

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 March 10, 2010
12 9:00 a.m.

13
14 Members Present:

15
16 R. Weaver Ivanoff, Chairman
17 Mike Quinn
18 Peter Buck
19 Fred Eningowuk
20 Anthony Keyes
21 Peter Martin
22 Elmer Seetot

23
24
25 Regional Council Coordinator - Alex Nick
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Nome, Alaska - 3/10/2010)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Good morning. I'll call the meeting back to order. Before we get started, Alex Nick has an announcement.

MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. I am going to be giving you an 800 number for our office in Anchorage. I know that some of you will be trying to go back home today. Just in case you can't make it back I will provide a 800 number for our office in Anchorage. And the person you need to talk to is Durand, he takes care of Council travel. And I will provide you information on a stick pad -- stick -- sticky note and then I will be providing my 800 number as well and my cell phone number. What needs to be done is should you check out today and then try to get home, if you don't make it back then your laundry will have to be reauthorized. I have some contacts in Anchorage even after hours. So I will tell the front desk to make sure you have a room if you don't make it out.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you, Alex. We're on agenda item number 9, agency organization reports. So well have a report beginning today with the Office of Subsistence Management.

Ms. Armstrong.

MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Helen Armstrong. Yesterday at the end of the meeting I put on everybody's place, just passed it out to expedite and if people want to read it over the course of the evening, there's a letter that looks like this, says United States Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary at the top. And it's from Pat Pourchot and this is an update on what's happening with the subsistence review. And then there's a summary of the comments that he's received in his outreach. And once you read them, it's one side says this, one side says that, there's lots of polar opposites in there. And they kind of organized them that way so that you saw the differences of opinions.

1 He was at the Eastern and Western
2 Interior Joint Council meeting up in Fairbanks so I got
3 to hear him speak. And Mr. Pourchot said that they're
4 expecting to go back to Washington to talk to the
5 Secretary sometime in the near future, they didn't have
6 a date yet. And they're hoping to wrap this up fairly
7 soon.

8
9 And that's as much as I know, you can
10 read the letter and read the comments and if you have
11 any additional things you'd like to say then you --
12 there is a -- I don't -- I'm actually not sure if their
13 comment period is still open. They do have a website
14 on this page that says where you can go to read all of
15 the comments. And -- because this is just a summary.
16 Yeah. They did go out to a number of communities
17 around the State, they didn't get to as many as they
18 were hoping to, they got weathered out in a number of
19 places. But they met both in the Southeast all the way
20 up to Kotzebue. And then they had two meetings with
21 the Regional Council Chairs and I don't know if Weaver
22 wants to share anything, I was not at those meetings.

23
24 So I -- if you have anything more you'd
25 like to say about it. Weaver.

26
27 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yes. Thank you,
28 Helen.

29
30 Yeah, I attended both meetings with Pat
31 Pourchot and Mr. Elton, Washington, D.C. at -- in
32 Anchorage. And specifically we talked about the
33 Regional Advisory Councils and what we thought was the
34 strengths and the weaknesses. And it's pretty much
35 everything that was outlined here except there is one
36 area in the Regional Advisory Council that is not
37 listed on here and I would like to bring it up and that
38 is the Regional Advisory Council appointments. I think
39 it needs to be streamlined. The appointments go
40 through a long, lengthy process, they interview with
41 someone in the agency and then goes over to Washington,
42 D.C. for an appointment and this takes time. We're
43 facing right now two vacancies and those are getting --
44 and they're not filled mainly because of I think the
45 bureaucracy. And so I realize they're trying to keep
46 on top of it, but at the same time it's a lengthy
47 process and we really need to streamline the Regional
48 Advisory Council members' appointments. I suggested an
49 election of a sort, but that didn't go too well.

50

1 So I'm open for suggestions if any of
2 the Council members have any ideas at this time. But
3 even if we don't come out with a solution or a
4 suggestion, I think we should still go on record as
5 saying that the Regional Advisory Council appointments
6 should be streamlined and possibly appointed from here
7 in Alaska.

8

9 Any comments. Ms. Armstrong.

10

11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I just wanted to
12 make a note that the problem in that process is in
13 Washington D.C. which is why -- I understand fully why
14 you're saying it would be better if it could be in
15 Alaska because they -- those nominations go back to
16 Washington in, I think, June and we don't usually hear
17 until sometime in -- I -- you know, I don't know, it's
18 in December sometimes. It's really long and maybe by
19 this whole issue being elevated, you know, it's become
20 a little bit higher in the Secretary's office and, you
21 know, maybe they can improve that, I don't know. But
22 that is where some of the problem is. What happens
23 right now is people apply and then there are -- there's
24 a panel that's made up of people who know people in the
25 region and I believe they're all Federal employees on
26 the panel.

27

28 Pat, is that correct, the panels for
29 nominations are all Federal employees or not?

30

31 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yes.

32

33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think they have to
34 be Federal employees. So they do a review so it's not
35 just one person that's looking at them. And then that
36 -- they come up with recommendations, they have sort of
37 a scoring process. And then those go to the Federal
38 Board and then the Federal Board makes their
39 recommendations to the Secretary's office and then it
40 goes back there and it's always a mystery to me what
41 happens when things go to the Secretary's office.
42 But.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay.

45

46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:we have similar
47 problems, it's not just the nominations, we have
48 problems with our regulations when they go back there,
49 getting things to just go through, you know, because it
50 goes from one desk to another desk. And I'm not sure

1 how it all goes, it's a mystery to me, but anyway.

2

3 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Quinn.

4

5 MR. QUINN: Well, I think that's an
6 excellent idea, Weaver, streamlining the process and
7 bringing it back to Alaska.

8

9 Helen, how much of that process is
10 outlined in ANILCA and how much of it can we play with
11 at a more State level to streamline it?

12

13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'd have to look at
14 ANILCA. I do think that ANILCA -- Pat probably knows
15 better. Does it say that it has to be an appointment
16 of the Secretary?

17

18 MS. PETRIVELLI: Well.....

19

20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm going to -- I'm
21 looking, ANILCA's in here. So -- oh, it's in the.....

22

23 MS. PETRIVELLI:what it is, it
24 says that the advisory committees will be under the
25 Federal Advisory Committee Act. And the Federal
26 Advisory Committee Act was passed by Congress so that
27 there would be a fair and objective process of having
28 advisory panels because Congress was afraid agency
29 people would just pick the people that would think the
30 way they do and so they outlined the process and they
31 made an Act. And so that's why as Federal -- as
32 advisory committees to the Federal process, there's all
33 the guidelines and why there's a designated Federal
34 officer, but it's to allow advisory committees to be
35 objective and not just be agency -- handpicked by
36 agencies to have a certain viewpoint. So that's why
37 those agents -- because Congress passed this Act and
38 that's why it's kind of involved.

39

40 MR. QUINN: Well, does that Act mandate
41 that the Secretary of the Interior be the final one to
42 make the appointment for our -- for this.....

43

44 MS. PETRIVELLI: I think the Federal
45 yeah. Well, ANILCA gives the Secretary authority to
46 implement all the provisions of ANILCA, but they -- but
47 ANILCA said the Secretary has to follow FACA
48 provisions. So but ANILCA told the Secretary of
49 Interior that he's the one -- well, because technically
50 he's the one that makes all the changes, but he

1 appointed the Board and he makes the regulations. It
2 just gives the Secretary the ultimate responsibility.

3
4 MR. QUINN: Is there potential to bring
5 it down out of Washington, you know, how about the
6 Federal Subsistence Board be the one to appoint RAC
7 members. I mean I don't know if people like that, but
8 at least that brings it more into Alaska.

9
10 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: As far as I know --
11 I mean, there was a comment that went forward, it was
12 -- you presented that to Pat Pourchot. It may not be
13 summarized in here, but it is a comment that they
14 received and I think they're looking into it. It was
15 something that he mentioned, he came over and talked to
16 our office. We're -- we really don't have anything to
17 do with the review, it's all centered out of Pat
18 Pourchot's office. But he did come over to talk to us
19 and ask us did we have any ideas and he gave us a
20 little summary and that was something that he talked
21 about was streamlining that and the -- and getting the
22 regulations, proposed regs, and then the final regs
23 approved more quickly. So there is some interest in
24 trying to figure out better ways to operate.

25
26 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: And it's a real
27 opportunity right now, I mean, this is something we
28 could definitely propose. And there are changes might
29 be made, I really think once we streamline this process
30 then the vacancies should -- at least more people
31 hopefully will become more interested because of the
32 time, I mean, it takes six months or however long to
33 get appointment and then that -- that's an awfully,
34 awfully long time.

35
36 MR. KEYES: About a year.

37
38 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Sometimes even a
39 year.

40
41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Almost a year, yeah.

42
43 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: So yeah, streamline
44 and that's -- I think that's -- we should go on record
45 and write them a letter and it's -- it's part of the
46 review process so this is a real opportune time to do
47 it and say that we could streamline it. And I like
48 your idea of the FSB Board doing the actual or someone
49 here in Alaska doing the actual appointment so things
50 then move along. Although they do meet only what, two,

1 three, four times a year. If it can't be the FSB Board
2 then some kind of panel be established so that, I don't
3 know what, I'm just kind of speaking at the top of my
4 head, but at least if we do it here in Alaska and get
5 it finalized in Alaska so that we'll cut down the
6 bottleneck with the Washington, D.C. thing.

7

8 Ms. Armstrong.

9

10 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Just to clarify, the
11 Board meets -- they have two big meetings that are
12 multi-days for -- usually in January and then one in
13 May. But they also hold special meetings, they do meet
14 on this, they do meet on the -- to make
15 recommendations.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Uh-huh.

18

19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:on who should
20 be on the Councils. And then anytime there are other
21 issues, I mean, they've having a special meeting in
22 April on those fish proposals for the Yukon. So they
23 meet when they're -- when it's necessary. It's kind of
24 they look at what's on their plate and so it's not very
25 cut and dry really how often they meet.

26

27 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay.

28

29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I wanted to just
30 make another comment about the -- about people applying
31 to be on the Council. I think it's up to everybody to
32 try to encourage people to apply and you all should
33 feel free to encourage people you know in your
34 community or other communities, if you know people who
35 you think would be good on the Council to encourage
36 them to apply as well. And I think we need to do a
37 better job as well in trying to recruit, we the OSM,
38 and the Federal offices that are out in the regions as
39 well. Because we -- it is a problem, we're having too
40 many vacancies.

41

42 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yes. Mr. Keyes.

43

44 MR. KEYES: Yes, Mr. Keyes from Wales.
45 I've been -- while I've been on this Committee I've
46 been trying to talk to some individuals up in that
47 northern region where I'm from. The problem with
48 trying to get more individuals on our Advisory
49 Committee here is the -- it's the amount of the pay
50 that's holding them back from wanting to sign up

1 because I would -- you know, they would ask me how much
2 do you get and I don't -- you know, I don't really tell
3 them what I get, I just you'll get so much of this and
4 you'll -- you know, you'll have room and board and they
5 turn around and say it's cheap. I said well, at least
6 you'll be trying to help your community. It's a big
7 thing that's really targeting trying to get new members
8 on is the amount of the pay, that's what's the big --
9 biggest problem right now.

10

11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you for that
12 comment. I -- it has been a problem since the
13 beginning of the program and I know that's another
14 comment that's been made. And I don't know, I mean, we
15 just keep being told that they can't pay people, but
16 I'm not sure if there's another solution or not. It is
17 something that also went into the -- Weaver, did they
18 talk about at the Chairs meetings too?

19

20 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Well, the mention
21 was that they're -- they realize that it's all
22 voluntary and there's -- and it takes -- and it's time
23 consuming when there's a lot of proposals. And so
24 you've got to be prepared to put in a lot of time with
25 the amount of resource at hand to doing whatever. It
26 takes -- for people who work it's awfully hard for them
27 to be involved because of the time constraints. So
28 there was some mention of it and some discussion on it,
29 but it wasn't -- it wasn't heavy, but it was mentioned,
30 yeah. I really don't think a recommendation came out
31 that it should be a paying position, but it sounded
32 like it would be status quo.

33

34 But I would like to mention that in
35 addition to that if we could have consensus on the
36 appointments being streamlined and appointed here in
37 Alaska that would help out a lot.

38

39 Okay. Mr. Quinn.

40

41 MR. QUINN: Well, I'll make a motion
42 that Seward Peninsula Advisory Council recommend that
43 the appointment process be streamlined and preferably
44 brought into Alaska for -- to get the job done.

45

46 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: For appointments.
47 Motion on the floor. Do I hear a second.

48

49 MR. ENINGOWUK: Second the motion.

50

1 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Seconded, Mr.
2 Eningowuk. Thank you. Any discussion on the motion.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Hearing none,
7 entertain a motion for a -- question on the motion.
8
9 MR. SEETOT: Question.
10
11 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Question called for.
12 All in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.
13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.
15
16 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any opposed same
17 sign.
18
19 (No opposing votes)
20
21 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: And one of the
22 things that did come out too was that the composition
23 of the Federal Subsistence Board was heavily talked
24 about and there's discussion as all of you know the
25 Federal Subsistence Board is composed of Federal agency
26 directors that are appointed here in Alaska. And the
27 problem with that is that directors get into the
28 position, they stay one or two, three years, get
29 promoted or something and leave and then have to get
30 re-educated -- a new person have to get re-educated
31 because most likely they're from Wyoming, Montana or
32 someplace in the Lower 48 and really have no sense of
33 what Alaska's about, especially rural Alaska. And so
34 they would like to change the -- a recommendation came
35 out that the Federal Subsistence Board be changed to
36 add additional members from rural Alaska. The
37 recommendation is not precise, there are no that I
38 could remember any recollection of exactly how that
39 would be changed. But they're -- and it's something
40 that they're really taking a hard look at from what I
41 hear.
42
43 Do you have anything else to add in
44 regards to.....
45
46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's all on that.
47
48 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any questions,
49 comments from the Council.
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you for the
4 motion.

5

6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Mr. Chair. I
7 have one more item and then I'll be done. Yesterday we
8 talked about the -- doing a letter from the Council to
9 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. And
10 Art Ivanoff brought to my attention that if you look in
11 your -- in this book on Page 9 in the minutes, it's
12 about halfway down, that Mr. Ivanoff came to the
13 Council last -- at the last fall meeting and asked that
14 this letter be written. And I checked with the office
15 yesterday and the letter never got written, it just
16 simply fell through the cracks, nothing more, it wasn't
17 anything intentional at all. And so we're -- and we
18 had talked yesterday about doing a letter and then, you
19 know, this had come through, you know, before. So I'm
20 going to make my personal commitment to make sure that
21 the letter gets written this time.

22

23 And Polly Wheeler who's our deputy
24 assistant regional director for OSM talked to me then
25 about a couple of options that you might have and you
26 could do one or both of these or something different
27 too. She said you could write a letter to the Federal
28 Subsistence Board asking them to advocate on your
29 behalf. You could write a letter to Begich and I'm not
30 sure this was actually discussed, this was a
31 conversation I had separately with Art Ivanoff, but to
32 Begich and Murkowski and let them know that you're
33 concerned with the bycatch issue and that there's not
34 enough representation on the Council, the North Pacific
35 Fisheries Management Council. But you can't go so far
36 as to ask them to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Act, that
37 would be out of your purview of what you could do as a
38 Council. You could also write to the North Pacific
39 Fisheries Management Council which is what had been
40 suggested last fall that's on Page 9.

41

42 So I just wanted to know given that it
43 fell through the cracks last time what -- if you can
44 give me the guidance of what kind of letter you want
45 written, to whom and we'll make sure it happens and
46 send it to Weaver for signature.

47

48 MR. QUINN: Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yes. Mr. Quinn.

1 MR. QUINN: Well, I'll jump up here and
2 say that the letter we want to write is exactly
3 expressed in the last paragraph of Page 9 where we can
4 inform the National Pacific Fisheries Marine Council
5 that subsistence representation is not adequate and
6 respectfully request them to deal with the issue. So
7 it says right there what we could do and I guess that's
8 what we should do. And I think that we already had
9 made a motion and properly executed it to do such.

10

11 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I agree with that.
12 Any other comments. Mr. Nick.

13

14 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I take full
15 responsibility for not drafting that letter, but keep
16 in mind that your letter when it's drafted, it's going
17 to be going through a review at OSM level.

18

19 And the -- you know, when letters are
20 written Ann Wilkinson, if I remember correctly last
21 meeting in October explained to the Council that you do
22 have correspondence policy in the -- which is in the --
23 in your manual. I know that currently the manual is
24 being revised, I haven't seen the draft yet, how it's
25 going to look like in final -- you know, when it's
26 finalized and the final copy of your operating manual
27 will be made available to all the Councils in the State
28 of Alaska. And so what I wanted to mention and I think
29 Helen might agree is that all the correspondence except
30 between you and the Federal Board will be going through
31 a review process. And then when it's finalized then
32 it'll go forward. That's the only thing that I wanted
33 to mention on that.

34

35 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. All right.
36 Thank you very much.

37

38 Polly Wheeler did write -- it says
39 we've got three options. My feeling is that we do all
40 three, we've already -- we're already authorized --
41 we've already made a motion to write a letter to the
42 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to -- for
43 representation -- added representation. I would like
44 to do the above two also, write a letter to the FSB to
45 advocate on our behalf and also a letter from our RAC
46 to Begich and Murkowski. I think that's a pretty
47 strong message in itself.

48

49 MR. NICK: Yeah.

50

1 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Just a minute. Mr.
2 Nick.

3
4 MR. NICK: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I forgot
5 to mention that the RAC Chairs were involved with the
6 review of OSM, rather the subsistence management
7 program, not somebody, the management program and the
8 Chairs if you remember met with Pourchot and I think
9 there has been some recommendations brought up by the
10 Chairs from the whole statewide Chairs. And we don't
11 -- I can't speak for our Staff or Helen or anyone, but
12 as a DFO, either myself or whoever's coordinating this
13 Council will have to abide by the policies.

14
15 Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Ms. Armstrong.

18
19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: (Shakes head
20 negatively)

21
22 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Oh, I thought you
23 had something. Art. Do you have something to add.

24
25 MR. A. IVANOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.
26 My name's Art Ivanoff, Southern Norton Sound Fish and
27 Game Advisory Committee. I like the recommendation
28 about maybe using all three options. The only request
29 I'd make is maybe to expedite the process if that's at
30 all possible, just -- but I realize the constraints
31 that you work with. I also realize that there are two
32 other Federal RACs that also endorse this process. So
33 it's not like I were reinventing the wheel, there's a
34 Western Interior RAC as well as an Eastern Interior RAC
35 that also took action to this effect. So there. Did
36 you want me to elaborate.

37
38 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: No. Thank you, Mr.
39 Ivanoff.

40
41 Yes, it -- you know, it is a grave
42 issue, a critical issue with also the -- not only the
43 Arctic Kuskokwim, but also in Norton Sound area and it
44 affects the subsistence way of life and it has been for
45 a number of years. So we definitely need to have some
46 advocacy. And I really like the -- I think I like -- I
47 really like the idea of working with the FSB to
48 advocate on our behalf, writing them a letter to ask
49 for that and also Begich and Murkowski. And so we'll
50 do all three and -- if there's no objection from the

1 RAC members.
2
3 (Council nods affirmatively)
4
5 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The -- Mr. Chair.
6 I.....
7
8 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Ms. armstrong.
9
10 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:the other thing
11 Polly Wheeler had said is that the Board did write a
12 letter about the salmon bycatch issue so they have been
13 taking a stance on it. So I think it's worthwhile
14 writing to them, I really do.
15
16 If I could through the Chair ask Art a
17 question. Do -- I'm wondering if he has some language
18 that he wants to put in the letter or a sample of what
19 you'd like in there, it would just make it
20 probably.....
21
22 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: That is consistent
23 with other.....
24
25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right.
26
27 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF:organizations.
28
29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Or if you can get
30 that to me.
31
32 MR. A. IVANOFF: Well, Mr. Chair,
33 through the Chair. I -- again I'm looking at the two
34 other Councils that took action and I'm curious as to
35 what the status is on those. And I -- again maybe --
36 sure, we could help you with the language, we could
37 suggest the language, but I'm -- I guess I'm looking at
38 your process and I just know there's two other
39 organizations within the Federal system that have
40 endorsed this effort. So.....
41
42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I -- I'll make a
43 commitment to check into that and find out what
44 happened, if those letters got written and -- because
45 you don't -- you're not sure if they got written
46 either; is that correct?
47
48 MR. A. IVANOFF: Well, they were --
49 evidently there was action taken by the RACs, but again
50 it's a rigorous process that you have to follow. Again

1 I guess the recommendation we'd make is to see if we
2 could expedite the process and I'll just leave that
3 there.

4
5 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Well, I don't -- we
6 don't have any problem with expediting it and we have
7 no problem with writing a letter that -- from my
8 feeling right now and I think we've reached consensus
9 on that.

10
11 MR. A. IVANOFF: Yeah.

12
13 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: So it's just a
14 matter of putting it on paper. What we want to do is
15 that we be consistent with what's being requested from
16 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and to
17 Murkowski and Begich so that we're not out there in
18 left field. We want to be consistent with other
19 organizations that have written the letter, we want to
20 be consistent with other RACs that have written a
21 letter so that we're in the same page. Otherwise
22 they'll, you know, pick and choose and say there's --
23 you see what I mean?

24
25 MR. A. IVANOFF: Uh-huh.

26
27 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: That's all we're
28 asking from you is that you provide language so that we
29 have a consistent request.

30
31 MR. A. IVANOFF: Mr. Chair. The
32 Southern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee
33 did share with the group, I think it was in the
34 falltime, a letter that was generated and submitted to
35 Senator Murkowski. And I think there is the language
36 that suggest the tweaking of the Magnuson-Stevens Act
37 to make it work for the communities out here.

38
39 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So that letter's
40 already been given to the Council?

41
42 MR. A. IVANOFF: Yes, ma'am. It was
43 circulated again in the falltime.

44
45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Alex, do you have a
46 copy of that?

47
48 MR. NICK: We have a copy of the YK-
49 Delta.

50

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.
2
3 MR. NICK: And it was circulated among
4 the attendance and we.....
5
6 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. Does that
7 answer your concerns, Ms. Armstrong.
8
9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We'll -- I'm
10 assuming Alex can get us a copy, yeah.
11
12 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. That is what --
13 get the draft, see what it's like, forward me a copy
14 and then we'll go from there.
15
16 MR. A. IVANOFF: Yeah. And again I
17 guess I just want to stress -- I realize there's
18 consensus here, but I'm just curious as to whether
19 there's a way to expedite the process internally within
20 the OSM because it -- again they've got to go through
21 that review of communication and we're just trying to
22 figure out if we could again put this on a fast-track.
23
24 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We will do our best.
25 If -- I mean, and if you had something even
26 electronically it could go faster, you know, a letter
27 that you've got that -- to kind of base off of, then it
28 would go even faster. So maybe we can talk at the
29 break and.....
30
31 MR. A. IVANOFF: Sure.
32
33 MR. QUINN: Mr. Chair.
34
35 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Quinn.
36
37 MR. QUINN: How soon will the minutes
38 of this meeting be available.
39
40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's a question
41 for Alex. The transcript takes about 10 days to two
42 weeks and Alex writes the minutes from the transcript.
43 And I think he's required to do it within 45 days. So
44 whether it happens faster or not, he has -- I don't
45 know, he can speak to that.
46
47 MR. NICK: Through the Chair. Yes, we
48 are required to submit the draft minutes to our
49 supervisors within a time period and then we make it
50 available for review and then by our supervisor and

1 then our team, Regional team, and then we go forward
2 with providing it to whoever needs that or -- and for
3 your next meeting.

4

5 MR. QUINN: Okay. Well, can you give
6 me a more definite time frame, the earliest that a copy
7 of the minutes could be available, can you.....

8

9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I would say 60 days,
10 two months from now.

11

12 MR. QUINN: Well, where I'm getting at
13 is we're -- our process is constrained by the legal
14 requirements and the reviews and such, but Mr. Art
15 Ivanoff's process is not constrained by that. And once
16 the minutes are available our feelings are basically
17 public, certainly Mr. Ivanoff could take a copy of our
18 minutes and run with it in his own letter.

19

20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We don't need to
21 wait until the minutes are done to do the letter. So
22 we'll.....

23

24 MR. QUINN: Oh. Well.....

25

26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No, we don't need to
27 do that at all. I can work with Alex and -- in the
28 next two weeks.....

29

30 MR. QUINN: Okay. Okay.

31

32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:and can we,
33 Alex, make a commitment since this dropped off the
34 radar from last fall that we'll get a letter drafted --
35 letters, three letters drafted in the next two weeks?
36 And I'll work with Alex on it.

37

38 MR. NICK: I'll work with Helen on
39 this, but in the next two weeks we are going to be --
40 the coordinators are going to be dealing with our
41 Council nomination process stuff and our deadline to
42 submit your panel report which I think Pat mentioned it
43 a little bit there, about what happens. Well, maybe I
44 should. The way the Council process works is DFO who --
45 which is me or other coordinators or assigned DFO
46 facilitates panel meetings and works with the panelists
47 on the review of applications for Council membership.
48 And we also have deadlines to meet, you know, with our
49 supervisors. So I can get around that a little bit and
50 work with Helen, it shouldn't take very long to get

1 that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: That's what I was
4 going to say, you guys work it out together, work it
5 out in house because there's other Staff members
6 available for doing that kind of stuff as was
7 previously identified in the meeting -- in the minutes
8 of the last meeting. So I think just work it out and
9 get back to him and I'd.....

10

11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We'll get it
12 drafted.

13

14 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF:want to get
15 into the details.

16

17 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. No.

18

19 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay.

20

21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We'll get it drafted
22 within two weeks.

23

24 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay.

25

26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.

27 Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you.

30

31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's all I have
32 unless anyone else has any questions of OSM, that
33 concludes what I needed to report on. Anything?

34

35 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any questions,
36 comments.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Very good. Thank
41 you very much. Appreciate that report.

42

43 By the way, did you see a muskox
44 yesterday?

45

46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Not yet.

47

48 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yes?

49

50 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, I've seen them

1 but not today, not this trip, but.....

2

3 MR. QUINN: If you'd like to after the
4 meeting, I'll -- I can arrange it as long as you can
5 ride a snowmobile.

6

7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think -- where's
8 David?

9

10 DAVID: I'm right here.

11

12 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: David wants to see a
13 muskox. It's his first trip here.

14

15 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Well, I thought you
16 guys went out yesterday. No?

17

18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No, we didn't. No,
19 no.

20

21 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Oh, that's why I
22 asked. I'm sorry.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thanks again. Okay.
27 Then National Park Service, Ken Adkisson.

28

29 MR. ADKISSON: Good morning, Mr. Chair
30 and Council members. Ken Adkisson, National Park
31 Service. Most of the information that we've got to
32 convey to you this morning will be found in a couple
33 handouts. And these are largely a range of projects
34 that are being conducted with the -- you know, this
35 year and within the short future within the Bering Land
36 Bridge National Preserve. There are some that
37 specifically relate to wildlife, other relate to
38 cultural resource management and various other
39 management concerns. I would encourage especially
40 Council member Seetot, Keyes and Eningowuk to look
41 through that material. Much of it's been presented in
42 the villages at various other types of meetings with
43 the IRAs, Councils, and so forth, but they should
44 especially look through it, I think, and if they have
45 concerns or issues or comments I would encourage them
46 to, you know, contact our office. Some of this stuff
47 will be again, you know, gone through several times
48 with some of the communities, but it's all in there
49 basically in terms of projects.

50

1 What I would say about some of the work
2 that we are doing now of -- in terms of brown bears and
3 brown bear monitoring, this year our efforts will be
4 concentrated in Gates of the Arctic National Parks, we
5 won't be doing any actual fieldwork out here. The
6 other element to our brown bear monitoring is trying to
7 hopefully complete the protocol for monitoring brown
8 bears that's been developed by the Park Service and get
9 that wrapped up as part of our Arctic network inventory
10 and monitoring program.

11
12 This year we've also been working on an
13 interagency basis with moose largely up in the three
14 Park areas up to the north. We haven't done anything
15 down here this year. We will be participating in the
16 interagency efforts for the muskox and census that's
17 currently ongoing as well as composition work this
18 year. In terms of muskox the other big thing for us is
19 that multi-year project and you'll find an update on
20 Page 2 in the handout there of the -- the fancy one.

21
22 The other couple projects I'd like to
23 really bring to your attention are that the exclosure
24 project that we'll be developing as far as range
25 monitoring and range evaluation and we just came back
26 from a two day meeting of Reindeer Herders Association
27 and a meeting of various land management agencies that
28 participate or have a major interest in reindeer, you
29 know grazing and the reindeer industry out here. And
30 one of the things that we'll be doing is trying to make
31 sure to the degree that we can that our exclosure
32 projects intersect with and work with the projects that
33 are being developed by other folks such as the Natural
34 Resource Conservation Service, BLM and the University.
35 So and there's a little bit about that.

36
37 The other perhaps interesting one for
38 folks out here is the range study. And you'll find
39 basic information on the handout, but let me just say --
40 but in terms of the -- the question fundamentally is
41 that we're -- we've basically come to expect reindeer
42 to appear in the fall or caribou to appear in the fall,
43 you know, spend the winter in the area and then largely
44 leave the area in the spring for their calving grounds
45 on the North Slope. We're getting more and more
46 reports and there's more and more indications of
47 animals now that are spending the year, year round on
48 the Seward Peninsula. And one of the fundamental
49 questions is, you know, what are those animals, are
50 they, you know, wild reindeer, are they reindeer

1 interbred with caribou or is something going on with
2 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd that it's, you know,
3 significantly changing its behavioral pattern. And
4 that's what we basically want to look at and it's
5 summarized in here.

6
7 We have a little bit of money to begin
8 phase one of the project which is largely non-invasive,
9 overflights, photographing, doing some work like that
10 and especially trying to look at timing of calving as
11 there's some differences apparently between when
12 reindeer calve and when, you know, caribou calve and to
13 see if there's any indications within that information
14 that would lead us to think we've got enough to go on
15 to phase two. Phase two we will be consulting
16 especially with the villages and here's where you folks
17 might want to have some input too is that phase two
18 would be collection of genetic samples and other
19 materials and it would -- and collaring and because of
20 the work on the Peninsula versus say the way reindeer
21 are collared these days, largely at Onion Portage when
22 they -- when they're swimming across Kobuk River. This
23 would probably require some helicopter work and net
24 gunning to get the animals down to where we can work
25 with them. And that has caused some concerns among a
26 number of people. So I'd bring that to your attention
27 and we're not going on the phase two yet and probably
28 by the time we do get to phase two you'll have another
29 Council meeting and we'll be back discussing where
30 we're at with it.

31
32 And that's basically it unless you've
33 got questions.

34
35 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Questions from
36 Council.

37
38 MR. QUINN: Oh, I had one.

39
40 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Quinn.

41
42 MR. QUINN: What happened with the
43 beaver dam at Serpentine Hot Springs and the water
44 backing up into the -- potentially into the bathshed
45 and the.....

46
47 MR. ADKISSON: Do you want to address
48 that a little bit or -- where we're at with the
49 question of the contamination. Basically the beaver
50 dam just sort of fizzled out, turns out there weren't

1 any beaver there. And that's not probably part of the
2 main issue with what's going on with the damming up or
3 the shift in the waterflow through there. So the
4 beaver there are apparently downstream from that now
5 and it's not causing -- they're not upstream where we
6 thought, where the old dam was or -- and it's not the
7 big issue. So basically it's not a beaver issue right
8 now.

9

10 MR. QUINN: Okay.

11

12 MR. ADKISSON: However let me say one
13 thing, there are some other -- there are some other
14 largely geardian (ph) and some issues out there and I
15 don't know if you want to mention that at all or the
16 water quality issues that we're trying to address.
17 Just for people that go out there, I mean, quick.

18

19 MS. POMRENKE: Well, we have sent out a
20 couple of public notices to Shishmaref, Wales and
21 Deering and then we've had.....

22

23 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. For -- sorry.

24

25 MS. POMRENKE:them in town.

26

27 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: All right. Before
28 you start for the record.....

29

30 MS. POMRENKE: Oh, Jeanette Pomrenke,
31 National Park Service. The coliform bacterial issue
32 is, you know, fecal matter within the water source
33 there. They are doing genetic testing on it to make
34 sure it's not human waste, but they're -- it most
35 likely is animal waste since the outhouse and other
36 things are built at the runway. So they are doing
37 tests, we haven't got those results back yet, but the
38 preliminary information is that it's not human. The
39 part that is mostly contaminated is the little stream
40 that's created to put water into the bathhouse, it's
41 kind of a runoff ditch. And over the years people use
42 the bathroom right off the deck, they do some things
43 that, you know, you should use the outhouse for around
44 the cabin. So we've kind of -- we've posted some signs
45 reminding people that -- to please use the outhouse,
46 don't dump honey buckets in the area of the hot spring
47 itself.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 MS. POMRENKE: I'm just -- and then,
2 you know, if you have a animal carcass in the river.
3 If you could go -- take it on your way home and kind of
4 dump it, you know, somewhere away from the hot springs
5 that would be nice. The other thing is sometimes we
6 get bear issues when there are carcasses left in the
7 cabin or right outside the cabin. So just for people's
8 safety, we just put up a reminder that -- and to take
9 your trash out, last year we had a big issue with
10 people leaving garbage outside the cabin and it just
11 was blown everywhere. And so we put up the reminder.
12 I think it's going to work out well and the Shishmaref
13 people called and complained about a few of these
14 issues and we've had meetings with them. So we're
15 trying to without using law enforcement way of doing
16 things, kind of remind folks that they need to keep it
17 clean, please be sanitary and that kind of thing. But
18 the water issue is -- I'm hoping it's not human. And
19 we'll know, we'll put out a public service announcement
20 again once those test results come back.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any questions.

25

26 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yes. Mr. Seetot.

29

30 MR. SEETOT: During this maybe even to
31 the Park Service or to the agencies, we do have fires
32 and whatnot during the summer and then Seward Peninsula
33 being close proximity to the Interior, it does send out
34 invasive insects or insects that are not -- that do not
35 originate around this area. We had some kind of like
36 beetles or wasps that did go into our area, I think
37 about four to six years ago due to that immense fire in
38 the Interior.

39

40 I'm just kind of wondering if Bella
41 has, you know, inventory of all their plants and then
42 trying to see if any other invasive plants, you know,
43 do come from the winds that originate in the Interior.
44 We did kind of run into something like a beetle and
45 then also wasp with yellow legs that were kind of
46 foreign, you know, to our area. So that was one of the
47 things -- that's some of the conflict where we're kind
48 of concerned about invasive insects or plants that do
49 arrive, you know, in one way or another.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: Yes. Mr. Chair.
4 Council members and Mr. Seetot. As part of our Arctic
5 network inventory and monitoring program we continue to
6 expand our understanding of the resources out there and
7 we've got a fairly comprehensive, you know, listing of
8 plants.

9

10 The Park Service also has an invasive
11 plant program and we do some monitoring in relation to
12 that at some key areas and, of course, places like
13 Serpentine Hot Springs are always the -- one of the
14 major things where you have aircraft flying in and out
15 and it's a potential source of introduction from
16 things. We haven't identified any problems yet, but
17 that doesn't mean that something won't happen and most
18 of the focus has been on, I think, potentially human
19 largely, you know, introduced species versus those that
20 are, you know, coming about maybe natural, climate
21 change and shifts in systems and stuff. But yeah, it
22 -- you know, we'd be interested in looking at anything
23 if you happen to catch any of those critters or
24 anything and stick it in a box or something, we'd be
25 interested in probably looking at them. Unfortunately
26 insects is probably one of the least known aspects of
27 the resource out there that we've got.

28

29 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. Thank you.
30 Other questions, comments, Council.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: You mentioned the
35 brown bear monitoring program, are you doing that in
36 cooperation or partnership with other agencies or is
37 this all National Park Service and what area, is it
38 just in the National Park Service area?

39

40 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council
41 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. In
42 terms of the brown bear monitoring, it's largely
43 something that we're developing in conjunction with the
44 University and some biomatricians and so forth. But in
45 terms of bear counting most of the projects that we've
46 actually done to date have been interagency and most of
47 them have been concentrated in the Noatak River area,
48 the Upper Noatak, the Lower Noatak and a couple of
49 years ago we completed a count along with ADF&G out
50 around the Red Dog Mine as a follow-up as -- because

1 the only other real count that we had from that area
2 goes back quite a few years. Several years ago we've
3 did a brown bear count on -- in the Bering Land Bridge
4 National Preserve and some adjacent parts of 22E. And
5 that data is still being mulled over and, you know,
6 worked with as part of the analysis that's going into
7 development of the protocol. But hopefully the biggest
8 thing with the protocol is it will provide a cheaper
9 method of developing brown bear counts. And a lot of
10 people, for example, ADF&G, have expressed a lot of
11 interest in it and are urging us to finish up the work
12 on the protocol. Because basically the idea being is
13 that it'll use a method of counting the bears that
14 don't require like mark, recapture and so forth like
15 that. And so while it may not be as accurate in some
16 respects, it'll be easier to duplicate and easier to
17 repeat and give us better information over a longer
18 period of time with more intervals of, you know,
19 monitoring. And so sometimes statistically that works
20 out better in the long run for developing trend data.

21

22 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Keyes.

23

24 MR. KEYES: Yes. Mr. Keyes from Wales.
25 When do you start your bear observation counting or
26 when -- at what month do you start and how long does it
27 take for you to start counting these bears because they
28 start coming out in April, right about the second week
29 of April?

30

31 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, I don't really
32 have a lot of information on that right at my
33 fingertips because I really don't do it, but my general
34 feeling is that most of that stuff's done usually in
35 June and July. And in the past it's been -- you know,
36 it's highly intensive, highly costly and I don't have
37 the hours and things like that, but especially if
38 you're going to do mark, recapture, you've got to do it
39 over a period of time, several years, you know, and it
40 requires actually, you know, getting the bears,
41 immobilizing the bears and even the more simpler counts
42 that we're trying to work with now generally require
43 several aircraft and several teams and maybe a week of
44 intensive work.

45

46 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any questions. Yes.
47 Mr. Eningowuk.

48

49 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, this is Fred.
50 Just a comment on your surveys on the bears in June and

1 July. The community of Shishmaref would like to limit
2 flying during that time because that effects our spring
3 hunting.

4

5 MR. ADKISSON: Heard you loud and clear
6 and that's -- we'll both definitely take that into
7 consideration and haven't in the past for out there.
8 Although I can't really tell you -- I'm thinking the
9 last bear work that we did out there may have been a
10 little later in the year than that. But, you know,
11 that issue has come up like on a number of projects and
12 we've tried to work very closely with the community to
13 schedule the timing and stuff to avoid that coastal --
14 much aircraft use along the coast at that time.
15 So.....

16

17 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes, this is Fred
18 again. And that should include the surveys of the
19 muskox also.

20

21 MR. ADKISSON: I would encourage you to
22 report any concerns that you have when you have them to
23 the office because we have worked with the Kotzebue
24 area Staff that's largely conducting that and in some
25 cases we've had to be pretty insistent about how they
26 do their work and stuff. So, you know, we're
27 definitely trying and that doesn't mean we succeed
28 every time, but I think we're aware of the problem and
29 we're trying to do the best we can to try to, you know,
30 balance the concerns. And I for one have told them
31 sometimes that, you know, it's better to not get a few
32 animals maybe than to cause problems on the coast.

33

34 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Anything else.

35

36 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes, just a quick
37 comment on that. Marcy Johnson out of Kotzebue has
38 been very good on informing us on when they are going
39 to be flying in our area.

40

41 MR. ADKISSON: Thank you, Fred. I'll
42 pass that on to Marcy and, you know, that's the goal
43 that we're trying to achieve as well as reduce the
44 impact of the folks that are out there trying to make a
45 living and feed their families.

46

47 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Further questions,
48 comments.

49

50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Hearing none, thank
2 you very much. Continue with the Bureau of Land
3 Management, Tom Sparks.

4
5 MR. SPARKS: Tom Sparks, BLM, Nome.
6 I'll keep it short and follow the paperwork reduction
7 act, I don't have any papers for you.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 MR. SPARKS: Geoff Beyersdorf was here
12 yesterday, he's the biologist for the Anchorage field
13 office and he did a couple of projects I should
14 probably mention to you folks. There was a moose
15 survey done in 22A in November, it involved some local
16 hires as far as being observers. And pretty good news
17 there, he gave me some numbers, there were 447 animals
18 counted, 131 bulls, 280 cows and 34 calves so things
19 are looking better, Weaver, down in your neck of the
20 woods.

21
22 Geoff was involved in 22B and C counts
23 just this last week, that's why he was in town. And he
24 flew today down to Koyuk, the weather was pretty good
25 and they're doing some muskox counting currently. The
26 weir for Unalakleet, the funding got approved. That's
27 something also down your neck of the woods, Weaver.

28
29 We're still involved in a land
30 transfer, but it's certainly winding down in the Bering
31 Straits region, we closed Stebbins Native Corporation
32 this last fall, late fall, and we just gave the
33 remaining 5,000 acres to Elim Native Corporation so
34 they've also been closed out in terms of their ANS (ph)
35 entitlement and that's 11 out of 17 for the region.

36
37 And we're going to start a new land use
38 plan, the one that is currently in place was the Kobuk
39 Seward Land Use Plan that was completed a couple years
40 ago and we're starting one that affects just the
41 Southern Norton Sound, that's Unalakleet South and it's
42 the Bering -- it's BSWI (ph) for short and they're
43 going to try to update the Unalakleet wild and scenic
44 river plan as part of that. So, Weaver, that'll
45 probably get kicked off this spring and that's
46 something else that hopefully you will be involved
47 with.

48
49 Other than that we're processing
50 permits. There aren't any new special rec permits as

1 far as big game guides although we have renewed some,
2 but there's been none that have come forward that are
3 new. And we've been presenting that the last few years
4 to you guys.

5
6 So that's basically it unless there's
7 some questions.

8
9 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Seetot.

10
11 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Sparks. Does on the
12 reindeer grazing permits, do you review them or do you --
13 or does the paperwork pass through you or in that
14 capacity?

15
16 MR. SPARKS: Yeah. Through the Chair,
17 Mr. Seetot. The -- there's three land owning
18 governmental agencies that are involved with the
19 reindeer permitting business, if you will. That's the
20 National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management
21 and the State Department of Natural Resources. And the
22 three agencies have a memorandum of agreement whereby
23 they split the permits up according to who owns the
24 most land so that the herders don't have to go get
25 three permits. And so BLM is the lead agency for five
26 of the permits and the Park Service I believe has four
27 or five. Ken, I'm going off of memory here. And then
28 the State has the remainder.

29
30 And as far as the BLM, we do annual
31 monitoring on the ranges and what we are looking for is
32 the critical species of the winter lichen areas. So we
33 use the mapping that was done many years ago by the
34 Natural Resource Conservation Service, they've mapped
35 the Seward Peninsula, they've developed ecosite types,
36 you might have heard some of that. But what we do is
37 we go and we look at the winter lichen areas and then
38 there's a process that Natural Resource Conservation
39 Service developed about how to read the area. So we
40 try to determine the use of the lichen. And that's
41 really the critical limiting factor in terms of ranges
42 out here. And this last year we did quite a bit of
43 work up in the Wales area and the northern part of the
44 Peninsula.

45
46 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Follow-up, Mr.
47 Seetot.

48
49 MR. SEETOT: The only reason I asked is
50 that with the current Teller Reindeer Herd around the

1 -- on public lands, we -- I am also concerned about
2 land use in the south, Unit 22D Southwest because that --
3 I think that's been heavily overgrazed. The reindeer
4 herders/owners are not very active in, you know, moving
5 their reindeer to better grazing grounds. It's just
6 that two years ago in heavy snowfall where the tussocks
7 were visible all those areas were, you know, touched in
8 one way or another by the reindeer. And then they --
9 you could see, you know, where they really dug in. So
10 that's been a heavy use area for the reindeer. It's
11 also a heavy use area for migrating birds, swans,
12 ducks, whatever, that go -- pass through there.

13

14 And then that -- I was just still
15 concerned that -- I always meant to present that to the
16 Port Reindeer Herders Association on that part, i.e.,
17 me and the director don't get along too good because of
18 that issue, you know, just because I speak out on
19 certain issues some of the things that reindeer herders
20 don't want to hear from me is certainly true, you know,
21 they just kind of shrug it off and say, you know,
22 that's part of their business. I know it's part of
23 their business, but we do also use land, you know, as
24 being residents of a certain subunit and I think that's
25 one of the major pitfalls is that the reindeer herders
26 are not really taking responsibility for permits or for
27 lands that they use for grazing areas for their
28 reindeer because there are other spacious within that
29 area that use the same resources. And then -- and if
30 those resources are gone those resources are going to
31 move to a different place.

32

33 The one major fact, I guess, is that
34 wolf predation on the reindeer. We've been trying to
35 go after that wolf so he'll -- he's been pretty smart
36 and he's kind of -- at least that wolf pack is eating,
37 you know, better than I do. So that's been our main
38 goal over the past five years is trying to get to that
39 wolf pack. But, I mean, certain animals that's in the
40 wolf pack, you know, but they have a way to escape most
41 of the hunters. So that's a problem that I kind of
42 see, Unit 22D Southwest being overgrazed, you know, by
43 the current herd.

44

 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Sparks.

47

48 MR. SPARKS: Through the Chair. Just a
49 comment. We have seen some areas within the -- it's
50

1 Julia Lea, it's the old Kawerak herd, but Julia Lea is
2 currently the owner. We have seen some areas on BLM
3 lands where it's classified as a graze class five which
4 is a threshold that has given BLM some concern. And
5 we're trying to work with the herders to address that.
6 The Natural Resource Conservation Service does have an
7 incentive program that they've been attempting to
8 formulate grazing management plans with the herds to
9 identify areas that need a rest and to try to move the
10 animals away from that area. But, you know, to answer
11 your question directly, we have seen areas. Some of
12 the problems that we are having is as you know a lot of
13 the reindeer herds have gone away from the caribou
14 migration and in those areas up in the Noorvik Range
15 and so forth we've seen areas where, you know, it's
16 just not reindeer, it's probably more caribou where
17 that interaction is. So we've been trying to limit the
18 areas to where we know that it's primarily reindeer.
19 But and that's not the case everywhere we go certainly.

20

21 MR. SEETOT: Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Other questions,
24 comments. Mr. Quinn.

25

26 MR. QUINN: You mentioned commercial
27 land use permits and hadn't been any new ones. As
28 someone who holds a sport com seat on this RAC, I'm all
29 for legal commercial use of the lands.

30

31 MR. SPARKS: Uh-huh.

32

33 MR. QUINN: However I want to emphasize
34 legal. And every year you hear stories and rumors of
35 some of your commercial permit holders not doing things
36 that are legal or people who aren't commercial use
37 permits doing things on your lands. IN my opinion your
38 supervisors are lax in devoting enforcement dollars to
39 this area. And I've raised that issue before so I want
40 to raise it again and that needs to be improved.

41

42 MR. SPARKS: Through the Chair, Mr.
43 Quinn. You know, we have a law enforcement guy that's
44 in Anchorage, he comes twice a year. Last year I know
45 there was an individual that we heard of that was
46 operating out of Granite Mountain and we did
47 investigate that. You know, we are trying to get the
48 word out and certainly if we go to the State website
49 and see if there's a guide there who's not licensed
50 with us or doesn't have a permit with us, but if you

1 know of someone directly that's out there operating,
2 you know, please pass the word on because we do take
3 that as seriously as we can. But our law enforcement
4 guy has been here a couple of times this last year and
5 he had a plane as of last year and funding made that, I
6 guess, go away so I'm not sure how he's going to get
7 out, if he's going to use commercial services or not.
8 But again I guess I'd emphasize to you that if you know
9 somebody out there that is operating without a permit
10 we'd certainly like to hear about it because we want to
11 make it a level playing field for everybody.

12
13 And thanks for that comment, Michael.

14
15 MR. QUINN: Uh-huh.

16
17 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any other questions,
18 comments.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr.
23 Sparks.

24
25 MR. SPARKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Take a 15 minute
28 break. I don't see Tony Gorn, I'm not sure if he's
29 planning to attend. Anybody know if he's flying
30 or.....

31
32 MR. QUINN: I happened to speak to him
33 this morning and he said his assistant, Via (ph), was
34 supposed to be here to give this presentation, but that
35 was at 8:30.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Is there any way to
38 contact?

39
40 MR. QUINN:when he said that.
41 Somebody could call the office and.....

42
43 MS. BUCKNELL: I'll call the office.

44
45 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. Would you,
46 please. Take a 15 minute break.

47
48 (off record)

49
50 (On record)

1 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I'll call the
2 meeting back to order. We're currently waiting right
3 now for Tony Gorn or his assistant to give a report.
4 In the meantime we'll continue on. Sue Bucknell has
5 some presentations to make at this point.

6
7 Ms. Bucknell. For the record, state
8 your name and affiliation.

9
10 MS. BUCKNELL: My name is Susan
11 Bucknell, I work for Fish and Game in Kotzebue for the
12 Board Support Division. And I don't have much, I
13 passed out this handout yesterday and it's just a
14 little about recent Board of Game and Board of Fish
15 actions and a current list of the Advisory Committee
16 members in the Norton Sound region, the same region for
17 the RAC just so you know. And I thought I'd also
18 comment that AC members also really complain about the
19 per diem they get for the State system when the travel,
20 they're not happy either. Apparently nothing can be
21 done about that. My admin people say tell your
22 legislator, that's who decides.

23
24 And just one other point is that there
25 is some Federal liaison funding between the Federal
26 Subsistence Office and the State Advisory Committee
27 systems. And that's what's let me do travel for Art
28 Ivanoff, for example, as an Advisory Committee member
29 to come to the RAC meeting or other Federal meetings.
30 So that's a good thing.

31
32 And that's about it. Mr. Chair.
33 Unless there's any questions.

34
35 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any questions.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Hearing none, thank
40 you. What we'll do is just continue on and once the
41 Department of Fish and Game from Nome arrives we'll
42 accommodate them if there's no objection from the
43 Council.

44
45 (No objections)

46
47 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Go on to the
48 organizations. Any other organizations. That would be
49 a good time, Mr. Art Ivanoff.

50

1 MR. A. IVANOFF: Mr. Chair. Members of
2 the Council. My name's Art Ivanoff, representing
3 Southern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee.
4 We did have a brief discussion earlier today in
5 reference to the call for seats on the North Pacific
6 Fisheries Management Council. And the concern we have,
7 I've seen so much representation, the lack of
8 representation with all due respect to Eric Olson from
9 Bristol Bay, he also works for the CDQ and basically
10 what we're looking for are representatives that have
11 one agenda and that agenda is the conservation and
12 protection of our resources that we depend on.

13

14 I just handed to you Senate Joint
15 Resolution 29. Senator Olson held a hearing yesterday
16 and about six people provided oral testimony basically
17 supporting the resolution.

18

19 Initially the concern we had was in
20 reference to bycatch. Again in 2007, 130,000 chinook
21 were harvested in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island.
22 Since 2003 through 2007 a total of 380,000 chinook
23 were harvested in the Bering Sea. I think this process
24 has sort of evolved, the concern now is the ecosystems
25 we depend on. And I think there -- well, there was a
26 session held in Anchorage on February 24th, 25th,
27 regarding the Northern Bering Sea research area. The
28 plan is to expand the 12 feet north of Saint Matthew
29 Island. And this is a significant concern for us
30 because of the dependence on marine mammals as well as
31 our fish resources. And at some point in time I think
32 it's necessary for the Federal RACs to perhaps take a
33 position on the Northern Bering Sea research plan. I
34 think it's a significant step toward -- for industry
35 toward expanding north and it may impact our villages.
36 What we heard are that there's certain sensitive areas
37 in the Bering Sea and there is potential for maybe
38 closing down certain areas to trawl fleet, but we felt
39 for the most part that the resources we depend on are
40 migratory in nature and the potential for impact is out
41 there still.

42

43 I'm looking at Arsnock (ph) salmon
44 stocks in Unalakleet and the fact that they've declined
45 dramatically, I think it was 2007 we had an escapement
46 goal of 1,200 kings, we had 900 kings make it up the
47 river system. Last year we finally met our escapement
48 goal, but we're not sure if this is an anomaly or
49 whether this indeed the stock are returning.

50

1 Again I shared with you SCR 29 and
2 we're hoping that tribes and Alaska Native
3 organizations will step to the plate to state support
4 for this. Right now we have about 18 organizations
5 that have endorsed us, two statewide organizations, AFN
6 as well as AITC have adopted a resolution or drafted up
7 a letter to that effect. AFN adopted resolution 09-35
8 which basically calls for a moratorium on moving the
9 line north of St. Matthew Island.

10

11 I think that concludes my report.

12

13 Mr. Chair. Any questions.

14

15 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Questions, comments.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: None. Thank you.

20

21 MR. A. IVANOFF: Uh-huh.

22

23 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any other
24 organizations.

25

26 MS. RAYMOND-YAKOBIAN: Thanks, Mr.
27 Chair. I'm Julie Raymond-Yakobian, anthropologist with
28 Kawerak here in Nome. And I just wanted to give you
29 guys a brief update on something that Art just
30 mentioned which is the northern Bering Sea research
31 area which is an area of the northern Bering Sea, I'm
32 sorry I don't have a map for you, from St. Michael
33 Island north to the Bering Strait. And this area has
34 been put off limits to bottom trawl fishing until the
35 National Marine Fisheries Service in conjunction with
36 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council can
37 develop a plan for the area.

38

39 And recently like Art mentioned there
40 was a workshop in Anchorage for rural community
41 residents and others to learn about this northern
42 Bering Sea research area. And one of the things we
43 learned about at that meeting is that the National
44 Marine Fisheries Service has bottom trawl surveys
45 planned for the northern Bering Sea for this summer.
46 That includes Norton Sound and the rest of the northern
47 Bering Sea research area. And it's something that
48 tribes and the public in general, I think, had not
49 really been aware of until just two weeks ago. And the
50 tribal representatives and Kawerak Staff that were at
this workshop were very concerned about this research

1 going forward without any additional tribal
2 consultation or other outreach to western Alaska
3 communities. Bottom trawling is known to be very
4 destructive to bottom habitat which a variety of
5 species including marine mammals people use for
6 subsistence, disrupt -- disruptive to their habitat.

7
8 And so what Kawerak is going to be
9 doing is and what the group formally did at this
10 workshop was request that National Marine Fisheries
11 Service postpone this bottom trawl survey research for
12 at least one season until they can -- the agency can
13 conduct more tribal consultation and community outreach
14 on what their plans are, what the purpose of the
15 research is and the implications it might have for
16 allowing commercial bottom trawling into that area in
17 the future. And so Kawerak is going to move forward
18 with a formalized request of that nature and is also
19 preparing some materials for region tribes to consider
20 and will be asking them to consider a resolution
21 stating the same thing, that they'd like this research
22 postponed until more consultation can be carried out.
23 And so that's something that should be going out in the
24 next week to region tribes so if you're interested in
25 getting in touch with your Councils back home about
26 that issue there should be more information
27 forthcoming.

28
29 And I just wanted to pass that on that
30 that's happening and we'll probably continue to evolve
31 and move forward before your next RAC meeting. And if
32 anyone needs more information or has questions they can
33 feel free to contact me at Kawerak.

34
35 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Questions or
36 comments. Mr. Eningowuk.

37
38 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, this is Fred
39 Eningowuk. Even though we're in different waters,
40 Shishmaref, we're in Chukchi Sea, we're not in the
41 Bering Sea, this will have an affect because that's
42 where our marine mammals spend their winter, travel
43 through. So even though it's not in our waters, you
44 know, it does have a affect.

45
46 MS. RAYMOND-YAKOBIAN: Mr. Chair. Just
47 to respond to that, I agree and that's one of the big
48 concerns that Kawerak and other communities have is
49 that the whole Northern Bering Sea research area which
50 like I said is from St. Matthew Island north to the

1 Bering Strait, is a very important migration corridor
2 for lots of animals as well as feeding habitat for a
3 variety of different marine animals and we know that a
4 variety of communities above the Bering Strait
5 including Shishmaref and others further north are
6 dependent on the species that utilize that area which
7 is why we're so concerned about bottom trawling in
8 general and also specifically the research they're
9 planning for this summer. So your Council will be
10 getting more information on that really soon too.

11

12 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Keyes.

13

14 MR. KEYES: Yes. Mr. Keyes from Wales.
15 I know it is a very touchy avenue here, you know, the
16 trawlers that are out there during the summer doing
17 their bottom trawling does damage a lot of bottom
18 vegetation which really stops our fishing that comes up
19 our way for us to get during the summertime. I noticed
20 this last summer our fishing season was the poorest
21 among all the other seasons that we've been having.
22 And on top of that we are -- up at Wales area we are
23 finding trawlers nets that are being washed up on our
24 beaches and also the strapping bands that they carry on
25 their boats, on their ships are laying around up on our
26 beach. And that's really affected our area at a great
27 certain amount, you know. It looks sad to ride up and
28 down the coast and see all these nets, straps, ropes
29 from the buoys, I don't know if they're coming off the
30 Japanese ships or just any ships that are up -- you
31 know, out there doing the trawling because every fall
32 from -- well, starting early fall to late fall we do
33 encounter having these cut up nets that they use for
34 trawling are laying there on our beach. And it's a
35 very -- biggest embarrassment to see something like
36 that because we do have geese that come flying and need
37 the beach for feeding. And we do have some seals that
38 do come up on the beach to rest. A few times I've seen
39 some seals all strung up with all these nets that are
40 being thrown overboard or just being just -- you know,
41 they're cutting them right off and they're just okay,
42 we'll use this ocean for the trash, nobody will know
43 it.

44

45 And also I'd like to make it clear
46 right now as to why Diomedes people are throwing their
47 trash on the ice because we are seeing their trash
48 washed up every summer on the beaches up in that
49 region. If we can get ahold of Diomedes IRA Councils or
50 any of their entities to stop throwing their trash on

1 the ice during the winter because that is another
2 greatest affect on our subsistence.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any questions,
7 comments.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yeah, I was one of
12 the people who attended the Bering Sea research plan
13 that was sponsored by National Marine Fishery Service
14 in Anchorage along with other tribal delegates all the
15 way from Toksook, I think it was, or Tuliak and
16 northward.

17

18 NMFS is reaching out at this point to
19 gain some community and public input on the Bering Sea
20 research plan, they're just developing it. As Julia
21 stated they plan to do the trawl -- begin to trawl --
22 begin the trawl surveys this coming spring in June.
23 Great concern by representatives who attended that
24 meeting from the villages was that during that period
25 of time there's a lot of things going on in the spring,
26 the herring are spawning, the juvenile chinook are
27 coming out of the streams, the marine migration has
28 started, identified species is walrus, whales, seals,
29 everything that comes funneling through and travels up
30 north including the beluga. So all of these resources
31 will be affected to some extent by trawling. They're
32 planning on doing 140 points in Norton Sound of where
33 they trawl 140 places in Norton Sound is pretty much
34 X'd out on the map and it's pretty much the whole area.
35 So the real concern then is the conservation -- it's
36 conservation and that is specifically -- that would
37 affect our region is the
38 juvenile salmon. Currently we're facing a crises
39 regarding chinook salmon escapement, chinook returning
40 and also chum. Nome's facing the same problem with
41 other species of salmon. And for them to come in and
42 trawl without regard to potential affects or impacts,
43 negative impacts, on the juvenile salmon was really
44 unacceptable by the delegation that attended.

45

46 So it's a real critical -- I think it's
47 a real critical issue at this point. NMFS is willing
48 to open their ears and work with the tribes. And Julie
49 stated it very well is that the request is being --
50 going to be made that they delay the research planned

1 until tribes are consulted. And that's the whole thing
2 is people didn't know about the plan until two weeks
3 prior to the meeting. And so it's a brand new thing up
4 in the air. So and I think that request should be
5 consistent, I'm not sure if this Council could take a
6 position on that because of some constraints in regards
7 to that, perhaps Staff can answer that. But I really
8 would like to because it would affect subsistence
9 resources, the marine mammals, the fish, the crabbing,
10 herring, I mean, you name it, whatever's out there.
11 And basically they just want to come in and see what's
12 out there and it's being funded by, I think, if I'm --
13 industry and then the government, but I'm not sure.

14
15 MS. RAYMOND-YAKOBIAN: Mr. Chair. The
16 summer -- the research planned for this summer is
17 National Marine Fishery Services, NOAA sponsored.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay.

20
21 MS. RAYMOND-YAKOBIAN:research,
22 but there is research planned in the upcoming years
23 that would be both industry and Federal agency
24 sponsored, but for this summer it's just NMFS.

25
26 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: NMFS. Okay. Thank
27 you.

28
29 MR. BUCK: Yes, I'm Peter Buck from
30 White Mountain. The past two years in White Mountain
31 the -- we've had a water survey study being done by the
32 IRA in White Mountain. And in the two years that they
33 conducted this water study the water temperature did
34 increase one-tenth of a degree. So it's -- whatever
35 affects the water, you can -- it'll affect the
36 microscopic stuff in the rivers and then it's going to
37 affect the -- it's going to affect the fish. So these
38 studies need to be done, they -- so I'd encourage the
39 studies, different organizations to get together and
40 compile all these studies together so that we can have
41 some to work on.

42
43 MR. MARTIN: Peter Martin, Sr.,
44 Stebbins.

45
46 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Martin.

47
48 MR. MARTIN: Before I came here for
49 this meeting I got a brief -- just a brief review of
50 these trawler thing from one of the guys that attended

1 the meeting in Anchorage. But before that we had just
2 gotten -- we're in a potluck and during the potluck one
3 of the members mentioned to me about the trawlers and I
4 didn't know anything about that. They wanted me to
5 bring this issue up here in this meeting, they wanted
6 to find out more about these things that are going on.
7 They -- it certainly is going to affect our subsistence
8 in our communities and also for our commercial
9 fishermen in this region. I appreciate that these
10 things are going to be done and I'd like to have more
11 input from the public. I know there's a lot of concern
12 now that it's out in the newspaper. And I would like
13 to -- we'd like to know more about these and so that
14 the representative that went up to that Anchorage
15 meeting can send this information out to our IRAs and
16 maybe to Kawerak.

17

18 And I appreciate Mr. Ivanoff, Art, for
19 presenting that resolution too.

20

21 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr.
22 Martin. Do you have a comment, Mr. Ivanoff.

23

24 MR. A. IVANOFF: Again Art Ivanoff,
25 Southern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee.
26 We're looking at the trawl to do basically a survey
27 about what's out in the Bering Sea, but the plan is to
28 move north and it's all because of climate change. I
29 think there's a regime shift that's occurring out there
30 with the resource. And the concern is looking at the
31 last 30 years the harvest rate of pollack was in the
32 neighborhood of 800,000 metric tons to 1.2 million
33 metric tons. You -- and if you round it off to pounds,
34 one -- well, 800,000 metric tons is 1.6 billion pounds.
35 And I think it's a significant chunk of a ecosystem
36 that's being taken out of the ocean and I -- again I
37 think the resource is like our dependent, there's a
38 connection and if you take one element out you're going
39 to see a crash in the other resources. And that's a
40 concern Southern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory
41 Committee has and obviously we're planning to meet on
42 March 15th and this is one of the topics on the agenda
43 and we will take action. We're formulating developing
44 a letter right now to Eric Olson, the chairman of the
45 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and we don't
46 agree with expanding the line north of St. Matthew.

47

48 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr.
49 Ivanoff.

50

1 The question then to the Council I
2 would say is writing a letter to National Marine
3 Fisheries, NOAA and be consistent with the other
4 organizations and tribal representatives who attended
5 that meeting with NOAA and requesting that they delay
6 the research project for a year until tribal
7 consultation or community input is gathered. And I
8 guess the question then would be in what form would
9 that letter -- if it's a possibility could -- but I --
10 you know, because it affects their subsistence
11 resources in the Bering Sea as well as affecting the
12 Chukchi Sea because of migration on birds, fish and
13 marine mammals I think it's something that we
14 definitely need to take a stand on.

15
16 MS. Armstrong.

17
18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
19 Chair. I'm -- I hope if I am wrong people will give me
20 forgiveness, but I am relatively certain that that's in
21 your purview to write such a letter and I will make
22 sure that it happens, it doesn't fall through the
23 cracks.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Uh-huh.

26
27 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:like the last
28 letter did.

29
30 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. Is there
31 consensus or a motion is needed? Consensus would be
32 okay. Is there any objection to writing a letter to
33 NMFS and -- to delay trawl fishing? Hearing no
34 objection it will be so ordered.

35
36 (No objection)

37
38 Thank you very much. Do you have
39 anything else to add Ms. Yakobian?

40
41 MS. RAYMOND-YAKOBIAN: Yeah, Mr. Chair.
42 I would just offer.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you, Allen.

45
46 MS. RAYMOND-YAKOBIAN:I don't
47 think any correspondence has been officially written by
48 any organization at this point in time because this
49 meeting just happened, but I would be happy to forward
50 the correspondence that comes out of Kawerak and any

1 resolutions that we obtain to you for consideration in
2 your letter writing.

3

4 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you. Do you
5 have anything else, anything else to respond?

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. Any other
10 organizations that would
11 like to give a report?

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Hearing none, other.

16

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I guess there's no --
21 if there's no other organizations, there's no other
22 either. I'll take it as that and conclude then the
23 agency and organization reports and I thank you all for
24 that and very quickly and efficiently moved on.

25

26 So go on to number 10, Council
27 business. Any Council business, please.

28

29 Mr. Quinn.

30

31 MR. QUINN: I've got two issues I wish
32 to bring forward and I'd like Helen and Ken to sit down
33 if possible while I bring these up.

34

35 Okay. Ken, you mentioned, must have
36 been back when we were discussing muskox proposals that
37 there's potentially a Muskox Cooperators Group meeting
38 coming up in November. I want to thank you for your --
39 the effort you've put into the Cooperators Group in the
40 past, but I'm not sure that that is any longer a proper
41 avenue to direct wildlife management. This RAC and the
42 State AC are the two legally created entities to give
43 public advice to the Federal and State management
44 agencies on wildlife management in our region and thus
45 any public advice should come through either this RAC
46 or the AC or both.

47

48 At a time when we ain't got enough
49 money to fund what we do here, I think in a lot of
50 people's eyes, or enough money to do what we do at the

1 State level, our AC has complained of -- I'm on the AC
2 for the northern Norton Sound, has complained of not
3 enough money to do the job properly. Funneling money
4 into a third entity for the management of one species
5 in this region takes money away from us. I see some
6 problems with the way the Cooperators Group is managed.
7 First of all you're the Chair, but you're a Federal
8 employee. No other advisory entity in this State has a
9 government employee as the chair. The Cooperators
10 Group has no elected or appointed members, it's just
11 whoever shows up at a meeting and on top of that
12 government entities pay for people to show up at that
13 meeting. Depending on who the government entities wish
14 to pay for, I think you could make the point that
15 they're -- that the results coming out of that meeting
16 is biased. There are no official minutes because the
17 meet -- since the meeting has no elected or appointed
18 members it's not run according to Robert's Rules of
19 Order. So even though I hear Tony Gorn who one way or
20 another ends up with most of the responsibility for
21 managing muskox in this region say well, the
22 Cooperators Group said they wanted to do it this way,
23 there really are no minutes to go back to and see that,
24 in fact, that's what was done. Now I realize that -- I
25 think the last meeting was either recorded or Magdanz
26 was there and he took notes or something. But, you
27 know, it's just -- it's not official.

28
29 I think we're at a point with muskox
30 where this RAC and the AC are perfectly cape -- and --
31 well, the other -- the Southern Norton Sound AC gets a
32 little bit of muskox habitat and stuff to comment
33 on and the -- an AC or two up around Kotzebue is
34 involved in the Unit 23 Southwest and then the --
35 what's the RAC north of us, Northwest Arctic RAC is
36 involved, you know, but there's enough -- it's not such
37 an overwhelming group of RACs and ACs to comment on
38 this stuff that it can't be done that way. So, you
39 know, I'd like to see things done legally through our
40 RAC and the AC. Now, you know, if you guys still think
41 that there's some practicality to that meeting, okay,
42 but what comes out of that meeting should not go to
43 managers, it should go to the RAC or AC or both and be
44 approved or not approved by those two entities because
45 we are legally created, you know.

46
47 Well, so that's my problem with the Cooperators Group,
48 it's -- you know, I'd like to see the money spent on us
49 and on the AC and the work done through the legal
50 channels that have been legislatively created. So you

1 guys can comment on it or not, you know, that's just my
2 little spiel on the Cooperators Group.

3

4 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Response, Mr.
5 Adkisson or Armstrong.

6

7 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, I would just offer
8 some background is all I can say at this point on it.
9 I understand the points that Mr. Quinn is making, but,
10 you know, what I can tell you is that that group does
11 not get a tremendous amount of financial support
12 relative to things like the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
13 group. And that sort of limits what we can actually do
14 and how we can, you know, get it.

15

16 I don't know how many of you remember
17 back to 1994, '95 when the first muskox and management
18 plan was put together and we're still operating with
19 that one by the way. That was basically put together
20 by agency people, there was some organizational
21 representation on it like Bering Straits Native
22 Corporation, NANA. There was very little village
23 representation on it. Basically a plan was put
24 together that really didn't address subsistence, but
25 provided for some harvest at the time. Proposals came
26 out to go to the Board of Game and recommendations to
27 establish a hunt. The Board of Game decided that, you
28 know, they would -- that there was no subsistence on
29 it, on muskoxen and proceeded to establish a standard,
30 you know, open hunt, \$500 registration fee and so
31 forth.

32

33 Kawerak largely went to the Federal
34 Subsistence Board with a request for a C&T. Helen
35 mentioned actually working on that first one. That was
36 a very hard fought fight let me tell you and that the
37 Federal Board, not unanimously, did find a positive C&T
38 and set up a Federal hunt which basically sucked up all
39 of the allowable harvest. That basically set the State
40 and the Federal systems at odds and everything that
41 happened for the next several years again was really
42 tough and constant management actions that came out of
43 like the Federal Subsistence Board were constantly
44 challenged with requests for reconsiderations. And
45 some of the problems were so contentious and so
46 difficult to work with that this kind of system just
47 didn't seem to be working, frankly.

48

49 And so what basically happened was
50 trying to put together an ad hoc group that increased

1 the village representation and begin to sit down and
2 try to work through some -- and where necessary bring
3 in outsiders depending upon what the issue was and to
4 begin to try to develop a consensus based process
5 within that group that could develop recommendations,
6 yes, that would go the Board of Game or the Board of --
7 the Federal Subsistence Board, but at the same time
8 also for economic reasons many of the people who came
9 to the cooperators were made up of people who either
10 sat on an AC or sat on the Federal RAC. So it wasn't
11 like these groups, you know, didn't know what was going
12 on.

13

14 After the consensus recommendations
15 were developed those basically were brought back to the
16 RACs and to the ACs and the basic process there was to
17 make sure they understood what was going on and
18 determine if they were comfortable with the
19 recommendations that came out of the cooperative group.
20 They were free to endorse them, reject them, develop
21 their own at that point. In many cases the
22 recommendations were supported by the ACs and by the
23 RACs and that made life very simple in going to the
24 Board of Game or the Federal Subsistence Board. There
25 were some cases which Tom Sparks would remember, I
26 think, very well, maybe you if you were there and I
27 can't really remember now, but when the first effort to
28 broaden some of the C&T determinations came up, this
29 was basically the action that ultimately resulted in
30 Nome Gate having -- acquiring C&T determination for
31 that eastern part of 22D. The cooperators attempted to
32 address that, they were unable to reach a consensus and
33 basically we back to the AC and to the RACs and said,
34 you know, we tried dealing with this issue, you know,
35 we couldn't reach consensus, you know, we tried,
36 couldn't get it, here's the result, you know, it's up
37 to you guys, we -- there's not much more we can do with
38 it.

39

40 What we have found is that compared to
41 some things, that process has worked amazingly well and
42 resolved a number of really contentious issues and has
43 resulted in a fairly uniform system of joint
44 management. It's not perfect by any way and means, but
45 I think it's probably been one of the single most
46 effective tools that we had, as imperfect as it is, in
47 really advancing this process of joint management,
48 trying to expand opportunity to additional user groups
49 and still maintain, you know, some protection of the
50 subsistence priority as appropriate. You know, whether

1 or not it's, you know, outlived its usefulness or
2 whatever is hard to say. You know, we struggle we ways
3 to do it, but, you know, it would cost magnitudes of
4 money, probably more, to develop, you know, all the
5 charters and the rigmarole that the bureaucracy that
6 goes along to support it. That's one of the reasons
7 for trying to bring recommendations back to groups like
8 this. And our results, I think, have been that where
9 we can gain consensus, the whole process moves along a
10 lot more effectively and I think more people are
11 satisfied with the outcome. And I would, you know,
12 point out that consensus doesn't mean it's always your
13 first choice, even your second choice or your third
14 choice of what the outcome is, it's whether or not you
15 can live with it and are willing to support it.

16
17 You know, it is what it is and, you
18 know, we're open -- I think, ADF&G and, you know, the
19 other agencies that participate in it are open to, you
20 know, thinking about different ways of doing it, but,
21 you know, I think it has been effective in resolving a
22 number of issues that I'm not sure would have been --
23 if they're just dropped on a group like this almost,
24 you know, out of nowhere and addressed within a short
25 time of a -- develops a consensus or not. You know,
26 and usually what some of these systems produce frankly
27 are winners and losers. And in the long run that
28 doesn't seem to be the -- produce sometimes the best
29 results. And we have been able to mold a system that
30 works, I think, to better integrate the State system
31 with the Federal system and I think it's worked to, you
32 know, conserve the resource, operate within the
33 guidelines of the management plan and as I say because
34 we've been blessed with an expanding population and
35 stuff, provide increasing opportunity. But, I mean,
36 that's the way the reality of it works and, you know,
37 we're open to, you know, suggestions and we'd be
38 willing to do that and we would encourage everyone
39 who's interested to participate in it.

40
41 Some of the things whether or not
42 they're questionable or not, I don't know that I would
43 want to rock the boat. I mean, you know, I'm hearing
44 that, you know, people from the villages and things
45 have -- you know, people are unhappy with the AC
46 system, you know, people are unhappy with the RAC
47 system, sometimes the way it works, whether they --
48 their per diem and so forth, and all we've attempted to
49 really do is try to broaden especially the village
50 participation. And we generally try to schedule

1 meetings that coincide with either a RAC meeting or an
2 AC meeting so we can get -- and include those members
3 into the group so we can get other agencies sort of to
4 foot the bill or for part of it at least as part of the
5 process where people, you know, if we needed more will
6 go out and find a way to get people to come in and
7 participate. And we've generally left it up to groups
8 like the IRAs or the Village Councils and stuff to try
9 to help select the people that come. So that may not
10 be a total, absolute election, but, you know, it's a
11 way of broadening the input into who does come. And
12 the doors have always been open to anyone to come in
13 and participate if you have an interest. A lot of the
14 actions that are taken come out of small group work
15 sessions and, you know, if you have an issue you're
16 welcome to come and participate in that, it's never
17 been a closed door process and it's never like, you
18 know, you elect somebody and yeah, maybe that's the
19 majority, but what happens to the minority and so
20 forth. So it's -- in a way it's almost actually more
21 democratic, I guess, but that's another story.

22

23 Thanks.

24

25 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Ms. Armstrong, do
26 you have something to add.

27

28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I just wanted to
29 comment that OSM is not involved in the cooperators and
30 nor are we participants in things like the Western
31 Arctic Caribou Herd management meetings. We have
32 occasionally sent people to be observers, but we don't
33 get -- we don't engage in the actual deliberations of
34 what's happening. OSM's always taken the stance that
35 it should be done on a local basis -- local regional
36 basis and that we are -- that's not part of our purview
37 to get involved in regional discussions.

38

39 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Quinn.

40

41 MR. QUINN: I want to say I quizzed
42 Polly on that and she said that they have put money
43 into the pot to have the meetings.

44

45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think they have
46 put money into the pot, but we haven't been engaged in
47 the discussions and participated and providing opinions
48 as to what we think should be happening.

49

50 Isn't that correct, Ken? No.

1 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, Ken Adkisson, Park
2 Service. Yeah, I would say by and large, I mean, OSM,
3 for example, has offered at times to, you know, I
4 believe even helped put money into some of the surveys
5 and things, like the census that are flowing, but, I
6 mean, their budgets are tighter and I'm not sure they
7 do that much anymore, they kind of leave it up to the
8 individual Federal agencies that -- the land management
9 agencies. I've already pointed out, for example, and
10 I'll, you know, give you just one thing. Okay. Let's
11 say we were going to have a co-op meeting tomorrow.
12 Okay. OSM would pick up the travel for the RAC members
13 to come into this meeting and maybe we would work out a
14 deal with -- A, either they might be able to extend it
15 for a day to allow them to participate in this the same
16 way, you know, the State through their system allowed
17 Art to come here and, you know, address the group and
18 participate. You know, they're willing to maybe make
19 that -- you know, extend the travel by an extra day to
20 allow someone to participate. You know, sometimes we
21 work out hotel arrangements, lodging, feeding
22 arrangements which don't always satisfy people either,
23 but it -- it's the best we can do and do that. So it's
24 very much a mix of State and Federal effort and try to
25 economize and everybody as much as they can sort of
26 share the financial burden of it where we can do it.
27 And OSM, you know, has on occasions, especially in the
28 early days when things, I mean, were really horrible,
29 when we were trying to sort out like the first ANS
30 amount needed for subsistence determination. They did
31 send representatives to, you know, at least come and if
32 not participate at least, you know, be there in an
33 advisory capacity or a.....

34
35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right.

36
37 MR. ADKISSON:provide advice as
38 to what kind of options were open and things like that.
39 I would say that by and large the last few years
40 there's probably been less active participation by OSM
41 than there was in the early days, but things -- you
42 know, maybe that's not necessary because, you know,
43 things had been working relatively well. So, you know,
44 I think OSM has really reduced their presence quite a
45 bit.

46
47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And the presence, I
48 think, had always been in an advisory capacity, not in
49 come -- trying to persuade the cooperators that they
50 should have, you know, particular C&T or that they

1 should -- you know, who gets how many permits. They've
2 never been involved in those discussions at all.

3

4 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Anything else. Mr. Quinn.

5

6 MR. QUINN: Okay. I've got -- we'll
7 move on to my next issue.

8

9 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay.

10

11 MR. QUINN: Some of these Federal hunts
12 or seasons require us to get a Federal permit, I've
13 participated in these and gotten Federal permits. A
14 guy who wants to go hunting in an urban area can pretty
15 much walk into either a government office or a private
16 vendor seven days a week and get a permit. His ability
17 to go hunting whether that's -- legally, his -- which
18 we all have to do or we get in trouble, his ability to
19 go hunting exists seven days a week, whenever he
20 decides he's ready to start. Okay. We don't have that
21 ability here. The Federal permits are only available
22 in certain Federal offices on the days that they're
23 opened which is normally seven or, I'm sorry, 40 hours
24 a week, normal business hours. Of course, Federal
25 holidays those offices are closed and there's no
26 recourse to get those permits on days that the Federal
27 offices are closed. I'm not sure what exists in the
28 villages, but I think it's similar because often
29 permits are handed out through either an IRA or city
30 office that also is just mostly open on -- during
31 business hours. I'm sure the small nature of a village
32 allows people to track down someone maybe if they
33 really need to, but the point I'm getting at is I think
34 we need more accessibility to these Federal permits for
35 the people who are required to use them. And I'm
36 wondering if there's other avenues we shouldn't explore
37 to give these permits out. You know, the first year I
38 got a muskox permit I had to get it through the mail,
39 through the BLM office for the particular unit I was
40 wanting to do it in. And then this year I was able to
41 get it right in the BLM office and I've gotten permits
42 in Ken's office. But, you know, if it's Friday at 5:00
43 and you just got off work and then all of a sudden you
44 remember oh, gee, I was going to run down and shoot
45 that muskox I heard about on Federal land or moose
46 season opens Monday or whatever, you know, or -- you
47 know, sometimes you're stuck waiting. So I'd like to
48 see some improvement in the accessibility.

49

50 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council

1 members. Ken Adkisson.

2

3 I can't get a driver's license unless I
4 go to the DMV in the hours when they're open. I mean
5 that's just a fact and the hours when they open are
6 basically determined by their budget and their staffing
7 levels, you know. And I think that, you know, the
8 regulation booklets come out well in advance, generally
9 it tells you who you need to go to to get a permit. So
10 I, you know, think there's some responsibility on the
11 part of the person seeking a permit to sort of work
12 with that. All of that said I would say, you know,
13 there's some variation between the different agencies
14 that are involved in the process. Our goal is that if
15 you need a permit is to see you get a permit and we
16 will try to do what we can to accomplish that. It
17 varies from village to village, it varies from, you
18 know, hubs. Frankly the only issue that's occurred for
19 Park Service in Nome is that really that 22D East
20 muskoxen and I don't think you have a problem getting a
21 permit from us. If you would have called and said hey,
22 my hours are such and such, I can't get down there, you
23 know, we would have explored other options with you, be
24 it faxed to your work fax or, you know, whatever. I
25 mean, you know, we use the mail, we use faxes, we take
26 requests and information over the phone and sometimes
27 heaven forbid, send out a tentative permit to a
28 village. But it is -- you know, they do have to
29 provide certain things and in some cases that requires,
30 you know, proof, for example, maybe a State hunting
31 license. And we'll send a tentative thing to them
32 maybe with a contingency that they fax back a copy of
33 their license or whatever.

34

35 So I think, you know, all of the
36 agencies work a little differently depending upon how
37 they're structured, but I think that overall the goal
38 is to get people the permits that they need. And, you
39 know, we're flexible enough to try to work with people
40 and meet individual people's needs and we just need to
41 know what those needs are. And if we don't succeed at
42 first then maybe there's a good reason why we can't
43 immediately give somebody a permit, but we'll sure try
44 to work with them to get them one as soon as feasible
45 by whatever method works.

46

47 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you.

48

49 All through.

50

1 MR. QUINN: (Nods affirmatively)
2
3 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Fine. All right.
4 Any -- are you -- that concludes your.....
5
6 MR. QUINN: Yeah, that's the two issues
7 I was going to raise.
8
9 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. Any other
10 Council business.
11
12 MR. KEYES: Yes, I.....
13
14 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Keyes.
15
16 MR. KEYES: Mr. Keyes, Wales. I would
17 like to put in a request for our RAC and the Yukon
18 River RAC to meet up at one time or another and maybe
19 we could learn quite a bit off the Yukon people and we
20 could trade information. And I think if we were to do
21 something like that we would be a lot more stronger at
22 making proposals, you know, targeting the right ones
23 such as fishing because sooner or later we are going to
24 be in the same ball as the Yukon River is right now,
25 having problems with fishing. I think it would be a
26 good idea to meet with the Yukon River people too.
27
28 Thank you.
29
30 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Ms. Armstrong.
31
32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We can certainly
33 take that request forward. What the Eastern and
34 Western Interior Council did was they had the -- the
35 first day of the meeting was a joint meeting so they
36 could talk about joint issues. And then after that
37 because -- I mean, obviously you're not going to want
38 the whole meeting to be joint, but -- because you're
39 going to have to take action on proposals that have
40 nothing to do with them and vice versa, but that's the
41 way we worked it with the Eastern/Western. One time a
42 number of years ago they had a joint YK/Eastern and
43 Western meeting. I think they did that -- it was when
44 they had fish issues that they had to deal with. And I
45 think because you have -- you always weigh in on those
46 fish issues, but -- because of Stebbins having C&T on
47 Yukon River fish, but I don't know that you get the
48 same level of information that goes perhaps to some of
49 those other Councils. So it would be good if we had
50 some of those issues again to maybe have those joint if

1 we can work it out, you know, in terms of time and
2 making sure everybody can come. It becomes more
3 complicated the more people you get to a meeting,
4 getting everybody together on a particular date, but we
5 could that concern forward.

6

7 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: So what, the
8 procedure to do that would be to make a request to OSM
9 Staff and then that would be ported onto whoever would
10 decide based on a budget?

11

12 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I would say you
13 would probably want to do it when you had some
14 particular concern.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Uh-huh.

17

18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:so maybe when
19 we see what proposals come forward on fish in this
20 upcoming cycle, there might be some that are proposals
21 that would concern you as well and that might be an
22 opportunity. I think just to meet might be -- you
23 know, just because you want to meet, but there's no
24 particular reason might be harder to convince them of
25 that because it would be more expensive because you'd
26 have to have -- I don't know whether we'd do a joint in
27 Anchorage or a joint in -- you know, if we did one in
28 Bethel, you know, or Nome, you know, then you're having
29 people fly farther. So.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Uh-huh.

32

33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:they'd have to
34 have some justification I believe in order to convince
35 them to do a joint meeting.

36

37 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay.

38

39 MR. KEYES: I'll start walking.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Dog team time out.
44 And it seems to me that would be coordinated not only
45 with the RAC coordinators, but also with the RAC Chairs
46 because there are -- you know, if we could communicate
47 -- I communicate every now and then with Lester, not a
48 great deal, but at the same time we do -- there would
49 be some joint common issues that we would like to face
50 to talk about. And I think that's a really good idea,

1 but then again I think it could be coordinated pretty
2 well with the Chairs between two RACs in setting up
3 such a meeting. And that's a good idea, Mr. Keyes.

4

5 Mr. Nick.

6

7 MR. BUCK: A few years ago the.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Oh, Mr. Buck.

10

11 MR. BUCK: Peter Buck, White Mountain.
12 A few years ago the RACs in all of Alaska met together
13 in Anchorage and that was really informative. I think
14 that we -- I know I'm over there, but how did that come
15 about.

16

17 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm trying to
18 remember. I remember that we had the all -- everybody
19 together. And I know that has come up through the
20 subsistence review of -- another thing that was
21 mentioned was having training be for all members,
22 especially new members, at one time, everybody gets the
23 same training and then they -- we get to have some
24 dialogue. But I think that when we did that it might
25 have been when we were.....

26

27 MS. PETRIVELLI: FIS.

28

29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Oh, that's what it
30 was. Okay. Pat remembers. It was when we started the
31 fisheries management program, when we took over
32 fisheries management in 2001.

33

34 Thank you, Pat.

35

36 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. Very good.

37 Mr. Nick.

38

39 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 Members of the Council.

41

42 I came on board at the end of 2000.
43 Before I came on board at that fisheries meeting I
44 remember they brought in the RAC members from the whole
45 state. But for Yukon RAC members, rather RACs which is
46 YK, Western Interior and Eastern Interior, they had
47 fishery concerns at one time and they brought in all
48 three RACs to meet in Wasilla. And they call it tri-
49 council meeting. And the reason was because what we
50 have in Yukon River is we have what's called fisheries

1 coordinating committee consisting of RAC members from
2 all three Councils. But that is now on as needed
3 basis, it's not as active as it used to be. I think
4 the recommendation came from that group and the RACs
5 coordinator -- fisheries coordinating committee members
6 and then they dealt with fishery issues. And it
7 started out as a -- rather they had one day set aside
8 for coordinating fishery committee meeting and then
9 they had tri-council meeting in Wasilla for three days.
10 And they had their regular fall meeting at the same
11 time. And at the end of the meeting -- the request
12 could come from this group to meet jointly and the YK
13 Chair's already aware of that because if I remember
14 correctly on October 1st this idea came up from one of
15 your members last fall.

16
17 So we could work on that if, you know,
18 you request to do that.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Nick.

23
24 And that would be contingent upon the
25 issues that we're facing and if indeed we need to
26 develop something that would provide justification for
27 such a meeting. And again as I stated earlier, I think
28 that would be best served by a coordinator as well as
29 the Chair of the two RACs in trying to -- if indeed we
30 do want to formulate a joint meeting, that could be
31 done in such a fashion, so that's an orderly fashion
32 and a procedural fashion too. But I think the idea is
33 good and I think there's a lot of merit in it and it
34 gives a real good chance to jointly address some of the
35 issues that concern us.

36
37 Mr. Martin, you had a comment.

38
39 MR. MARTIN: I'm Peter Martin, Sr.,
40 Stebbins. I think a joint meeting is a very good idea
41 and it's -- I have gotten a call from Yukon for us to
42 write a support letter or support. and I've -- last
43 summer I got a call from Mr. Harry Wilde that he needed
44 some support on a fishery concern. And I directed him
45 to Mr. Ivanoff, I don't know if he called him, but he
46 sure needed a good idea concerning the fisheries. And
47 one of the issues too that in my region down here in
48 22A remainder, we -- the people are starting to go down
49 in the Yukon to get some moose and I understand that
50 we're allowed what, two moose now. I think that would

1 be a good idea to have a joint meeting with them. And
2 so that other issues will be coming up.

3

4 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr.
5 Martin. Ms. Armstrong.

6

7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I just wanted to say
8 if I'm remembering correctly, you had a joint meeting
9 once upon a time with the Northwest Arctic on muskox
10 issues. No?

11

12 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah. No, I think
13 that's probably when it was. I was trying to reach
14 back, it's been so long ago, but the Northwest Arctic
15 and the Seward Pen RACs did meet in Anchorage and I'm
16 thinking it was about the time we were kicking off some
17 of the muskox hunting issues. And at that time it was
18 primarily a Federal issue, but it basically involved
19 the Seward Pen and Buckland/Deering area from the
20 Northwest Arctic. And as well as -- there were I think
21 some caribou issues, you know, because caribou, of
22 course, migrate across the whole range. And so there
23 were some bag limit issues and some other things that
24 people felt that it would be very beneficial to, you
25 know, get to know all the Staff, get to know the other
26 people on the RACs, you know, share experiences, find
27 out where the common issues were and maybe try to
28 develop a broader based regional approach to some of
29 these issues. And, you know, my recollection is it was
30 -- went fairly well, but, you know, those were special
31 circumstances, like I said too we were trying to
32 resolve some, you know, thorny issues and get basic
33 agreement so that we didn't, for example, go to the
34 Federal Board with the Northwest -- on a muskox issue
35 where the Northwest Arctic was really opposed to
36 something the Seward Pen wanted or vice versa.

37

38 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Very good. Sounds
39 excellent, Ms. Armstrong. Anything else to add.

40

41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: (Shaking head
42 negative)

43

44 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. Anything else
45 on the issue.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Anything else on
50 Council business.

1 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Ivanoff.

2

3 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yes. Mr. Seetot.

4

5 MR. SEETOT: I'd like to comment Fred
6 and I don't know, Mr. Adkisson, they do a pretty good
7 job of going up to Teller and Brevig of issuing Federal
8 permits, sometime we have -- kind of round up these
9 people. One advance, I think that the muskox issue is
10 that these animals are humongous, these animals are new
11 and not being hunted like reindeer or caribou or moose
12 in our area. So this is something that we're kind of
13 taking a look at. The permits are there, it's just
14 getting the people to be interested in the muskox.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr.
19 Seetot. Anything else Council business.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I do have two
24 issues, not issues, but they're just kind of
25 housekeeping. I'd like to request to attend the
26 Federal Subsistence Board meeting that's upcoming in
27 April formally. If there's any objection I'd like to
28 hear that now. If not it'll be so ordered.

29

30 Any objection, any.....

31

32 (No objection)

33

34 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: And in addition to
35 that I would also like to have at least one or two
36 alternates should I not be able to make it. And those
37 things happen because, you know, in April and May
38 there's a lot of hunting going on and the seal and it's
39 just a lot of things happening so that sometimes that --
40 you just got to take advantage of the weather
41 otherwise you miss out completely.

42

43 So I'm asking for volunteers for two
44 alternates should I not be able to go. The first one
45 who speaks. Did you have your hand up first?

46

47 MR. MARTIN: Contact -- you can contact
48 Stebbins Area Council, phone number 934-3456. And the
49 other one is my son's number, home phone, 934-2524. Or
50 to the office.

1 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Seetot.
2
3 MR. SEETOT: I think if you fail to go
4 I would think Mr. Quinn or Mr. Buck would be able to
5 go, just a line of succession, you know, the officers.
6
7 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: In regards to the
8 officer.....
9
10 MR. SEETOT: Yes.
11
12 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF:that's a very
13 good idea. Thank you.
14
15 MR. SEETOT: That's what I would
16 recommend.
17
18 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay.
19
20 MR. QUINN: That's acceptable.
21
22 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Acceptable. Okay if
23 there's no objection -- is there objection from the
24 Council in regard to that succession of officers as
25 alternates?
26
27 (No objections)
28
29 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you. In
30 addition to that, let's see. Oh, in regards to the
31 Alaska Department of Fish and Game we did not hear a
32 report from Tony Gorn nor his assistant. If Sue or
33 someone from Alaska Department of Fish and Game, if we
34 could get a written report from Mr. Gorn and submitted
35 to the Council members that would be greatly
36 appreciated. It doesn't have to be something that's --
37 that he has to write, fresh annotations from annual
38 reports or something, but if he has something that's
39 already written there or if not he could put it on
40 paper, but definitely would like to see what's
41 happening in the region with the Alaska Department of
42 Fish and Game and would appreciate it if they could
43 forward that in written fashion.
44
45 Okay. Thank you.
46
47 In addition to that we -- I just got
48 through talking with Lester Wilde about a half hour
49 ago, he's the Chair of the RAC of the Yukon Kuskokwim --
50 of the Yukon -- Lower Yukon area. And he just go out

1 of the hospital or he will be getting out of the
2 hospital and just a formal letter, writing to him, say
3 hope he's, you know, getting well and hope to see him
4 back in action again soon because he definitely is a
5 force as far as championing fishing rights and
6 subsistence right for the Lower Yukon River.

7
8 So, Mr. Nick, if you could write that
9 letter for us, I'd -- for the RAC to sign I'd
10 appreciate it. And I realize it's an additional duty,
11 but at the same time it's really an extension of our
12 concern for Mr. Wilde and I'd like to see him back on
13 his feet again soon.

14
15 And that's all I have and that would
16 conclude the Council business. And next meeting date.

17
18 Mr. Wilde. I mean not Wilde, Mr. Nick.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Wild Nick.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Nick.

27
28 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Maybe
29 I'll do better being Mr. Wilde today, but.....

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MR. NICK: Anyway the first thing you
34 need to do is to confirm your meeting date for fall
35 meeting. And last fall you chose October 13 and 14 in
36 Nome. That needs to be confirmed.

37
38 Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: The -- on Page 250
41 and you'll have the -- that's the October calendar --
42 no, that's August, September.....

43
44 MR. NICK: August to October.

45
46 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. I -- it goes
47 all the way to October 16, huh.

48
49 MR. NICK: Yeah, and there's one in the
50 back that goes February to March.

1
2 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yeah, that's for the
3 next winter meeting. Okay. Is everything marked off
4 after the 16th, you've got the window closes on October
5 15; is that correct?
6
7 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair, which one are you
8 referring to, fall or winter.
9
10 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: On Page 215 you've
11 got the fall 2010 Advisory Council meeting window from
12 August 30 to October 15.
13
14 MR. NICK: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this
15 Council chose October 13 and 14 last fall.
16
17 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay.
18
19 MR. NICK: In Nome.
20
21 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: All right.
22
23 MR. NICK: For fall of 2010. You need
24 to either confirm that or change it if you.....
25
26 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Oh, I see. I see.
27 We already chose a meeting date.
28
29 MR. NICK: Yeah, you did.
30
31 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: And that was October
32 what again?
33
34 MR. NICK: October 13 and 14.
35
36 MR. QUINN: It's there at the bottom of
37 the page, it says SP Nome.
38
39 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. I've got it.
40 13, 14, okay, in Nome. Okay.
41
42 (Council nods affirmatively)
43
44 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Any problems with
45 the Council members in regards to that date.
46
47 (No objections)
48
49 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. Sounds great.
50 And confirmed. Establish the winter 2011 meeting date.

1
2 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.
3
4 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay.
5
6 MR. NICK: For your information, Helen,
7 I will or somebody will need to help me on this.
8 Northwest Arctic chose February 18 for winter meeting.
9 YK's meeting will be February 22 through 24th in
10 Bethel. Eastern Interior meeting will be on March 1
11 and 2. Western Interior will be having meeting on
12 March 8, not 8 to 9. And Bristol Bay I believe is
13 going to be March 10 and 11. We have only two Councils
14 beside, I think Y -- well, three. What's the one up in
15 the -- up north.
16
17 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Arctic Slope.
18
19 MR. NICK: Yeah, I don't have that.....
20
21 REPORTER: North Slope, they're meeting
22 February 15.
23
24 MR. NICK: February?
25
26 REPORTER: February 15th.
27
28 MR. NICK: Okay. February 15 is
29 already taken. So and Southcentral and.....
30
31 REPORTER: They're meeting today.
32
33 MR. NICK: Okay. So you need to choose
34 winter 2011 meeting date and location.
35
36 Mr. Chair.
37
38 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: And because of the
39 logistics and everything else the dates that were
40 already identified cannot be chosen, right, I mean, we
41 can't put our name?
42
43 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.
44
45 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Can't overlap?
46
47 MR. NICK: I'm not sure if I understand
48 you correctly, but what we try to do is -- I think what
49 OSM tried to do is to keep two meetings a week within
50 the meeting window because of limited staffing.

1
2 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Uh-huh.
3
4 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.
5
6 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Ms. Armstrong, do
7 you have something to add.
8
9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The only meeting you
10 can't overlap with is the YK meeting because we have
11 Alex as the coordinator for both of those. And
12 otherwise we can work it out.
13
14 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. There is the
15 window of the last two -- well, 14th of March until the
16 24th of March.
17
18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: When is the
19 Iditarod, do you want to avoid the Iditarod too.
20
21 (Laughter)
22
23 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: When does it end.
24
25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I mean, I would love
26 to be here during the Iditarod.....
27
28 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: During Iditarod.
29
30 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:but I don't
31 know if we can get rooms.
32
33 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: But, you know, if
34 that happens we would have to make reservations today.
35
36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Today, uh-huh.
37
38 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Pretty much, I mean,
39 it doesn't have to happen today, but it would have
40 to.....
41
42 MR. QUINN: The first saturday in March
43 is the start of Iditarod, so that's March 5th.
44
45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's the start.
46 Okay.
47
48 MR. KEYES: Is -- that's the start in
49 Anchorage.
50

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.
2
3 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. You're
4 talking about festivities in Nome though, you're not
5 talking about the Iditarod race start in.....
6
7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No.
8
9 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay.
10
11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I just mean that we
12 couldn't get.....
13
14 MR. QUINN: Yeah, so you would go to
15 the.....
16
17 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mic.
18
19 MR. QUINN: So you would go to the
20 March 14th through March 18th week as being one of the
21 busier weeks here as normally if the rates -- race
22 starts on a Saturday the first musher to enter Nome is
23 on Tuesday night, Wednesday morning, nine days later or
24 so.
25
26 MR. NICK: So 14 and 15 or 17 and 18?
27
28 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: I like to keep away
29 from Friday, anything on the 14 to the 17th, anywhere
30 in there would be fine with me. I would -- personally
31 I would like 15 and 16, but that's up to the rest of
32 the Council too on your ability to attend.
33
34 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.
35
36 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Yes.
37
38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: My guess would be it
39 would probably only need to be a one day meeting,
40 that's my guess because it's only when we have wildlife
41 issues and this meeting was actually rather rare that
42 we had so many. I've been coming to this Council
43 meeting for many years and generally they're almost
44 always one day meetings.
45
46 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Uh-huh.
47
48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And we could adjust
49 it if it -- all of a sudden we had all these other
50 issues.....

1
2 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Well.....
3
4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:we could
5 increase it.
6
7 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF:we wouldn't be
8 able to adjust it because of accommodations, housing.
9 Okay. I mean if we do go we would have to plan either
10 it's a one dayer or a two dayer, I mean, it -- and
11 that's going to have to -- that would have to be it.
12
13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We could plan two
14 days and then shorten it, but yeah, you're right if we
15 plan one day and wanted to make it two it would be
16 harder. So pick two days and then we could shorten it
17 because I know those rooms will get filled up.
18
19 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. All right.
20 If that's the case I would recommend 15 and 16. Rest
21 of the Council members, any other recommendations?
22
23 MR. KEYES: I have no problem with
24 that.
25
26 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Seetot.
27
28 MR. SEETOT: I guess we have talked
29 about this in the past, it's just a matter to make
30 reservations, I guess, so it will -- to meet in Nome.
31 But with all the festivities going on in March.....
32
33 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Right. Exactly.
34
35 MR. NICK: We can do that way in
36 advance.
37
38 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. Yeah, other
39 organizations do plan for the same thing. So yeah,
40 let's -- we'll -- at this point and those things
41 change, we'll have to confirm the meeting date anyway
42 at some point in time at our next meeting possibly
43 anyway, right, and so if you run into complications
44 then some changes could be made, that's correct.
45
46 Okay. If there's no objection then
47 March 15 and 16 for 2011 winter meeting.
48
49 (No objections)
50

1 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Okay. So ordered.
2 Very good.

3
4 Closing comments. I'll start with my
5 right.

6
7 MR. SEETOT: This has been, I think, a
8 productive one. I just want to inform people that the
9 Port Clarence (indiscernible) station signal has been
10 turned off I think February 8th. President Obama
11 closed down pretty much all the 24 Coast Guard stations
12 within USA. I believe that signals emitting from the
13 tower interferes with the electronic or the brain of
14 the whales that do emit electronic signals to figure
15 out where they are. And then beaver activity has kind
16 of increased in our area and we're dealing with that
17 issue concerning -- especially concerning water quality
18 because, you know, this is a new thing for us that
19 Western Interior and the rest of the State has been
20 dealing with over the years. So that's information I
21 just wanted to put out.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr.
26 Seetot. Mr. Keyes.

27
28 MR. KEYES: I'm very thankful that I
29 made it down this way, this time of the year we start
30 getting foggy weather. Last year we got stuck here.
31 At this time of the year the majority of us RAC people
32 got stuck here. It was enjoyable, but I hope it
33 doesn't happen anymore.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 MR. KEYES: Thanks for letting me
38 attend and I sure appreciate all the input and all the
39 output that everybody had to say. It was a good
40 learning experience for this time -- this time around I
41 sure soaked in quite a bit and I sure appreciate
42 everything.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr.
47 Keyes. Mr. Buck.

48
49 MR. BUCK: Yes, the subsistence
50 activities are -- in White Mountain are governed a lot

1 by the ice conditions during the winter. So and the
2 ice conditions has been -- the ice has been thin the
3 last couple of years so that affects that.

4
5 Mr. Keyes was talking about the trash
6 and stuff in the oceans and I think he needs to go to
7 different organizations to get that accomplished
8 because White Mountain does have a clean up project,
9 they clean up the river from the -- up Fish River all
10 the way to the mouth and having the river cleaned and
11 the water studying done. And Golovin also cleaned up
12 their beaches down there so there are different ways to
13 get things accomplished for Mr. Keyes and try to clean
14 up.

15
16 And I thank you for this meeting.

17
18 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Eningowuk.

19
20 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah. This is Fred
21 from Shishmaref. I would like to thank this Board for
22 support of the proposals that was submitted by Tony
23 Keyes and myself. And never too old to learn, you
24 know, still learning the process here. And last spring
25 I believe was the first time in 15, 20 years we were
26 able to hunt by snowmachine and, you know, that kind of
27 reintroduced what we've been doing previous years and
28 what we almost lost, our tradition. Otherwise, you
29 know, I enjoyed these meetings here.

30
31 And thank you for everything.

32
33 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Mr. Quinn.

34
35 MR. QUINN: Well, thank everybody for
36 coming, both Staff and members. Kind of give us all a
37 little pat on the back not just for what we've
38 accomplished in the times we've been on here, but
39 overall from what I hear this RAC has been a pretty
40 good RAC. I'd say from the number of -- amount of
41 wildlife available for us to harvest, we've been
42 watching over things fairly good. We don't seem to
43 come up with quite so many contentious issues in this
44 area that other areas seem to find which, you know, is
45 nobody's fault, it's just things have worked out here
46 fairly well. I think overall Unit 22 is a very good
47 place to be a subsistence user. There's a lot of stuff
48 there and a lot of animals and plants and a person just
49 needs a little time and hopefully a little money to
50 take advantage of it.

1 And then I want to once again thank
2 Weaver for professional management of this meeting and
3 the experience he brings to it. I'm very happy with
4 what we've accomplished through him.

5
6 Thanks.

7
8 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you. Mr.
9 Martin.

10
11 MR. MARTIN: I'd like to apologize for
12 my absence yesterday morning and I'd like to also wish
13 each one of you a good safe hunting this spring. And
14 we've got some issues that are going to be coming up
15 and concerns on trawling. And so that -- if we all
16 work together we can work things out. You guys have a
17 safe trip.

18
19 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Thank you. I'd
20 really like to thank the Staff for preparation with the
21 meeting, the coordinators and OSM Staff and giving
22 assistance throughout the meeting is really invaluable
23 that we continue to have that. And that was pointed
24 out in the subsistence review that was done by Pat
25 Pourchot and Mr. Elton. And looking for that continued
26 support, appreciate that very much, it allows us to
27 function in a smooth and orderly fashion and it makes
28 it really very efficient.

29
30 As far as the future goes, I realize
31 that there are several management plans that are
32 floating around by different agencies. And all of them
33 try to intertwine or interact together so that it's
34 done in a consistent fashion. And they're working
35 through the bugs of trying to make that consistent.
36 And so it takes a lot of work and it takes a lot of
37 meetings and it takes a lot of coordination and
38 sometimes all of these things don't mesh together.

39
40 So what is really, really missing as
41 far as I'm concerned is that we really have any
42 subsistence management plans. We are -- and the Native
43 people in all the villages and I'll put it in a
44 historical basis, okay, and this is just for -- food
45 for thought, I don't want -- I'm not looking for any
46 action at this point, but at some point in time we will
47 have to take a look at it. In a historical fashion,
48 you know, it was pointed out to me just a minute ago
49 that jogged my memory, say about 50 years ago you used
50 to be able to go out there and -- go out hunting, get

1 what you need, what you saw and bring it home and eat
2 it or feed the family and share it with the rest of the
3 community. And it was done like that traditionally for
4 years and years and years. There were times when you
5 could just go -- come up with a boat and leave all your
6 game or birds or whatever you caught in your boat, you
7 could leave your rifle, you could your oars in there,
8 you could leave your gas in there and it would still be
9 there two weeks from now without any problem. I mean
10 that was a value system that was practiced, I mean,
11 that was just a way of life.

12
13 Things have changed since then and I
14 realize that and there's a lot of issues that are going
15 to become more complicated as we get into these kind of
16 things. And that's why there's a really big -- there's
17 a move right now, at least discussion, discussing
18 changing of ANILCA to Native preference as far as
19 subsistence goes, changing the language. I know AVCP
20 has some discussions on that. But aside from that we
21 as RAC members, I think, have a real obligation and
22 responsibility to the people that we serve, to the
23 Native population as well as other non-Native
24 population that depend on the subsistence foods as is
25 stated in ANILCA.

26
27 And so I really would like to see
28 something occurring as far as subsistence, the
29 development of subsistence management plans. I realize
30 it's going to be complicated, I realize it's going to
31 be a lot of hard word and it's going to entail a lot of
32 meeting, but I think once those are established, one
33 those are adopted and put in place, it would make
34 decision making a heck of a lot easier. And it would
35 involve a lot of the Tribal Councils to be involved
36 with that because we just went through one where we --
37 we've authorized Wales to issue permits to their
38 members rather than going through a government agency
39 to go out and harvest the game that they want. And
40 that's a good method, we should continue that so that
41 our -- you know, the people really -- you can have a
42 quota and this is just an example, you could have a
43 quota for a village based on the number of animals that
44 are there, it would be all biologically driven, but
45 wouldn't have to get a permit to go out to hunt,
46 wouldn't have to get a permit to go out and fish. And
47 that's where we're getting into a bog, you're issuing
48 permits now for people who -- not having to have a
49 permit all these years of hunting and now we're doing
50 that and now it's getting more and more complicated.

1 We could simplify it and then make it a lot more easier
2 to do it and I think it makes our life as RAC simple
3 and the people who are in the villages simple. But
4 it's food for thought in the future.

5
6 And I really appreciate the RAC members
7 today giving their concerns. We've had the senior
8 members who have kept me in line also and all of you
9 guys and the Staff and look forward to the next
10 meeting. You guys did a good job today.

11
12 Thank you. And the last and most
13 important motion today.

14
15 MR. KEYES: I'll make a motion to
16 adjourn the meeting.

17
18 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Motion on the floor,
19 Mr. Keyes.

20
21 MR. ENINGOWUK: Second.

22
23 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Seconded, Mr.
24 Eningowuk.

25
26 MR. BUCK: Question.

27
28 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: All in favor say
29 aye.

30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32
33 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Opposed same sign.

34
35 (No opposing votes)

36
37 CHAIRMAN IVANOFF: Meeting adjourned at
38 12:00 o'clock on the button.

39
40 (Off record)

41
42 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

43

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 169 through 235 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically by our firm on the 10th day of March 2010, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at Nome, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 19th day of March 2010.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires:9/16/2010