LARSON: The issue is it doesn't
36 make any sense.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SMITH: It is not needed.

39

40 MR. LARSON: Yeah. Yeah.

41

42 MR. GRAY: Just so the (indiscernible -
43 microphone not on)

44

45 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Is there any interest
46 in defining local people as everyone in the Seward
47 Peninsula Region? Does anybody even want to do that
48 rather than -- you're limiting it to just people on the
49 Seward Peninsula itself, so anybody south of Koyuk
50 would be ineligible..

1 MR. GRAY: Well, yeah, and again, you
2 know, we're just advising the Park on what our wishes
3 are. I think the Park is the one that's going to make
4 this -- I think it's going to get more defined than
5 what it is. And right now we've kind of left it wide
6 open to the Seward Peninsula, and I'm comfortable with
7 that, because I really think the Park's going to come
8 back and be the bad guy and say if you're not eligible
9 for C&T, or you're not eligible for this or that,
10 you're not going to get it.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SMITH: And you're probably
13 right, but I guess what I'm thinking is if, you know,
14 for some reason somebody from Unalakleet wanted to out
15 there, and they found out that we made them ineligible
16 to pick up a caribou antler for no good reason, they'd
17 probably be bad about it. And, so, I mean, one way to
18 avoid that, even though it's not that likely and not
19 that big of an issue, one way to avoid that would be to
20 say everybody in the region is eligible.

21
22 MR. GRAY: Then they can vote me off
23 the Board.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Council members, any
26 other comments. You know, this would -- the way Tom is
27 intending to word that, it would leave people from St.
28 Michael and Stebbins out, ineligible to pick up stuff
29 from the Bering Land Bridge.

30
31 MR. LOCKWOOD: Yeah. Scott Lockwood
32 from St. Michael. Not being on the Seward Peninsula,
33 we're kind of on the outside looking in, you know, and
34 to us, you know, what would be right would be the
35 residents of the communities within the Seward
36 Peninsula region. Is there only one community inside
37 the whole, what is it, the Bering Land Bridge?

38
39 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah.

40
41 MR. LOCKWOOD: Okay. So that would be
42 only pertaining to Shishmaref, because it's the only
43 village within the preserve.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SMITH: The way Tom wants it
46 to word it is everybody on the Seward Peninsula itself,
47 which would include everybody from Buckland I guess to
48 Koyuk would be eligible. Anybody outside that area,
49 even though they're still in our region, would be
50 ineligible.

1 MR. GRAY: And let me clarify this.
2 All I'm doing is looking at what was on the board
3 there, and, you know, I had no involvement in drawing
4 this up or putting it together. But what I personally
5 think is going to happen is the park is going to look
6 at C&T eligible people, and Nome people, for example,
7 can hunt musk ox in the Park. So we're C&T eligible.
8 Shishmaref people can hunt certain things in the park
9 so we're eligible. And this is what I alluded to
10 earlier and Ken talked about is there's going to --
11 Nome people may end up being eligible to pick up
12 certain things, Shishmaref may be eligible to pick up
13 certain things. I personally think that the majority
14 of the villages are going to get tossed out of this
15 thing. I really think that Buckland and Koyuk and some
16 of those places that can't put a tie to using that park
17 are going to get tossed out. If they don't have C&T,
18 they're going to get tossed out. And, you know, the
19 way it's worded here, I'm just trying to give as many
20 villages the opportunity that realistically have a
21 chance at it, and then let the park tear it apart,
22 because, believe me, they're going to tear it apart,
23 and there ain't going to be many people or villages
24 left standing.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Elmer, did you have
27 something to add?

28
29 MR. SEETOT: In regards to our Seward
30 Peninsula communities, you could cover that by using
31 Unit 22 as outlined in the map. That way you would
32 cover St. Michaels, Stebbins, Shish, all the way there,
33 and you might also include Buckland and Deering since
34 they're on the Seward Peninsula, if you're going that
35 route.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, Tom, I don't
38 think we should try to anticipate what the Park Service
39 is going to do. I mean, I don't see that this is
40 important enough of an issue to exclude anybody, you
41 know, really. I mean, the only people that I can think
42 that might possibly be excluded would be commercial
43 operators, and this doesn't even apply to them, so I
44 can't imagine -- you know, what's the issue? There's
45 no real -- it's not like we're in a Tier II situation
46 here.

47
48 MR. GRAY: And I would say let's not
49 pick on Tom Gray. That wording was up there when I
50 walked in the door. Somebody else put that wording

1 together. I don't have a problem doing what Elmer's
2 talking about. I don't have a problem whole Alaska in
3 there, because I personally think the Park is going to
4 kick everybody out of there but certain C&T eligible
5 people. So, again, you know, use Unit 22 and let it be
6 at that, that's fine. I don't care. But again it was
7 up there when I walked in the door. It isn't like I
8 put it there.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SMITH: In fact, I'm even
11 thinking maybe expanding it, you know, to the Northwest
12 Region, too, because they spend -- you know, people
13 from Kotzebue spend a lot of time down there. I just
14 don't think that there's enough of an issue that we
15 want to be that restrictive. You know, you're just
16 talking about picking up discarded stuff or plants.

17

18 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. Ted from
19 Stebbins.

20

21 Personally I have no interest in going
22 to Bering Land Bridge unless I have something there
23 that I need. And certainly right now we don't have no
24 way to get to the preserve, unless we were brought over
25 for a reason. So even if Stebbins and St. Michaels --
26 or Stebbins is not included, I don't see any use for us
27 to go up to the preserve.

28

29 MR. GRAY: Okay. He needs to fix this
30 so it includes Stebbins, Unalakleet, down in that area.

31

32 MR. LARSON: The Seward Peninsula
33 Region is inside this red line, so it's -- right now
34 it's everything inside the red line, plus Northwest
35 Arctic, and I don't know exactly where the boundaries
36 are in Northwest Arctic. We don't have a map. But the
37 Seward Peninsula Region is everything inside that red
38 line.

39

40 MR. GRAY: Okay. So let's put region
41 on there instead of Seward Peninsula.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SMITH: It is covered. Yeah,
44 that looks good to me. I mean, that does -- to me,
45 that covers everybody. And, you know, it can get more
46 restrictive if there's a need, but right now there's
47 just no need. Remember, Federal regulations only work
48 in one direction. You almost never can make them more
49 liberal.

50

1 MR. LARSON: Yeah. I'm certain that
2 the interpretation of these words would include all of
3 the Seward Peninsula Region, and all of the Northwest
4 Arctic Region, whatever communities are in those
5 regions in this context.

6
7 MS. PETRIVELLI: (Indiscernible - away
8 from microphones)

9
10 CHAIRMAN SMITH: That's a good
11 addition, Pat.

12
13 MR. ADKISSON: If I could, to Pat. Ken
14 Adkisson. Do you have a list of subsistence region, if
15 you're talking about Unit 22, which is defined for the
16 purpose of (indiscernible - away from microphones)

17
18 MS. PETRIVELLI: The subsistence,
19 Seward Peninsula subsistence region.

20
21 MR. ADKISSON: And that is, because the
22 use patterns will vary by species let's say, or the
23 type of resource, that's why some of the C&Ts are
24 different.

25
26 MS. PETRIVELLI: This Council's for
27 that region.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Ken, I think we were
30 going to avoid C&T, because that complicates the thing.
31 You know, C&T is done by species, and it's not -- you
32 know, what's that mean to sour dock, you know. And so
33 I think we want to look at communities rather than C&T
34 findings.

35
36 MR. LARSON: And I think that that
37 addition makes that very clear, that we're talking
38 about this program and these regions, yeah.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Any other comments.

41
42 MR. GRAY: One other point, something
43 that we haven't thought about, and it's good that you
44 brought up the Kotzebue region, because, let's take
45 Deering people. They're going into the park and
46 picking berries and so on and so forth. And, you know,
47 this is an activity that hasn't even been thought about
48 so to speak, but -- other than plants. You know, berry
49 picking, people fly to Shishmaref to go berry picking.
50 So, yeah, anyway.

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay.

2

3 MR. SEETOT: Conservation of Bering
4 Land Bridge is usually this thing about Shishmaref and
5 Wales communities, you know, being close to that. One
6 of the lava beds where I hunt, too, was in the Bering
7 Land Bridge. I see people from all over. Every once
8 in a while I'll see Tom. Every once in a while I'll
9 see people from Nome area. So that's a heavy use area,
10 even though Stebbins says they might not be able to use
11 that area, you know, they might have other people that
12 come from the village and then reside in some other
13 place that would qualify them, from being a community,
14 but also, you know, from where they were first born.

15

16 Many of the people I think that I talk
17 to don't consider the lava beds as part of national
18 park or the Bering Land Bridge, but that this is part
19 of Land Preserve. And I travel round to lava beds one
20 time or another, the complete circle, and it is pretty
21 huge. And then Lake Imuruk, it took us about an hour
22 and a half just to cross it, and there was thousands
23 and thousands and thousands of caribou tracks in that
24 lake, so that is something. Even thought it's far for
25 me to go over there, you know, like people say, they
26 have to travel hundreds of miles just to go after
27 caribou. I have to travel 65 miles to Kuzitrin River
28 Bridge just to get to Kuzitrin River. Then I have to
29 go another 15 to 50 miles from Kuzitrin River Bridge
30 just to spot caribou. So that's a huge area. And
31 occasionally even though the terrain is not hospitable
32 for travel, you still find people not only from our
33 area, but from within the Seward Peninsula, and then
34 their purpose is just, you know, subsistence.
35 Subsistence harvest of maybe caribou or resources that
36 are open during that specific season.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Do we have a motion to
39 send this letter to the Park Service.

40

41 MR. GRAY: So move.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Second?

44

45 MR. LOCKWOOD: I second.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Moved by Tom, seconded
48 by Scott. Is there any discussion, any further
49 discussion.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I'll call for the
4 question then. All in favor say aye.
5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All opposed same sign.
9
10 (No opposing votes)
11
12 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Motion passes
13 unanimously.
14
15 And can we move on to the next letter.
16 This is the first time we've done this, and I really
17 like it, you know, it's -- you know, so often we've
18 talked about doing things and it never gets done. And
19 this way it's already done, and we all get a chance to
20 look at what the product is.
21
22 I'm trying to talk Bob into moving up
23 here. He's just wasting his time down in that rainy
24 country.
25
26 (Laughter)
27
28 MR. LARSON: So the mana -- who is the
29 manager of the crab fishery here?
30
31 CHAIRMAN SMITH: That would be Jim
32 Minard.
33
34 MR. LARSON: Jim Minard.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah.
37
38 MR. LARSON: Okay. And we can fill in
39 the -- we could fill in the address stuff here in a
40 minute. And I haven't had quite enough time to put
41 some time into this, but this is the -- so what I think
42 we should do is state right up front the Seward
43 Peninsula Regional.
44
45 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Summer season maybe.
46
47 MR. GRAY: And I think those guys are
48 used to -- or they recognize that the line is common
49 talk. The August fishing that we're talking about is
50 moving that line in; is that right?

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: It's relaxing the
2 line. Yeah, they've got the ability -- the Board gave
3 them -- last year the Board gave them the authority to
4 move it in to within three miles. And so in most cases
5 -- and it's not -- you know, it's an east/ west line,
6 so it's different distances, but in front of Nome it's
7 like 10 miles out. And so if they move it in seven
8 miles, that's a big change.

9
10 MR. GRAY: Well, my point is maybe this
11 beginning should be something about the Regional
12 Council is opposed to relaxing the Norton Sound king
13 crab line for the commercial crab, blah-blah-blah.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, then we'd have
16 to -- the reason that we didn't do it that way is
17 because then we'd have to define the line. This way,
18 you know, there's a close line, and then we don't have
19 to tell them what the line means. You know, there
20 won't be any confusion there. That's why it was done
21 that way. It's a little hard to define the line. It's
22 a latitudinal line, and then it goes north/south in the
23 east portion, so, you know, rather than looking it up
24 and defining it, you know, we just tell them the closed
25 area, the area that's closed, and they'll know what
26 that means.

27
28 MR. LARSON: So to commercial fishing
29 during the summer season. There we go. So is there a
30 summer fishery? Guys fish in the summertime?

31
32 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah. Most
33 subsistence and commercial fishing are open in the
34 summer. Most of the fishing is commercial fishing
35 though. And I guess to be accurate, it's both winter
36 subsistence and commercial. There's commercial fishing
37 in the winter, too.

38
39 MR. LARSON: Oh, there is?

40
41 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah. I don't know if
42 that's important to include, but if you talk about the
43 closed area being there to protect subsistence uses
44 also that are protected winter commercial harvesting,
45 too. No, we're not opposed -- I don't think we're
46 opposed to opening -- you know, the area's not closed
47 to commercial fishing in the winter.

48
49 MR. LARSON: Oh, it's not? Okay.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: It's only closed to
2 commercial fishing during the summer, because most of
3 the harvest takes place in the summer. And it's a much
4 smaller harvest takes place in winter, but it's both
5 commercial and subsistence in both seasons.

6
7 MR. LARSON: Okay.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SMITH: So you can just take
10 out both. The first sentence, there's an extra both in
11 there. No, the first sentence. The subject line, the
12 first sentence there.

13
14 MR. LARSON: I'm not looking where
15 we're looking here.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Down one line. Down
18 one line. There you go.

19
20 MR. LARSON: Oh, okay.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SMITH: No, up one line. Up
23 one line now. That bullet.

24
25 MR. LARSON: I don't see a bullet. Oh,
26 right there, yes. Okay. That's where.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Right there.

29
30 MR. LARSON: Okay. Got it. Okay.
31 Where else. My advice is we just move this sentence
32 right up there.

33
34 MR. GRAY: If you look at the Alaska
35 Board of Fisheries created a near shore pass only
36 when..... Sorry. If you look at that sentence, Alaska
37 Board of Fisheries created, and you look to the end of
38 it, to protect crab stocks and make them available for
39 winter subsistence use, there's also a winter crab
40 fishery going on at this time. Do we want to talk
41 about that at all or no?

42
43 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I don't think so,
44 because, you know, our mandate is subsistence, and so
45 we're not really -- you know, I don't think the Federal
46 Subsistence Board really needs to weigh in on the
47 impacts on commercial fishing.

48
49 Peter.

50

1 MR. BUCK: I have to say this proposal,
2 20 years ago we used to go out commercial -- I mean,
3 not commercial, but subsistence crabbing and we'd get
4 60, 70, 80 crab a night. Now they start -- and then
5 they started commercial crabbing industry we opposed
6 it, but it was it was done by the people that make
7 money on the crab. But after they started commercial
8 crabbing, we're lucky if we can get 20 a night. If
9 we're lucky, we can (indiscernible - microphone not on)
10 20. Now you're talking about opening up some more.
11 And last year they said they had -- with the amount of
12 crabbing in this area, and we're kind of wondering
13 what's going to happen this to our subsistence crab, so
14 I'm always opposed to any crabbing in this areas.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Maybe you should come
17 forward, and you should say that into the mic.

18
19 MR. BUCK: So the subsistence crabbing,
20 I have been trying to protect it all these years. It's
21 kind of a losing battle. But now we're talking about
22 opening up another area So I'm kind of opposed to
23 this, and I like what you've written down here.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah. See, the
28 interesting thing is the line, the closed line comes
29 closest to land at Cape Darby, and so moving it in puts
30 it really close, within three miles, it will be within
31 -- then they have the authority to move it in to within
32 three miles of Cape Darby now, and that's what we're
33 opposing.

34
35 MR. BUCK: Okay. The crab when they
36 travel, when the tide starts flowing, they come up off
37 the ground and they use the tide to let them travel.
38 Those crab travel a lot. We get most -- when we
39 subsistence crab in the Cape Darby area, or Acheluk
40 (ph) area, we get them when the tide is strong. They
41 jump up in the air and they can smell our bait, and
42 then they land right down. That's when we start
43 pulling them out. So those crabs travel.

44
45 And when you talk about lines about two
46 miles, that's a little ways for them.

47
48 MR. LARSON: Okay. Is this complete?
49 Is this good enough as it is.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Do we have a motion to
2 adopt it and send it on.
3
4 MR. KATCHEAK: I'll move.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Moved by Ted. Is
7 there a second.
8
9 MR. GRAY: Second.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Moved by Ted, seconded
12 by Tom. All in favor say aye.
13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All opposed same sign.
17
18 (No opposing votes)
19
20 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Motion passes
21 unanimously.
22
23 Brandon, did Rose leave?
24
25 BRANDON: Yes.
26
27 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Are you on a tight
28 schedule? Are you going to -- you wanted to provide a
29 report?
30
31 BRANDON: No, we're just here.
32
33 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Well, we'll
34 just go on with our agenda then.
35
36 The next thing is identify issues for
37 the 2014 annual report. My personal preference on this
38 is just to leave the -- at a minimum leave the three
39 issues that are in last year's report. They're still
40 just as currently. Now, they haven't been addressed.
41 I would say just leave those in there, and we may want
42 -- if we want to add something, but to me those are the
43 three top priorities still, and have been for a long
44 time.
45
46 Does anybody have anything they want to
47 add to what we did last year.
48
49 (No comments)
50

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Do we have a motion to
2 just repeat what we did last year.
3
4 MR. BUCK: I so move.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Second?
7
8 MR. GRAY: Second.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Moved by Peter,
11 seconded by Tom to just forward last year's report.
12
13 That moves us -- oh, call for the
14 question. All in favor say aye.
15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.
17
18 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All opposed same sign.
19
20 (No opposing votes)
21
22 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Motion passes
23 unanimously. Next.....
24
25 MR. LARSON: Tim, could I ask a quick
26 question then. So regarding the annual report, the
27 report has been written and answered. My advice would
28 be if you have found fault with the answers or find
29 them incomplete or would like perhaps to restate some
30 of the issues so that you could have a response that
31 more closely matches what your concerns really are,
32 that you take a moment and not just simply send exactly
33 the same words, and provide me and you some guidance on
34 the nuance of these issues, and how the responses that
35 you got back this year from the Board is not completely
36 satisfactory to what you're intentions were. So if we
37 could just -- I know we've already gone past this, and
38 I apologize for being a little slow on my thumb here,
39 but it seems to me that we still have this issue on the
40 table, and we could -- we'll just decide that. And if
41 you wanted to have a little more discussion, provide
42 some guidance to either myself or the next person in
43 line that's going to assist in writing this annual
44 report, that would be hugely beneficial I think come
45 next winter when you see both the annual report and
46 maybe some draft replies from the Board.
47
48 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Chuck, did you
49 have something to add?
50

1 MR. ARDIZZONE: Robert beat me to the
2 punch. That's why I stepped up here, I was going to do
3 the same thing, but I was looking for your last year's
4 report. That's why it took a little bit.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Let's -- can we
7 get a motion to reconsider then.
8
9 MR. GRAY: So moved.
10
11 MR. KATCHEAK: Second.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Second. So moved by
14 Tom, seconded by Ted to reconsider. And that's good
15 advice. Let's take a look at it.
16
17 MR. GRAY: Question.
18
19 CHAIRMAN SMITH: What?
20
21 MR. GRAY: Question. All in favor.
22
23 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Oh. All in favor say
24 aye.
25
26 IN UNISON: Aye.
27
28 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All opposed same sign.
29
30 (No opposing votes)
31
32 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Motion passes
33 unanimously.
34
35 Let's take a look at it and see what we
36 want to do. I guess the question is do we want to
37 do.....
38
39 MR. ARDIZZONE: It's on Page 23.
40
41 CHAIRMAN SMITH: 23. Do we want to do
42 -- does that have the response, too? Yeah. Okay.
43 This has.
44
45 You know, I wasn't satisfied at all
46 with the responses, though it's kind of what I
47 expected. And so I think what Bob said makes -- and
48 what Chuck said, makes a lot of sense, that we need to
49 go through this. I don't know if we can do it at the
50 table here, you know. I'm feeling the press of time a

1 little bit. It's 3:00 now. What's the wishes of the
2 Council. Do we want to try to hammer out a draft of a
3 response?

4
5 I think the issues, the three issues
6 won't change, but as Bob said, we probably want to look
7 at the responses we got and see what we want to say
8 about that. I mean, they didn't really give us very
9 satisfactory responses. You know, essentially what
10 they said, Tom was asking for a summary, to summarize
11 what they said, and I think the best summary is that
12 they said that they don't have the authority to do the
13 things that we asked them to do, and so the ball's back
14 in our court. And I think that's a fair summary of all
15 three response. And I think what I'd like to say is
16 that that's not really fair. We don't have the ability
17 to push these things forward. If we could, we'd have
18 already done it. You know, we do need -- we're asking
19 for their help. We're asking for the help of the
20 Federal Subsistence Board in getting these issues
21 resolved. And putting it back on our shoulders is not
22 an acceptable answer.

23
24 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. And if I
25 could, we've had quite a bit of discussions previous
26 when we looked at the annual report replies, so there
27 is quite a bit of discussion and those concerns I
28 believe are pretty well articulated by a number of the
29 Council members. We could go back to the transcripts
30 and instead of reforming those same opinions, I could
31 find those in the transcripts and work with yourself to
32 make sense of those comments. And at your next Council
33 meeting, you will have those, both the issues in front
34 of you again in a new way to match your concerns. So
35 that will be my job, and whoever is the Chairman, Vice
36 Chairman, to work that, and with the OSM so that they
37 make sense that then allows the OSM to really respond
38 back in a way that makes sense to you. So I believe
39 we've got quite a bit of information already on the
40 record, and I could work with that. As long as it's
41 not exactly the same annual report as what you
42 submitted last year.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Yeah. That's a
45 very good recommendation. Does that sound -- okay. So
46 then we would need a motion, what, to revisit this at
47 the next -- to just table this until the next meeting?
48 Or maybe we need to do nothing.

49
50 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. The

1 appropriate motion would be to direct your Council
2 coordinator to restate the annual report issues
3 according to your previous discussions.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. And I'll work
6 with you on that, too, so we can get something drafted.

7
8 MR. LARSON: Sure.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Does somebody want to
11 make a motion to that effect?

12
13 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr Chair. I move. Ted.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Is there a second.

16
17 MR. LOCKWOOD: Second.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Moved by Ted and
20 seconded by Scott. All in favor say aye.

21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Opposed same sign.

25
26 (No opposing votes)

27
28 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Motion passes
29 unanimously.

30
31 And we have a report from Carl Johnson,
32 although I don't think he's been on the phone, so I
33 guess we're not going to get that.

34
35 MR. ARDIZZONE: Carl's in Kiana. I'm
36 not sure -- Robert, were you going to take this?

37
38 MR. LARSON: Carl said that he would,
39 if we texted him, and allowed him to get on line.

40
41 MR. ARDIZZONE: I can text him, see if
42 I can get ahold of him, if we could go onto something
43 else.

44
45 MR. LARSON: While we wait for Carl to
46 do his presentation, and what he's going to say really
47 is on Page 21/22. And I have -- at the end of that
48 discussion, I have the recommendations from both the
49 North Slope and the Kodiak/ Aleutians Councils. So
50 when we come time for the discussion, that I can tell

1 you what the other two Councils have recommended.

2

3 We do have two other items on the
4 agenda that I could address out of order while we're
5 getting Carl on line. That is whether or not the
6 Council would be interested in joining with the other
7 nine Councils so there would be a one meeting with
8 concurrent and joint sessions of the 10 Councils. That
9 would likely be at a site in downtown Anchorage. I'm I
10 think particularly well-versed in those kind of issues.
11 We had a joint session between the Southeast Council
12 and the Southcentral Council. There was items of
13 concerns that they wanted to talk about. They wanted
14 to talk about food security; and they wanted to talk
15 about climate change; and they wanted to talk about
16 deficiencies in the program; whether or not the rural
17 review made any sense; whether or not the program was
18 providing the services that they needed. There was
19 some big picture items that were -- all the pre-work
20 was done in an agenda steering committee. There was
21 lots of Staff work ahead of time.

22

23 But I can only say that it was a lot of
24 work, and the concurrent session was somewhat
25 abbreviated because of the joint sessions. So the work
26 that the Councils needed to do for their own regions, I
27 don't know that they really gave them enough time to
28 really do that well. But the joint session was hugely
29 appreciated and effective. But it was a lot of work.

30

31 So because of our experience there, the
32 question came up, is this something that we'd like to
33 pursue on a statewide basis. Would we like to have all
34 10 of them, all 10 Councils in one room at the same
35 time talking about the same issues, or is -- and the
36 reason this is a relevant question is because there was
37 some members of some Councils that recommended that we
38 do that, because there are topics that are common to
39 all the Councils, and there was some thought that if
40 everybody got together, they could come up with a
41 common understanding of some of the issues and some of
42 the concerns, and, you know, provide solutions
43 possibly, but not likely for the solutions. But at
44 least we would understand other people's, you know,
45 concerns.

46

47 So that is -- this is not necessarily
48 an action item. It could be if you wanted to, but if
49 you are scared like me of this whole operation, well,
50 then we understand that. So that's what this agenda

1 topic is about.

2

3

CHAIRMAN SMITH: Peter.

4

5

MR. BUCK: Yes. About 10 years ago we had a state meeting in Anchorage with all the RAC members. I think he was there. And we got together with all the other RACs in the State and we got some good opinions on what we should be pursuing. You know, we had all common interests. One of the things was that competition at that time for the meetings was way down in all the regions. And I think a joint meeting with all the RACs would be stay -- a lot of the things that is happening in our RACs and how we do, what's the process we use to accomplish our business.

16

17

CHAIRMAN SMITH: I couldn't agree more, Peter. I've had the opportunity to see at least the Council chairs at the Federal Subsistence Board meetings. And I'm totally impressed by what some of the other RACs are doing. And I think we can really learn from them on how to get things done. And so I think -- I'm 100 percent in favor of this.

24

25

I guess is the idea, Bob, that we would not only meet with the other Councils, but we would also have our regular winter meeting at the same time?

28

29

MR. LARSON: That's correct. So there would be some work done that's specific to the Seward Pen meeting. That work, you know, would likely be in some abbreviated session, because we'll have to allow for all 10 Councils to meet separately, but the majority of the time I think would be done in joint session, and you would be discussing items of common concern. I don't have my computer right with me, and I'm not that.....

38

39

Well, maybe, Chuck, if you could, could you just go back on the 2014 spring meeting? It's the joint meeting in -- just click on 2014. Anyway, you can see if we go to -- I can't even see it.

43

44

Anyway, so there's quite a bit of discussions, and it was very well received on the effects of climate change; what is food security, how are the Federal agencies addressing food security. There was some concern about predator/prey relationships, and how that was being addressed, you know, in the State. So there was a number of topics

1 that seemed to be of interest, and beneficial to the
2 other Council members. Stuff that they don't normally
3 think about. And we had subject matter experts there
4 that were able to explain some pretty darn complex
5 subjects so everybody could understand it.

6

7 MR. ARDIZZONE: So I have your minutes
8 up from the meeting.

9

10 MR. LARSON: Oh, there's just -- not
11 necessarily the minutes, but above that you could see
12 at the meeting there was just all the different topics
13 that we talked about. In the folder above that, yeah.

14

15

16 Anyway, it was possible, and it was
17 effective, but it was a lot of work. And the work of
18 the Councils would necessarily be, you know,
19 abbreviated at that point.

20

21 But the time we could do it, we could
22 not do it before a year from now. It would be winter
23 of 2016. So it would be 18 months.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I'm really in favor of
26 it. You'll be surprised at how much commonality we
27 have. You know, everybody in Western Alaska is having
28 problem with salmon, that includes almost all the RACs.
29 And then predators are a big issue. So I think we'll
30 -- and competition with non-subsistence users is big.
31 I think we'll have an awful lot to talk about, and
32 we'll learn a lot from them on how they do things.
33 Some of the RACs are very, very effective I think.

34

35 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I just want
36 to mention that there's no guarantee it would happen.
37 We're just trying to get the interest, and then we'd
38 have to come up with topics for joint meetings and
39 things, but we're just trying to get interest right
40 now, so there would no guarantee. I don't want
41 everybody guaranteed that there's a meeting, but it
42 could happen.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Tom.

45

46 MR. GRAY: I guess I'm -- usually you
47 go to these meetings and all of a sudden there's an
48 agenda of, you know, 10 organizations are going to get
49 together and what do you put in front of them, and
50 blah-blah-blah, but we still have our homework to do.

1 And we still have our agenda to get done. And I think
2 it's really important that we got through that agenda.
3 Something else that isn't being recognized is we have
4 opportunity for local folks to be here, because we in
5 the region. Maybe through media or some process
6 there's opportunity for people to be involved in that
7 particular meeting. But, you know, it's important that
8 we get our action items addressed and not be cramming
9 or short on time on that. I think that's really
10 important when you put a project like this together.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Chuck.

13

14 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. If this
15 meeting was to occur, there would be plenty of outreach
16 to indicate how people could phone in and participate
17 in the meeting. We would more than likely have longer
18 than a two-day meeting. It would be probably, you
19 know, three or four days, because of multiple agendas
20 for everybody, to at least get, like Tom said, Mr. Gray
21 said, you'll have your own homework to do, and then
22 additional work. So it would have to be a longer
23 meeting just to accomplish everything.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: One thing I would
26 recommend, Chuck, is this. And I don't know if you're
27 the right person to carry this forward, but I really
28 like what the North Pacific Fishery Management Council
29 is doing in webcasting their meetings. They're using
30 -- this year they used some Adobe system, which was a
31 heck of a lot better than what they had before. But
32 even what they had before is a lot better than a
33 teleconference. You know, you have the ability to see
34 the documents. In some ways it was better than being
35 at the meeting. The only down side is it's not
36 interactive, so you can't participate, but you see the
37 documents, you see what's on the screen, and so I would
38 really urge you guys to take a look at what they're
39 doing and do the same thing.

40

41 MR. ARDIZZONE: Thank you for the
42 suggestion. I will mention that to our outreach
43 specialist and see what she can determine. You know,
44 unless things are going to cost money, that's another
45 story. It's one of those we do the best we can, and I
46 know we continually try to improve, so I'll bring that
47 suggestion back.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I wouldn't think it's
50 going to cost very much money, you know. You know,

1 those things are pretty easy for the Service, so I
2 wouldn't think it would cost very much.

3

4 MR. ARDIZZONE: I don't know.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SMITH: It's way -- I don't
7 really like teleconferences much. They're better than
8 nothing, but this is just so much better. It's so much
9 -- you're able to actually see what everybody's seeing
10 at the meeting.

11

12 Anybody else on this issue of a joint
13 meeting.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN SMITH: (Indiscernible - mic
18 not on) the documents at least fills the screen. You
19 know, you're looking at.....

20

21 MR. LARSON: Well, we're just looking
22 at the agenda. That's just the meeting agenda, so.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Maybe all you have to
25 do is click on the little window there on the right
26 side, and it will open that window a little bit so we
27 can.....

28

29 MR. LARSON: Oh, yeah. We could the
30 window. Just double click on it, and it will be okay.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, that's better.

33

34 MR. LARSON: Yeah. So there's the
35 agenda for the joint sessions.

36

37 So customary and traditional use
38 determinations. North Pacific Fishery Management
39 Council considerations. CR management. Rural
40 determinations. Delegations of authority to in-season
41 managers. I can't read what that says.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I think you might have
44 to.....

45

46 MR. LARSON: Oh, Council members
47 attending other council meetings. Maybe you could just
48 read it for me, Chuck.

49

50 MR. ARDIZZONE: Status of Secretarial

1 review of the subsistence program. Climate change
2 policies. Food security. FRMP process. And then just
3 a summary of the 2014 Board meeting. A Partners
4 briefing. And then Council nominations and outreach.

5
6 MR. LARSON: Yeah. Right. And so what
7 we need now is just a sense of the will of the Council.
8 Do you -- and you're going to get a chance to say yes
9 or no later on, but if you want us to do some more work
10 on this, we can, and that would be just a general
11 thumbs up or forget it. That would be appropriate.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Let's go the whole way
14 and have a motion and vote on it. Can we have a motion
15 to.....

16
17 MR. GRAY: I make a motion we have
18 Staff pursue this so somewhere in the future we have
19 this meeting with all the 10 areas.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Have a second.

22
23 MR. LOCKWOOD: I second.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Moved by Tom, seconded
26 by Scott. All in favor say aye.

27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All opposed same sign.

31
32 (No opposing votes)

33
34 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Motion passes
35 unanimously.

36
37 Is Carl Johnson on line.

38
39 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. I think he's
40 going to try to call in. I just got a text from him,
41 and he asked me if there's still time. So I'll have
42 him call it, but we might have to do something else
43 before he gets on line.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Next would be the all-
46 Chairs meeting before January 2015. And at the last
47 Federal Subsistence Board meeting, Jack Reakoff
48 suggested that we have it then, but we didn't. We did,
49 you know, just an ad hoc meeting of all the Chairs. It
50 didn't work out. I think it's a good idea. I think

1 it's another -- again it's a good idea that we need go
2 collaborate a little more.

3

4 And so is this another one where you
5 just want a thumbs off?

6

7 MR. LARSON: It is. It is possible for
8 the Council Chairs to meet prior to the Council
9 meeting. And there's been a number of Councils
10 recommend that, because the Council chairs represent
11 the Councils, but they never see each other except they
12 go to a meeting, they sit down, and they look at each
13 other across the table, but they never get a chance to
14 visit. So there was a request that they have a formal
15 opportunity to go to one of the Board meetings a day
16 early and sit down and just visit with each other, and
17 have a chance to meet, have a chance to talk about
18 issues that are important to their regions.

19

20 The Office of Subsistence Management
21 has been thinking about that, and I believe they have
22 concluded that it's possible, and they will likely fund
23 it. It's not a certainty. But if the Councils would
24 like that to happen, it very likely could happen.

25

26 What we need to understand is that
27 there are Federal Advisory Committee concerns that --
28 and there are going to be topics that the Council
29 Chairs cannot discuss, because they are items that are
30 going to be discussed by the Board that next day, so we
31 really can't have any pre-decisional activities take
32 place that would in fact undue influence the
33 decisionmakers. So with that in mind, there is topics,
34 similar to what we talked about at the other joint
35 meeting that would be of interest to the Councils. So
36 the Council Chairs can meet with the caveat that
37 there's going to be side boards about what they can and
38 cannot talk about.

39

40 Now, the question, of course, is
41 whether or not this Council thinks that's a good idea,
42 and what their recommendation is regarding that
43 proposal to OSM. So we have the boss sitting here and
44 this is a good time to have that discussion and decide
45 if you want to participate or not.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Do you have anything
48 you want to add, Chuck.

49

50 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. No. It's

1 just your opinion if you want to participate in a
2 meeting like that. We're just trying to get, like we
3 said, get another feeler if the Chairs would like to
4 have that meeting, and we'll try and set something up
5 if possible.

6

7 MR. SCHWANTES: Speaking for myself,
8 I've already said I think definitely. What about the
9 other Council members. Do you think that's a good
10 idea.

11

12 MR. LOCKWOOD: Yeah, I would approve of
13 having all the Chairs meet together and just briefly
14 discuss what's most important to the regions, issues of
15 the subsistence, or not.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Do you want to make
18 that in the form of a motion, Scott?

19

20 MR. LOCKWOOD: Yes. I'd like to make a
21 motion to set up a formal Chair meeting before the
22 regular Council meeting.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Do we have a second.

25

26 MR. BUCK: Seconded.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Moved by Scott,
29 seconded by Peter. All those in favor say aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All opposed same sign.

34

35 (No opposing votes)

36

37 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Motion passed
38 unanimously.

39

40 And I assume that we're ready for Carl.
41 Carl, are you on line?

42

43 MR. JOHNSON: I am indeed.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SMITH: The floor is yours.

46

47 MR. JOHNSON: All right. Thank you
48 very much. Chair. Members of the Council. My name is
49 Carl Johnson. I'm the Council Coordination Division
50 chief at the Office of Subsistence Management calling

1 you from Kiana on my cell phone.

2

3 I'm here to talk about the recommended
4 changes for the nominations and appointment process.
5 I'll just give you a quick kind of an overview of what
6 the issues are.

7

8 Currently right now we have 109 Council
9 seats among the 10 Councils. And the system is
10 designed right now so that every year we conduct a
11 nominations and appointment process with approximately
12 one-third of all Council seats up for appointment or
13 reappointment every year. We typically open our
14 nominations process with a call for applications in the
15 fall of one year.

16

17 So, for example, right now, just
18 yesterday, our subsistence outreach specialist sent out
19 a news release inviting people to apply for the
20 Councils. This process will continue on until the
21 application deadline on January 23rd of 2015.

22

23 And then regional panels are formed to
24 interview people and make recommendations that then go
25 to the InterAgency Staff Committee who then reviews
26 them, makes recommendations for the Federal Subsistence
27 Board. And then the Board forwards its nominations up
28 to the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence
29 of the Secretary of Agriculture. And typically that
30 package gets to D.C. in about September of every year,
31 and the appointments are supposed to go out by December
32 3rd of every year.

33

34 So if you do the math on that, we're
35 talking about a process that takes approximately 14
36 months right now. And meanwhile while we're starting a
37 new appointment process, we still have not heard yet
38 back on the appointments from the previous appointment
39 cycle.

40

41 So one of the problems this creates
42 over time is a little bit of confusion where people are
43 hearing, oh, they're looking for new applications, but
44 they still haven't heard yet on their previous
45 application for appointment. So that's one of the
46 issues that's kind of identified as a little bit of a
47 problem with the current system.

48

49 But the real main problem that we have
50 encountered in the last two years is that those

1 appointments have not been completed in a timely
2 manner. You know, rather than having all of our
3 appointment letters coming out by December 3rd as they
4 should, the last two years in a row it's taken as long
5 as almost May or early May to complete the appointment
6 process. So we are talking appointments that are five
7 months delayed to complete it. That creates some
8 problems for councils to plan their business. This
9 year the Northwest Arctic Council actually had to move
10 their meeting back a month, because they are waiting
11 for five appointment letters to come in.

12

13 So what we did is we looked at a
14 variety of the issues, and we've come up with some
15 possible recommendations, and we're seeking approval or
16 recommendations from the Regional Advisory Councils as
17 to how to proceed. And I apologize, I don't have your
18 book in front of me to tell you what page to get to,
19 but the briefing identifies essentially three main
20 recommendations we're asking you to consider.

21

22 The first one is to go from a three-
23 year to a four-year appointment for each Council
24 member.

25

26 MR. LARSON: 122.

27

28 MR. JOHNSON: And in connection with
29 that, we want you to tell us whether or not you think
30 the current annual appointment cycle is good, or if we
31 should go to a biannual or every two year appointment
32 cycle.

33

34 Now, what these two things in
35 conjunction we hope will do is, one, if we stay on the
36 annual cycle and we go to four-year terms, that means
37 that every year we're going to be submitting fewer
38 names to D.C., and then hopefully that will allow them
39 to get the appointments done more quickly if they don't
40 have as many names that they have to go through the
41 vetting process with. That's some of the advantages.

42

43 Now, the disadvantage of staying in the
44 annual cycle is that we still have this problem of the
45 overlap between the previous application period and
46 starting a new application period before we receive
47 word on the appointments.

48

49 Now, if you look at your briefing
50 paper, it identifies some advantages and disadvantages

1 on both of these points. And one of the advantages
2 that has been identified for staying on the annual
3 cycle is, well, yeah, there might be some overlap
4 between the application periods, but by keeping it an
5 annual process, we keep it in the public eye. We keep
6 a continuous effort of outreach going to where
7 potential applicants are constantly every year hearing
8 about this process and it stays kind of in the front of
9 everybody's memory and awareness. And if we go to a
10 biannual process, then some people think that that
11 might be lost.

12
13 So the first issue we're asking for
14 your recommendation on is whether or not you think it's
15 a good idea to go from a three-year to four-year terms,
16 and, if some, keep it on an annual cycle or go biannual
17 cycle.

18
19 Another issue that comes up sometimes
20 related to the appointment process is we often do not
21 have enough applicants, and sometimes enough vacancies
22 that need to be appointed either formally or people
23 identified as potential alternates. But even when we
24 do have enough names, what we do currently is we don't
25 appoint alternates. What we do is we identify people
26 who could be alternates. They are vetted by D.C. and
27 approved, but they're not notified as to whether or not
28 they've been identified as alternates. They don't et
29 the call until we have an unexpected vacancy, either
30 somebody resigns from the Council or passes away. Even
31 though these names are already been approved
32 previously, it will take sometimes as long as two
33 months to actually get the appointment letter. And
34 depending on when the vacancy occurs, it might miss out
35 on an opportunity for that person to participate in a
36 Council.

37
38 Another related problem is sometimes we
39 get challenges with -- and even without an unexpected
40 vacancy, of potentially meeting quorum because of
41 Council members who aren't able to attend a meeting
42 maybe because of weather or illness.

43
44 So the second main issues we're asking
45 the Council to consider is whether you would like us to
46 actually request of the Secretary of the Interior to
47 issue formal appointment letters for alternates, so
48 that they are told that they will be alternates, and
49 they can then be aware of the fact that they may be
50 asked to attend meetings or participate in some way

1 We haven't exactly ironed out how
2 people would participate as alternates, but a couple of
3 the Councils have suggested that the alternates would
4 step up and attend the meetings if there was a risk of
5 meeting quorum because of other absences of Council
6 members.

7
8 And the third issue is whether or not
9 we should have the Council charters amended to provide
10 for what are called carryover terms. That is, if an
11 appointment letter is not issued in a timely manner,
12 can the Council members still serve in their seat until
13 a new appointment letter is issued. This was suggested
14 actually by the Western Interior Council as a way of
15 overcoming the problems we've had in the last two years
16 with the delayed appointment letters.

17
18 Now, you'll note that in your briefly
19 materials it identifies for each one of these whether
20 or not it would be a regulatory change or a change to
21 the charters. So we've kind of figured out what the
22 mechanism will be, but that's there just to let you
23 know that if you do approve these, sort of the
24 mechanisms that would have to take place in order to
25 make them happen.

26
27 And now the last issue that Councils
28 have brought up which relate to participation in the
29 Councils is the desire to have increased youth
30 involvement. Now, you'll see in our briefing this
31 isn't really something that -- we could not create a
32 formal youth member on the Council for the reasons of
33 how the Federal Advisory Committee Act identifies the
34 types of membership that can serve on committees such
35 as yours. But there are some suggestions in there on
36 different ways, and this really could be on a Council-
37 by-Council basis, as to how Councils could create
38 opportunities for enhanced youth involvement. And we
39 put this in this briefing not because we're looking for
40 an action item, but because it is an issue that some
41 Councils have raised, and we wanted to put it in here
42 just kind of beginning the dialogue of it. You with
43 your Council coordinator could start to think about how
44 this could be done for your Council.

45
46 So that's my initial presentation, and
47 I'm happy to answer any questions that the Council may
48 have.

49
50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you, Carl. Do
2 Council members have any questions for Carl.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Carl, I guess
7 we'll go and discuss this. My preference would be the
8 carryover terms. That seems to be the best way to
9 handle it. We've run into this problem before, and so
10 it seems to me the simplest solution is just allow
11 people to serve until there's a replacement appointed.

12
13 MR. JOHNSON: And if I may, Mr. Chair,
14 I'll want to add that what we're not looking for here
15 is none of these are mutually exclusively. We are
16 looking for input from each of the Councils on each of
17 the three main points, to get your indication as to
18 whether or not you would like to see those implemented,
19 so the four-year term, the alternate appointments, and
20 the carryover term charter provision.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thanks for the
25 clarification.

26
27 Go ahead, Bob.

28
29 MR. LARSON: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
30 Chair. We have had communications from the North Slope
31 and the Kodiak/Aleutians Councils, and both of those
32 Councils have agreed on three -- an option for each of
33 those topics. They've agreed that a four-year term is
34 more suitable than a three-year term. They've agreed
35 that there should be formal appointments of alternate
36 members for the Councils. And they've agreed that
37 amending the charters to provide for carryover terms is
38 a good idea.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SMITH: So, Carl, you were at
41 the Northwest Arctic, or what Council meeting are you
42 at?

43
44 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, I'm at the Northwest
45 Arctic Council, and actually I'm coming up fast on the
46 agenda on this issue for them as well.

47
48 MR. LARSON: Okay. Thank you. And,
49 Carl, before you hang up and you leave us, we would
50 appreciate a meeting date for Bristol Bay.

1 MR. JOHNSON: For what?
2
3 MR. LARSON: The winter meeting date
4 for Bristol Bay?
5
6 MR. JOHNSON: It's not in the calendar
7 -- it's not in your book on your calendar?
8
9 MR. LARSON: No, it was -- well, not
10 the winter one, but the fall one.
11
12 MR. JOHNSON: Well, the Bristol Bay
13 Council has not met yet. They don't meet until the end
14 of October, so have not had a chance to select their
15 fall 2015 meeting date.
16
17 MR. LARSON: Okay. So the only meeting
18 date that's been selected is the North Slope.
19
20 MR. JOHNSON: Now. Kodiak/Aleutians
21 met.
22
23 MR. LARSON: Oh, I see. That's what I
24 was thinking.
25
26 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. Unfortunately I
27 don't have that on me right now. I would have to go
28 through an email and look for that.
29
30 MR. LARSON: Okay. Thank you.
31
32 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Back to our --
33 are you done, Bob?
34
35 MR. LARSON: Yes.
36
37 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Back to our
38 deliberations on this. Again I think that I would
39 leave -- I think things are fine, and I don't see a big
40 advantage in having alternates. I think all we need to
41 do to solve this problem is to allow carryover terms.
42 That seems to be a real simple solution.
43
44 MR. JOHNSON: This is Carl. If the
45 Council or the Chair don't have any questions of me, I
46 will allow you to deliberate and take care of your
47 business, and I'll get back to the Northwest Arctic
48 Council meeting.
49
50 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you, Carl. I

1 think we can handle it from here.

2

3 MR. JOHNSON: All right. Thank you
4 very much. I greatly appreciate the time.

5

6 MR. GRAY: I guess the only thing I've
7 seen over the years, I've been on this Board for quite
8 a while, and I do know I missed a year or something
9 because I didn't reapply, and I don't think anybody
10 reapplied for that seat.

11

12 But the thing that I've seen of late is
13 we're not being appointed on time, and, you know, I
14 agree that if the process is taking too long, and I'm
15 not reappointed or whatever, and there's a meeting
16 coming up, you know, somebody should be sitting there
17 representing. And this carryover idea is a good idea.

18

19

20 And again, I don't know that going to a
21 four-year term is going to resolve some of this
22 carryover issues. You know, I think the system's just
23 going to say, well, we can put it off for a little bit
24 longer to appoint people. And the carryover idea
25 addresses the problems that I see.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Peter.

28

29 MR. BUCK: When I was last appointed, I
30 wasn't appointed -- well, my term ran out, but I still
31 went to another meeting, because my appointment didn't
32 come in. So I went to another meeting, and after that
33 meeting I was reappointed.

34

35 But I think the process of -- it takes
36 a long time to get somebody appointed onto the Council.
37 The process needs to be worked on by the people that
38 run the process. Should we be thinking about it.

39

40 If we had people on our -- I had one of
41 these packets to sign up for the Federal Subsistence
42 Board. I carried a couple of them in my briefcase, and
43 I gave one to Ted Katcheak, and that was quite a while
44 ago, and he's finally got on now.

45

46 But the process, I think it needs to be
47 streamlined by the people that do the work.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Chuck.

50

1 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr Chair. Part of the
2 problem is D.C., because everything has to go back to
3 D.C. That's where we have our hang ups. That's why we
4 have late appointments, that's why, you know, we've had
5 issues of it takes so long. Everything's going to go
6 back to the Secretary's office for approval, because
7 everybody on the Council's appointed by the Secretary.

8
9 So these are just looking at ways to
10 try and work around that slowness in D.C. So if we do
11 the carryover terms or if we do four-year appointments
12 or have alternates, you know, that kind of helps the
13 process. I mean, carryovers, I agree with you; it
14 seems like that would be a very good idea. But it
15 seemed like appointing alternates as well would be a
16 good idea, because say someone had to drop off the
17 Council, then we can immediately fill that position and
18 not have to go through the appointment process, that
19 slow, arduous process that everybody hates.

20
21 Just some thoughts.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SMITH: You know, I mean, I
24 don't have any real problem with having alternates.
25 It's just that they aren't going to have very much to
26 do. They're not even going to be able to attend
27 meetings, and so they may lose interest. And it hasn't
28 really been a problem with this Council, you know. You
29 missed a meeting or two, but most -- and Louie's
30 missing a meeting today. Most of the time everybody
31 attends, so it isn't a huge issue for us.

32
33 Personally, I think this carryover. I
34 mean, the process is awfully, you know -- last time I
35 was appointed, it took less time to appoint the
36 director of the CIA than to appoint me, and I didn't
37 know whether to be insulted or honored by it, you know.
38 It just seems like it took a ridiculously long time.

39
40 So I think the carryover is enough of a
41 solution, unless anybody -- you know, I'm sure willing
42 to have alternates if that's what other people want to
43 do.

44
45 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Go ahead.

48
49 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'm not trying to push
50 you one way or the other. Just whatever the Council

1 wants, we'll take notes and bring it back.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I see you're poised.

4

5 MR. GRAY: Well, I guess, you know,
6 having alternates, I sit on all kinds of boards again
7 and I have alternates that have been alternates for
8 years, and never gone to a Board meeting. So I guess
9 -- and part of the downfall is going to be educating
10 alternates. And a guy's going to walk in, and he's
11 going to be kind of lost, how does this run and blah-
12 blah-blah. But on the other side of the coin, I walked
13 in today and looking at our meeting date for this
14 winter, and said, oh, gosh, I'm traveling. And I
15 didn't realize that -- we had worked on this meeting
16 date because of Tom Gray, but I'm getting on a plane on
17 February 19th and your meeting is the 18th and 19th I
18 think. So, you know, there's a time that an alternate
19 could step in and be part of the game

20

21 I just don't see an advantage, you
22 know, if we get to the position of four-year terms, I
23 don't know that it's going to make it faster to put
24 people in. I just think the system's going to work the
25 way the system works. And, you know, this carryover
26 thing is going to address us not getting appointment,
27 and we'll still be able to do business as usual. And
28 until some Secretary says, okay, we're on the agenda
29 and we're going to meet that agenda, I really don't
30 think it does matter. We can have 10-year terms, and
31 we're still going to be late.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, since we're
34 getting kind of late here, why don't we make a motion
35 and choose the alternatives we want to support.

36

37 MR. GRAY: I'll move that we approve
38 the carryover terms.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Is there a second.

41

42 MR. LOCKWOOD: Second.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Moved by Tom, seconded
45 by Scott. All in favor say ayes.

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Those opposed same
50 sign.

1 (No opposing votes)
2
3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Motion passes
4 unanimously.
5
6 Let's take a 10-minute break here, and
7 then we'll go into -- I think agency reports is next.
8
9 (Off record)
10
11 (On record)
12
13 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I see everybody is
14 here. Let's call the meeting back to order.
15
16 And this brings us to agency reports.
17 Do we have anybody -- we have Chuck, you're going to do
18 OSM?
19
20 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I
21 don't have a whole lot. You know, there's some things
22 that have always kind of been on briefing. Budget, we
23 don't have any really significant changes to our budget
24 at this time.
25
26 The biggest change we've had right now
27 is staffing, so I can kind of go through what we've
28 kind of done over the last year. Who's changed where,
29 or who's what now.
30
31 So we have a new subsistence outreach
32 coordinator, Debbie Coble, or Debra Coble. She had
33 previously worked as a public affairs specialist for
34 the Department of Defense in Delta Junction.
35
36 You already know that I switched
37 positions from the Wildlife Division chief to the
38 Deputy Assistant Regional Director as Kathy O'Reilly-
39 Doyle retired.
40
41 Pamela Raygor was hired as our lead
42 secretary. We're recruiting for a new administrative
43 assistant.
44
45 Glenn Westdahl was transitioned to the
46 Council Coordination Division as a dedicated travel
47 admins clerk for the Councils and that division.
48
49 A big change recently is Stewart
50 Cogswell was hired as a new supervisory fisheries

1 biologist. He's a 20-year veteran of the Fish and
2 Wildlife Service. He has extensive experience in
3 working with tribes and state agencies and handling
4 controversial fisheries issues. He's coming up from
5 Wisconsin.

6
7 Chris McKee, one of our wildlife
8 biologists, was selected as the new Wildlife Division
9 chief to replace myself.

10
11 Alex Nick as most of you know has
12 retired after 21 years of service. We should be
13 reviewing -- or should be interviewing soon for two new
14 Council coordinators, one to replace Alex and then
15 another coordinator to help with FACA and also handle a
16 Council.

17
18 We're currently recruiting -- actually
19 the recruitment closed yesterday for a new Anthropology
20 Division chief to replace Helen Armstrong, who some of
21 the Council members will remember. And she retired it
22 seems like forever ago now, so that finally we'll have
23 someone to replace her eventually.

24
25 Robbin La Vine was hired as an
26 anthropologist. We had a vacant position. And she's
27 previously worked with our program and Alaska
28 Department of Fish and Game.

29
30 Let's see. And the David Jenkins who
31 has been our policy coordinator recently left as of
32 Monday to go work for the Forest Service.

33
34 And that's about it for Staff changes.
35 We hope to have some more Staff hired up. We have 13
36 vacancies right now, so we've been doing a lot of work
37 with a lot less Staff.

38
39 And the only other thing I have to
40 update you on is that we're trying to finalize the
41 draft tribal consultation implementation guidelines.
42 The working group has made a number of revisions and
43 the Board is aware of the progress, but there hasn't
44 been a draft approved for implementation as of yet.

45
46 And that's all I have. I don't know if
47 anybody has any questions I can while I'm up here.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Questions for Carl
50 [sic].

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thanks. Thank you,
4 Carl.

5

6 Do we have anybody from the Fish and
7 Wildlife Service. Anybody on line to give a Fish and
8 Wildlife Service report.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Ken, are you going to
13 do the Park Service.

14

15 MR. ADKISSON: I will, Mr. Chair, but
16 (indiscernible - away from microphones).

17

18 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Bruce, do you
19 want to come forward.

20

21 MR. SEPPI: Mr. Chair and members of
22 the Board. I'm Bruce Seppi. As you know I'm currently
23 in a 120-day detail as a subsistence biologist here for
24 Anchorage Field Office.

25

26 That position was formerly held by
27 Merben Cebrian that you met last year. He's taken a
28 position in the Lower 48 so I'm covering for that
29 position until it's filled. I've been an Anchorage
30 Field Office wildlife biologist for the last 22 years
31 with BLM, and I have covered this position several
32 times before, so I'm very familiar with the issues, at
33 least larger issues of this region. They expect to
34 fill this position within -- in early 2015, but they're
35 telling me it's going to be done with less positions.
36 So I may be back in this position or they may hire
37 someone else. I don't know right now.

38

39 Other things that are going on is
40 Anchorage Field Office is revising its land use plans,
41 and Merben may have introduced you to the Bering
42 Sea/Western Interior Land Use Plan that BLM is working
43 on currently. It includes some regions of this RAC,
44 but we're right now in the process of determining
45 alternatives this winter, and a draft of that plan will
46 probably be out in about a year, possibly 18 months.
47 All of the specialist staff with the BLM Anchorage
48 Field Office is in the process of providing that
49 information for that. So I've got the map here and I
50 can answer any questions specifically about the Bering

1 Sea/Western Interior plan if they come up, but it does
2 include certain portion of this RAC, but it also goes
3 down to the Kuskokwim and central Yukon River area, so
4 it's quite a large area, but it does include some
5 portions of this RAC.

6
7 Also kind of related to that is BLM is
8 also in the process of readjusting its management
9 boundaries by field office. And what that means, one
10 of the adjustments is that Anchorage Field Office will
11 be taking on the Northwest Arctic region, essentially
12 Unit 23, that used to be managed by the Central Yukon
13 Field Office out of Fairbanks. And I've got actually a
14 map to leave with you to show those boundary
15 adjustments. That boundary change has been in the
16 works for about a year, and they've always by the
17 change of the fiscal year it would happen. It has not
18 happened officially yet, but is very likely to. It's
19 in the final stages of Washington office approval. So
20 as things are going now, everything that wa handled out
21 of the Central Yukon Field Office will be done out of
22 Anchorage Field Office from this point on, unless we --
23 we don't expect the Washington Office to not approve
24 that.

25
26 And other things going on, BLM is
27 planning to assist Alaska Department of Fish and Game
28 with a geo-spatial moose survey in Unit 22A from
29 Unalakleet, based out of Unalakleet, in February and
30 March. I plan to be an observer for that project, and
31 BLM will provide a plane and a pilot. Usually we get
32 Fish and Game and BLM both from Kotzebue and Nome to
33 help with that project.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Maybe you can explain
36 geo-spatial.

37
38 MR. SEPPI: It's just a technique used.
39 The area's split up into 12-miles segments, and it's
40 very intensively flown, and every moose in that unit --
41 in each of those smaller areas are -- we try to count
42 every moose, do a lot of circling and looking out the
43 window of an airplane at low levels. And then those
44 densities are extrapolated out into the whole unit to
45 get a statistically accurate count of moose in the
46 area.

47
48 Also BLM issued 52 Federal moose
49 permits in Unalakleet this fall in August for that hunt
50 that was opened August 15th and closed September 15th.

1 Two hunters harvested bulls on Federal permits, and 21
2 animals were taken on the State permit. The total
3 harvest quota on that was 22 animals, but 23 bulls were
4 taken, so it was very close to meeting management
5 goals.

6

7 BLM will also be assisting Fish and
8 Game with a Seward Peninsula-wide musk ox survey in
9 March, providing a plane and pilot and observer. And I
10 will be involved with that. We tried to get that
11 survey done last March, but it was called off just
12 because of lack of snow, and, you know, you can't see
13 the animals very well, so Fish and Game decided that it
14 would be better to wait until the next year. And
15 although we don't know our funding levels exactly right
16 now, this early in the fiscal year, it is a high
17 priority for us. So very likely will get that done.

18

19 For musk ox on the Seward Peninsula,
20 Anchorage Field Office issued six Federal permits in
21 22B and 22D, and that's all that was allotted to us,
22 because of the very low harvest amounts. And how that
23 was handled this year is persons interested in permits
24 applied between July 1st and July 25th either by phone
25 or by email or by sending in a letter, and then we held
26 a drawing to issue those six permits. We received 41
27 applications, and three permits were available for 22B
28 west of the Darbies, one in 22D southwest, and two in
29 22D remainder. And as I said, the permits were
30 randomly selected from Federally-eligible users
31 interested in harvesting musk ox on Federal lands in
32 those two units. And up to date one animal has been
33 harvested.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Let me interrupt you
36 there. There was some question about how well received
37 the drawing would be. Did you get any feedback on
38 that?

39

40 MR. SEPPI: That was my next question
41 to you, and then I guess this Board decided to make it
42 a random and -- I guess I could ask, did that work out?
43 I mean, did you feel like that there could be a better
44 method for that. Nome residents were eligible in all
45 of those areas.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Tom.

48

49 MR. GRAY: Well, I have yet to see a
50 report of how many people applied, and so on and so

1 forth. With the process the way I imagined it, at
2 least we had opportunity. That is to me -- you know,
3 I'm going over numbers here on this musk ox deal, and
4 there was quite a few permits between you guys and the
5 park. There was quite a few permits that were issued,
6 whether they were filled or not, and how many
7 applications that we got, I don't know. But the
8 process went forward. It seemed to have worked,
9 because people got permits in their hands. You know,
10 I'm not very sympathetic about how much work is
11 involved in doing this, because to me it's opportunity.
12 You know, the State has their system, we have our
13 system. And I'm glad to see that it seems to have
14 worked.

15
16 MR. SEPPI: As far as work was
17 concerned, it was actually easier for us to do it this
18 way. The applications, and there were 41 applications
19 to us. My only -- and it was easier for us just to
20 pick from those 41 and say, you are the winners of six
21 permits, and, you know, report your harvest. And it
22 was easier than us to go to each village and -- or to
23 notify each village and say, you get one or two, and
24 you decide who actually hunts. And this way it was
25 totally random, although, you know, when things are
26 done randomly, they don't always fall where everybody
27 wishes they would have fallen. But I guess more
28 discussion on whether that process should stay the
29 same, you know, for the coming years, or it needs to be
30 changes, we'll have to discuss that, but I just wanted
31 to report that that's how it worked.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SMITH: But I haven't gotten
34 any negative feedback on it. So I guess we'll wait and
35 see if anybody's unhappy with doing it that way.

36
37 Go ahead, Tom.

38
39 MR. GRAY: Yeah. And I haven't heard
40 any negative feedback. I think you're going to get
41 more and more applications as time goes on. You know,
42 I'm surprised there was only 41 people applied.

43
44 MR. SEPPI: Yeah, I was concerned that
45 we were getting -- that we -- I was concerned that if
46 we were getting the word out to all the communities
47 that, you know, you do have to draw a line and say,
48 we're ending requests for them at a certain date
49 because the hunt opened August 1st in some of those
50 areas, and we needed time to actually pick the people

1 on it. So pick the winners.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Elmer.

4

5 MR. SEETOT: So the hunts are posted,
6 or the communities are notified that there's a drawing
7 permit type hunt?

8

9 MR. SEPPI: Yes, we had set this out to
10 each of the communities. We put them in Nome. We've
11 got a representative here, we've got an office here,
12 and so it's easier. Tom Sparks put these around town.
13 It's harder for them to get out to the surrounding
14 communities, so we usually end up just faxing these
15 out, and then make a follow-up phone call to make sure
16 they know. And several people just called in and said,
17 hey, I'm this guy from this village, and I'd like to be
18 in the drawing, and that was good enough for me, and
19 their name was put down. So I wanted to make it easy
20 for people to get into the drawing, and be sure that
21 they knew about it. I didn't want someone to come back
22 and say, I didn't hear about that. You guys didn't
23 tell us.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Tom.

26

27 MR. GRAY: Well, hopefully you'll go
28 through this process again and keep it going, because
29 like I say, it's opportunity for us. You know, Tom
30 Sparks came up to me and said, hey, Tom, are you going
31 to apply? We've got a deadline coming up. And I said,
32 well, hey, my wife got drawn, so I'm going to let
33 somebody else apply for that process. So I didn't even
34 submit my name, only because I knew my wife got drawn
35 for a State permit. I will be submitting my name next
36 time though.

37

38 MR. SEPPI: Great. And it was one per
39 household, so even if people put multiple names in from
40 a household, they could have only been eligible for
41 one. Okay.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Did you crosscheck the
44 State permits? Was it possible to get two per a
45 household if one with Federal and one with State?

46

47 MR. SEPPI: Yes, it was. It was
48 possible to do that, and that was the only thing that
49 we scratched our head on a little bit. And I guess we
50 couldn't avoid that this time. And I don't know how

1 the Board feels about that, but to make the opportunity
2 as wide as possible, and to have one or a few
3 individuals have greater opportunity, even if they
4 didn't -- they could only take one animal, but they had
5 more options than people who got nothing. And I guess
6 I saw that as a little bit unfair, but we weren't able
7 to do anything about that this go around. I don't know
8 if we will in the future.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SMITH: You should be able to
11 do it, because the drawing -- the State drawing results
12 are out in time, aren't they? I mean, you could
13 just.....

14

15 MR. SEPPI: To make those guys
16 ineligible then if they had a State?

17

18 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah.

19

20 MR. SEPPI: Okay.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SMITH: You know, I think
23 that's a good way to go.

24

25 MR. GRAY: Well, and again, when -- I
26 don't know when the application period began, but by
27 the time it was closing, I knew my wife had been drawn
28 for a State permit, so I didn't apply for a Federal
29 permit. It may be that you take applications and the
30 system may be set up so -- I don't know. There's got
31 to be a way of addressing it. I think it's going to
32 work itself out, and I think the kinks are going to
33 work itself out.

34

35 MR. SEPPI: It would require a little
36 more communication between BLM and Fish and Game then.
37 And that's certainly possible. Okay.

38

39 And finally, the only other thing
40 that's happening in this region is a mining operation
41 called Graphite 1 is exploratory drilling up in a known
42 graphite deposit that everybody knows about on the
43 south side of the Imuruk Basin. There are two BLM
44 biologists in town this week monitoring their
45 activities. The company is flying in, they're slinging
46 in under a helicopter, a mobile drill and kind of
47 defining, more defining where this deposit is.
48 Although they're still in the earl stages of that the
49 company is proposing to build a road to the end of the
50 Teller Road, and that would be the way, once they start

1 developing this stuff, that they'd get the graphite out
2 of there. There are both Federal mining claims and
3 State mining claims, and that land is selected, so in
4 the future those Federal mining claims may go to the
5 State, but right now BLM is involved in permitting
6 their exploratory operations.
7

8 CHAIRMAN SMITH: The question came up,
9 do they have easements all the way to the Teller Road,
10 or do they have.....
11

12 MR. SEPPI: I believe they do, because
13 that's probably mostly over the State claims or -- I'm
14 not sure if it's an easement, but that didn't seem to
15 be a deterrent to them the last what I had heard.
16

17 And that's all I have. Any further
18 questions.
19

20 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Tom.
21

22 MR. GRAY: This road that you're
23 talking about, is it something that is proposed to be
24 started in the near future, or just -- you know, it
25 seems like there's a whole process of impacts and blah-
26 blah-blah that's going to have to happen before a road
27 goes in.
28

29 MR. SEPPI: Yes, there certainly is,
30 and it's still in the early development states. They
31 actually have these claims, and their permits to
32 operate were for metalliferous mining. And in the
33 process of reviewing it, everybody realized that
34 graphite isn't metalliferous. So they had to actually
35 start over their application process and talk about
36 graphite instead of gold or other metals, and so it
37 delayed them. And so the only reason they were able to
38 continue now was if they actually did exploratory
39 drilling and were defining where the deposit is. There
40 is a very long, tedious process that they still have to
41 go through to give us a plan of development, and tell
42 us exactly where they're -- what they're going to mine,
43 how big of an area, what, you know, thereon. And the
44 road is a major part of that, to access and how they're
45 going to get it out of there. I don't have dates for
46 you, but it's probably a year or two off before they
47 even get any kind of permits or the thumbs up to even
48 start that road. But I can get that information back.
49

50 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Is it going be a

1 private road?

2

3 MR. SEPPI: Probably just for that
4 development, since there will be trucks, you know,
5 going up and down it to the mine, but I don't know for
6 sure. Usually mining roads are simply for mining
7 purposes.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Elmer -- oh, go ahead,
10 Tom.

11

12 MR. GRAY: Well, I guess I'm very
13 concerned about it, and I know you guys have to go
14 through the process of working with local people and
15 corporations and people that are going to be impacted,
16 but, you know, this is a really important area to our
17 region. And I don't want to say that developing this
18 mine is probably not of the best interest of this
19 region, but I'm going to say it. It's probably not the
20 best interest. And I'm sure you're hearing that time
21 and time again. But the thing that I think BLM needs
22 to understand is everybody in this region needs --
23 especially the Teller people, Brevig people, those
24 people those people that live right there need to be
25 involved from the bottom line. And, you know, nothing
26 hidden. This the first time I've heard of a road, and
27 I'm sure this road's been talked about for probably a
28 year. So, you know, the players need to be involved.

29

30 MR. SEPPI: Yes, that is certainly the
31 case. And actually this was only brought to Staff
32 attention at BLM, I'm not sure when they originally put
33 in their proposal, just this April. People from this
34 outfit called Graphite 1 came and gave a presentation
35 to us, and that's the first I heard of it. And I knew
36 that there was a deposit up there, but I didn't think
37 anybody was interested in it. But graphite in its pure
38 form like it is up there is actually quite valuable in
39 terms of electronics. They make a substance called
40 graphine, and that's what's making this doable is that
41 there's a demand for high quality graphite, and in the
42 past there hasn't been. So it is really in it's really
43 early stages. And this is the first I've heard of it
44 is just in April.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Go ahead, Elmer.

47

48 MR. SEETOT: It is my understanding
49 that BLM does take care of land for Federal agencies?

50

1 MR. SEPPI: Well, Federal land that BLM
2 manages. How do you mean?

3
4 MR. SEETOT: And then you also, or BLM
5 is tasked with supplying permits for the reindeer
6 herders?

7
8 MR. SEPPI: Yes, when it's on Federal
9 land, yes.

10
11 MR. SEETOT: When it's on Federal land.
12 And then what I heard during this past spring was that
13 BLM land in conjunction with Kakaruk reindeer herders
14 tried to -- or attempted to drive the reindeer from
15 Cape Douglas via helicopter along with two snow
16 machines, to land east of Imuruk Basin. And that was
17 during the spring. They said that this person was
18 eligible, because he applied for a grazing permit from
19 BLM for Kakaruk Reindeer Herd which is stationed in
20 Teller. Teller has been opposing people coming in and
21 trying to take the reindeer herd to manage on their
22 land. And then the bad part about it was that they
23 tried to keep the reindeer east of Imuruk Basin,
24 because BLM was saying that the land was over-grazed on
25 the current situation. And during the two-month period
26 that they tried to keep the reindeer on east side of
27 Imuruk Basin, I guess from what reports I heard, at
28 least 100 reindeer on the south shore of Imuruk Basin
29 were at least counted. There was a lot of cripples
30 running around. They really scattered the calves,
31 because they were using choppers in a place where
32 boulders and rocks were the main path. What you were
33 talking about, the southeast corner, what they call
34 Windy Cove, just at least a mile east or a mile and a
35 half east of the corner. This place was trampled into
36 mud and sand. And they were talking about seeing
37 reindeer hooves along the train. And they completely
38 destroyed a very special berry picking spot,
39 blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, just because
40 they were walking on the south shore of Imuruk Basin.
41 So that reindeer drive really didn't amount to anything
42 other than really separating or crippling the herd.

43
44 A majority of the herd had already been
45 at maybe Cape Willy, so they weren't kind of affected.
46 They were trying to keep the ones in that certain area
47 from going back to BLM -- or to land around Cape
48 Douglas, because they say it was overgrazed. And
49 during that time, you know, they were -- reindeer were
50 pounded by bear and wolf, along with trying to keep the

1 reindeer in that spot with helicopters. You know, it
2 produced a loud noise, and I think that's where all the
3 -- they were talking about crippled reindeer. I've
4 seen a couple of them, and they weren't a pretty sight.
5 So that was something that should have been consulted
6 more with Teller, because that reindeer has been there.
7

8 And then when I went to a caribou
9 meeting, they were trying to -- a couple years back,
10 they were trying to drive the reindeer during the
11 spring or summer months. I think there was plenty of
12 feed, summer feed for the reindeer on the existing
13 ground, other than lichen. Lichen is pretty much eaten
14 away from my observation on Cape Douglas east. But
15 from what I heard, they said that caribou are able to
16 eat at least 246 plants, or vegetation, stuff like
17 that. Reindeer and caribou are similar so the only big
18 part missing would probably be the lichen. Their
19 mainstay of their diet, you know, that keeps giving
20 them energy. And they're competing with at least maybe
21 musk ox on that same ground. But that was pretty much
22 talked about during this past summer. And then in the
23 end, you know, they just gave up, because they couldn't
24 keep the reindeer in the designated spot because of
25 predators and whatnot that -- whenever the wind blows,
26 you know, they probably smelled predators like wolf or
27 bear, and then they panic and try to run away. So that
28 was complete fiasco I guess.
29

30 MR. SEPPI: I don't know the details of
31 that. I don't know really anything about it. So they
32 were being moved up to BLM land or off of BLM?
33

34 MR. SEETOT: Off of. No, they were
35 moved to the east side of Imuruk Basin, because they
36 said that the feed from Cape Willy on over westward was
37 pretty much over-grazed, which I know it's over-grazed,
38 because I barely see it like anywhere other than the
39 high places. And recently I just heard that a pack of
40 18 to 20 wolves have moved into that area. Brevig
41 residents pretty much have cleared -- or not cleaned
42 out, but have harvested wolves at least during the past
43 four years within the Kuzitrin, the Davison, the
44 Agiapuk, American River system drainage, also down to
45 Tissu (ph), and when that pack is wipe out, another
46 pack moved in, so I just want to give head's up to
47 people that do hunt wolves, there's another pack that
48 is going after my favorite reindeer steaks, you know.
49 They're competing with me. Because the only time we
50 kind of eat them is Thanksgiving, Christmas. That is

1 bought by the community, you know, for this coming
2 feast, and that's good meat for us.

3

4 So I just wanted to put that out.

5

6 MR. SEPPI: I'll bring that back. I'm
7 sorry I don't know details of that or anything to say
8 anything about that, so thank you for bringing it up.

9

10 MR. SEETOT: That's all right. I just
11 wanted to make a record that we did run into this
12 during this past summer.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I see. Tom wants to
15 shed some light on that issue.

16

17 MR. GRAY: Well, I'm the president of
18 the Reindeer Herders Association, so I do know a little
19 bit about this process. The State of Alaska is the
20 majority land owner in the Kakaruk area, so they're the
21 one that issues the grazing permit. There's -- and I'm
22 not sure how many players are involved. Usually the
23 land managers get together, like BLM, The State of
24 Alaska, the Park, and they talk amongst themselves, and
25 they decide who's going to be the one that issues the
26 permit. In the Kakaruk case, it's the State of Alaska.

27

28 And I do know Laurie Thorpe has sent
29 letters out to Johnny Walker saying that there's
30 certain areas over-grazed in the Kakaruk range, and
31 animals need to be pushed somewhere else outside of
32 this area. The thing that Laurie doesn't understand,
33 and something that he just alluded to, is it's over-
34 grazed in a winter grazing situation, but it isn't
35 over-grazed in the summer grazing situation. So
36 there's no reason those animals can't be down by the
37 coast in the summertime.

38

39 So anyway there's some issues on the
40 table that are true. The comment that BLM and Kawerak
41 made that move happen and pushed those animals east of
42 Imuruk Basin is not true, because I'm the one that
43 said, we can't get involved. It's that manager's
44 decision of what to do, and we need to caution him not
45 to take those animals too far east, because the caribou
46 come down too early in the summer, and you're going to
47 lose all those animals. So he was cautioned by us. We
48 told him not to do it.

49

50 But, you know, this herd -- this is

1 where players, you know, the State issues the permit,
2 and the different players, Laurie Thorpe, and those
3 guys, all need to work together in managing this thing,
4 because there's things happen out on the range that
5 Laurie's not trained, and she doesn't understand the
6 process and understand summer and winter range, for
7 example. She's got no idea the difference in summer
8 and winter range, and how to manage animals. I managed
9 animals for 25 years, and I forgot more than she'll
10 ever know.

11
12 But, you know, again, I do think that
13 with Jimmy Pushruk coming into the picture, there's
14 going to be a whole different change in this thing.
15 And we're trying to get Kawerak and Reindeer Herders
16 Association is trying to get this thing smoothed out so
17 there's a good transition.

18
19 But we did not -- we weren't involved,
20 and we cautioned that guy, don't push those animals too
21 far east, because you're going to lose them, and we
22 don't want to see that herd lost.

23
24 So anyway there's a little more to it.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, Elmer, go ahead.

27
28 MR. SEETOT: Thank you. I just want to
29 apologize to BLM for reindeer herd. That's just what I
30 heard, you know, that that was my assumption, because
31 in the past I see papers saying that these grazing
32 permits are approved by BLM. That was showed the
33 coversheet. It didn't say State of Alaska, just BLM,
34 even though, you know there's not very much Federal
35 land. So I just want to clarify that.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MR. SEPPI: Yeah. That's all I have.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah. Okay. Thank
42 you, Bruce.

43
44 MR. SEPPI: Thank you

45
46 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Is there any more
47 questions.

48
49 You know, I think this issue deserves a
50 lot -- maybe a special meeting held in Teller, because

1 there's a lot of concern about what's been going on.
2 It's not really, you know, a RAC issue, but it's
3 something that really needs to be done.

4
5 MR. GRAY: And just to point it out,
6 you know, we've been trying to force BIA -- not force
7 them, but have -- and BIA has said that they will fly
8 in all the owners, even from out in the States to have
9 a meeting in Teller. And so we've been working on this
10 for a long, long time. And we finally got them to
11 commit to do this this last summer. So it's a work in
12 progress, but as you know, it's a bureaucracy, too.
13 And it's hard to deal with.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, I know. I know
16 exactly what you're talking about, but I know there's a
17 lot of concern in Teller about what's been happening
18 there, and a lot of -- or a total lack of information.

19
20 Reggie.

21
22 MR. BARR: I just wanted to say whoever
23 was responsible for this rally made a big mess for that
24 reindeer herd. And it also was done during the calving
25 season.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, I can't -- I
28 sure didn't think it was good at all. And nobody's
29 ever done anything like that either. That's the
30 interesting thing. There's never been a time when
31 anybody's herded reindeer that long during the summer
32 without that -- it's never happened, at least not in
33 Alaska, you know, and it is just something brand new.
34 It doesn't seem like it was a particularly good idea.

35
36 So, anyway, that's kind of getting off
37 our agenda, but there needs to be more discussion on
38 this. I guess that brings us to -- any more questions
39 for Bruce.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thanks, Bruce. You
44 know, I didn't expect this to turn into a grilling
45 session. I know you're not really prepared for this.

46
47 MR. SEPPI: I'm prepared. I know just
48 enough to be dangerous about that, and so I didn't want
49 to, you know, state anything I wasn't clear on. But
50 I'll for sure bring that information back.

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you. This
2 brings us to an ADF&G report. There's nobody answering
3 the phone down at Fish and Game. I tried calling them
4 during our break, and even the.....

5
6 MR. LARSON: Drew is on line.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Oh, okay. Drew, are
9 you on line?

10
11 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is
12 Drew Crawford, with the Alaska Department of Fish and
13 Game, with the liaison team in Anchorage. I just have
14 a few comments here for you.

15
16 Earlier in your meeting I heard a
17 number of public -- two public testimonies regarding
18 nuisance musk ox in Nome. So I contacted Peter Benti.
19 He is the regional management coordinator for the
20 Division of Wildlife Conservation for Northwestern
21 Alaska, and he indicated that -- gave me a couple
22 things that the Department is doing about this, or what
23 they are doing right now.

24
25 One, they're collaring. He said, we
26 are radio collaring musk ox to track movements and to
27 try to better understand why groups are moving into
28 town. And that is the reason why Letty Hughes and
29 Billy were unable to attend your meeting this week is
30 that they're out doing that.

31
32 Number 2, they're moving groups. He
33 said, locally we will continue surveillance and we'll
34 respond to move groups at any hour when notified.
35 After hours they are dispatched by the Nome Police
36 Department. He said, we were using more aggressive
37 hazing techniques, such as rubber bullets to reinforce
38 to the musk ox that being in Nome is a bad experience.
39 They plan to test the effectiveness of a combined
40 aerial and ground hazing to move groups greater
41 distances.

42
43 Third, their -- they have hunt
44 management. A Tier II hunt will have up to five
45 permits, and they're eligible to take musk ox with
46 restricted weapons, such as shotguns, bow and arrow,
47 and muzzle loaders in the Nome area during the season
48 which runs from August 1st to March 15th.

49
50 Number 4, they're experimenting with

1 electric fencing. They plan to test the effectiveness
2 of electrical fence to determine -- to deter musk ox.
3 And they're looking at different materials and
4 insulations.

5
6 And, fifth, they said that they're open
7 to ideas from the public. He said the Department will
8 continue to participate in local efforts or groups to
9 find solutions to the problem; however, experience to
10 date has shown that there's no single magic solution.

11
12 Over.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah. That's a good
15 summary. I hate to throw a wet wagon on things, but
16 bow and arrows are not legal within the Nome city
17 limits.

18
19 MR. CRAWFORD: I'm just reading off his
20 page.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, it's an archaic
23 -- it's in the Nome code of ordinances. Not many
24 people know about it, but you can't possess a loaded
25 bow and arrow inside the city limits.

26
27 MR. CRAWFORD: I'll pass that on to
28 him.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Is there any.....

31
32 MR. CRAWFORD: My final comment is that
33 after looking over the Unit 22 wildlife report that
34 Tony Gorn and Letty Hughes prepared, if you have any
35 questions at a later date, you can either forward them
36 to me through Robert Larson, your coordinator, or give
37 Tony and Letty a call at the Fish and Game office there
38 in Nome, and make an appointment. They're in and out,
39 but I'm sure they'd be glad to sit down and talk to you
40 and answer any of your questions you might have o the
41 three-page sheet that they prepared for you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, that's this
44 report here, and there's some interesting information
45 in there. And we'll just look at it on our own.

46
47 So does conclude your report, Drew.

48
49 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you. I just
2 wanted to point out, you know, if you look on the front
3 page of this, this graph of the Unit 22D moose
4 population, and it does not look good.

5
6 And so that brings us to any tribal
7 governments. I see both Rose and Brandon were here,
8 but it looks like they've left.

9
10 Native organizations. Nobody here for
11 that. Anybody on line.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I skipped you.

16
17 MR. ADKISSON: Yes. I have.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah. Okay. You're
20 next then, Ken.

21
22 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council
23 members. Ken Adkisson. I'll make this very brief.

24
25 You already know that the 2014 musk
26 oxen work that includes normally a population estimate
27 and composition work was scratched due to adverse
28 conditions and poor sightability. Unfortunately also
29 the results of that affected how the allowable harvest
30 was calculated, and consequently the number of permits
31 available. And so we had to work off of the 2012 data.
32 So we will be planning on participating in that
33 interagency survey this spring, so the 2015 survey.
34 All plans are currently to go ahead with that. New
35 allowable harvest levels will be calculated after that
36 when that data is in.

37
38 And in terms of the impacts of that
39 though for the hunts this year, following the
40 guidelines and everything that were set up on the
41 wishes of the Council and so forth, just to give you
42 the quick results of the effects. 2206, which is the
43 Kuzitrin/Pilgrim Federal musk oxen hunt, we had an
44 application period that ran July 1st to July 21st.
45 Part of that period was sort of determined by sort of
46 the late date of getting into the game and starting it.
47 I think probably next year we'll probably extend that
48 period out, you know, considerably to allow everyone an
49 opportunity to apply. But as it was, that's way it
50 worked out this year.

1 And for that hunt, we had 23 applicants
2 for the two permits that we wound up issuing.

3
4 And notices went out to all of the
5 Federally-eligible communities, and the faxes and
6 everything were followed up, and similar materials to
7 what Bruce showed you to announce their 22D and B
8 hunts.

9
10 The application process was very
11 simple. You just -- you could either fax, call, email
12 the Park. All we asked was your name and your resident
13 community, so that would be the first things we'd look
14 at. If it obviously wasn't -- and a contact number
15 where we could get back to them. And so if there was
16 something obviously amiss, we would follow up with a
17 phone call. If every -- if we didn't see any red flags
18 there, their name went into the hopper automatically,
19 and then we did the random selection from the
20 Federally-eligible users that applied. And at that
21 point they had already been notified that if they were
22 selected, then that they would have to produce their
23 valid hunting license and the rest of their ID and go
24 through the completion to where we could then issue
25 them the permit.

26
27 I think it worked out very well. So
28 well in fact from an operational standpoint that we'll
29 probably be expanding that out to some of our other
30 hunts.

31
32 For the FX 2210 hunt, that's the 22E
33 hunt, we issued four permits, and the Federal
34 eligibility there is restricted to Wales and Shishmaref
35 residents. We had five applicants from Shishmaref
36 apply -- or five applicants apply from Shishmaref for
37 those four permits. No one from Wales applied. I think
38 part of that's due to the fact that many people in
39 Wales see it as much more difficult to get to Federal
40 public lands for that hunt. But we'll be doing more
41 follow up with them.

42
43 So that's the Nome musk ox, or the
44 Seward Pen musk ox. Oh, we also did one for 23, sort
45 of following guidelines the RAC up there set, and then
46 the wishes of Buckland Deering, and so we wound up
47 using a random process there to issue permits for
48 Buckland and Deering who are the Federally-eligible
49 users.

50

1 We were able though, however, to work
2 with ADF&G in conducting a musk ox population estimate
3 and composition work for the Cape Thompson musk oxen
4 population, which includes the Cape Krusenstern
5 National Monument and Noatak National Preserves. We're
6 going to go back in there and do another one of those
7 next year, too.

8
9 So we've got a lot of musk oxen work on
10 our table for the 2015 year.

11
12 Moose. We cooperated with the
13 Department of Fish and Game in the interagency moose
14 surveys. Bruce already mentioned some of the 22A work
15 and things, and we participated in the work for 22D and
16 22E. And the results of that, that was basically
17 coordinated and led by ADF&G, and you've got the
18 results I think in Letty's information that she
19 provided.

20
21 In addition to that moose work, we also
22 did conduct or participated in an interagency moose
23 survey for population estimates for the Upper Kobuk
24 River and Unit 23. And a little later this year we'll
25 be probably work on some interagency moose composition
26 work for the Selawik area.

27
28 Sheep. We've had some problems in
29 doing sheep surveys, again for weather up in the Unit
30 23 area. And this year we were able along with several
31 other ADF&G and other Park Service units to get in and
32 do sheep work in that area. And the results were
33 pretty grim. The population in the Bairds especially
34 and part of Delongs appeared to have declined between
35 he survey periods by roughly 70 percent in some areas.
36 And very low lamb survival and productivity, and very
37 few mature rams. And, unfortunately we have been
38 weathered out of two consecutive years prior to that in
39 conducting those surveys. And on top of that very
40 noticeable and sort of scary decline had been a further
41 decline between like 2009 and 2011 of about 30 percent
42 between that period, so sheep up in Unit 23 were not
43 doing very well at all. And that all resulted in one
44 big massive closure, both the State sheep hunts in that
45 23 and parts of 26A, and Federal hunts in those same
46 areas were closed. Completely closed.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SMITH: What are they
49 attributing that decline to?

50

1 MR. ADKISSON: Probably multiple
2 factors. Right now I don't think there's any one given
3 factor. I sort of suspect that hunting pressure was
4 probably not the driving force though. I think weather
5 probably was probably the major factor. And it's
6 possible you could have got some -- on top of the
7 weather I think some predation and some other things.
8 And we'll be looking at some habitat and some other
9 things down the road. And we're planning on going back
10 in and doing, especially in the western Bairds area,
11 we'll be doing sheep work this coming year that we're
12 into now, this fiscal year, as well as trying to do
13 sheep surveys up there probably every year for a while.

14
15 That's pretty much the wildlife work
16 for Western Arctic. If you have any questions, I'll be
17 glad to try to answer them.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Elmer.

20
21 MR. SEETOT: Along with that, does
22 National Park Service try to keep detailed, you know,
23 weather information during that certain year, like it's
24 too dry or stuff like that, to get an understanding, or
25 a better picture of what lies ahead for these wildlife
26 resources?

27
28 MR. ADKISSON: Yes. Member Seetot
29 through the Chair. I guess we do as much as we can,
30 and we're getting better at it. And I think you've
31 been briefed before on some of the activities of what
32 we call our Arctic Network Inventory and Monitoring
33 Program, and our efforts at establishing a fair number
34 of more weather stations out around in various areas in
35 Unit 22 and Unit 23. And we're getting good results
36 off of those, which will now be able to allow us to
37 better track several weather parameters as they more
38 apply to some of those areas, versus just having data
39 from Nome and Kotzebue.

40
41 And, of course, climate change is on
42 everybody's, you know, radar screen, and there are more
43 and more studies and things. And Bob mentioned climate
44 change and impacts to things like it was one of the
45 topics for one of the joint meetings, and that's always
46 a good one I think to get on. I went to a joint
47 meeting of the Northwest Arctic RAC and the North Slope
48 RAC about two or three years back now, in which a lot
49 of the work of the -- at the Arctic Network Inventory
50 and Monitoring Program, and also the Fish and Wildlife

1 Service largely I guess organized climate research
2 centers and stuff in Alaska were highlighted. So,
3 yeah, there's more and more stuff coming out out there,
4 and, you know, that's one of the things we're looking
5 at is how that might affect wildlife populations. And
6 there's more research going onto and more stuff. And
7 as we get that kind of thing, we'd be glad to share it
8 with the Council.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Any more questions for
11 Ken.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, it really
16 concerns me what's happening, you know, and I think
17 weather is a big factor, but it's always a combination
18 of things, you know, and so many populations of
19 herbivores are just plummeting. And, you know, it's
20 just -- I mean, I hadn't heard about the sheep before.
21 That's pretty serious. But that's the worse one so
22 far. But they're the most affected by severe weather,
23 too. You know, they're very vulnerable to severe
24 weather events.

25

26 MR. ADKISSON: At least initially it
27 looks to be more severe than the one that happened back
28 in the 90s that closed the hunt down for like eight or
29 nine years up there.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah.

32

33 MR. ARDIZZONE: In fact, I had a call
34 from OSM. I've got to probably dial into the Northwest
35 Arctic RAC tomorrow and sheep might come up on the
36 agenda there.

37

38 The only other -- I do have one other
39 quick item for you, it's not really a huge item, but I
40 think you need to get it on your radar screen as a
41 Council what's going on with the Western Arctic Caribou
42 Herd. I think it's no secret that the herd has
43 declined significantly. You may also know that there's
44 a management plan, that was revised I think in 2011 or
45 so, out and that sets some population and harvest
46 levels in relation to a chart. And at different
47 levels, suggesting, for example different population
48 levels, and whether the herd is growing, stable, or
49 decreasing, suggested harvest levels, and that is well
50 worth taking it. If you want, I brought a bunch of

1 them with me. Before you split tonight, I can pass
2 those out to you. It's just one page out of the plan,
3 and I recommend that you go to the website and look at
4 the whole plan. But I think the moral in it, what I
5 wanted to tell you is that I think you really need to
6 get it on your radar screen, because I think there are
7 some changes coming down the road, and they don't look
8 good, and they're -- one of the things that's probably
9 going to happen is some sorts of recommendations for
10 adjusting harvests. At what level and to how severe
11 and how those would be allocated among the many,
12 roughly 40-some communities that rely on the Western
13 Arctic Caribou Herd within its range, I don't know.
14 But it's going to produce a challenge. And hopefully
15 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group will play
16 an important role in helping sort out some of that, and
17 that group will meet again I think maybe the second
18 week in December for about two or three days. And you
19 can get all the information you need on that group,
20 too, off their website. And I'll be glad to provide a
21 link to that if you want it, but I don't have it right
22 in front of me, but I'm sure this Council, as the
23 Northwest Arctic Council, will want to play a role in
24 discussion of things like harvest adjustments and
25 stuff. So I just put it out there. It's coming.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, it looks -- Once
28 again, you know, we went through this in the 70s. Once
29 again the Western Arctic Herd is -- you know, that's
30 the one that we hunt. You know, they're not well
31 distributed -- they come on the Seward Peninsula.
32 They're the ones that come on the Seward Peninsula.
33 But once again we don't know why the population
34 declined. You know, you'd think that we would have
35 learned something in that amount of time, but we
36 haven't. They're just too -- it's just too complex to
37 really study.

38
39 You had something to say, Chuck. Go
40 ahead.

41
42 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I said I
43 would check on the antler gathering regulations for
44 Fish and Wildlife Service. I just got an email back,
45 and it is also not allowed on refuge lands, but they
46 don't enforce it. So the regs are the same, but they
47 just -- it's not an enforcement priority.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. That's
50 interesting.

1 Well, that concludes our agency
2 reports.
3
4 Confirm date and location of winter
5 2015 meeting.
6
7 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. The Seward
8 Peninsula is scheduled for February 18th and 19th, that
9 was a Wednesday and Thursday, of 2015.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SMITH: And is it an option to
12 change that at this point?
13
14 MR. LARSON: Well, sure.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Do we want to think
17 about that. I guess you pointed out a conflict
18 already.
19
20 MR. BUCK: Didn't we approve it last
21 time?
22
23 CHAIRMAN SMITH: We did, but, you know,
24 I think it would be an option -- it might be an option
25 to change it. There was.....
26
27 MR. BUCK: Was it changed to here?
28
29 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah. Does
30 anybody.....
31
32 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. The Office of
33 Subsistence Management is very reluctant to have three
34 meetings at the same time. They could have two, but
35 not three. So the option that's most obvious, if the
36 Seward Peninsula meeting is not acceptable, would be to
37 move it a week earlier.
38
39 MR. GRAY: Tim. I leave February 4th.
40 I'm going out on business, and I don't get back until
41 20th. So, you know, it's life. I mean, I've got to
42 go take care of business. And, you know, in the past
43 March as worked real well for me, but they're all
44 booked up, so I guess have the meeting, and life goes
45 on.
46
47 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. So unless --
48 did anybody else -- Peter.
49
50 MR. BUCK: I'll second the motion to

1 have the meeting.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, we don't have a
4 motion yet.

5

6 MR. BUCK: Yeah, if that's a motion.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SMITH: You can make a motion.

9

10 MR. GRAY: We've already scheduled the
11 February 15th meeting. I think the action item that we
12 need is to schedule the fall meeting. And, you know,
13 this time of year works good for me.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. We don't have
16 -- Peter, we don't need to do anything on the winter
17 meeting. We can just leave it unless somebody wants to
18 change it.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN SMITH: And I guess not, so
23 now we're on scheduling fall 2015 meeting.

24

25 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. There are two
26 Councils that have previously scheduled their fall
27 meetings. The North Slope has a meeting scheduled for
28 November 3rd and 4th of 2015. The Kodiak/Aleutians
29 have a meeting on September 25th and 26th. What that
30 means is that you pretty much have an open slate
31 between August 18th and November 5th.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I like this timing,
34 although a week later would -- in this year would have
35 been better for me, since the weather's so good. I
36 should be up doing roof repairs right now. You know,
37 it's not always -- the weather's not always like this,
38 but a week later than this would probably be a little
39 better for me.

40

41 MR. GRAY: And I guess for myself, 14th
42 and 15th is good timing, at least in that ballpark.
43 15th, 16th. You know, I think that would be good, too.
44 You know.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Do you want to put
47 that in a motion.

48

49 MR GRAY: Sure. I'll make a motion
50 that we have this meeting October 15th and 16.

1 MR. BUCK: Seconded.
2
3 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. A suggestion.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yes.
6
7 MR. LARSON: That for the benefit of
8 having adequate Federal Staff at your meeting, that
9 there is some resistance on the part of the different
10 agencies to having personnel travel on a Saturday. If
11 we could have the meeting.....
12
13 MR. GRAY: Okay. I would change it to
14 the -- what is it, the.....
15
16 MR. LARSON: Well, the 13th, 14th and
17 15th would be appropriate. Any one of those.
18
19 MR. GRAY: 14th and 15th. How's that.
20
21 MR. LARSON: That would be much more
22 acceptable.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SMITH: That's a Wednesday and
25 Thursday.
26
27 MR. GRAY: Yeah.
28
29 MR. BUCK: Second the amendment.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Moved by Tom,
32 seconded by Peter. All in favor say aye.
33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All oppose same sign.
37
38 (No opposing votes)
39
40 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Motion passes
41 unanimously.
42
43 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. The meeting
44 location..
45
46 CHAIRMAN SMITH: You know, Louie has
47 asked, suggested that we have it in some place like
48 would St. Joe so that we might attract more public. I
49 don't know. What do you think?
50

1 MR. GRAY: Location. You're talking do
2 you want it in Nome or Unalakleet or.....

3
4 MR. LARSON: Let's have a natural
5 process here, so which community?

6
7 MR. GRAY: Oh, I think Nome is the
8 ideal place.

9
10 MR. LARSON: Nome as the community. Do
11 you have -- we have a process of soliciting venues, but
12 if you have a venue in mind that is more suitable or
13 you think we should investigate, I'm sure that we would
14 like to hear it. That's not necessarily a guarantee
15 that would meet at that venue, but we would at least
16 consider -- we would contact them and consider that.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, actually more
19 appropriate would be for the winter meeting, and so I
20 -- Louie and I talked about this quite bit. It would
21 be nice to get more public participation. He thinks
22 that this location is not a good meeting spot. I don't
23 think it's that bad, but the mini convention center and
24 the would St. Joe's are more familiar to people, and it
25 might work better. So maybe we should try that for our
26 winter meeting, you know, just make a note that either
27 the mini convention center or would St. Joe's.

28
29 MR. BUCK: I think we can decide it on
30 the winter meeting.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SMITH: It's worth a try. You
33 know, if it -- you know, whatever we can do to attract
34 more public participation would be good.

35
36 MR. LARSON: And Mr. Buck is correct,
37 that, you know, we will not -- we're not going to
38 reserve room or make those kind of arrangements until
39 the meeting date is confirmed at your winter meeting,
40 so there is time to have that discussion, too.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, my suggestion
43 would be to try that meeting location for the winter
44 meeting rather than the fall. You know, the winter
45 meeting in February, just.....

46
47 MR. LARSON: Oh, I see. I see. Okay.
48 We'll work on that.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SMITH: See how that works

1 out. You know, they're probably cheaper than this
2 room, and they're perfectly good meeting locations. So
3 we can give it a try and see if that helps.

4

5 And now we're onto closing comments.
6 Unless there's something else on this issue, we're on
7 to closing comments.

8

9 Do you want to start, Tom.

10

11 MR. GRAY: The only thing I would say
12 is the announcement of the meeting, and using all the
13 tools. You know, we probably put it in the paper and
14 stuff like that, but Nome Announce and Facebook is
15 probably the two places you're going to reach people.
16 And I really suggest that we try and get the word out
17 to the public, especially if we're going to have a new
18 home to have the meeting in, so it gets to the people
19 that we need. And not only here, but, you know, in the
20 villages. For example, I know White Mountain, there's
21 lots of people on Nome Announce and they see all this
22 stuff that transpires.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Chuck, do you want
25 to.....

26

27 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I was going
28 to say I'll bring that back to our outreach specialist,
29 but these meetings are posted on our Facebook page
30 already to help get more people out, but I'll mention
31 Nome Announce.

32

33 MR. GRAY: I didn't even know you had a
34 Facebook page.

35

36 MR. ARDIZZONE: Well, we do have a
37 Facebook page. I'm not sure what it is, but.....

38

39 MR. GRAY: And the problem that we have
40 is somebody might hang up a notice somewhere. I mean,
41 if you're going to put a notice up, put it up at AC or
42 Hanson's, and people will see it. There's places, we
43 don't -- you know, somebody said we advertise these
44 permits at BLM office. Well, how often do I go to the
45 BLM office, you know.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SMITH: And I put this meeting
48 up, you know, belated on Facebook and two members of
49 the public came in, so it does work. And I should have
50 put it up a little bit earlier, but it definitely

1 works.

2

3 So with that, it's closing comments.
4 Tom, do you want to start us off.

5

6 MR. GRAY: Well, good meeting. I wish
7 we had more people here. You know, we've touched on
8 some issues that are would issues, and some new issues.
9 And I'm glad to see some of these would issues have
10 worked out, and are working into the system well. Good
11 to work with you guys. My wife said that Eskimo food's
12 on the table at 5:30, whoever wants to come and eat.
13 They're going to have gospel singing after that.

14

15 Anyway, thank you, guys for being here
16 and putting up with me.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Elmer.

19

20 MR. SEETOT: I think we just need to
21 reach out to the younger people like Chuck said. I
22 think our generation, they have seen enough, they know
23 what we can do, but there's new challenges, you know,
24 on Federal land, or new issues that come up, budget,
25 where's the money coming from. You run into climate
26 change. You run into all these things that were talked
27 about years ago. Now we're seeing them at hand. And
28 then I think the best way is to reach people is to
29 start with the young people. And like I said, these
30 people, my age and younger, they pretty much know who's
31 on who, and what they talk about. That might be the
32 problem, or the people that showed and expressed have
33 moved on to other places, or have moved on completely.

34

35 Thank you for a good meeting and see
36 you again. Or thank you very much.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Reg.

39

40 MR. BARR: I'm glad you're considering
41 on all Council meetings, so that maybe our friend will
42 reconsider his retirement, and get back on the Council.
43 It was a very good meeting.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Ted.

48

49 MR. KATCHEAK: Yes. I've enjoyed this
50 meeting for a change. I found out there's some things

1 that I don't know about that were mentioned. And I
2 think it gives me a little more depth on what's going
3 on.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Scott.

8

9 MR. LOCKWOOD: Yeah. This has been a
10 good first meeting for me. I'm learning a lot about
11 the issues dealing with the Seward Peninsula. And like
12 I stated before, you know, It's kind of like me on the
13 outside looking in on the issues dealing with this
14 region up here. But, yeah, altogether a good meeting.
15 Had fun.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Charles.

20

21 MR. SACCHEUS: It's good to see you all
22 again, and I hope everybody have a safe trip home. And
23 a good fall and winter, and I'll see you all next
24 meeting.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Peter.

27

28 MR. BUCK: The orientation classes
29 haven't been done very much in the past couple years,
30 so I think that should be kept up, and I'd like to
31 thank Tim for chairing this meeting. And
32 congratulations to Elmer for 20 years.

33

34 That's all.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah, I'm with you,
37 Ted. It's amazing to me how many things I'm finding
38 out I don't know about. And, you know, it seems like
39 when I was, you know, a lot younger, I knew a lot more
40 about everything. And when it comes to fish and
41 wildlife management in Western Alaska, I'm starting to
42 conclude that we don't really know anything about
43 anything. You know, none of these things, none of
44 these changes we're seeing were anticipated. We don't
45 really know what the reasons are. We don't know what
46 to do about it. It just really bothers me that, you
47 know, you can't engage scientific fish and wildlife
48 management if you don't know what's happening, and we
49 really don't know what's happening. And so I think
50 we're in for some hard times, and that's really

1 depressing.

2

3 With musk oxen, you know, I'm not --
4 you know, it bothers me again that there's -- that
5 people are disturbed about that, because I think that's
6 one of the best things I've ever been involved in. You
7 know, I think that restoring musk oxen to Alaska was
8 one of the best wildlife programs I'm aware of. Just
9 think what it would be like if we didn't have them, you
10 know. Everything else is down, you know. It's an
11 alternative resource. People want them. You know,
12 look at how many people apply for the permits. Some
13 people don't want them, you know. That's fine. Not
14 everybody likes everything, but look at how many people
15 do want musk oxen and want another -- an alternate meat
16 source.

17

18 And there are some problems, no doubt
19 about it. And they're serious problems, but I think
20 we'll learn to live with them over time. You know, I
21 saw people on Nunivak Island, they weren't happy. I'm
22 sure that they weren't happy about it in the 30s
23 either. But they've gotten to be very accustomed to
24 musk ox, and now it's just a common component of their
25 diet. And, you know, it will happen here, too, the
26 same way. And the same thing -- I watched the same
27 thing happen on Nelson Island. The same thing, you
28 know, they got their animals a lot later, but they got
29 used to them. They got used to living around them.
30 It's just like anything else.

31

32 I'm sure that when Sheldon Jackson
33 dropped off the first reindeer out here in 1898 that
34 there was a lot of opposition. There were a lot of
35 people complaining about, and, you know, they were used
36 to eating caribou, and they don't want any reindeer,
37 but that all changed, you know, in 100 years it
38 changed. And I'm sure the same thing's going to happen
39 with musk oxen, so just be patient and let's see if we
40 can work out some of these issues.

41

42 And thank you for a very good meeting.

43

44 Something you've got, Chuck.

45

46 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I just
47 wanted to say thank you to everyone as well. We
48 appreciate your input and we'll take what we've learned
49 here and your recommendations back to the Board.

50

1 And as a follow up, if you go to our
2 website, there is a link for our facebook page. I just
3 looked it up to make sure it was there. So that is
4 what we're trying to get information out to the younger
5 crowd. We have not a lot of followers, but if we get
6 the link out, hopefully we can get some more.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Do you have anything,
11 Bob.

12
13 MR. LARSON: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
14 Chair. It's been a really satisfactory experience for
15 me to come here and meet you people and participate in
16 this meeting and forum, and hear your concerns. So I
17 want to thank you for being kind and making me feel
18 welcome. It's kind of out of my general area and away
19 from the people I run with, but it's been very nice.
20 And so thank you. And we'll get your work done, and it
21 will be done well, and I'll brief whoever is your new
22 Council coordinator for your next meeting. So thank
23 you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Is there anything
26 else.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, can we have a
31 motion to adjourn.

32
33 MR. SEETOT: So move.

34
35 MR. LOCKWOOD: Second.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Moved by Elmer.
38 Seconded by Scott.

39
40 MR. BUCK: Question.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All in favor say aye.

43
44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All opposed same sign.

47
48 (No opposing votes)

49
50 CHAIRMAN SMITH: We're adjourned.

1
2
3

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

