

1 SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7 VOLUME I

8
9 Aurora Inn
10 Nome, Alaska
11 February 11, 2009
12 8:30 o'clock a.m.

13
14
15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16
17 Leonard Kobuk, Acting Chairman
18 Mike Quinn
19 Peter Buck
20 Myron Savetilik
21 Elmer Seetot
22 Peter Martin, Sr.
23 Anthony Keyes
24 Fred Eningowuk
25
26 Regional Council Coordinator - Barbara Armstrong

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43 Recorded and transcribed by:

44
45 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
46 700 W. 2nd Avenue
47 Anchorage, AK 99501
48 907-243-0668/907-227-5312
49 jpk@gci.net/sahile@gci.net

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Nome, Alaska - 2/11/2009)

(On record)

VICE CHAIR SAVETILIK: Call the meeting to order. Roll call establishment is in order.

MR. KOBUK: I'll just start from seat one and work my way down. Weaver Ivanoff I guess didn't make it in. Peter Martin, Sr. I know he's here, but he hasn't showed up. He probably will in a few minutes. Michael Quinn.

MR. QUINN: (No response)

MR. KOBUK: Myself, Leonard Kobuk, present. Peter Buck.

MR. BUCK: Here.

MR. KOBUK: Myron Savetilik.

VICE CHAIR SAVETILIK: Here.

MR. KOBUK: Elmer Seetot.

MR. SEETOT: Here.

MR. KOBUK: Fred Eningowuk.

MR. ENINGOWUK: Here.

MR. KOBUK: Thomas Gray.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Gray is excused from this meeting.

MR. KOBUK: And Anthony Keyes.

MR. KEYES: Here.

MR. KOBUK: We have six present, one should be showing up in a while.

VICE CHAIR SAVETILIK: Do we have a quorum?

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Excuse me. Mike

1 Quinn also is excused for this meeting this morning.
2 He called me yesterday. Yes, you have a quorum, Mr.
3 Chair. Thanks.
4
5 VICE CHAIR SAVETILIK: I'm going to go
6 from my left to right, introductions of who is here.
7
8 MR. KEYES: Good morning. I'm Anthony
9 Keyes and I'm representing Wales.
10
11 MR. BUCK: Peter Buck. I'm
12 representing White Mountain.
13
14 MR. KOBUK: Larry Kobuk. I represent
15 St. Michael.
16
17 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot from Brevig
18 Mission.
19
20 MR. ENINGOWUK: Fred Eningowuk
21 representing Shishmaref.
22
23 MR. TOCKTOO: My name is Fred Tocktoo,
24 National Park Service, Nome, Alaska.
25
26 MS. KENNER: I'm Pippa Kenner. OSM,
27 Anchorage.
28
29 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Barb Armstrong for
30 Seward Pen, Northwest and Northeast.
31
32 MR. ARDIZZONE: Chuck Ardizzone from
33 OSM.
34
35 MR. GORN: Tony Gorn. I'm a Unit 22
36 area biologist here in Nome.
37
38 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
39 Park Service, subsistence program manager for Western
40 Arctic National Parklands.
41
42 MR. EASTLAND: Warren Eastland. I'm a
43 wildlife biologist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
44
45 MS. HYER: I'm Karen Hyer with OSM.
46
47 MS. JOHNSON: Marci Johnson, biologist
48 for Western Arctic National Parkland.
49
50 MR. SLOAN: Michael Sloan, fisheries

1 biologist, Kawerak.

2

3 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli,
4 anthropologist with Bureau of Indian Affairs.

5

6 MR. PAPPAS: I'm George Pappas,
7 Department of Fish and Game, subsistence liaison team.

8

9 MR. AHMASUK: Austin Ahmasuk, tribal
10 resource specialist.

11

12 JACK: Jack (indiscernible).

13

14 MS. POMRENKE: Jeanette Pomrenke (away
15 from microphone).

16

17 VICE CHAIR SAVETILIK: I thank you all
18 for coming here this morning. I just want to ensure
19 that you guys are here for a purpose. We'll go down
20 the agenda for the review and adoption of the agenda.

21

22 MR. KOBUK: Starting with number 5,
23 review and adoption of minutes. Elections of officers,
24 number 6.

25

26 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: We have some
27 additions to the agenda. Chuck Ardizzone, please.

28

29 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. We have two
30 things we'd like to add under OSM reports. It would be
31 the brown bear working group, which will be an action
32 item, and then I just have a quick briefing on the
33 Chistochina court case.

34

35 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You need to let them
36 know where you want to add them on, if you want to add
37 them on early on or under new business.

38

39 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right here.

40

41 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. That's where
42 you need to.

43

44 MR. ARDIZZONE: So those two I'd like
45 to add as number 4 and number 5 under Office of
46 Subsistence Management agency reports, number 10. So
47 the first one would be brown bear working group and the
48 second one would just be Chistochina briefing. We also
49 had a request to move one of the closure reviews up
50 earlier in the meeting.

1 MR. KOBUK: Brown bear working group
2 and what?
3
4 MR. ARDIZZONE: So brown bear working
5 group and then the Chistochina briefing. You can put
6 C&T if that will help you, customary and traditional
7 briefing.
8
9 MR. KOBUK: So that would be 2, 3, 4
10 and 5?
11
12 MR. ARDIZZONE: Correct. And then one
13 more change we'd like to make if it's okay with you is
14 to move number 8, item F, to right underneath B. So it
15 would be Unit 22E muskox closure review and make that
16 one first.
17
18 MR. KOBUK: You want that number F?
19
20 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'd like it to be right
21 under B, right under the closure policy.
22
23 MR. KOBUK: Okay, thank you.
24
25 MR. ARDIZZONE: So it's moving closure
26 review document just up in the order. In your agenda
27 right now it's last. We'd just like to make it first.
28
29 MR. KOBUK: Okay.
30
31 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: F will be 29.
32
33 MR. KOBUK: Is there a move to approve
34 the agenda as changed?
35
36 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I have one more
37 addition. We need to add charter. Since this is your
38 two year, we need to add charter under -- Let's put it
39 under new business. 11A charter.
40
41 And I think that's all I have for any
42 new additions. While we have it here, I'll just
43 announce since they extended the application period, it
44 ends this coming Friday on the 13th if there's anyone
45 else out there that wants to apply. They have until
46 this Friday to apply. Thank you.
47
48 VICE CHAIR SAVETILIK: Were there any
49 other people that applied for positions, Barb?
50

1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That was why it was
2 extended because we had such a low application time
3 from all the regions this time, so they extended the
4 period until the 13th of February. I'm sure we've
5 gotten more applications, but I didn't go and check and
6 see how many we've had before today. Thank you.

7
8 VICE CHAIR SAVETILIK: Thank you.

9
10 MR. KOBUK: I guess since there's no
11 more changes I'll continue. I'd like to make a motion
12 to adopt the agenda with those added on.

13
14 MR. BUCK: Seconded.

15
16 VICE CHAIR SAVETILIK: With that, we've
17 got election of officers.

18
19 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You have the
20 minutes. You're under 5.

21
22 VICE CHAIR SAVETILIK: The review and
23 adoption of the minutes.

24
25 MR. SEETOT: Call for the question.

26
27 VICE CHAIR SAVETILIK: So moved.

28
29 MR. KOBUK: Is there any more changes
30 that need to be made by the Staff?

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 MR. KOBUK: Okay. Then I'll go ahead
35 and continue. I'll start with number 6, election of
36 officers. A, chair. B, vice chair. C, secretary.
37 And number 7, Chair's report. A, .805(c) letter. B,
38 no 2008 annual report letter. Number 8.....

39
40 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Before you leave
41 number 4, you need to adopt your amended agenda. You
42 guys went as far as question and now the chair has to
43 call to say all those in favor of adopting the agenda
44 please signify by saying aye and then all those
45 opposed. You need to go back to 4, Myron, and do that.
46 And then the same with the minutes. You adopt and
47 accept the minutes as they are written if there are no
48 corrections. Please go back to number 4. Myron,
49 that's your call.

50

1 VICE CHAIR SAVETILIK: I'll go back to
2 number 4 and the review and adoption of the agenda.
3 All in favor say aye.
4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.
6
7 VICE CHAIR SAVETILIK: Opposed.
8
9 (No opposing votes)
10
11 VICE CHAIR SAVETILIK: Motion carried.
12 Number 5, review and adoption of minutes.
13
14 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
15 move to adopt the minutes of October 2, 2008.
16
17 MR. KOBUK: I'll second that motion.
18 Leonard.
19
20 MR. BUCK: Question.
21
22 VICE CHAIR SAVETILIK: There's a motion
23 on the floor for adoption of the minutes and seconded.
24 The question has been called. All in favor of the
25 motion say aye.
26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.
28
29 VICE CHAIR SAVETILIK: Opposed.
30
31 (No opposing votes)
32
33 VICE CHAIR SAVETILIK: Motion carries.
34 We're down to number 6, election of new officers.
35
36 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: This is where I'll
37 preside in doing election of the Chair. Elections are
38 open now to nominate for the chair for Seward Peninsula
39 Regional Council.
40
41 MR. SEETOT: Barb, is there anything in
42 the charter stating that they have to be all present or
43 is that the call of the members present?
44
45 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: We've always made it
46 the call of the members here. It's your choice if you
47 want to go with the elections now or delay until fall.
48 If you want to stand down for a second, that's also
49 your call.
50

1 MR. SEETOT: I would like to make a
2 motion to postpone the elections of officers until the
3 fall meeting because I think six and four is not
4 representative of membership right now.

5
6 MR. BUCK: I second that.

7
8 MR. KEYES: Question.

9
10 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Your
11 elections will be held this fall. Thank you.

12
13 VICE CHAIR SAVETILIK: There's a motion
14 to postpone the elections until the fall. All in favor
15 of the motion signify by saying aye.

16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18
19 VICE CHAIR SAVETILIK: Motion carried.

20
21 MR. KOBUK: So that includes also the
22 secretary. We'll have to wait until the fall election
23 then?

24
25 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes, sir.

26
27 MR. KOBUK: Okay, thank you. Next we
28 have the Chair's report. Barb.

29
30 VICE CHAIR SAVETILIK: Thank you. In
31 your book, I don't know if this got through, but I put
32 in your folder the .805(c) letter, dated February 5,
33 what the Federal Board did on your proposal and they
34 adopted it with some amendments and the amendment they
35 added is that the BLM field manager is authorized to
36 open the closed area to Federally qualified users or to
37 all users when run strength warrants.

38
39 Number B, we did not have an annual
40 report submitted this year for the first time in 18
41 years and the reason was that I was given one more
42 region to work with, so now I'm working with three
43 regional councils for the northwest area. At the time
44 I was kind of overwhelmed with the work that I would
45 have to be dealing with the three, so I talked to your
46 Chair at the time and discussed with him and then we
47 submitted a letter. It's on page 12 to not submit an
48 annual report this year, but I'll be listening at this
49 meeting for any issues that will come forward for your
50 2009 annual report.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. KOBUK: I'd make a motion for a
4 five-minute break.

5

6 MR. SEETOT: Second.

7

8 (Off record)

9

10 (On record)

11

12 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: We'd like to call
13 the meeting to order. I've been asked to chair the
14 meeting for the rest of the day. We'll start with 8,
15 closures review.

16

17 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Chuck
18 Ardizzone for the record. I'm going to give you a
19 quick briefing on closure reviews and then we can go
20 into the documents themselves.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Okay. That's
23 fine.

24

25 MR. ARDIZZONE: As called for in the
26 closure policy, the Office of Subsistence Management is
27 reviewing existing wildlife closures to determine
28 whether the original justifications for the closures
29 continue to apply.

30

31 These reviews are being conducted in
32 accordance with the guidance found in the Federal
33 Subsistence Board policy on closures to hunting,
34 trapping and fishing on Federal public lands and
35 waters, which was adopted in 2007 and is on page 14 of
36 your council book.

37

38 According to the policy, existing
39 closures will be reviewed on a three-year rotational
40 schedule. All the closures being reviewed this cycle
41 were last reviewed by the Federal Subsistence Board in
42 2006. A summary of the current closure reviews, which
43 are applicable to your region, are provided. They
44 should be in your auxiliary packet, I believe.

45

46 Section 815.3 of ANILCA allows closures
47 when necessary for the conservation of healthy
48 populations of fish and wildlife and to continue
49 subsistence uses of such populations. The existing
50 closures represent both situations. For example,

1 closures for hunting of muskox in Unit 22 were adopted
2 because of the relatively low and recovering muskox
3 population.

4
5 A Unit 2 deer closure was adopted
6 because rural residents provided substantial evidence
7 that they were unable to meet their subsistence needs
8 because of competition from other users of the
9 resource. Distribution and abundance of fish and
10 wildlife populations are known to fluctuate based on a
11 variety of factors such as weather patterns, management
12 actions, habitat changes, predation, harvest activities
13 and disease. Subsistence use patterns are known to
14 change over time in response to many factors, including
15 resource abundance, human population changes, among
16 other things.

17
18 It is for this reason that the Board's
19 decision to establish specific closures are revisited
20 periodically. The closure review documents contain a
21 brief history of why a closure was implemented along
22 with a summary of the current resource condition and a
23 preliminary OSM recommendation as to whether the
24 closure should be continued or deleted from the
25 regulations.

26
27 Councils are asked to consider the OSM
28 preliminary conclusion or recommendation and share
29 their views on the issue. Input from the Council is
30 critical to the development of regulatory proposals
31 needed to address adjustments to regulations. Any
32 regulatory proposals that may result from this review
33 process will be considered through the normal
34 regulatory cycle. The current window for wildlife
35 proposal closes on April 30th. Councils may choose to
36 work with Staff to develop a proposal. However,
37 proposals addressing these issues can be submitted by
38 anyone.

39
40 So basically these are closures that
41 were implemented years ago. We want to review them,
42 make sure the reason is still standing. If they don't,
43 we may want to submit a proposal to change the closure,
44 remove the closure, and that's what we're going to try
45 and discuss a little bit today.

46
47 I'm going to be brief on my closure
48 documents, but some of these I think we want to have
49 discussion on the reasons, if they should stay closed
50 or if we should open things back up. If there's any

1 questions, I'll try and answer them real quick before I
2 go into the documents themselves.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Is there any
5 questions from the Council.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. If there's
10 no questions, I'll move on to the agenda. We moved
11 WCR08-30 first on the agenda earlier in the meeting.
12 That closure location is Unit 22E and it's for muskox.

13

14 The current regulation reads one muskox
15 by Federal permit or State Tier II permit, however cows
16 may only be taken during the period of January 1
17 through March 15th. Federal public lands are closed to
18 the taking of muskox except by Federally qualified
19 subsistence users hunting under these regulations and
20 that's what we want to address today is that closure.

21

22 The closure dates are from August 1st
23 through March 15th. This closure was originally
24 initiated in 1996 and the Board's intent was to provide
25 a subsistence priority for rural Alaskans with a
26 positive C&T determination for muskox. It was closed
27 early when the herds were still small.

28 Just cover a little bit of the current
29 population data. In 2007, ADF&G conducted the Seward
30 Pen muskox population survey and counted a total of
31 2,688 animals, which is an increase of 11 percent over
32 the 2005 count. The muskox population in 22E has
33 doubled in size between 1992 and 1998. You can see
34 that on page 3, table 1. You can see the numbers have
35 grown significantly over the years.

36

37 In 2007, the Unit 22E population had
38 increased 9 percent from the previous survey. You can
39 see in Table 2 the harvest of muskox in Unit 22E, both
40 Federal permits and State Tier II permits. The last
41 two columns you can see -- this is on page 4 of your
42 document. The last two columns you can see the number
43 of permits issued and then also the number of harvest
44 of animals.

45

46 I'm going to keep this brief. The
47 current recommendation is to maintain the status quo.
48 However, I have had numerous discussions with several
49 individuals, including ADF&G, and I think the Council
50 may want to discuss this closure in more detail, if we

1 want to keep it closed or if we should open it. I
2 welcome conversations about this closure and any
3 information from the Council would be welcome. I think
4 I'll leave it at that.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Is there any
7 comments from the Council, Seward Pen.

8

9 MR. KEYES: Yes, Anthony Keyes. You
10 want to close down our muskox right now and pretty much
11 our moose season has been closed already. I would say
12 not to close it now because the moose season has been
13 closed on us and that would be the replacement for the
14 meat source for the communities up here in 22E.
15 There's more cows now than there was before because I
16 know. I've been traveling all over up there. There's
17 hardly any bulls. I think we better start going after
18 some cows and stop hunting these bulls because we're
19 killing more bulls and we're leaving the females alone.
20 That's why the population for the females is getting
21 larger.

22

23 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Just for
24 clarification, maybe I wasn't clear and that's my
25 fault. This closure actually deals with Federal lands.
26 Our Federal lands are closed to outside hunters, so
27 only people who qualify under Federal subsistence
28 regulations can hunt in 22E on Federal lands. I'm not
29 suggesting we close the season. I'm just thinking we
30 need to address that closure. Do we want to keep
31 Federal lands closed to outside users or do we want to
32 open Federal lands to other users. That's all I'm
33 addressing now. I'm not addressing closing or opening
34 any seasons.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: And you're just
37 talking about, for my information, muskox only, right?

38

39 MR. ARDIZZONE: Correct. This would be
40 for muskox on Federal lands is what we're discussing.
41 The closure is to outside users not in the Federal
42 program.

43

44 MR. KEYES: I would say that would be
45 okay, close it to the outside users and just leave it
46 for the people in the villages to get it.

47

48 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair, if I might.
49 Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. Just to quickly
50 remind folks, under the Federal C&T determinations,

1 only the residents of Shishmaref and Wales in 22E have
2 positive C&T for 22E. So under the current closure of
3 the Federal public lands it's only residents of 22E
4 that can hunt on those Federal lands for muskox.

5
6 What OSM is talking about in the
7 closure review would be to remove the closure on the
8 Federal public lands, which would open up muskox
9 hunting on Federal lands to all other residents of
10 Alaska.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: I guess Anthony
13 Keyes from Wales, since the moose hunting has already
14 closed, they didn't get enough of what they needed for
15 their moose. So I guess that answers your question,
16 right, Anthony?

17
18 MR. KEYES: Yes.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more
21 questions.

22
23 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes. This is Fred. Is
24 the Park Service, the Bering Land Bridge, considered
25 Federal land?

26
27 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council
28 members, Mr. Eningowuk. Yes, the Bering Land Bridge
29 National Preserve is Federal public lands under the
30 definition and is currently closed except for Federally
31 qualified subsistence users. If you remove the
32 closure, just so you know what the effects of it are,
33 it would open up the hunting on the Federal public
34 lands and the preserve to all Alaskan residents under
35 Tier I and it would also open up the Federal public
36 lands for some drawing hunts, sport hunt activity for
37 muskox.

38
39 MR. ENINGOWUK: Okay, yeah, based on
40 the data that is in here the quota cannot even be met.
41 Only a certain percentage has been met. That's all I
42 have.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more questions
45 from the board.

46
47 MR. SEETOT: Elmer, from Brevig
48 Mission. If it was open to people other than Wales and
49 Shishmaref and if there were regulation violations, who
50 would pretty much regulate enforcement?

1 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
2 Park Service. I guess the Park Service would be the
3 primary lead for that. However, I think there are
4 other commissioned officers that have some capability
5 and we'd have to check on that. I think any Fish and
6 Wildlife Service special agents could enforce the
7 regulations. It may be also that some of the Alaska
8 troopers fish and wildlife protection could enforce
9 them, but primarily I think it would fall on the Park
10 Service's responsibility.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more questions
13 from the board.

14
15 MR. KEYES: Yes. Anthony. You said
16 National Park Service. Can we hear from the National
17 Park Service on their side of this idea?

18
19 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Council
20 members, Mr. Keyes. I don't know that we really have
21 an absolute position on this at this time. All I could
22 do is share with you some history and a little bit
23 about what's going on. In essence, follow your
24 guidance. It's a complex issue. When the muskoxen
25 hunt first started in 1995, it was a Federal only hunt.
26 That was a very small quota.

27
28 Under the guidance and recommendation
29 of the Regional Advisory Council at the time for the
30 Seward Pen, the Federal Board closed the area and the
31 justification was it was difficult to assess the amount
32 needed for subsistence on these animals at the time
33 because the allowable harvest was so low.

34
35 Basically the Federal subsistence users
36 felt they needed the whole harvest. That effectively
37 closed down the state hunt that was scheduled to start
38 and it then precipitated several years of State/Federal
39 sort of conflict over hunt management, which we
40 resolved largely through the cooperators and continuing
41 good work, I think, between the Department of Fish and
42 Game and the Federal agencies.

43
44 Since that time the population has
45 expanded greatly, so you're not talking about a
46 biological problem out there. In one sense there's
47 probably more than enough animals to go around, but
48 what we might be talking about is some social conflicts
49 and impacts to your ability to harvest animals.

50

1 As you all know, we're now under
2 completely new state hunting regime of Tier I. In the
3 past, we were under a Tier II hunt with the state,
4 which meant that only a certain number of applicants
5 would get permits and those were based on certain
6 criteria. You had to fill out an application and
7 submit it and it got scored. Most of those state
8 permits went to local residents. Under the current
9 Tier I system anyone in the state can get one of those
10 Tier I permits.

11
12 Furthermore, because of the expansion
13 in numbers of muskoxen, we now have State drawing
14 hunts, basically sport hunts on a certain percentage of
15 animals. It's really too hard right now to see how
16 that's all going to affect the hunts. Clearly
17 muskoxen, there's a big demand out there for them and
18 there are a lot of people, non-locals, who are taking
19 advantage of the Tier I hunt and some other things.

20
21 I guess watching it develop I think,
22 you know, under the muskoxen cooperators we've tried to
23 take things slow and not really rock the boat and make
24 big changes. We've tried to institute changes and back
25 off and see what effect those changes might have. I
26 think it's really too early to say quite how the Tier I
27 hunts are going to work out.

28
29 I have some experience largely in 23
30 southwest of Buckland Deering area that suggests
31 they're working fairly well to the benefit of the
32 Federal eligible users up there. 22E is a big question
33 mark because of traditionally low harvest rates by
34 subsistence users and the increasing number of animals
35 which we can't really explain why they're increasing.
36 They might decrease suddenly for all we know too.

37
38 What we do know is with the general
39 season lengths that we have for muskoxen, this year
40 under the Tier I system we've had three hunt areas
41 close early. The 23 southwest hunt closed December
42 1st, I think, so anybody who was holding Federal
43 permits at that time that hunt late in the winter there
44 was no opportunity for them. That's gone. So if you
45 were planning on hunting when snow cover was better and
46 you had a Federal permit for muskoxen in 23 southwest,
47 you don't have that opportunity this year.

48
49 The 22D remainder, that's the American
50 and Agiapuk area, closed early this year the latter

1 part of December, close to Christmas time, and 22C
2 closed early. So clearly the demand is out there.

3
4 The other thing is I know there's a lot
5 of concern about cow/bull ratios. I think the more
6 accessible those animals are to non-local hunters, the
7 more emphasis is going to be on trophy hunting and a
8 number of things like that that are going to make some
9 of those problems worse, which could cause biological
10 problems.

11
12 If it stayed closed, we'd have a little
13 longer to work out some other problems with the hunts
14 that are developing. If we opened it up, it would be a
15 great experiment and nothing might happen. On the
16 other hand, it might draw in a flood of outsiders and
17 really shake some things up, including reducing Federal
18 opportunity, as it did like in 23 southwest, and we're
19 going to have to find a way to fix that. We don't have
20 a formal position on it.

21
22 MR. KEYES: Okay. Thank you.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: So is there any
25 more questions from the Council.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MR. GORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 Members of the Advisory Council. I guess I just wanted
31 to add several points to Ken's testimony and maybe
32 clarify several issues. Certainly I don't dispute
33 anything that he said, but in Unit 22E we've been out
34 of the Tier II system for several years. This isn't
35 anything that we're just kind of going through for the
36 first time in 2008.

37
38 The harvest quota for muskox -- I'm
39 sorry. My name is Tony Gorn. I work for Fish and Game
40 here, but most of you guys already know that. The
41 harvest quota up in 22E on an annual basis is 82
42 animals. Twenty of those go towards a drawing hunt and
43 62 of them go to subsistence registration hunt.

44
45 Over the last several years in this
46 registration hunt where any Alaska resident can pick up
47 a permit, we've never given out more than 30 permit.
48 So I just wanted to make that clear. Unlike areas like
49 23 southwest or along the very assessable Nome road
50 system where competition for animals is great, Unit 22E

1 is just so remote that I think access has really kept a
2 lot of people out of the country.

3

4 So I just wanted to add a couple more
5 pieces of information for you to consider. Thanks.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more
8 questions. Any public comments.

9

10 MR. ASHENFELTER: I'm Roy Ashenfelter.
11 I participate on the Northern Norton Sound Advisory
12 Committee. I'd like the RAC to consider some things
13 that I view or heard from the residents from
14 Shishmaref. They've spoken out both at the cooperators
15 meeting and at other venues trying to get more muskox
16 taken because they don't want very many muskox in their
17 area. If you leave it only to hunters from Shishmaref
18 and Wales, you're not going to get much more taken than
19 what is currently being harvested now, which is well
20 below the percentage allowed under the current
21 management plan.

22

23 There are other residents that do and
24 have an opportunity or who would like to have an
25 opportunity right here in Seward Peninsula to go up and
26 take muskox in March and April because those are
27 excellent time and efforts and you can travel a long
28 ways without going into winter harsh conditions because
29 March and April are pretty calm.

30

31 If you allow people from Brevig,
32 Teller, White Mountain, Golovin, other places, to go
33 out and take some of those muskox. It will help the
34 efforts the Shishmaref people were concerned about,
35 about taking more muskox. Also Nome people will have
36 an opportunity to take more muskox. So if effort is to
37 try to get more, to work with the communities that want
38 more taken, and if you limit that, then you're making a
39 choice that doesn't make sense to me as a hunter and
40 user of muskox.

41

42 If the effort from the local residents
43 didn't want more muskox taken, then I would certainly
44 support just the Federal hunt for only Brevig and
45 Wales, but that's not what I've heard over the years at
46 all the cooperators meetings. It's to try to get more
47 muskox taken. If you just limit it to those two
48 villages while at the same time they want more taken,
49 then there needs to be a management change within the
50 RAC to consider that.

1 I think that's basically the comments I
2 wanted to make on this proposal.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more questions
5 or answers.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Hearing none, just
10 for the record I would like the member that just came
11 in to introduce himself.

12
13 MR. MARTIN: I'd like to apologize for
14 being late. My name is Peter Martin, Sr. I'm from
15 Stebbins.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Thank you, Peter.
18 Any more questions.

19
20 MR. SEETOT: Elmer. That muskox
21 cooperators meeting, there was concern that 22E had
22 plenty of muskox and they were considered a nuisance.
23 The formula used by the agencies, that was already
24 preset at the muskox cooperatives meeting. A certain
25 percentage would go to subsistence and then a certain
26 percentage for drawing hunts for 22E.

27
28 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Elmer.
29 This is Tony Gorn. Yeah, in 22E we have a unique
30 situation where the Board of Game has identified two
31 distinct populations of muskox. The first population
32 is mature bulls and we identified that part of the
33 population by doing composition surveys on an annual
34 basis in Unit 22E.

35
36 What we do is go up there. Oftentimes
37 it's both Department and Park Service Staff and we land
38 on groups and we classify animals. That gives us a
39 percentage of the population that's mature bulls.
40 After we come up with that number, we're able to
41 identify how many drawing permits can be issued for
42 muskox in that area. The drawing permits are for a
43 four-year-old bull or older. Right now it's 20 because
44 we've identified that 18 percent of the muskox in Unit
45 22E are mature bulls.

46
47 So that leaves us with the second part
48 of the population, the remaining animals in the
49 population up there and then we apply a harvest rate,
50 which you put me on the spot and it's either 8 or 12.

1 I think it's 8 percent.

2

3 MR. SEETOT: Eight.

4

5 MR. GORN: The 8 percent harvest rate
6 was endorsed by the cooperator's group. It's the
7 highest harvest rate that we use on the Seward
8 Peninsula right now for these hunts.

9

10 Anyway, we take the rest of the
11 population and we apply it times 8 percent and
12 currently that number is 62. So those 62 animals are
13 available for harvest under the subsistence
14 registration hunt. Did that answer your question,
15 Elmer?

16

17 MR. SEETOT: Yes.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more
20 questions.

21

22 MR. ENINGOWUK: This is Fred. The IRA
23 Council just had a meeting and I had to walk out of it
24 to catch a plane to get here and they recommended that
25 the harvest quota be increased, but I see the quota
26 can't even be met, so I would be in favor of having the
27 Federal lands open to any residents besides the two
28 communities.

29

30 VICE CHAIR SAVETILIK: Barb, I need
31 your help on this. This is my first time ever
32 chairing, so if I make mistakes, bear with me, please.

33

34 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That's okay. Since
35 Fred is requesting that, a proposal will probably be
36 written up and submitted and this would be working with
37 Chuck here, right?

38

39 MR. ARDIZZONE: I guess what I need
40 from the RAC is a vote that you either want to maintain
41 the status quo, which is keep the closure, or lift the
42 closure. If we lift the closure, I'll submit a
43 proposal, I'll write a proposal from the RAC to put
44 into the regulatory cycle to open this area to non-
45 Federal users, but I need some reasons. The muskox
46 population is high and we can allow more harvest. I
47 need some information from the RAC to write that
48 proposal up. Whatever you want to do is what I'll do.

49

50 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: So I guess I need

1 a motion from the RAC committee on this request that
2 was made by Fred from Shishmaref.

3

4 MR. KEYES: I'll second that motion.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any questions or
7 comments.

8

9 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. Western
10 science has their numbers in regulating on how to
11 introduce or regulate or reduce animals within a
12 certain area. They go by the numbers. Muskox were
13 introduced to Seward Peninsula without consultation of
14 the villages or of the Seward Peninsula, so now that's
15 become a problem. Our method of harvesting or reducing
16 or increasing animals, TEK.

17

18 I think some of you have heard in the
19 past if Shishmaref and Wales want their muskox reduced
20 to a manageable level along with Brevig Mission, I
21 think that they're considered a nuisance and whatnot.
22 TEK over the years saying if we do argue over the
23 animals in a certain period of years, that number will
24 be reduced and that's a proven fact, which Western
25 science has not been able to comprehend very closely.
26 If Shishmaref and Wales want their muskox reduced, then
27 I'm available for a lively debate opposing muskox on
28 our lands. That's the TEK way.

29

30 And then over on this table we're
31 trying to open Federal lands to anyone within the state
32 and I think serious consideration should be given
33 opening Federal lands to anyone other than those
34 communities. Even though these muskox might become a
35 nuisance, you know, we just don't know what comes on
36 down the line.

37

38 We're very close to Russia. We don't
39 know what they put into the air. There might be a big
40 die-off. There might be a hard winter where natural
41 mortality would take care of the problem. That's just
42 my opinion.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Yes, Barb.

45

46 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Before you go any
47 further with the discussion I'd ask that Fred would put
48 his request into a motion and the seconder to concur
49 and then the discussions to go forward, please.
50 Thanks.

1 MR. ENINGOWUK: I'm not sure what the
2 exact wording would be, but I'd like to make a motion
3 to open the Federal lands to other residents of Alaska
4 to hunt muskox in 22E.

5
6 MR. KEYES: How about if we go like a
7 year on this and see what it's going to be like first.

8
9 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You need to do the
10 second first.

11
12 MR. KEYES: Okay, yes, I did earlier.
13 I'll do it again. Second.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Question.

16
17 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No, now you're on
18 discussion.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Discussion.

21
22 MR. KEYES: Okay. Back on board again.
23 How about if we would be able to take this for a whole
24 year, like an experiment, to see how it turns out and
25 if it's a burden we could bring it back down to where
26 the three villages would be able to take what they
27 want.

28
29 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Chuck
30 Ardizzone again. Just so everybody's on the same page.
31 We're on a two-year regulatory cycle now. If this was
32 submitted to the board and approved by the board to
33 open Federal lands, it wouldn't occur until next year,
34 2010. The next time we could review it would be 2011.
35 We could put a proposal in, which could take effect in
36 2012. I suppose a special action could be submitted,
37 but that would be -- I don't know how that would work.
38 We went through this two-year cycle now. It makes
39 things a little more complicated. I just wanted the
40 Council to be aware that there's a longer period
41 between board meetings for wildlife now. It used to be
42 every year.

43
44 MR. SEETOT: Elmer. Does ADF&G have a
45 number of muskox taken on Nunavak Island? I would
46 think that hunters that are going for muskox are doing
47 it closer to their area.

48
49 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Elmer.
50 Is your question how many muskox are harvested annually

1 on Nunavak?

2

3 MR. SEETOT: That's correct.

4

5 MR. GORN: I don't have that sitting
6 here but could obtain easily back at the office. If I
7 may, I'll ask you is there somewhere that you're going
8 with that? If there's something else you'd really like
9 to know about the harvest, maybe I'd be able to answer
10 that question.

11

12 MR. SEETOT: Where I'm going is that
13 harvesters or hunters may be going to Nunavak Island,
14 which is closer to their region than coming all the way
15 up to 22E where the weather is very unpredictable.
16 Getting there might be a problem if no one knows the
17 way or the trail.

18

19 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Elmer.
20 I guess I can talk a little bit about where you're
21 going with that. I've got a couple pieces of
22 information. First of all, under the subsistence
23 registration hunt, which is what we're mainly talking
24 about right now, we have trophy destruction, hunt
25 conditions that go along with the hunt. So if somebody
26 from outside of Unit 22 comes to Unit 22 and hunts a
27 muskox with this permit, if they leave Unit 22, the
28 Department destroys the trophy value. So the main
29 motivation for coming out here to participate in this
30 hunt should be meat.

31

32 Earlier I described the several
33 different hunt types that we have up in Unit 22E and
34 the first one I talked about was the drawing hunt.
35 That's the trophy hunt for the 20 animals. That hunt
36 is competitive. Last year 253 people applied for that
37 hunt in 22E. The percent there of success of getting a
38 permit was less than 1 percent. That's a regulated
39 hunt. The goal there for these hunters is that they
40 get to go out to 22E and shoot a muskox and keep the
41 trophy value. Go home and have a shoulder mount made
42 or whatever it is.

43

44 The only other thing that I can mention
45 regarding your question of people coming out to
46 Shishmaref or 22E and hunting people coming long
47 distances away from where they live, is that in my
48 experience on the Seward Peninsula I have never seen a
49 hunt where we can draw such a clear line in the sand of
50 success versus non-success for non-local hunters. That

1 clear line is when these guys come out, do they get a
2 guide.

3

4 There's one guide that operates out of
5 Shishmaref, Clifford and Brian, and if those hunters
6 come out and hunt with Clifford or Brian, they're
7 successful. If they don't, over 99 percent of the
8 time, I'd like to say 100 but I'd be sticking my neck
9 out, the people just aren't successful and they've come
10 out from Nome and rented snowmachines and they attempt
11 to go from Nome up to Shishmaref and hunt and we all
12 know how difficult that can be. They get not very far
13 out of town and things start breaking or they run into
14 a storm or they've got to get back to town and catch
15 the jet.

16

17 So that's just some additional
18 background information, Elmer, about your question
19 regarding people coming out here and attempting that
20 hunt.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more
23 questions, concerns. Fred, does that answer the
24 questions you had?

25

26 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes. The only reason I
27 made that motion is because the community of
28 Shishmaref, the majority of them do consider muskox a
29 nuisance, berry pickers and everybody else. I, in
30 fact, had to try and scare some muskox away from berry
31 pickers, shooting up in the air. They just run a short
32 distance and make a circle. Those muskox are
33 considered foreigners to us. They were introduced to
34 our land and would like to see an increase in the quota
35 or the quota be met in our Unit 22E.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more questions
38 for Staff. If not, we need to get moving. I'd like
39 for Regional Council deliberation, recommendation and
40 justification.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Question.

45

46 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You called the
47 question and now you say all those in favor.....

48

49 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: All those in favor
50 of writing a proposal say aye.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And nay.
4
5 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any nays.
6
7 MR. SEETOT: One nay.
8
9 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: I guess the motion
10 carries.
11
12 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Go to C.
13
14 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Moving down to B,
15 closure policies.
16
17 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: C.
18
19 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Oh, forgive me.
20 Going to C. Sorry.
21
22 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Chuck
23 Ardizzone again. Wildlife Closure Review 08-09.
24 There's actually three subsections of that. They cover
25 the 22A moose closure. It's very similar to what we
26 just covered except it's for moose in Unit 22A. The
27 current regs are for 22A, that portion north and
28 including the Tag and the Shaktoolik Rivers drainages.
29 Federal public land are closed to taking of moose
30 except by Unit 22A residents hunting under these
31 regulations.
32
33 For the central portion, that's that
34 new season which just got opened this past year and
35 Unalakleet. It's Unit 22A, that portion of Unalakleet
36 drainage and all drainages flowing in Norton Sound
37 north of Golsovia River and the Tag and Shaktoolik
38 River drainages and that area is closed except for
39 residents of Unalakleet.
40
41 The third subsection is Unit 22A
42 remainder and that is also Federal public lands are
43 closed to taking of moose except by residents of Unit
44 22A hunting under these regulations. These have been
45 in effect for a while. The closure was last reviewed
46 in 2006 except for the Unalakleet River drainage area
47 that was addressed this past year when they opened up
48 the season. The original closure based on a
49 conservation concern for moose.
50

1 Currently the moose numbers in the area
2 appear to be low. The current moose population
3 estimate for the central portion of Unit 22A is 339
4 moose, which is below the objective. The Unit 22A
5 management objective for this area is to have a
6 population of 600 to 800 moose with a bull/cow ratio of
7 30/100.

8
9 The last survey was done in February
10 2008 by ADF&G in the central portion of 22A and the
11 herd had grown to an estimated 339 animals, which is an
12 increase of 52 percent from the previous 2006 level.
13 Nevertheless, moose numbers are still low compared to
14 the 1989 levels. If you look on page 6, you can see
15 the harvest levels which are reported harvest, which
16 are fairly low. Our recommendation for the moose in
17 Unit 22A, all these closures, is to maintain the status
18 quo. The moose population is still fairly low and this
19 would provide some subsistence priority for those
20 animals.

21
22 That's all I have. If there's
23 questions, I'll try to answer them, but it would be
24 nice to have more discussion about this one also, just
25 like we did the previous one, and get the council's
26 recommendation on opening or closing. Any questions I
27 can answer?

28
29 MR. SEETOT: Elmer. On your management
30 objective, do you take an inventory on the ecosystem.
31 There are some areas within the state that are not
32 suitable habitat for ungulates. Everyone thinks that
33 just because an area is large that area can support the
34 animals, whether it be caribou, moose, muskox. How did
35 you get to that number saying there's going to be a
36 certain number of animals within this area?

37
38 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I'll have
39 to pass that question over to ADF&G.

40
41 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Elmer.
42 I guess first I'll clarify one thing. In Chuck's brief
43 report he just gave the management objective for all of
44 Unit 22A is 600 to 800 moose. We believe that we're
45 within that management objective for the entire
46 subunit. The 339 he mentioned is the point estimate
47 from the Unalakleet moose census, which is just the
48 central portion of Unit 22A. But the theme of his
49 report is correct. Moose densities in Unit 22A are
50 very low, as they are in almost all areas of Unit 22A.

1 Elmer makes a very good point when he
2 talks about available moose habitat in Unit 22. Those
3 of us that have ever been around the Yukon River know
4 what real good moose habitat looks like. Certainly we
5 don't have anything that closely resembles moose
6 habitat on the other side of the Nulato Hills.

7
8 We have one data point in space and
9 time related to moose habitat in Unit 22A. It came
10 from a browse transect survey that I think we completed
11 in 2005. It showed from this one survey that moose
12 habitat along the Unalakleet River is not limiting at
13 current densities. Historically, when we looked at
14 shrub browse architecture, you could see that moose
15 were utilizing the habitat but they weren't over-
16 browsing it, suggesting that the number of moose
17 currently using the drainage was appropriate. I will
18 recognize that's one survey taken in 2005, so we
19 certainly need more information regarding habitat down
20 there. Thanks.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Before we
23 continue, Barb says I need to follow our procedure. We
24 did number one. Now we're in number two, Alaska
25 Department of Fish and Game comments to that proposal.

26
27 MR. GORN: Mr. Chair. I don't have any
28 further comments regarding this closure.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Three, Kawerak,
31 Incorporated or other agency comments.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Hearing none I'll
36 move on down. Interagency Staff Committee comments.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Fish and Game
41 Advisory comments.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Hearing none.
46 Public testimony.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Okay. Then we're

1 on Regional Council deliberation, recommendation and
2 justification.

3

4 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chair. Chuck, what
5 part of 22A are you talking about, just the central
6 portion or the whole 22A?

7

8 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Martin, I believe
9 it's all of 22A. There's different closed areas. It's
10 split up into three portions. There's the portion
11 north and including the Tag and the Shak, there's that
12 Unalakleet portion and then there's the remainder,
13 which is everything else. So there's a closure in
14 every area. The Unalakleet area is super narrowed down
15 only to
16 residents of Unalakleet. Everything else is residents
17 of 22A.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more comments,
20 questions.

21 (No comments)

22

23 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: I have one. We're
24 just talking about Unalakleet right now or that's the
25 whole region? I'm a little mixed up here.

26

27 MR. ARDIZZONE: There's three separate
28 closures and it's broken down into part A, part B and
29 part C. It's different portions of 22A. We can break
30 them down separately unless you think they should all
31 stay closed or they should all be open.

32

33 MR. MARTIN: So is that 22A remainder
34 also to be closed with no season at all?

35

36 MR. ARDIZZONE: None of these closures
37 we're discussing today are closing seasons. It's just
38 the land.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more comments
41 from any Staff.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Seward Pen.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Hearing none. I
50 was asked to have a break, so I'd like to take a five-

1 minute break if that's okay.

2

3 (Off record)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Before we continue
8 we have another board member who just came in. I'd
9 like for him to introduce himself to the rest of the
10 Staff.

11

12 MR. QUINN: Mike Quinn from Nome.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Thank you, Mike.
15 We're down to discussing 22A moose. We'll give Mike
16 Quinn a few minutes.

17

18 MR. QUINN: I should be okay. Chuck
19 told me you just did the 22E closure. Is that the
20 first of the muskox closures you've done?

21

22 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: No, we just got
23 done. We're continuing with the moose, 22A.

24

25 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Go ahead.

28

29 MR. ARDIZZONE: We only covered one of
30 the muskox closure review documents, which was 22E. We
31 have a couple more, 28 and 29 for Unit 22D, so there
32 are a few more muskox to go over.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: I stand corrected.
35 Thank you. Do you have any questions on moose 22A.

36

37 MR. QUINN: I'm okay.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: We need to vote on
40 if everyone's okay with WCR08-09A, which is Tag and
41 Shaktoolik River drainages, if everyone is okay with
42 this closure.

43

44 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. It would be
45 good to have a motion on the table to either keep the
46 closure or remove the closure and then you can vote on
47 that motion.

48

49 MR. QUINN: Okay, Mr. Chair. We spent
50 a lot of time on this last year at this time. I think

1 everybody was happy with it and whatnot. So I'll make
2 a motion that we vote to continue this closure for 22A
3 moose.

4

5 MR. MARTIN: Second.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Question.

8

9 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Comment or
12 discussion.

13

14 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Just for
15 clarification, Mike, there's actually three separate
16 closures on the table. Do you want to keep all three
17 of them or if you look at the document it's broken into
18 A, B and C. All three of those areas have Federal
19 closures. They're already in place, so if you want to
20 maintain them all, that's fine. If you want to vote on
21 them individually, that's also fine.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: That voting was
24 for 09A. We have three of them that we need to
25 approve.

26

27 MR. QUINN: I'll modify the motion to
28 be 09A first, support that closure.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Who seconded that
31 one? Please say your name when you do.

32

33 MR. MARTIN: I do.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: So that was Peter
36 Martin. We're down to 09B for -- is everyone on board
37 to agree to this closure?

38

39 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You need to complete
40 each motion with a vote.

41

42 MR. SEETOT: Call for the question.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: All those in favor
45 say aye.

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: All those who
50 don't agree say nay.

1 (No opposing votes)
2
3 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: 09A motion passes
4 and now we're on 09B for south for Unalakleet
5
6 MR. QUINN: Mr. Chair.
7
8 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Yes.
9
10 MR. QUINN: I'll make a motion to
11 support that we continue the closure for 09B.
12
13 MR. MARTIN: This is Peter. Second.
14
15 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Question.
16 Discussion. Sorry.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Hearing none.
21 Those in favor say aye.
22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.
24
25 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Nays.
26
27 (No opposing votes)
28
29 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Hearing nothing,
30 motion passes for 09B.
31
32 So now we're on WRC08-09C, which is St.
33 Michael, Stebbins area. Any comments.
34
35 MR. QUINN: Mr. Chair. Chuck and Tony,
36 can you comment on this particular closure, please. My
37 understanding is the State season is a little more
38 generous for that Area 22A, am I correct, than it is
39 for Unalakleet and Tag and Shak part?
40
41 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Mr.
42 Quinn. Yeah, the seasons down in Unit 22A south or
43 remainder, which is everything south of the Golsovia
44 are a little bit longer. The biological survey data
45 that we have is limited to spring recruitment surveys
46 and fall composition surveys. Bull/cow ratios in the
47 area are above our management goal of 30 bulls per 100
48 cows. Spring recruitment surveys have shown healthy
49 numbers of calves being recruited into the population.
50

1 The area currently has a winter season
2 that is January 1st through the 31st, although the last
3 two years the communities of Stebbins and St. Mike have
4 petitioned the Board of Game to extend that season into
5 February. I anticipate at the next Board of Game
6 meeting we're going to have a proposal to move that
7 winter season further back just to provide for a little
8 easier access into the country and the State is not
9 going to oppose that.

10

11 MR. QUINN: Okay. Chuck, I'm going to
12 direct this question at you then. Is the numbers Tony
13 just gave us about recruitments and things like that
14 consistent with other parts of, say, Unit 22 that do
15 not have moose closures?

16

17 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'm not sure. I know
18 it's not consistent with the rest of 22A. I can say
19 that, but to speak to the other subunits of 22 I can't
20 speak to that. Tony would have to speak to that.

21

22 MR. QUINN: I'm putting you on the
23 spot, Chuck. You're the Federal guy.

24

25 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'm the Federal guy,
26 but I'm also the guy that sits in Anchorage. Tony is
27 the one that sits out here. He knows the ground.
28 Where I get my data from is Tony.

29

30 MR. QUINN: Okay. Well, it looks like
31 he's passing the buck, Tony. Then I'll ask you. Is
32 that data for that moose population consistent with
33 parts of 22 that do not have Federal closures?

34

35 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Mr.
36 Quinn. The only inconsistency as far as data is
37 concerned with the southern portion of Unit 22A is that
38 we have never completed or attempted a geostatistical
39 moose census from that area. Those projects are
40 basically what we hang our hat on for moose population
41 data. So that's a big piece of the pie that's missing
42 that we don't have. We have trend count data and
43 composition surveys and spring recruitment surveys, but
44 we don't have density estimates, which is a big
45 difference.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Peter, any
48 questions or comments.

49

50 MR. MARTIN: In Unit 22A remainder, it

1 seems like in the past five years that we're seeing a
2 healthy growth in the moose than I've seen in the past
3 10 years. I'd like to just put that in the comments.
4 Thank you.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: I'd also like to
7 comment. In talking with the moose hunters, every time
8 the moose season opens the comment that I get a lot
9 from the hunters is that I guess the male bulls know
10 when the season opened. They seem to disappear and
11 they run into a lot of female, yearling and calves when
12 the time opens up.

13
14 My concern is that by overharvesting
15 the bulls that are really healthy, I'm wondering if
16 we're killing too many of these healthy males and the
17 yearling males are starting to mate with the females
18 and I asked them a question, what they would think
19 about opening up killing some females. Not a whole
20 lot, just a few, so we can let the dominant male
21 species survive. I guess that question is to the State
22 and the Fed.

23
24 MR. GORN: Mr. Chair. I think what I
25 heard there was not a request, but just to start a
26 conversation about whether or not we should harvest
27 antlerless moose in the southern portion of Unit 22A.
28 Implementing an antlerless moose hunt is no small task.
29 It's something you should do only if you have very good
30 biological information. A general rule is -- you know,
31 a bull harvest is individual. Cow harvest is
32 exponential. So if you're going to start removing
33 cows, you should have a very good biological reason to
34 do so.

35
36 You heard me comment earlier that we do
37 have some biological information from that portion of
38 the unit, but we don't have very much. I would
39 personally be nervous to embark on any type of an
40 antlerless moose hunt from that portion of the unit
41 until we had some density estimates for the area.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: These were just
44 questions that were asked to me by the hunters. They
45 put a lot of time and effort and gas in the villages
46 isn't cheap any more or motor oil and buying the food
47 to go out camping. So it was just a question to the
48 Feds and the State. I tell them -- well, let me just
49 put it in a way that my dad put it to me when I was a
50 young man. He said whatever you run into is what you

1 get. I've always lived by that, what was given to me
2 by my dad.

3

4 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chair. Mr. Gorn,
5 winter hunt season, like Leonard said, we are running
6 into a situation in which the bull -- I guess it's
7 about that time when the antlerless ones are left.

8

9 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Mr.
10 Martin. A general rule of thumb, although there is a
11 lot of variability here, is the biggest bulls will
12 start dropping their antlers in December. We try to
13 have our fall moose count surveys done by the end of
14 November so we don't miss the big bulls.

15

16 I've actually got some experience, very
17 interesting experience, down in the central portion of
18 Unit 22A flying spring surveys where I made some
19 noteworthy observations. Two years ago I was flying
20 spring recruitment surveys down there and I classified
21 like 125 moose and I actually classified enough
22 antlered bulls during the last week of February to get
23 a bull/cow ratio, which was very surprising to me that
24 bull moose were retaining their antlers that long in
25 your area. I remember I classified four moose as large
26 bulls, so that means they were greater than 50 inches.

27

28 As a general rule, the big ones over 50
29 will start losing their antlers in December, but
30 certainly there's variability to that rule, as we've
31 seen in the central portion of Unit 22A.

32

33 MR. MARTIN: The reason I asked, just
34 recently in the St. Michael area at a meeting they
35 brought this issue up. Wondering if it would be okay
36 to get the moose hunting season back in December. I
37 think most of the hunters are in favor of January.
38 Like you had stated earlier, for the past two years we
39 have asked for an extension due to inclement weather.

40

41 We had the same problem this year, plus
42 due to high prices of gas too. It seems like every
43 time we have moose season open we start having cold
44 weather and that prevents a lot of our hunters from
45 going out. They're not taking that risk because you
46 know how it is traveling in cold weather and you cannot
47 really depend on snowmachines when it's very cold, no
48 matter if you have another partner with you.

49

50 I just wanted to make a comment on

1 that. Guyana.

2

3

4 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: The one I'm
5 commenting about is the one on August 1 to September
6 30th before the rut season. Like I said, it seems like
7 the bulls know when the season opens and they
8 disappear. A lot of the hunters don't get what they go
9 after because they run into a lot of these females,
10 yearling bulls or calves. It's a shame that they go
11 out and they come back with nothing with the high cost
12 of fuel, groceries in the villages. That is where the
13 concern lies with the hunters. By the time the season
14 closes, they don't get what they went after. Yes, it
15 makes it a little bit difficult to tell the difference
16 between males and females when they drop their horns in
17 January. The hunters are out hunting for their family.
18 That's the difficult part.

18

19 I guess I'll ask for a motion for
20 WCR08-09C.

21

22 MR. MARTIN: I move.

23

24 MR. QUINN: Say what you're going to
25 move.

26

27 MR. MARTIN: I move for the closure of
28 WRC08-09C to be as presented by Chuck.

29

30 MR. ARDIZZONE: Just for clarification,
31 Mr. Chair. Mr. Martin, are you suggestion in your
32 motion we keep the closure in place?

33

34 MR. MARTIN: Yes.

35

36 MR. QUINN: Second.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: There was a motion
39 and there was a second.

40

41 MR. BUCK: Question.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: The question being
44 called, all in favor of the closure as written say aye.

45

46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any nays.

49

50 (No opposing votes)

1 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Hearing none, the
2 motion passed as written.

3
4 Now we're on D, which is WCR08-17, Unit
5 22 coyote.

6
7 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Chuck
8 Ardizzone again. Hopefully this will be much simpler
9 than the other ones. WCR08-17 is the closure in place
10 for Unit 22 coyotes.

11
12 Under hunting regulations, Federal
13 public lands are closes to taking of coyotes. The
14 original justification is that there is not a viable
15 population of coyotes in any part of Unit 22, so there
16 shouldn't be a regulation in place to harvest any.
17 Currently there's no management objectives for coyotes
18 in Unit 22. The abundance for this species is unknown.
19 There has been some incidental take of coyotes in the
20 region.

21
22 Our preliminary recommendation is to
23 initiate a proposal to modify or remove this closure.
24 There's no objectives for coyotes in this region. The
25 population of coyotes doesn't appear to be any but a
26 few scattered coyotes. If we remove this closure, we
27 wouldn't have to institute a season. It would just
28 remove the closure from the books and we wouldn't have
29 to go through this process every three years. If we
30 kept the season closed, we'd basically do the same
31 thing. You would have no season for coyotes unless you
32 wanted to institute one. The original proposal was put
33 in by the RAC at that initial time in 1995, I believe.
34 It would be nice to have some discussion on this. It's
35 one of those closures I'd like to get off the books.

36
37 MR. QUINN: Mr. Chair. I move that we
38 support removing this closure and save these guys some
39 money for something else.

40
41 MR. KEYES: Second.

42
43 MR. BUCK: Question.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: All in favor say
46 aye.

47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49
50 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any nays.

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Hearing none, so
4 passed. So we're down to E, WCR08-28, Unit 22D Tisuk
5 muskox. Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments.

6

7 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Let me
8 present it real quick and then you can ask for comments
9 from Fish and Game.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Go ahead.

12

13 MR. ARDIZZONE: So WCR08-28 is the
14 closure in place in Unit 22D, that portion west of the
15 Tisuk River drainage and Canyon Creek. Federal public
16 lands are closed to the taking of muskox except by
17 Federally qualified subsistence users.

18

19 The muskox population in Unit 22D more
20 than doubled in size between 1992 and 1998. If you
21 look at Table 1, you can see the population over the
22 years. The population then leveled off between 2002
23 and 2005. In 2007, ADF&G surveyed the entire Unit 22
24 muskox population and counted a total of 2,688 animals
25 with an increase of 11 percent over 2005. In Unit 22D,
26 however, the population appears to have declined by
27 approximately 6 percent from 796 animals in 2005 to 746
28 animals in 2007.

29

30 In Table 2 you can see the muskox
31 harvest for Unit 22D, the number of permits issued and
32 the total harvest has been fairly low. The preliminary
33 recommendation is to maintain the status quo. The
34 muskox population has decreased over the survey periods
35 and it seems like it would be prudent to keep this
36 closure in place unless we hear otherwise from the
37 Council. Any questions?

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any Fish and Game
42 comments.

43

44 MR. GORN: Mr. Chair. I have no
45 comments directly related to the closure of Federal
46 public lands, but I just want to make one clarification
47 in the report that Chuck just gave. It is true there
48 was a documented decrease in Unit 22D between 2005 and
49 2007 by about 50 animals. The population in Unit 22C,
50 which is adjacent to 22D, increased by more than 100

1 percent. It went from 220 animals to 460-something.
2 It's very likely that animals from 22D were just
3 standing on the other side of the ridge during the
4 census when we counted them.

5
6 That idea is firmed up by composition
7 surveys that we did between 2005 and 2007 that showed
8 high recruitment rates and appropriate age class
9 percentages. I just wanted to clarify that. At this
10 point, the Department doesn't anticipate any kind of
11 population decreases or ill health in the muskox
12 population in that area. Thank you.

13
14 MR. QUINN: Mr. Chair.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Yes.

17
18 MR. QUINN: I have a few questions for
19 Mr. Sparks. I happen to have the State thing in front
20 of me and what it shows for Federal lands in 22D
21 southwest. It looks like there's relatively few
22 Federal lands there. I believe those are BLM lands, am
23 I correct?

24
25 MR. SPARKS: Yes, you are correct, Mr.
26 Quinn, through the Chair.

27
28 MR. QUINN: Just off the top of your
29 head, do you have what percent D southwest has Federal
30 land?

31
32 MR. SPARKS: I couldn't take a guess
33 right now. I have more detailed land status maps at
34 the office. I could bring them in after lunch and we
35 could look at them.

36
37 MR. QUINN: All right. Tony, my memory
38 says that this year's muskox hunt contained four
39 drawing permits for sport hunters for D southwest, is
40 that correct?

41
42 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Mike,
43 that's correct.

44
45 MR. QUINN: And that's the second
46 highest number of drawing permits for 22C, D, D
47 southwest. Anyway, four drawing permits for that small
48 area seemed a little more than -- well, like 22C only
49 had two drawing permits. Tell us why 22D southwest has
50 that many drawing permits for such a small area.

1 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Mr.
2 Quinn. These drawing permit allocations were
3 identified through the last Seward Peninsula muskox
4 cooperators meeting. Essentially the work group for
5 22D southwest, which was made up of Teller residents
6 and some Nome residents, were willing because of some
7 local desires in Teller to just offer more drawing
8 permits. Outside of Teller there's been a long-
9 standing request to harvest more animals outside of the
10 village. I don't want to speak for that committee, but
11 it's my understanding that they thought the drawing
12 hunt permits would have high success rates and the
13 animals would be taken.

14
15 MR. QUINN: Thanks. I'll make a
16 motion.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Kawerak.

19
20 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: He can make a motion
21 removing the Federal closure.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: She says you're
24 right, you can make a motion.

25
26 MR. QUINN: Okay. Given the relatively
27 small amount of Federal land in this area and the good
28 population and the request from local residents to have
29 a little more harvest, I move that this RAC support
30 removing the Federal closure in this area.

31
32 MR. BUCK: Second.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: There was a second
35 by Peter Buck of White Mountain. Discussion.

36
37 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. Elmer. I am
38 in close proximity to 22 southwest. The majority of
39 the land is used by the Teller Reindeer Herd that
40 number at least 4,000. Also I think I rarely see
41 muskox in that area. It's been heavily used by the
42 ungulates past 30, 40 years. Towards the spit westward
43 up Cape Douglas, there was a lot of trenching of the
44 Tisuk where the moss is located and that was pretty
45 much decimated by the local reindeer herd due to the
46 herder not moving their animals in or around their
47 seasonal ranges.

48
49 The muskoxen there pretty much are
50 displaced by local spring migratory bird hunters. This

1 is a heavy use area by residents of Teller and Brevig
2 Mission. Mr. Gorn stated that it is outside of Teller.
3 It is pretty close to at least 30 miles southwest of
4 Brevig Mission, so accessibility is limited to spring
5 and winter months. However, Unit 22C, there's a road
6 that goes to Cape Willy and it can be accessed by Nome
7 residents. I see that there is very small Federal
8 lands within this area. We are not able to use that
9 anywhere from the summer because the terrain is very
10 different and we hardly use that area for subsistence
11 take other than wildlife. That's my discussion
12 portion.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more
15 discussion from anyone.

16
17 MR. SEETOT: Your original motion was
18 to do away with the closing of the.....

19
20 MR. QUINN: To remove the closure.

21
22 MR. SEETOT: Okay.

23
24 MR. QUINN: Question.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: The question has
27 been called. All in favor say aye.

28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Those who disagree
32 say nay.

33
34 (No opposing votes)

35
36 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Hearing none,
37 motion passed. So we're moving now to F. WCR08-29,
38 Unit 22D remainder muskox.

39
40 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. WCR08-29
41 speaks to the closure in Unit 22D remainder for muskox.
42 Those lands are closed to the taking of muskox except
43 by Federally qualified subsistence users. So basically
44 we're talking about the rest of Unit 22 that we didn't
45 discuss earlier. The population is the same and the
46 recommendation is the same. I'm not going to bore you
47 with details since we just covered it. You can see the
48 harvest levels in Table 1 and 2.

49
50 Our preliminary recommendation is to

1 maintain this closure. However, as we have done in the
2 other ones, discussion with the council will carry a
3 lot of weight and I'd like to hear what you have to
4 say.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: The floor is open
7 to discussion.

8
9 MR. QUINN: Mr. Chair.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Go ahead.

12
13 MR. QUINN: Tony, I just want to get
14 the State's input on this closure and population. Are
15 you aware of any problems where maybe non-qualified
16 hunters have taken muskox on Federal lands that are
17 currently closed?

18
19 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Mr.
20 Quinn. As far as population dynamics and the status of
21 the muskox population in the area, I have nothing to
22 report that has shown us that the age classes are
23 skewed or fecundity rates are low or anything weird
24 like that. I mean the muskox population, like in most
25 areas of the Seward Peninsula, seems to be very healthy
26 and doing very well. This is an area that I'll
27 explain, depending on what your point of view is, I'll
28 say benefitted from the recent Board of Game regulatory
29 change. It's an area where historically under the Tier
30 II system harvest quotas were never reached.

31
32 After the Board of Game made changes to
33 create subsistence registration hunts and drawing hunts
34 in areas of the Seward Peninsula last year, we actually
35 closed this area, which on the State side is known as
36 Unit 22D remainder by emergency order. The harvest
37 quota of 16 muskox was met. I believe it was during
38 the month of December. The season opened in August and
39 it went to December when both the State and Federal
40 managers closed the season.

41
42 As far as if I'm aware of any
43 intentional abuses of hunting on Federal land, I can't
44 say I am. This area, like lots of areas in Alaska, is
45 a patchwork of land status. I guess I question if
46 hunters really know where they are most of the time.
47 Thank you.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Does Kawerak have
50 any comments or public comment, whichever.

1 MR. ASHENFELTER: Mr. Chair. This is
2 Roy Ashenfelter. I assume we're talking about Unit 22D
3 remainder, right? We're talking about Kuzitrin.....

4
5 MR. QUINN: Not Kuzitrin.

6
7 MR. ASHENFELTER: Okay. I don't have
8 any comment. Do whatever you want to do.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Austin.

11
12 MR. AHMASUK: For the record, Austin
13 Ahmasuk, Nome. I have a comment on some of the actions
14 you've taken. The message that you're sending to the
15 Federal Subsistence Board and that is you've taken
16 action to open up lots of areas to non-Federally
17 qualified users. You're considering a proposal that's
18 closer to Nome than some of the other actions you've
19 taken and my comments are from the perspective of a
20 Nome hunter.

21
22 This year in Nome we had a very short,
23 very competitive muskox hunt and the Department of Fish
24 and Game is considering some tools to help Nome hunters
25 stem this rampant tide of non-local hunters that
26 flooded this area.

27
28 My concern is with your other actions
29 is that you consider the message that you're sending.
30 Consider the proximity of action that may be taken
31 that's close to Nome. From my perspective, I did not
32 like to see the flood of non-local hunters that came to
33 Nome. It's my opinion that when the Board of Game took
34 its action this last time that it turned on a big
35 gigantic faucet that could flood other areas of the
36 unit and I do not wish for any of you to experience the
37 kind of things that Nome experienced this year.

38
39 Normally we have a three-month long
40 hunt. It was 6 days in C and 10 days in D. I think
41 that it's possible that the Board of Game and the
42 Federal Subsistence Board, when they review actions
43 that might be taken, that they might look at some of
44 your actions and they may take action against other
45 muskox hunters that are not agreeable.

46
47 So all I'm saying is that if you would
48 please keep in mind that some of your actions -- while
49 you've taken appropriate action as you see fit in other
50 areas of the unit, the kind of action that you've taken

1 for the Nome areas may sway other bodies into action
2 that is not agreeable. Thank you.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: More comments.

5

6 MR. ASHENFELTER: This is Roy
7 Ashenfelter. I was trying to get a clarification what
8 unit in 22D are we talking about?

9

10 MR. ARDIZZONE: It's everything else
11 other than 22D southeast.

12

13 MR. ASHENFELTER: Okay. As I name
14 different drainages, let me know.....

15

16 MR. ARDIZZONE: Somebody is going to
17 have to help me with drainages, please.

18

19 MR. ASHENFELTER: Is it just
20 Agiapuk/American?

21

22 MR. SEETOT: My understanding is that
23 it was west of the Kougarok Road pretty much. Pretty
24 much Agiapuk River and the American River drainages
25 including Teller and Brevig Mission area.

26

27 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Ken
28 Adkisson, National Park Service. It's kind of a
29 confusing issue right now I think between the State and
30 Federal systems. Let me briefly go over that. Over
31 the evolution of the hunts on the State and Federal
32 side there has been more of a break-out into hunt areas
33 on the State side.

34

35 If you look at it right now, the State
36 has with its own harvest quotas a hunt in the
37 Kuzitrin/Pilgrim area, what we sometimes refer to as
38 22D east. In the regulation books, it's identified as
39 the Kuzitrin/Pilgrim. They also have the remainder,
40 which is the American and Agiapuk drainages and then
41 they have the 22D southwest.

42

43 On the Federal side, we have a 22D
44 southwest, but then we only have a 22D remainder,
45 which, in essence, includes the American and Agiapuk
46 and the Kuzitrin/Pilgrim are. What happened this year
47 the State hit the hunt -- the harvest quota was reached
48 in the 22D in the American/Agiapuk area and that closed
49 and we followed with a Federal action, but we had a
50 dilemma of not being able to separate out very easily

1 the Kuzitrin/Pilgrim area from the American/Agiapuk
2 area.

3

4 The result of that was the closure on
5 the State side applied to the American/Agiapuk area,
6 but it didn't apply to the Kuzitrin/Pilgrim area. In
7 closing the 22D remainder on the Federal side, it
8 applied to the whole shebang, including the American
9 and Agiapuk and the Kuzitrin/Pilgrim area. So that
10 essentially left us in the Kuzitrin/Pilgrim area with
11 an ongoing State hunt and no Federal hunts.

12

13 One of the solutions to this I think
14 will be for us to introduce a regulatory proposal a
15 cycle to align the Federal hunt areas with the State
16 areas. That would eliminate the problem we had with
17 the closure situation. Does that help, Roy?

18

19 MR. ASHENFELTER: A little bit. So
20 we're talking in Agiapuk/American, right?

21

22 MR. SEETOT: And Teller and Brevig
23 Mission.

24

25 MR. ASHENFELTER: Anything north of
26 Agiapuk to the road? Some day I'll get the map
27 straight. Let me just make some comments on this
28 particular area. I think I currently use because of a
29 camp I have, I hunt in that area quite a bit. I never
30 check to see if I'm in 22D remainder, 22D southwest. I
31 just know that when I'm in that area if I have a permit
32 for moose or whatever that I just go out and go.
33 Because of my familiarity with that area, access to it,
34 I would hope that -- you know, as Austin pointed out,
35 we had a very short muskox season under this Tier I
36 hunt. I personally was able to get out to my camp and
37 hunt in Unit 22D and get a muskox in this short season,
38 so that allows me different options, whether Unit 22C
39 or 22D under this Tier I hunt.

40

41 I'm hoping that the RAC here considers
42 opening it up for other residents from Nome that, like
43 myself, would like an opportunity to go out to these
44 different areas as the opportunity arises because most
45 of this area, if we're talking Agiapuk and American,
46 you have to have some type of access and knowledge how
47 to get there and get out. A lot of people won't know
48 or won't have the equipment to do this kind of a long
49 trip.

50

1 I'm in favor of opening it up for those
2 of us in Nome that had a limited opportunity and will
3 continue to have a limited opportunity because I see
4 this Tier I staying and making some adjustments
5 according to how it was managed this year.

6
7 We are having an AC meeting tomorrow
8 and we will be discussing in detail how the Tier I hunt
9 went for Unit 22C, D and B in regards to Tier I hunting
10 for muskox and try to make some adjustments based on
11 what happened this past winter.

12
13 Anyway, I'm speaking in favor of trying
14 to open up more opportunities for those of us that hunt
15 in that area. Thank you.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more
18 discussion, concerns.

19
20 MR. SEETOT: When you're talking about
21 Federally-qualified subsistence hunters, are you just
22 talking about the communities or the ones that use the
23 resource, such as what Roy was talking about, because
24 Agiapuk River is a heavy-use area during the summer
25 months. That definition I wanted to get on the
26 Federally-qualified subsistence user. Is it a
27 particular resident of Teller and Brevig or does that
28 also include the Nome residents that use it for
29 subsistence purposes?

30
31 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Ken
32 Adkisson, National Park Service. The original C&T for
33 22D was basically residents of 22D and that was largely
34 Brevig and Teller. A few years ago the C&T was
35 revisited and it was modified. At that time Nome was
36 included in the eastern portion of 22D. So right now
37 the American and Agiapuk area, the Federal C&T is for
38 residents of Brevig and Teller essentially. For the
39 Kuzitrin/Pilgrim area, it includes Brevig and Teller as
40 well as Nome and another community or two in 22B
41 actually.

42
43 Not only are the seasons beginning to
44 be different and the harvest levels are beginning to be
45 different, but the C&T are different from the eastern
46 and western portion of 22D and that's another reason to
47 break those areas out under the Federal regs.

48
49 MR. QUINN: Mr. Chair.
50

1 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Go ahead.

2

3 MR. QUINN: So, Ken, currently Nome
4 residents do not have C&T for what the State calls 22D
5 remainder. That means that Nome residents cannot
6 legally hunt on Federal lands in that area, correct,
7 because of this closure we're talking about?

8

9 MR. ADKISSON: Through the Chair to Mr.
10 Quinn. Yes, that would be my interpretation.

11

12 MR. QUINN: Okay. Now, Tony and Chuck,
13 we just heard the term flood of non-locals used in
14 short season. Could you give us some data on just how
15 many non-locals have participated in the various hunts
16 for this area and could you give us some data on which
17 hunts are currently and how long those units were open
18 for that new State hunt.

19

20 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Mr.
21 Quinn. I can give you some of that. First off, the
22 season in Unit 22D remainder on the State side, so
23 that's the American and Agiapuk, and then the area
24 south of Imuruk Basin to the Sawtooth Mountains. That
25 season opened August 1st and closed in December at some
26 point. I cannot tell you the number of individual
27 hunters that were not from Unit 22. It was few, if
28 any. The participants of that hunt were almost
29 exclusively Nome residents and Brevig Mission
30 residents.

31

32 MR. QUINN: Okay. How many drawing
33 permits were there for that area?

34

35 MR. GORN: The drawing hunt is still
36 open. The quota for that is three. Of that, almost
37 all of the 16 muskox were harvested from Unit 22D
38 remainder, south of Imuruk Basin. I can think of less
39 than five animals that were taken from the American and
40 Agiapuk.

41

42 To answer the rest of your questions,
43 the registration hunt in Unit 22C lasted nine days.
44 The registration muskox hunts in Unit 22D southwest is
45 still open. The registration muskox hunt in Unit 22D
46 in the Kuzitrin drainage is still open. The
47 registration muskox hunt in all areas of Unit 22B is
48 still open. The registration muskox hunt in Unit 22E
49 is still open. So the only areas that have been closed
50 by emergency order are 22C and 22D remainder.

1 MR. QUINN: Okay. Just so we get
2 things straight, how many permits in C were filled by
3 non-locals?

4
5 MR. GORN: In 22C we issued -- and I'm
6 going to qualify this by saying that the style of
7 hunting, the design of the permits along the Nome Road
8 system this year was a one-time thing. It's all
9 changing next year because we've learned a lot. This
10 year we issued 99 permits. 24 of them were to people
11 that did not live in Unit 22. Of the 24 permits issued
12 to non-locals, they harvested nine muskox out of the 33
13 that were taken.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more concerns,
16 discussion.

17
18 MR. KEYES: Yes, Anthony Keyes from
19 Wales. You know, listening to you, Tony, it sounds
20 like you're more in favor for non-residents than you
21 are for the local people of Nome, Teller, Brevig. Non-
22 residents are catching more than people that are
23 supposed to be catching within their village
24 boundaries. I would like to see it open for the people
25 for Nome, Teller and Brevig because the seasons are too
26 short for them.

27
28 It's a major hit for setting rules and
29 we have to abide by them. When we do, we do get busted
30 and we get put down at the very bottom of the totem
31 pole. We, as Natives, have been here long enough to
32 know how to limit ourselves at catching what we want
33 without wasting and having to have non-residents come
34 and take what they want. They give the meat away.
35 They don't actually take it with them. They want the
36 hide and head, not the meat. Thank you.

37
38 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. When the
39 muskox harvest first started in '95, I was the first
40 person to harvest a muskox. That was two days before
41 the close of the season. From that it grew to pretty
42 close to so many animals. At one of the muskox
43 cooperatives meeting we mentioned that amount used for
44 subsistence by the State or the Federal side, we stated
45 that 15 muskox would be good for these two communities.

46
47
48 When it was initially started, the
49 interest was there, but hunting conditions vary from
50 year to year. This was a new species to our people for

1 us to hunt. Moose were never heard of 30, 40 years
2 ago. However, they moved up and we get to like moose
3 nowadays compared to muskox. Muskox are pretty much
4 kind of stationary in the way that -- like I said
5 earlier, they were introduced to our area without
6 consultation by the village. Now we consider them a
7 nuisance by some. I still use TEK to pretty much
8 regulate and also try to educate the public because our
9 uses of the animals in each region is different.

10

11 Sixteen quota. It was pretty much
12 closed the first part of January for our area. Even
13 though I know that Unit 22D is a heavy use area, use of
14 the resource is continued to increase. One TEK, the
15 more you use the resource, the more it will be there
16 for you. Number two, if you don't use that resource
17 wisely or if you argue about the resource, sooner or
18 later it won't be there for you.

19

20 Another thing is that if the State and
21 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game continues to set
22 a quota for certain areas within 22D and, like I say,
23 the more you eliminate or harvest these animals, the
24 more they will be there for you, which will be good for
25 residents of Nome and outlying areas. If you don't use
26 that resource, that resource will slowly die off. One
27 is the introduction of diseases. The other is food
28 availability and natural predation is a given in any
29 species.

30

31 We do have a lot of wolves within
32 remainder 22D. These wolves are getting harder to
33 catch. They've learned over the past two years that
34 they can go after a resource. Example the reindeer,
35 because no one has really challenged the predators,
36 even though attempts to harvest these animals have
37 failed by local hunters.

38

39 I would really be in favor of keeping
40 that closure in Unit 22D remainder; however, I would
41 also include that users include Nome residents but not
42 the people that flood the state with proposals.

43

44 My dream, you know, during the fall
45 season is to go northwest or wherever the caribou
46 migrate to harvest a healthy bull animal because I
47 heard that the animals are very fat in July/August.
48 However I cannot go there because, one, the villages
49 subsist on meat taken locally or traded or bartered.
50 And we don't have the financial resources to pretty

1 much go after trophy animals. We take only what is
2 needed for our subsistence uses. The majority of the
3 hunt seasons are when the animals are in their prime
4 health. Opening of the August or September moose
5 season before they go into rut. We, as users in the
6 community, do not pretty much do any sport activities.
7 I think that's self-regulation by our hunters because
8 of our knowledge passed down by our ancestors have kept
9 these animals in our back yard.

10

11 I see a place right now where outside
12 users are trying to muscle in on the resource. That is
13 pretty new to their way of hunting. These animals are
14 for everyone's use and I know that and I argue for that
15 as long as it's done in a manner that is sustainable
16 for the population.

17

18 We talk about muskox a lot in our area.
19 They do some good for the ecosystem on which they
20 depend on. They are cultivators, guards of the various
21 plants. We, as human beings, being our nature, when
22 something does go wrong, we blame it on the creatures
23 in some areas. I would like to continue the closure of
24 Unit 22D remainder, but that it's open to local
25 subsistence users including Nome.

26

27 I know Nome users of 22D a lot use
28 Imuruk Basin and Kougarak Road and that's how it's been
29 working over the past years. Our people have been very
30 tolerant of jet boats going up the Agiapuk during the
31 fishing season because the chum salmon use that Agiapuk
32 River to spawn by the thousands. The local grayling,
33 trout, northern pike, burbot, all use the American
34 River, including tom cod and smelt.

35

36 So what we see during our time we spend
37 on Agiapuk is very small. We don't know exactly how
38 much uses the Agiapuk River and the American River are
39 used by certain resources. The fish in the stream.
40 It's pretty much a good recreational area because it
41 has everything in there.

42

43 My current position is that Federal
44 land be closed to Federal qualified residents just so
45 that we don't get a lot of outsiders from outside of
46 Unit 22D using and pretty much not paying attention to
47 environment that is on right now. Because I've seen
48 people that leave their trash behind. I do try to take
49 care of the land because this is the land where we get
50 our resources from.

1 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Before we continue
2 I was told that some InterAgency Staff need to be
3 checking out of here. If we need to continue this, can
4 we continue it later after the lunch break, please. A
5 short comment.

6
7 MS. KENNER: Very short. I just wanted
8 to hear what Elmer said, Mr. Chair. Did you mean all
9 except Federally-qualified users or including
10 Federally-qualified users? I wasn't clear on your
11 statement.

12
13 MR. SEETOT: It's pretty much the
14 current Federal regulation. By Federally-qualified
15 users, including Nome area residents that do use that
16 area under Federal guidelines.

17
18 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair. Thank
19 you, Mr. Seetot. Pippa Kenner with OSM.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: We need to
22 continue this after the lunch break because there are
23 some Staff that need to check out of their rooms.

24
25 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: How long for lunch?

26
27 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: 1:00 o'clock is
28 what I'm told we'll be starting.

29
30 (Off record)

31
32 (On record)

33
34 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: We need to get the
35 meeting started. We're going to continue with the
36 meeting, but we'll be coming back later to WCR08-29
37 later when we get a quorum. We'll be moving onto 9,
38 call for proposal to change 2010/12 Federal subsistence
39 wildlife regulations. Go ahead.

40
41 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Number 9 is
42 a placeholder. We're calling for proposals if the RAC
43 would like to change any regulations for the next go
44 round with the Board. Now is the time to suggest
45 those.

46
47 MR. ADKISSON: I think Tony has one.

48
49 MR. KEYES: Yes, I do. This is Anthony
50 Keyes from Wales. Actually I've got two, one for moose

1 and one for muskox. At this time I would like to say
2 that I know most of the time when we have our openings
3 we'd be open with bulls at a certain length of hunting
4 time until it comes time to taking cows. Right now in
5 my region I would say there is more cows than bulls.
6 I'd like to get more cows taken than bull muskox. My
7 last ride two weeks ago I saw one bull with eight or
8 nine cows next to him. So I think it would be wise to
9 have more cow muskox put on the subsistence hunting for
10 our consumption.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Submitting to?

13
14 MR. KEYES: I would like to submit this
15 to the National Park.

16
17 MR. ADKISSON: Tony, do you have a
18 question or something about the park?

19
20 MR. KEYES: I'd like to make a new
21 proposal to change this to more cows and less bulls or
22 tie it in with the bulls. That way we get more cows.
23 I think the majority of our residents up that way would
24 have muskox instead of having to take bull muskox.

25
26 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Ken
27 Adkisson, National Park Service. If I could discuss
28 this a little bit with Tony. Based on your discussions
29 and comments at the last RAC meeting, Tony, you had
30 expressed an interest in providing more opportunity on
31 cows. I took that to mean you were interested in
32 aligning the cow season with the bull season to give
33 you more months of the year to hunt cows.

34
35 The current regulation reads one
36 muskoxen August 1 to March 15th. However, cows can
37 only be taken January 1 to March 15th. Based on your
38 earlier discussions, I thought what the regulation
39 could read would be one muskoxen between August 1 and
40 March 15th, which would give you several more months of
41 opportunity to hunt cows when they're closer to home.

42
43 You could put in to increase the
44 percentage of cows harvested, but right now it's 8
45 percent harvest level of which 50 percent can be cows
46 and those cows really have not been taken. I think
47 maybe aligning the seasons might be a start in that
48 direction and then we could evaluate the harvest and
49 the muskoxen cooperators could address the overall
50 percentages or breakdown. That's all I've got.

1 MR. KEYES: Okay. If I could continue.

2

3 MR. ARDIZZONE: Excuse me, Anthony.

4 For some clarity, this is Chuck Ardizzone for the
5 record, if the Council wants to submit this as a joint
6 proposal, we'll have to take a vote on it. If you want
7 to submit it as an individual from Wales, I can surely
8 work with you that way. I'm not sure how you want to
9 do this today.

10

11 MR. KEYES: I would like to do it
12 through my Council members.

13

14 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: So you make a
15 motion.

16

17 MR. KEYES: So can I make a motion that
18 we can tie in more cows with our bulls in the region of
19 Wales as a proposal.

20

21 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. More
22 clarification. Anthony, what Mr. Adkisson said,
23 extending the cow season throughout the whole harvest
24 period, would that meet your needs at the moment? So
25 if the regulation read for 22E one muskox by Federal
26 permit or State permit August 1st through March 15th,
27 would that meet the intent of your proposal?

28

29 MR. KEYES: Change January 1st to March
30 15th on cows to August 1 to March 15.

31

32 MR. ARDIZZONE: Okay. I just wanted to
33 make sure I was clear.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: If we're going to
36 vote on this proposal, we're still going to have to
37 wait until one more member shows up. We're short for a
38 vote on the proposal.

39

40 MR. KEYES: I can wait. Could I go
41 ahead and continue for another discussion. I have a
42 letter here and it's from an individual at Wales, an
43 elder. I don't know if I should open it here, but I
44 think it would be interesting to know what's going on.
45 Bear with me. I'm going to read the whole thing so we
46 know what's happening.

47

48 This is addressed to Alaska Department
49 of Fish and Game, wildlife conservation management, 333
50 West Raspberry Road, Anchorage, Alaska. Dear Sir, the

1 past two years has been no good with moose hunting in
2 22E unit in Wales due to the daylight, also not enough
3 snow, and the season is wrong timing of the season,
4 months of October to November and December are no good.
5 Our gas prices are too high. Now it's \$7.73 a gallon
6 with taxes and we have to go 60 miles round trip
7 hunting. If you do get a moose, the load makes you
8 drive slow going home. Also our food prices are very
9 high in the Bush. I've been living in Wales the past
10 62 years and I used to get a moose every year, mostly
11 in March, because we have a lot of daylight. I'm
12 expecting some kind of help or who would listen for our
13 needs because of no access roads or to go shorter trips
14 to get moose like Shishmaref. Also four-wheeler or
15 snowmachines aren't cheap today. Not like 1960's or
16 1970's. Plus parts and oil. There are few hunters who
17 may have to say but nobody don't like to do anything to
18 help each other. Not like my younger days. Sometimes
19 it's very easy to say without trying or doing it.
20 There are so much to say, so little time for anything.
21 Sometimes someone would finally make and try to after
22 everything is about done or ready. I like to eat like
23 everybody who is living today. I like to hunt, but
24 getting to the area is very difficult. Not like 10
25 years ago. Can't go very far anymore to hunt around
26 anything I used to hunt now. Hope to hear very soon
27 about this concerning moose season.

28

29 Thank you for your time and services.
30 Sincerely, Raymond Seetok, Sr.

31

32 I, for one, will back him up on this
33 part. The cost of our gas is like 10 dollars a gallon.
34 Through these winter days, our days are dark and stays
35 dark. What I'm trying to say is I would like to see if
36 I can get a proposal made to where we can get -- or an
37 emergency proposal made for at least one more month of
38 moose hunting because of our short daylight during the
39 months he mentioned, the price of fuel, the price at
40 the store. The people that do get food stamps are the
41 ones lucky enough to get the food and they're the ones
42 that consume all the byproducts that are brought to the
43 stores that are flown in. They don't care how much it
44 costs because they've got food stamps. We do care
45 because we don't have money in our pocket sometimes.

46

47 It hurts us right now to say we want
48 our moose on our table to feed our family. Having to
49 abide by the rules and regulations, you know, when we
50 break them, we get punished, but it would be very nice

1 to see if we could get an emergency opening for at
2 least one more month of moose hunting because the
3 weather has been too cold and problems with starting up
4 the snowmachines. So, please, I'm begging, if we can,
5 get an emergency proposal made for at least one more
6 month of moose hunting so we could be able to make our
7 people happy up at the village. Thank you.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Before we can deal
10 with both the proposals he's talking about we need to
11 wait for one more Council members. We'll move down to
12 Agency reports and then we'll skip number 1 and then
13 move down to 10(2), two-year cycle, projected
14 regulatory schedule. We just can't do anything right
15 now because we're short one person to vote.

16
17 MR. ARDIZZONE: For the two-year
18 regulatory cycle, if you'd turn to page 21 of your
19 Council book. It's just a table showing where we are
20 in the cycle and how the new cycles are going to work.
21 Currently we're in this February/March 2009 Council
22 meetings to develop proposals to change subsistence
23 wildlife regulations and those will have to be in by
24 the end of April. April 1st the new subsistence
25 fishing regulations will take effect and then this fall
26 is when we'll have a meeting to talk about the
27 proposals that have come in for changes to wildlife
28 regulations.

29
30 Because we're into that two-year cycle,
31 instead of wildlife in 2010 it will be fisheries in
32 January 2010. In January 2010 is when the Board will
33 meet on the wildlife proposals to finalize regulations
34 and for the FRMP, the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
35 Program projects. I won't go through all the blocks.

36
37 If there are questions, I can answer
38 those, but that's the biggest changes. Instead of
39 every year doing fish and wildlife it's every other
40 year.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any questions from
43 the Seward Pen Council or public.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Go ahead, Peter.

48
49 MR. MARTIN: I'd like to see people go
50 to our communities and meet with the community members

1 on these issues and contact IRA so we can have a
2 meeting in the community before we come to a meeting
3 like this as a group and we'll be able to discuss more
4 clearly what our community input is.

5
6 MR. ARDIZZONE: I can't commit to our
7 Staff to coming to all the communities. I hope the
8 Council members will get to look at the booklet and
9 talk to their respective villages before they come to
10 this meeting because it's just a financial burden to
11 have to go to every village in Alaska. So that's why
12 we rely on the RACs input as much as possible.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: That's why in the
15 last IRA meeting I stressed that people in the villages
16 -- I told the IRA Councils get these booklets and they
17 need to start going to the IRA and reading the
18 regulations that the State or the Federal governments
19 are making for them that they need to start becoming
20 concerned because it's going to affect the way they
21 fish and hunt.

22
23 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Also, for your
24 information, that's why you're on the Council and
25 that's why you are also on the advisory committees from
26 each area in the villages, for you to be the tie in to
27 your communities to inform your traditional councils
28 and usually we try to send all this information in to
29 the IRA offices. So we need to help each other there
30 and if you need more information I'm your tie-in to the
31 office and you can request more copies from me. We're
32 in touch with Stebbins IRA. This information is every
33 two years and it's self-explanatory here. That's all I
34 have to say on that. Thank you.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more comments.

37
38 MR. ENINGOWUK: This is Fred. What
39 about the other communities that are not represented on
40 the Council, like Koyuk and those other communities
41 that are not here? Are they represented somehow?

42
43 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I am in contact with
44 them, Frank and them, through email and they are also
45 sent books, Koyuk and Elim. When they have problems, I
46 usually get calls from the prior Council members. So
47 they get the same information you get. When you're
48 traveling, you can also talk to them and get
49 information from them and bring that concern to us or
50 to my attention. That way we can go out and give

1 information to them. It's not just only you are
2 representing the village that you come from. it's the
3 whole region of Region 7 that you represent.

4
5 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more
6 questions.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: 10(C), memorandum
11 of understanding.

12
13 MR. ARDIZZONE: If you're on page 22,
14 this is the memorandum of understanding between the
15 Federal Subsistence Board and the State of Alaska,
16 which establishes guidelines to coordinate the managing
17 of subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on Federal
18 public lands in Alaska. It was signed in December of
19 last year. If you have questions, I'll try and answer
20 them. If you don't have any, it's there for you to
21 read.

22
23 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: If you have any
24 questions on this MOU like there has been, I said you
25 can get a hold of me through my email. Even if it had
26 already been signed, those questions are being answered
27 by OSM Staff. Thank you.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any questions on
30 MOU. If not, we're moving on. We're on B, National
31 Park Service. Ken Adkisson.

32
33 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. We added a
34 few numbers to the agenda this morning.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Oh, yes. Go
37 ahead.

38
39 MR. ARDIZZONE: The first one is the
40 brown bear working group. I'll give you a quick
41 briefing on that. This is an action item, so we need
42 to wait. I'll skip to the next one, which is the
43 Chistochina briefing. That's not an action item. I'm
44 just going to read what was provided to me. A summary
45 of the ninth circuit court of appeals decision on the
46 Chistochina customary and traditional use determination
47 should be in your packets already.

48
49 In 2004, the Cheesh'Na Tribal Council
50 of the village of Chistochina submitted a proposal

1 requesting a customary and traditional use
2 determination for moose throughout Unit 12. Both the
3 Southcentral and Eastern Interior Regional Advisory
4 Councils recommended that a C&T determination be
5 granted to Chistochina for moose in Unit 12. ADF&G
6 expressed reservations about the proposal. The Federal
7 Subsistence Board supported the recommendations from
8 the Council and granted Chistochina C&T for moose
9 throughout Unit 12.

10

11 The State of Alaska submitted a request
12 for reconsideration, which the Board denied. The State
13 filed a lawsuit in U.S. district court challenging the
14 Board's Chistochina decision. The State alleged that
15 the decision was made without substantial evidence, is
16 inconsistent with ANILCA and would cause unnecessary
17 restrictions on non-subsistence uses.

18

19 In 2007, the U.S. district court found
20 in favor of the Federal Subsistence Management Program.
21 The State appealed that district court decision to the
22 9th circuit court of appeals. Last fall the 9th
23 circuit court of appeals validated and vindicated the
24 Federal Subsistence Board's Chistochina C&T
25 determination on every point. There's nothing in the
26 Chistochina decision that requires the Federal
27 Subsistence Board to change any of its practices or
28 procedures.

29

30 So what this means to us basically is
31 the way we do customary and traditional use
32 determinations remains the same. There's no change.
33 If there's questions, I can try and answer those.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Is there anyone
36 who has any questions concerning what was just spoken
37 of.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Hearing none, I
42 guess we're moving on to 10(B), National Park Service,
43 Ken Adkisson.

44

45 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
46 Park Service. I really only have three things I want
47 to quickly go over. I have some comments, which I'll
48 hold for a couple minutes on the muskox issues. The
49 first thing I'd like to do though, you may remember
50 before the Park Service was looking for a

1 superintendent for Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
2 and we had a series of ups and downs and fortunately
3 that's been resolved and worked through. I think the
4 Park Service is happy to announce that we do have a new
5 superintendent for Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
6 and it's a first that that person is locally. I'd like
7 to introduce Jeannette Pomrenke, our new
8 superintendent.

9

10 Jeanette, if you'd like to come say
11 anything right now, come up to the mike.

12

13 MS. POMRENKE: Thank you everyone. I
14 look forward to working with everyone on regional
15 issues and natural resources, cultural resources. I'm
16 a lover of subsistence. I'm an Alaska Native. My
17 parents are Joe and Grace Cross of Nome. My mom used
18 to be the chair, I think, of the RAC. Thank you very
19 much. I just have to leave for a second. I think I
20 left my dog outside after lunch, so I just need to go
21 check on that.

22

23 MR. ADKISSON: The second thing I had,
24 and I'll let Marci Johnson come up to the mike and
25 briefly go over with you some of our wildlife
26 activities, including a briefing on a major muskoxen
27 project that we're undertaking on the Seward Peninsula.
28 I'll turn it over to Marci and when she's done I'll
29 brief you on the muskox issues.

30

31 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. I'm Marci
32 Johnson and I just started in the end of August in
33 Kotzebue. A biologist for the National Park Service.

34

35 Just to brief you on some of the
36 wildlife projects we're doing in the Bering Land Bridge
37 National Preserve area. I work with the whole Western
38 Arctic National Parklands, four park units, so I'm just
39 speaking today about the ones that pertain to this
40 group here.

41

42 As far as our moose surveys, some of
43 you may be aware of most of the things I'll tell you
44 today. We have fall composition counts. Those are on
45 a rotational basis with our other park units too.
46 Spring census, also on a rotating schedule. I'm just
47 waiting to hear from Brad Schultz, our other biologist,
48 about exactly when the unit in Bering Land Bridge will
49 be surveyed next, so I don't have those details with
50 me.

1 Yellow-billed Loons is part of a
2 monitoring project. We have an arctic network, a group
3 of biologists who are doing inventory and monitoring
4 surveys. They have a survey for Yellow-billed Loons
5 every June and they just survey some lakes looking for
6 some nests.

7
8 As far as caribou work, we're
9 contributing some GPS collars that are going to be
10 deployed at Onion Portage next fall. Peter Nightlick
11 (ph) and I, he's our ecologist, we're trying to develop
12 a project right now to look at lichen biomass in the
13 Bering Land Bridge National Preserve area, monitoring
14 and quantifying how much lichen is out there as far as
15 cover. We want to look at biomass and how much food is
16 available to caribou and reindeer. We hope to get
17 something off the ground this summer.

18
19 Brad Schultz has been working on brown
20 bear surveys and he's on a rotational cycle of every
21 four years for the different units he's surveying.
22 This year he's trying to write and work on all his data
23 analysis and come up with new protocols for his survey
24 technique.

25
26 As far as muskox counts, every three
27 years in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve there's a
28 minimum count survey done. There's sex/age composition
29 surveys done every fall.

30
31 As Ken mentioned, we have this new
32 research project started last March and the principal
33 investigators on this project are Lane Adams with the
34 U.S. Geological Survey of Anchorage and also Joel
35 Berger from the University of Montana and Wildlife
36 Conservation Society, Brad Schultz and myself and Jim
37 Lawler with the National Park Service are cooperators.

38
39 Last March there were some captures.
40 They put six collars out and they started some
41 preliminary pilot work last year. This year is going
42 to start the first of three years of the main push of
43 the project. The latter half of March we're going to
44 be out capturing animals. We have two study areas,
45 essentially Bering Land Bridge National Preserve area
46 and Cape Krusenstern National Monument and to the north
47 of there.

48
49 In each study area we're going to try
50 to capture 35 animals. That includes 20 adults females

1 and of those 20 all those will be collared and 10 of
2 those will be GPS collars. An additional 15 sub-adults
3 will be captured, 10 of those will have collars on
4 them. Those are all females as well. One thing to
5 note, just being out in the field, is that our collars
6 will have these flags on the back with a number. This
7 is in lieu of a permanent ear tag. These collars will
8 be removed in 2012 when our project ends. With those
9 collars will come off this flag. It helps identify
10 them from the air. I'll be radio-tracking every two
11 weeks once these get deployed.

12
13 Essentially what we'll be studying is a
14 whole list of things. Population dynamics,
15 demographics, reproduction, survival, distribution. We
16 like to look at movement patterns. We found
17 interesting information this last year from a pilot
18 project of some large movements in muskox that were a
19 little unpredicted. And also health. We collect scats
20 in the springtime looking at stress hormone levels,
21 diseases, parasites, things like that. Another big
22 push is looking at calf survival and recruitment,
23 things like that. That is most of it.

24
25 In March, before we begin our captures,
26 we're going to be visiting the villages to try to get
27 information out to folks and take some questions.
28 We'll be back here in Nome on March 11th, Shishmaref on
29 March 12th and then after some visits also in Noatak,
30 Kivalina and Kotzebue. We're going to have an
31 interview on KOTZ radio hopefully on the 17th. Just
32 hoping to get the word out. If you have any questions
33 or you know of people who have questions, I can be a
34 contact there in Kotzebue.

35
36 MR. KEYES: Anthony Keyes. You
37 mentioned six collars. Six collars on what?

38
39 MS. JOHNSON: This is our muskox
40 research project.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any questions for
43 her.

44
45 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes, this is Fred. Are
46 the muskox that are collared legal game to be harvested
47 and if they are harvested what do to with the collars?

48
49 MS. JOHNSON: I'm not sure with these
50 collars, I haven't seen them yet, but they usually have

1 a contact number. Obviously you can call any of the
2 agencies and we can get in touch with the right people
3 to retrieve the collar. These will be females that
4 will be collared, so that takes out some of the
5 concern.

6

7 MR. ENINGOWUK: Not that we're going to
8 be looking for collared animals to harvest. Maybe that
9 can help us identify females.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more questions
12 for her. Yes.

13

14 MR. AHMASUK: Austin Ahmasuk. Are the
15 animals drugged and then effectively quarantined
16 outside of hunting seasons?

17

18 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. These captures are
19 only done in March. Thank you for your time.

20

21 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council
22 members. Ken Adkisson again. Just a quick comment to
23 Fred. Unlike the bulls, which you sometimes find by
24 themselves or maybe in small bachelor groups, usually
25 where you find one cow you're going to find more cows.
26 Hopefully the hunters will be able to avoid the
27 collared animals. There's no legal basis for that. We
28 just hope to get people's cooperations.

29

30 On the muskoxen topic, this is basic
31 information. You'll probably hear it again and others
32 to address it. As you know, there has been some pretty
33 major changes coming down the road. Almost every
34 regulatory cycle it affects the muskoxen hunts. Some
35 of these have been fairly significant. The move from
36 bulls only to including cows in the harvest, that sort
37 of thing. The most significant change I think is the
38 one we saw come into being this year with the shift
39 from the Tier II State hunt to the Tier I hunt. There
40 will be more discussion of that situation at the AC
41 meeting tomorrow.

42

43 In terms of permitting, that's an
44 interesting area because when we started the muskoxen
45 hunt the number of permits available pretty much
46 matched the allowable harvest, so that restricted
47 opportunity and access to permits to a lot of people.
48 Gradually, over the years, because of low harvest
49 rates, we built in fudge factors in which we issued
50 more permits than above and beyond what the allowable

1 harvest was to allow more people to have an
2 opportunity.

3
4 When the Tier I came along that
5 basically has an unlimited amount of permits available,
6 so there are no more caps on the number of State
7 permits available other than the number of people that
8 apply for them. That raises some questions about how
9 we manage our Federal permits because in the past we've
10 looked to the muskoxen cooperators group for guidance.
11 So we have things like for 22D, basically the
12 cooperators didn't want us issuing more than about six
13 permits or so and they wanted the rest to go into the
14 State system. One of the things I think we'll be going
15 back to the cooperators with is do we want a free-
16 floating Federal system.

17
18 There's a lot of advantages in State
19 permits, but we've discovered a few advantages in the
20 Federal permitting system that people should keep in
21 mind. One of the limitations in the State permitting
22 system and maybe Tony will talk about that, potential
23 fixes, and that is those permits are only available
24 through, what, December 31st, Tony?

25
26 MR. GORN: Correct.

27
28 MR. ADKISSON: So if you want to hunt a
29 muskoxen and you don't have a State Tier I permit after
30 December 31st, you're out of luck unless you come and
31 get a Federal permit because we can issue our permits
32 throughout the hunt year.

33
34 The other thing under the Federal
35 permitting system we do have a designated hunter
36 program which allows you to hunt for more than one
37 person and have more than one harvest limit in your
38 possession at any one time. Our experience is that
39 maybe people don't understand that, but we've expressed
40 very little interest in that program and it's kind of
41 unfortunate because I think it could really up the
42 harvest level for some of these communities.

43
44 As far as permitting activity has gone
45 for 22E this year we issued 18 permits between
46 Shishmaref and Wales. There's a possibility because of
47 the restriction I explained in the availability of
48 State permits we may wind up in the next few months
49 issuing a few more permits up in 22E.

50

1 In 22D, basically we issued 8 permits
2 and those went to Brevig and Teller residents. To
3 date, in both those hunt areas, we have no reported
4 Federal harvest, zero. In 22D, as you already know, we
5 wound up closing the Federal muskoxen hunt in late
6 December. That's going to prompt us to probably submit
7 a regulatory proposal to align the hunt areas with the
8 existing State hunt areas for improved management and
9 we'll have more flexibility in what we need to close
10 and it won't be such a blanket thing.

11
12 Other than that, we're just going to
13 watch how the new hunt system works and whether it
14 works for Federally qualified subsistence users and
15 listen to you folks about how you think it's working
16 and see where we need to fine tune the process based on
17 a lot of guidance from you. We're talking now about
18 trying to get a cooperator's meeting together prior to
19 the State Board of Game meeting in November and that
20 may be partially prompted by how many proposals and
21 what kind of proposals come in. We don't have any
22 actual dates for that yet.

23
24 That's all I've got unless there's
25 questions or comments on any of that.

26
27 MR. KEYES: Yes. Anthony Keyes from
28 Wales. I have a question about muskox. We do
29 festivals every year and if I'm not mistaken IRA is
30 limited to one muskox and one moose. If the people
31 were to get their quota, would we be stopped on getting
32 that muskox for the festival that we do?

33
34 MR. ADKISSON: Through the Chair to
35 Tony. Moose might be a little more difficult question
36 because of the biological status of the population out
37 there. On the muskoxen, given the increasing
38 liberalization of seasons and harvest limits and other
39 discussions, I think if you can use the animals for the
40 ceremonial hunt, I think you could put in a proposal to
41 say reasonably increase that. I don't know to what
42 right now, but it would be worth discussing before
43 April and the Federal program closes up.

44
45 MR. KEYES: Thank you. I'll do that
46 and I'll get with my IRA Council at Wales and see if we
47 can get that taken care of.

48
49 MR. ADKISSON: That would be excellent,
50 Tony, if you could come back to me with an estimated

1 number of animals you think you need for that
2 ceremonial hunt.

3

4 MR. KEYES: Thank you very much.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more questions
7 from the RAC or public.

8

9 MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig Mission.
10 With the quota already closed within Unit 22D
11 remainder, there's no chance that National Park Service
12 would reconsider animals for Teller or Brevig
13 communities under the program unless it gets changed by
14 the cooperators' meeting in the future?

15

16 MR. ADKISSON: Through the Chair to Mr.
17 Seetot. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. Any
18 change like that, if it's this season, would require a
19 special action and have to require demonstrating
20 special need for that. I don't think there would be
21 much opportunity since the quota for 22D remainder has
22 been reached, which is why the hunt was closed. So
23 unless there was really truly extenuating circumstances
24 I don't think you'd get people to buy in very much to
25 raising the overall harvest quota.

26

27 I think down the road it's worth
28 thinking about -- under the Tier I system right now
29 that we're in, in general we've had three early season
30 closures this year on muskox, which we've never had in
31 the past. I think it's worth considering how important
32 having a winter hunt is to you folks. If having that
33 winter hunt is really important for certain elements of
34 your community because they can't hunt any other way
35 other than by snowmachine after there's adequate cover,
36 I think it would be worth considering whether we want
37 to try some way both on the State and Federal side to
38 break out the harvest and allocate some to a winter
39 hunt.

40

41 The example that comes to mind right
42 now is 22B west of the Darby's for moose where we have
43 a winter moose hunt with a certain amount of animals
44 allocated to the winter hunt and we have a fall hunt in
45 which most of the animals are allocated too. The way
46 that works is if the fall hunt quota isn't taken, any
47 animals left in that then kick over to feed into the
48 winter hunt and raise the animals available in the
49 winter. That's one solution to the problem of early
50 closures.

1 MR. SEETOT: Elmer again. Further
2 going on that. You talk a conventional way of
3 harvesting an animal. The Inupiak or the Native people
4 pretty much kind of go by the seasons and a known fact
5 that unconventional means of harvesting are also done
6 in the communities without reporting that animal being
7 harvested to Federal or State agencies and that gets
8 kind of personal at times because we try to abide by
9 these regulations. Others might go by what was taught
10 to them by their parents, by community elders saying
11 take what you need. I guess we're kind of restricted
12 right now. I just want you to know that there are
13 people that I know that will take an animal during the
14 closed season. That's a known fact whether or not
15 ADF&G or National Park Service or any Federal agencies
16 say to the contrary.

17
18 MR. ADKISSON: Through the Chair to Mr.
19 Seetot. Yeah, I'm aware of that and all I can say is
20 if they do that, it's still a violation of regulation
21 and they do so at their own risk because I have no idea
22 what the level of enforcement would be, but they would
23 be breaking a regulation by taking an animal when
24 there's no open season. It's unfortunate and I think
25 there are other ways we can try to look at that. I
26 think one objective we personally have in the Park
27 Service is, where possible, try to make regulations fit
28 as much as possible to customary and traditional
29 patterns. One of the ways to do this is through things
30 like community harvest limits. I can also tell you
31 that those generally don't go over very well with the
32 regulating agencies. When we first floated that idea
33 on muskoxen in the beginning of the hunt or a few years
34 into the Federal hunt, we didn't receive much positive
35 support for going there.

36
37 MR. SEETOT: I just wanted to point
38 that out because some of these regulations that are put
39 forth by well-meaning people they don't live the
40 lifestyle we do out there. They know that our
41 conditions are hard, but they just kind of down-play it
42 in a way that if they see one community that is very
43 well off, they think that that community is pretty much
44 like any other community, but each community is
45 different in the way that they kind of go by what is
46 being regulated in the harvest or in the regulations
47 book. The majority of the people do that.

48
49 One concern I think in every community
50 is trying to educate the younger people in the proper,

1 legal way to harvest these animals because it's a known
2 fact also, but don't come to my community and try to
3 enforce regulations. It's a known fact they'll go
4 after animals when they are in season whether they've
5 got a hunting license or not. It's been pretty hard to
6 try to teach these young people about the proper way to
7 do these things. Our young people are not being
8 educated in the proper way of harvesting and taking
9 care of animals that they kill or harvest, like the
10 fish, the birds, ducks and so forth. I think that's a
11 problem that some young people are not being trained
12 properly to abide by the regulations or being
13 reprimanded by elders, by parents or by leaders in the
14 community.

15

16 MR. ADKISSON: If anyone on the rest of
17 the agency Staff wants to comment on this discussion,
18 feel free. To some extent it puts me in a difficult
19 and uncomfortable position in the sense that I'm not
20 going to encourage anyone to go out and break the law.
21 All I can tell you is that we encourage you to work in
22 the community towards educating the young and if
23 there's anything we can do to help support that
24 educational effort, we sure want to.

25

26 When you have a regulation or a law and
27 it says this and that and somebody does something
28 outside of that framework, A, either they're a law-
29 breaker and that's one way to address it and be done
30 with it or, B, if it's a customary and traditional
31 practice, you can try to change the law and the
32 regulation to fit the C&T pattern, then you don't have
33 a law-breaker because they do what they've always done
34 and they're within the framework of the law. I think
35 where we can we're willing to work with you, but I
36 don't have easy answers for some of it.

37

38 MR. KEYES: Ken, this is Anthony.
39 Through my life growing up I've listened to Elders.
40 They're smarter than me. They're smarter than anyone
41 put together in this room. They'll tell you -- I'll
42 ask them you know what this is. They'll say what the
43 heck is that. I'll tell them that's white man's rules
44 and regulations. They'll tell me I've got matches.
45 Just give me that. I grew up where there was no law
46 and regulations. I was born that way and I'm going to
47 stay that way. That's what they're trying to teach
48 their youngsters right now. When they were growing up
49 before our time, they didn't know what this meant. Now
50 it falls on our generation today.

1 What's in this book when I first seen
2 this book start coming out, it was real thin, about 10
3 to 15 pages. Now it's 2009. Look how thick it's
4 gotten. The rules and regulations we have to follow as
5 Native people that we live off this land from day one
6 we were born with the elders teaching us how to live.
7 If you're out in the country and you don't have a
8 hunting permit with you, you broke down, are you going
9 to abide by the rules that they gave you through this
10 book? No. I wouldn't. I'll shoot anything that is
11 edible out there to live. If they come and take my
12 meat away on of course me breaking the law, I'll say,
13 hey, you're not going to feed me.

14
15 Things nowadays are getting to be hard
16 for our generation to follow and it's a true fact.
17 Even our elders are getting mad at this kind of stuff
18 we have to go through. What regulations are put
19 together by you people is hurting our generation.
20 That's why rules are meant to be broken. No one on
21 this earth is very -- we're not perfect. That's why
22 Elmer was saying people do break laws and rules and
23 regulations are meant to be broken anywhere, any kind
24 of rules and regulations. I feel saddened to have to
25 go through a book and read things like this and say,
26 hey, how is that going to fill up my freezer for the
27 whole winter when the seasons are really short.

28
29 How am I going to feed my family when
30 the cost of everything is so much in the stores
31 nowadays. Even bullets are getting to be way up there.
32 We also have Fish and Game flying over us during the
33 springtime. We know the color of their planes. We
34 know who they are. To tell you the truth, my kind of
35 people make fun of these people that make rules and
36 regulations. True fact. Like I say, if I were to be
37 busted for something I had read and I wasn't supposed
38 to do, my answer would be will you feed me.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Do we have any
41 more comments.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Hearing none, I
46 guess we're just going to move on. We're on C, Bureau
47 of Land Management, Tom Sparks.

48
49 MR. SPARKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
50 I'll keep it real short. Looking around the room, most

1 of the villages have received their entitlement. St.
2 Michael did this year. Shishmaref has. Stebbins has
3 not. Brevig has. White Mountain has and so has Wales.
4 I brought a new map down so we can look at that at a
5 break if you'd like to. BLM has been pretty involved
6 on the Seward Peninsula transferring land to the Native
7 corporations. We've completed 10 thus far and quite
8 recently we received from the State of Alaska their
9 final entitlement selections or priorities of their
10 remaining selections and we got that December 10th. So
11 things will be changing a little bit in the future. It
12 will change the reg book. Just want to say I don't
13 make those regs and I don't enforce them either, but I
14 do give out some permits.

15

16 We gave out four for muskox in 22B out
17 of the Nome office here, two to Nome and two to White
18 Mountain. There's been one reported harvest from a
19 gentleman from White Mountain. We didn't give out any
20 Federal moose tags in 22B although they were available.

21

22 We have some staff changes. Our little
23 Nome office has grown 1,000 percent. We got a new
24 person there, Brian Burdon, born and raised here in
25 Nome. Some of you probably know him. We also have a
26 new Anchorage field office manager. His name is Jim
27 Fincher. Our biologist, Geoff Byersdorf, who you met
28 last meeting, couldn't make this meeting. He's in
29 McGrath counting moose right now. So I'll be happy to
30 answer any questions you guys may have. That's it.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any questions for
33 Tom Sparks.

34

35 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chair. Mr. Sparks.
36 What kind of entitlement are you talking about?

37

38 MR. SPARKS: That's the Native Claims
39 Settlement Act, land entitlement, the village
40 corporations.

41

42 MR. MARTIN: Didn't Stebbins have one
43 already?

44

45 MR. SPARKS: What we do is transfer all
46 the lands that you're entitled to and then all your
47 over-selections we reject them and we're not quite done
48 with Stebbins yet. We're close though.

49

50 MR. MARTIN: I see right there there's

1 timber update. That's informational. During break-up
2 we get driftwood from the Yukon. This year, with the
3 price of oil being so high, the land south of Stebbins
4 on the flats is clean of driftwood. Now they're
5 working on Stewart Island. They're selling that. If
6 and when -- a lot of people have wood stoves to keep
7 warm. If and when the situation should arrive and we
8 have to turn up to the BLM land area to haul or get
9 wood to stay warm, then what would happen then?

10

11 MR. SPARKS: Thanks for the question,
12 Peter. Through the Chair. Even here in Nome I've had
13 people come to the office and ask about wood
14 harvesting. First of all we have very little standing
15 timber here on the peninsula as most of you may know.
16 Those areas where the timber is present, it's primarily
17 on Native corporation land. That draft you saw, this
18 is still in draft form and it's basically trying to
19 articulate a policy. Right now a lot of things you may
20 do out in the country is considered casual use by BLM.
21 If timber is on the ground and you harvest it, we
22 consider that casual use. If you go to cut live trees,
23 you're supposed to get a permit from BLM. It doesn't
24 cost you anything.

25

26 Peter, most of the area down from you
27 is Fish and Wildlife Service, so you'll have to go to
28 that manager and find out. There's a big red line that
29 Daniel Sharp put on there, if you need more than 15
30 cords, you get a permit from BLM. You can work with us
31 here in Nome if the need arises, but so far we haven't
32 seen that come up, Peter.

33

34 MR. MARTIN: I'm thinking into the
35 future because we may run into that.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Leonard Kobuk. I
38 think the reason for hardly any wood in our area is
39 because of lack of snow from the other years along the
40 Yukon River. We get most of our driftwood that comes
41 out of the Yukon River and also from Unalakeet area
42 when they have a lot of snow and they're knocked down.
43 So that was one of the reasons why this year has been a
44 little difficult in getting driftwood. Stewart Island,
45 because of the strong currents that run through that
46 island, that's where most of the driftwood ends up.
47 That island is mostly owned by the Stebbins Native
48 Corporation. There are a few shareholders from
49 St. Michaels that have land out there, but I think he's
50 already passed on. That's all I had to say on that.

1 Any more questions for Tom Sparks,
2 either RAC or public.

3
4 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. I just had
5 one other quick update that I forgot about. The
6 discussion of the muskox permits in 22B reminded me of
7 it. You may remember at a previous council meeting an
8 issue came up with filing a request for what's called
9 an 804 action to limit Federal muskoxen hunting on
10 Federal public lands to residents of White Mountain and
11 Golovin. That request was submitted to the Federal
12 Subsistence Program and basically in February a letter
13 was issued with their decision.

14
15 The decision was to reject the proposal
16 because it didn't meet the threshold criteria for
17 acceptance as a special action. The Board basically
18 sent it back to the cooperators and to Tom Gray and
19 basically informed us that we could file a regular
20 proposal under the regular cycle if we wanted to keep
21 pursuing that issue.

22
23 As Tom has indicated to you, they've
24 issued four permits this year. Only one muskoxen has
25 been taken and there's no indication the system isn't
26 working right now, so there's probably not much use of
27 filing another action unless we find a pattern that
28 White Mountain and Golovin are being shut out of the
29 muskox hunt.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Peter Buck, do you
32 have any comment on that for White Mountain, Golovin.

33
34 MR. BUCK: No.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Okay. No comments
37 on that. Does anyone else have any comments on it.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: So we'll just move
42 on to C(1), subsistence use of timber update.

43
44 MR. SPARKS: Mr. Chair. I think we
45 covered that already, but I'd be happy to regurgitate
46 again for you if you'd like.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Sorry. We're down

1 to D, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Tony Gorn.

2

3 MR. GORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll
4 keep this real brief. I'll quickly kind of go over
5 what we've done in our S&I programs and what we'll be
6 working on this spring. This fall we completed moose
7 composition surveys in three areas of Unit 22. Those
8 included Unit 22D in the Kuzitrin drainage where we
9 found greater than 30 bulls per 100 cows, 33, which is
10 above our management goal. We classified 174 moose in
11 that area. The numbers we found there are consistent
12 to what we've seen over the last several years. It's
13 encouraging to find those numbers.

14

15 In Unit 22C, we classified 211 moose.
16 I know there's not a lot of Federal land in 22C, but
17 I'll just go over it for your information. Bull/cow
18 ratios that we found this year in 22C are right in line
19 with what we've historically found in the area and
20 they're quite low. This year we found 11 bulls per 100
21 cows, which really is kind of downright scary. That
22 combined with what I'm going to talk about here in a
23 few minutes about some moose calf weights really has me
24 concerned about the Unit 22C moose population.

25

26 I'm grateful that this spring we're
27 going to census Unit 22C and I think it's going to be
28 very important that after that census if we're able to
29 get a good census with a good point estimate, we look
30 at all these different pieces of information and re-
31 evaluate the antlerless moose hunt in the area and just
32 take a look at where we are with moose management in
33 Unit 22C.

34

35 The third area that we completed comp
36 surveys in was Unit 22B in the Nuigalak drainage. We
37 classified 122 moose in Unit 22B and found 34 bulls per
38 100 cows. I'm cautiously optimistic from what I saw in
39 calves from this fall survey. We found 15 calves per
40 100 cows, which is by no means any type of a record for
41 calf observations, but it's an increase from what we've
42 seen in the past at least over the last decade out of
43 the area. It also falls in line with what we've heard
44 from guys like Peter out of White Mountain, people that
45 use the Council area, just about general observations
46 they've made about the moose population over the last
47 couple years. We'll take a good, hard look at where
48 we're at in moose management in 22B assuming we get a
49 census completed there this spring as well.

50

1 I'll briefly mention the two winter
2 moose hunts we had this year. The one in Unit 22B with
3 a harvest quota of five antlered bulls closed and we
4 actually took six antlered bulls out of that area this
5 year. The other winter season that we had was in Unit
6 22D in the Kuzitrin River drainage and the quota up
7 there was eight and we only took one moose out of there
8 this year.

9
10 I'll go to the spring of 2008 and talk
11 about the moose calf project that we started several
12 years ago. This is a project where we weigh 10 month
13 old moose calves and it's a way for us to assess the
14 overall health of a moose population. Also using other
15 indexes from across the state where they've been doing
16 this for many more years and have much larger samples
17 than we have, we're able to get a seat of the pants
18 feeling about the area's habitat and how it relates to
19 the number of moose in the area.

20
21 I mentioned the Unit 22C calf weights
22 from last year. They were 50 pounds lighter last year
23 than they were the previous two years. Certainly
24 that's related to the record snow year we had last year
25 along the southern Seward Peninsula coast. I believe
26 the weather service is now saying it's the deepest snow
27 year on record. It was very obvious during that
28 project moose were not faring very well. They were
29 trapped in some areas in the upper drainages of some of
30 the river systems. I actually thought come May or June
31 we were going to get a lot of phone calls down at the
32 office about people finding dead moose across the
33 country and I never received a phone call, but it's
34 quite surprising.

35
36 Just as a juxtaposition, in 2006 and
37 2007 those calf weights out at 22C were some of the
38 largest in the state. In 2008, they quickly fell below
39 the magical threshold of 380 pounds. It's concerning
40 and it's just another piece of information we'll use to
41 try to make sense of what's going on.

42
43 In Unit 22D we weighed 10 month old
44 calves in the Kuzitrin and the Pilgrim and calf weights
45 out of those areas have consistently been around 385,
46 390 pounds, which is right near that magic threshold of
47 385 pounds. We have not made any management decisions
48 based on that information, but what it does for me as a
49 wildlife manager is it makes us take a look at
50 historical moose numbers out of that area and it kind

1 of makes you think about really how many moose can the
2 Kuzitrin River drainage hold in our population
3 objectives; high, low or appropriate?

4

5 MR. KEYES: I have a question for you.
6 When you count numbers on these, like 22 or 220, are
7 these by aerial surveys or foot on land?

8

9 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Mr.
10 Keyes. Those are all aerial observations. I already
11 mentioned that this spring we'll be attempting moose
12 censuses in Unit 22B and C, then following those we'll
13 weigh 10-month-old moose calves in those same areas.

14

15 Moving on to muskox management, the
16 Department deployed nine VHF collars on cow muskoxen
17 last April. We now have 25 of them out. During the
18 project we took blood samples. All the muskox received
19 a clean bill of health from the State vet. All tested
20 negative for Brucella and seven of nine were pregnant.

21

22

23 At this point what we've found is 11
24 percent natural mortality rate on adult cows in the
25 population. That's not ground-breaking news at this
26 point, but given enough time in combination with what
27 the Park Service is doing in other areas of the Seward
28 Peninsula, this information will be useful for
29 management in the future.

30

31 Marci mentioned the composition surveys
32 completed in Unit 22E last August. I talked earlier in
33 the meeting about why comp surveys are so important,
34 particularly in Unit 22E. I guess the take-home
35 message for the reasons I talked about earlier is that
36 since 2002 the mature bull cohort in Unit 22E has
37 basically been 17 or 18 percent.

38

39

40 The last thing I'll just add quickly
41 about muskox management is that for years we've had
42 hunting seasons on the books, but for various reasons
43 the number of muskoxen actually harvested has been
44 quite low, but due to regulatory changes now over the
45 last year that's going to change. I guess I just want
46 to emphasize the importance of continuing our S&I
47 programs and trying to build on them and expand on
48 them. As these harvest rates increase from --
49 historically, it's been about 2.5 percent a year. As
50 they increase to 3 to 8 percent in some areas, it's
going to be important to see how the population

1 responds to that type of harvest. That's all I have.
2 I can take questions if you have some.

3

4 MR. KEYES: Yes. Anthony Keyes. The
5 reason why you're getting so much of low percentage on
6 hunters is because the weather conditions has changed
7 up in this region. Shishmaref, Wales and up north that
8 way, the weather is year after year getting worse and
9 harder for the hunters to go up and get what they want.
10 That's why your numbers are so low. It's too cold to
11 go out there.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more questions
14 from RAC or public.

15

16 MR. SEETOT: Right now with 22E you're
17 not getting the numbers harvested as what the permits,
18 am I correct? I mean that numbers are real low right
19 now in the harvest of muskox.

20

21 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Elmer.
22 Real low, I guess that's a subjective term. Using what
23 the cooperators group has identified as a harvest
24 rate, which is 8 percent, and the quota calculates out
25 to 62 animals a year, 62 muskox a year, and up to 31 of
26 those can be cows. If that's what we're going to use
27 as a harvest threshold, then you're correct. We
28 haven't met those harvest quotas. We take less than
29 half of that every year. Assuming that people are
30 reporting their harvest, we take only several cows
31 every year. Those harvest data come from mostly a time
32 period when we were hunting under a Tier II system.

33

34 In more recent years, we used a
35 registration hunt, so there was more availability for
36 other Alaskans to get permits. I think in 22E's case,
37 access has just limited hunters from getting up in
38 there. That could all change in the future, so again
39 it's just important to stay on top of stuff, to do our
40 best to monitor what's going on.

41

42 MR. SEETOT: That registration in the
43 Federal hunt for 22D remainder, however that quota was
44 already reached even before those committees got out
45 there. I inquired at the office here if the
46 registration was still going on. They were saying
47 December 31. Is there any way ADF&G would look at
48 changes in keeping their registration permits available
49 to the public because 22E, even though you have a high
50 harvest level, they are not getting harvested by people

1 and that would be to Mr. Keyes' concern. The muskox
2 are numerous on 22E, but over the past years the
3 unfilled harvest tickets are adding up. Taking that
4 TEK, if you don't go after them, they will eat
5 themselves out of range, but they will still continue
6 to flourish because a seasonal cycle for them to feed
7 on.

8

9 MR. BUCK: Tony. Peter Buck. I thank
10 you for that report on 22B. One thing I'd like to say
11 is that the fall moose are good, but sometimes the
12 water is low, but the winter, we got our moose in
13 January and there's no fat on them. I'm going to be
14 thinking about keeping it in the fall season instead of
15 the winter. We use that fat for a lot of other things.

16

17 MR. GORN: Thanks for that, Peter.
18 Tomorrow one of the items at the Advisory Committee
19 meeting will be to re-evaluate and talk about that
20 winter versus the fall allocation. Are you going to be
21 there tomorrow?

22

23 MR. BUCK: No, I'm not going to be
24 there.

25

26 MR. GORN: We should talk if you have
27 more specific ideas or give it some thought and give me
28 a call.

29

30 MR. BUCK: When is it going to be?

31

32 MR. GORN: The Northern Norton Sound
33 Advisory Committee meets tomorrow at 10:00.

34

35 MR. BUCK: I'll be able to catch it
36 before noon.

37

38 MR. ASHENFELTER: Just to give you an
39 update, I've been receiving phone calls about trying to
40 set up a teleconference for those AC members that won't
41 be able to attend and it looks like the two that I've
42 talked to would like to start at 11:00. So we can take
43 care of business items that generally won't require AC
44 comments or anything like that. So the point is I
45 think we'll start around 11:00 and it is over in the
46 Kawerak building on the second floor.

47

48 MR. BUCK: Thank you.

49

50 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more comments

1 for Tony Gorn.

2

3 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes, Tony. This is
4 Fred from Shishmaref. Just commenting on 22E when
5 regulations are made you need to bear in mind we are
6 kind of landlocked three months of the year where we
7 can't even go out and get a moose. Basically October,
8 November, December and possibly January because of lack
9 of snow, so considerations may be given to extend
10 hunting seasons. That's all I have.

11

12 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Gorn. In Unit 22A,
13 I've wondered when was the last time they had an aerial
14 survey in St. Michael, Stebbins area on moose. If so,
15 what was the results of that and when do you expect to
16 do that again?

17

18 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Peter.
19 I believe the last time we completed a trend count down
20 in Stebbins and St. Mike and it was in the Golsovia was
21 in 2005. We have never completed a moose census down
22 in your area. Quite honestly, we don't have any plans
23 to do so in the future. It's not that I don't want to
24 know what moose densities are down there, but quite
25 frankly, with the limited Staff and the limited budget
26 I have it seems like what I spend my time doing is
27 responding to the squeaky wheel, where there seems to
28 be an issue. Areas like 22B east of the Darby's, the
29 northern portion of 22A around Shaktoolik, the southern
30 portion of 22A down where you live, those wheels just
31 haven't squeaked that loudly, which is good news
32 really.

33

34 Certainly the Department should get
35 down there again either this spring or we're already
36 losing February, I guess, but to do a spring
37 recruitment survey. I'll have to give that more
38 thought about how to implement that into the program.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Leonard Kobuk, St.
41 Michael. The hunters keep asking me when is the State
42 going to start doing their moose survey because, again,
43 it's been brought up to me if they don't run into any
44 bull moose when it's open, they're asking me what about
45 female because they run into a lot of them every time
46 the moose season opens in, what is it, August 1st to
47 the end of August? Am I correct on that?

48

49 MR. GORN: Mr. Chair. Your season
50 opens August 1st and it goes to September 30 and then

1 it opens again January 1st to the end of the month. As
2 we talked about earlier, I suspect that we'll all be
3 working together to extend that winter season because
4 of the petitions to the Board that we've done the last
5 couple years.

6
7 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Gorn. We have been
8 having problems getting antlered bulls and what Leonard
9 just brought up, that question is getting to pop up
10 more and more. The other regions, it seems like Yukon,
11 lower Yukon area, get either a bull or a cow. It seem
12 like our stocks seems to be very healthy. We were
13 wondering if we can be allowed to get a cow if that's
14 possible at all. That's one of the issues in the
15 council meeting we brought up because the winter season
16 seems to be getting harder and harder for us to find
17 bulls. Very few get bulls, but there's a lot of cows
18 all over.

19
20 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Peter.
21 So during the January season you're saying you're
22 having a difficult time finding antlered bulls?

23
24 MR. MARTIN: Yeah, they do get some
25 bulls, but they're having a hard time finding bulls and
26 with the cost of gas getting so high. That's something
27 people have been talking about and Leonard brought it
28 up, about getting cows.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Tom, I have a
31 question because it's not only the female, it's also
32 the yearling, the young moose. I don't care to hunt
33 moose, but is there a law against hunting yearling?
34 That's another thing that was brought to my attention.
35 It's hard for me to answer them when I keep telling
36 them I don't know when the State is going to start
37 doing their moose count. I tell them they're having
38 financial problems just like we are trying to buy gas
39 and oil and food.

40
41 MR. GORN: Mr. Chair. So if the
42 question is is it legal to harvest a yearling, the
43 answer is yes.

44
45 MR. BUCK: That's just about the best.
46 The meat is delicious.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Well, I guess
49 that's what I have to tell them. They spend all that
50 money and get nothing, it hurts their family. I hope

1 pretty soon we'll have a census taken so we won't kill
2 off all the -- the reason I have a concern is the
3 caribou has never shown up. I don't know if they ever
4 will again because they just seem to stay up further
5 and further north. Those are one of the concerns that
6 we're going to have to start looking into. If they
7 can't get caribou, they're more than likely are going
8 to get whatever moose they run into.

9

10 Any more comments or concerns for Tony
11 Gorn.

12

13 MR. MARTIN: I do, Mr. Gorn. Stebbins
14 and St. Michael, they have customary trade. They can go
15 down to the lower Yukon and get some -- their season
16 they have one antlered bull or cow. In our area we're
17 allowed only one antlered bull. If we should go down
18 there, is it okay to get a calf down in the lower Yukon
19 when it's open and go back to our area with that catch?

20

21 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Peter.
22 Yeah, it is legal. In Unit 18 on the Yukon right now
23 they are absolutely flush with moose. They have a once
24 in a lifetime moose population going on down there
25 right now. That's one of the reasons why they have
26 such liberal seasons and you can shoot calves. So you
27 have the ability to hunt in Unit 18 and if the season
28 dates are open and you shoot a calf and that's part of
29 the bag limit, you can do that and bring it back to
30 Stebbins.

31

32 Chuck just made a very good point. You
33 guys put letters in to the State Board of Game. They
34 did not decide that it was an emergency, but on the
35 Federal side they did. When the Federal season is
36 open, then you are eligible to participate in that.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Okay. Then the
39 Yukon Wildlife Refuge runs down to west mouth of canal,
40 would we be able to -- giving this comment to the Feds,
41 would we be able to then harvest cow or calf at the
42 time?

43

44 MR. GORN: Mr. Chair. Unfortunately,
45 right there you're in Unit 22, so technically the
46 season would not be open. You would have to be in Unit
47 18.

48

49 MR. MARTIN: We do have hunters that at
50 times go past that and go to the Andreaafsky, both east

1 and south. What if they cross that and get into that
2 area, would they legally be able to get the calf then?

3

4 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Peter.
5 In Unit 21, which is the Andreafsky.....

6

7 MR. MARTIN: Andreafsky.

8

9 MR. GORN: You're right. I'm looking
10 at the Anvik. In Unit 21 the season is not extended,
11 but in Unit 18 it is and in Unit 22A south on Federal
12 lands it is until February 20th.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: I guess we would
15 be in 18. I guess if we went through that area with a
16 snowmachine, we would be in 18.

17

18 MR. GORN: You're right.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: In other words,
21 I'm saying we would be legal in getting a female or a
22 yearling if we went into that area, am I right or
23 wrong?

24

25 MR. GORN: You're right if you're on
26 Federal lands.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: That would be
29 considered Unit 18 though in that area. It's kind of
30 hard to see here, but what Peter Martin just mentioned,
31 yeah, I guess we would be in 18. That's a ways up with
32 a snowmachine, but people from Stebbins and St. Michael
33 go to that area too.

34

35 MR. GORN: You're correct, Mr. Chair.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more questions
38 or comments for Tony Gorn.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: I guess we'll have
43 a five minute break and then we'll continue. It will
44 be Susan Bucknell and then we're going to have to go
45 back to some others now that we have a quorum on the
46 Board that we need to take care of.

47

48 (Off record)

49

50 (On record)

1 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: I'll call this
2 meeting back to order. We're on D(1) Advisory
3 Committee, Susan Bucknell.

4
5 MS. BUCKNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6 Susan Bucknell, Fish and Game Kotzebue. I don't have
7 much. Just a couple minutes. Maybe everybody knows
8 the Alaska Board of Game is going to meet in Nome next
9 fall for their regional meeting every two years. This
10 region is up for Alaska Board of Game State proposals
11 and they try to hold those regional meetings somewhere
12 in western Alaska. In '05 it was Kotzebue, in '07 it
13 was Bethel and next November it will be here in Nome.
14 The deadline for regional game proposals is in the
15 summer, probably mid August. So work with Tony or me
16 if there's any issues or proposals you want to get in
17 and work with your AC, of course.

18
19 If anyone wants to get on the mailing
20 list to receive like the proposal books and the notices
21 of meetings and proposal deadlines, talk to me or you
22 can actually do it on the State website.

23
24 Also the Board of Game and Board of
25 Fisheries meetings are streamed live now. You can just
26 go in on a computer and you can listen even if they're
27 in Juneau or Sitka or wherever or even if they're in
28 Nome and listen to them testify and deliberate on
29 issues.

30
31 The Board of Fisheries proposal is
32 April 10th and that's for this region, any fin fish
33 proposals, so that's not halibut. It's like salmon and
34 whitefish.

35
36 The State has some money again to pay
37 for AC members to attend RAC meetings, so if there are
38 issues that the committees want to work on together
39 through the two systems we can coordinate on that. Or
40 I suppose an AC member could come to your meetings and
41 protest what you are doing, but there's ways to work on
42 that in the future. And the Northern Norton Sound
43 Advisory Committee does meet here tomorrow in the
44 Kawerak board room, about 10 or 11.

45
46 We are looking at fisheries stuff in
47 the morning more and game stuff after that since it's
48 going to take longer, but we'll be there. Maybe we'll
49 see some of you there. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Are we still
2 planning to have that teleconference for St. Michael,
3 Stebbins?
4
5 MS. BUCKNELL: Yes. We can get with
6 Myron also and see if maybe the 18th would work, day or
7 evening will work fine for me, and I'll ask Tony and
8 Letty and fisheries Staff and see what works for them.
9 If the 18th works, that would fit my schedule. The
10 Board of Game meeting starts at the end of this month,
11 but after the 20th of this month Letty and Tony will be
12 kind of tied up doing the aerial surveys. So just a
13 few game proposals we should get the committee to knock
14 out before the end of the month.
15
16 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: So you'll be
17 calling all the board members to set up the
18 teleconference then?
19
20 MS. BUCKNELL: I can do that. It would
21 be great if you could talk to people in St. Michael
22 though and talk to Milton and see if you can find a
23 site there and in Stebbins and I'll talk to Myron.
24
25 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: They will probably
26 be en route traveling.
27
28 MS. BUCKNELL: On the 18th?
29
30 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Oh, the 18th. I
31 thought you were talking about tomorrow. I'm sorry.
32
33 MS. BUCKNELL: Thanks, Barb, through
34 the Chair.
35
36 MR. MARTIN: Excuse me, Sue. Are you
37 talking about the Southern Norton Sound Advisory
38 Council?
39
40 MS. BUCKNELL: Yeah, the State Southern
41 Northern Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee. I
42 think you used to be a member.
43
44 MR. MARTIN: I wanted to know if I was
45 still on and I'd like to know who's on at this time.
46
47 MS. BUCKNELL: I think a year and a
48 half ago Killan Katchak (ph) and Ryan Nishona are the
49 two members now from Stebbins. I think that was
50 through your IRA Council. It was Fred Pete who let me

1 know they were the new members.

2

3 MR. MARTIN: Okay, thank you.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any questions for
6 Susan.

7

8 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
9 Austin Ahmasuk, Nome. The last time or one of the
10 times the Board of Game met in a rural area they had
11 not obtained a meeting place, so it made it
12 frustrating. Have they already made preparations for
13 an actual meeting?

14

15 MS. BUCKNELL: I don't know if the
16 contract has been signed, but I think they've pretty
17 much decided on the mini convention center and if
18 there's an actual date I'm not aware of it yet, but
19 sometime in November.

20

21 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. George Pappas,
22 Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence Liaison Team.
23 As was mentioned earlier, there is some funding to send
24 AC members to these meetings and this might be the
25 opportunity for the communities that aren't represented
26 here to have someone from an AC, a member from the
27 community, to come and represent what the folks in that
28 area want to say. So I encourage you to talk to folks
29 from the communities not represented who do want to
30 attend. This might be one avenue of doing so. It's
31 not going to be a bunch of people, maybe one or two per
32 meeting, but it's an opportunity. Thank you,
33 Mr. Chair.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more questions
36 or comments for Susan.

37

38 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes. This is Fred from
39 Shishmaref. Is there a list of communities that aren't
40 going to be represented?

41

42 MS. BUCKNELL: I'm not sure if I
43 understand your question. On the Northern Norton Sound
44 Advisory Committee each of the villages between Elim
45 and Shishmaref has one member and Nome has six members.
46 On the RAC, I would need to see a list of the RAC
47 members to know which villages aren't represented here
48 but might be on the AC. Does that answer?

49

50 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes, I believe so.

1 MR. KEYES: This is Anthony from Wales.
2 Would Wales be included in that too?

3
4 MS. BUCKNELL: Wales is on the Northern
5 Norton Sound Advisory Committee and Ralph Nungasuk (ph)
6 is a member. He's not traveling to the meeting
7 tomorrow, but he appointed as an alternate Raymond
8 Seetok.

9
10 MR. KEYES: Okay. Since I'm going to
11 be here, would I be able to attend it in case he didn't
12 make it in?

13
14 MS. BUCKNELL: That's a good question.
15 I'll talk technically for a minute here, the way it's
16 written in the statute. For a community that only has
17 one representative, they can appoint an alternate for a
18 meeting if they can't go. You could have a standing
19 alternate, but if you don't just find someone who can
20 well represent the village. If we've already paid for
21 his travel -- technically, without consulting the
22 lawyer, I don't know if you could be like another
23 voting member from Wales, but there's a lot of
24 questions about that that aren't necessarily nailed
25 down in the statute. It would be great if you could
26 come to the meeting tomorrow.

27
28 MR. KEYES: Thank you very much.

29
30 MR. ASHENFELTER: Mr. Chair. I'd like
31 to speak a little bit to Tony's comment about coming to
32 the meeting. The meeting is open to the public and if
33 you're from Wales and you have comments, we certainly
34 want to hear those so that we could consider those in
35 our voting and decisions when they affect different
36 areas that we're talking about. So certainly you're
37 welcome to come. Whether you're an actual AC rep for
38 Wales or not, that's a different question. But it's
39 open to the public. I try let everyone make a comment
40 on whatever subject we're speaking about so we can make
41 the best decision possible for whatever concerns are
42 out there.

43
44 MS. BUCKNELL: Mr. Chair. If I could
45 speak to that a little more too. We'll be holding
46 elections tomorrow for some Nome seats and basically
47 anyone who lives in the area of jurisdiction can vote
48 on these seats. I had a question yesterday from Tim
49 Smith also about this. The areas of jurisdiction
50 actually are quite large. Even someone from Unit 23

1 could vote on members, but then that's sort of a
2 different question as an alternate. When the committee
3 is voting on something, that's a separate question than
4 whether you could vote on elections. Is that clear or
5 does that confuse things?

6
7 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: He could attend as a
8 public to make public comments.

9
10 MS. BUCKNELL: The public, anyone
11 attending the meeting can vote in the elections and
12 then the members and make comments.

13
14 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I have a comment
15 here for Anthony. You have a ticket already to go back
16 to Wales and that is open as long as you get a hold of
17 Frontier and make changes to your reservations, but
18 then the place of stay after tomorrow would be on your
19 own, so you understand that.

20
21 MR. KEYES: Uh-huh.

22
23 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay, thank you.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more questions
26 from the Board or public for Susan.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MS. BUCKNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Hearing none.
33 We're going back to Agency reports, which would be
34 A(1), Office of Subsistence Management, 10A. Oh, the
35 Bering Sea, chinook salmon bycatch update, which is OSM
36 Staff. We had to table it because we did not have a
37 quorum to vote.

38
39 MS. HYER: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair
40 and Council members. My name is Karen Hyer and I'm the
41 statistician with OSM. I'm going to briefly go over
42 the update that's provided for you on Page 19. There
43 is a draft environmental impact statement that the
44 National Marine Fisheries Service has put out in early
45 December 2008. This document evaluates the management
46 measures to limit Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering
47 Sea/Aleutian Islands pollock trawl fishery.

48
49 They're looking at the cap and
50 currently there is no cap. They're undergoing

1 consideration to have a cap between 29,300 to 87,500
2 Chinook, divided seasonally into a winter and a
3 summer/fall pollock fishery. Then they'll have
4 seasonal closures of the fishery based on the cap if
5 the caps are reached.

6
7 The North Pacific Fishery Management
8 Council's preliminary preferred alternative is to have
9 an annual hard cap of 68,392 and have the industry
10 self-regulated. If the industry cannot come up with a
11 self-regulation, then they're proposing a cap of 47,591
12 chinook salmon.

13
14 Currently there is a 60-day public
15 comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact
16 Statement and it will close the 23rd of February 2009.

17
18 The week of March 30th through April
19 3rd the North Pacific Fishery Management Council will
20 have a meeting in Anchorage to go over the public
21 comment. Currently the Office of Subsistence
22 Management will provide funding for the chairs of the
23 affected Regional Advisory Councils or a designee. So
24 that is something the Council can decide today if they
25 want to appoint somebody to send to the meeting.

26
27 On December 10th the National Marine
28 Fisheries Service will review the North Pacific Fishery
29 Management Council's preferred alternative and write it
30 into regulation, then the regulation will again go out
31 for public comment. Once it's reviewed by the public,
32 it goes to the Secretary of Commerce for the final
33 decision and then it becomes law. The measurements
34 will be implemented in January of 2011.

35
36 So while the Federal Subsistence Board
37 does not have jurisdiction or authority over this
38 issue, it has been closely monitoring it and it has
39 provided a recommendation of about 37,000 chinook as
40 the hard cap. So that's the recommendation that's gone
41 forward from the Board.

42
43 The North Pacific Fishery Management
44 Council is also evaluating options to limit chum salmon
45 bycatch in the pollock fishery. There will be a review
46 in the spring and summer of 2009. Again, the Federal
47 Subsistence Board is tracking this.

48
49 If the Council would like, you can send
50 a comment letter to the North Pacific Fishery

1 Management Council, but again the deadline will be the
2 23rd of February and that will be considered public
3 comment. The best available data at the moment shows
4 that 56 percent of the bycatch is comprised of chinook
5 returning to Western and Interior Alaska rivers.

6
7 The existing chinook salmon savings
8 area and voluntary rolling hot spot strategies that the
9 industry has proposed in the past have proven to be
10 ineffective, so whatever they propose in the future
11 will be something different than the current strategy.

12
13 That's all the comments I have. Do you
14 have any questions?

15
16 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Yes, I have a
17 comment. I was looking at the bycatch and I was
18 wondering how did they ever go beyond what they weren't
19 supposed to go. Years ago St. Michael and Stebbins
20 tried to open up a fishery but we were turned down
21 because they said we would catch too many of the king
22 salmon or cohos when we were just trying to target
23 pinks, yet these trawlers are getting away with a lot
24 of bycatch.

25
26 I have a dish at home that belongs to
27 my wife that I watch and I saw all the fish that they
28 were dumping, all the bycatch they were dumping over
29 the side and just keeping the pollock. I couldn't
30 believe what I was seeing, yet we were denied. I want
31 to know what's going to be done with what's happening
32 because many of the villages, even in the Yukon,
33 they're having problems trying to put away fish for
34 subsistence or even for commercial fishing. I think
35 something really needs to be done about the bycatch
36 that's happening with the pollock fisheries.

37
38 Any more comments from the board
39 besides me.

40
41 MR. MARTIN: I asked a question last
42 fall about opening commercial fisheries. Just recently
43 St. Michael had their meeting. I was right over there
44 to speak with Leonard on this issue. We talked about
45 it and the community had time to put their opinions in
46 too. After listening to them and what's been going on
47 not only in Stebbins but all over the region people are
48 having a hard time financially and gas prices and oil
49 have gotten up so high.

50

1 I was going to put in a proposal trying
2 to open subsistence in our area, but after listening to
3 all that and seeing all the hard times people are
4 having, I told them, no, I'm going to back off from
5 this issue. But I did mention to them that probably in
6 the future when everything gets better again maybe we
7 should consider opening commercial fisheries. Like I
8 told Leonard yesterday and the people that were here, I
9 told them, no, I'm not going to be putting in a
10 proposal to open commercial fisheries.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any questions or
13 comments.

14
15 MR. SLOAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 My name is Mike Sloan, fisheries biologist with
17 Kawerak. I've been following this issue for many years
18 as a Federal manager for NMFS and just recently as last
19 week at the Seattle Fisheries Management Council
20 meeting. This year for instance they've taken already
21 9,000 chinook in the first 11 days.

22
23 My general feeling from the Council is
24 that they're really leaning very hard on these
25 incentive programs and leaning towards the 69,000 cap.
26 That's pretty disturbing, I guess. They base that
27 69,000 cap on the highest five years that they've ever
28 had. If their interest is, in fact, conservation, this
29 is a poor way to look at that.

30
31 Basically what you've got is they've
32 got a couple options. They've got the 47,000 cap, but
33 the industry says, hey, we can keep it down to 30,000
34 if you give us 69,000 just in case we can't. They
35 should not be rewarded for doing an incentive program.
36 Their incentive should be a low cap and their incentive
37 should be that they get to keep fishing pollock as long
38 as they stay underneath that cap and not be given extra
39 fish as an insurance policy for them.

40
41 If you listen to their side of the
42 story, they're going to say it's not just about the
43 pollock industry, it's also about the families of the
44 pollock industry and the boat payments and the car
45 payments and the house payments of the pollock
46 industry. They'll never mention anything that's
47 happening up here. They'll never mention the families,
48 the tradition, the culture.

49
50 I showed them a slideshow during my

1 testimony down there. I showed them pictures of
2 families, of people at fish camp, and tried to win them
3 over or soften them up a little bit, but they're pretty
4 much sticking by their guns on this and they're wanting
5 that 69,000 cap.

6
7 One other thing, in order for their
8 programs to work, they have to be able to transfer the
9 fish between themselves. So they're going to take that
10 69,000 cap, divide it amongst everybody, all the boats
11 that fish the pollock fishery, and if one boat or
12 several boats goes over their quotas, that goes over
13 the 69,000. They're only going to shut down those
14 fishermen that exceeded their own individual quotas.
15 If everybody caught their quotas and these few
16 fishermen exceeded their quotas, then they would exceed
17 that 69,000, which is just horrible.

18
19 Plus the idea that they can transfer
20 and basically buy and sell salmon that nobody in this
21 room can buy and sell. It just seems unethical. The
22 fact that there's a subsistence harvest priority that
23 basically stops at the three-mile limit and then is
24 picked up by the National Marine Fisheries Service
25 under the Department of Commerce, who takes a
26 completely diametrically opposed view to it and is
27 going to look out for the pollock industry and not look
28 out for the subsistence fishermen, I mean I can't
29 believe it's the same government that's doing this.

30
31 Anyway, I've got a lot of other stuff,
32 but I'm going to leave it at that. Those are the main
33 points that I'd like to make. We have a letter into
34 the governor. Kawerak has made comments to the Council
35 and the National Marine Fisheries Service and we've
36 been attending the meetings and giving testimony at
37 them all.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: What is the
40 Federal government's view on this bycatch or the State?
41 I want to hear this because for years we've been having
42 problems. It's sad what's happening in the lower Yukon
43 area with the commercial fisheries and the subsistence
44 fishing way of life. It's hurting the people in the
45 villages in this area and even in the Yukon area. I
46 just want to hear what the State and the Federal
47 government has to say about this.

48
49 MR. PAPPAS: George Pappas, Department
50 of Fish and Game. Actually I represent the commercial

1 fisheries and sport fisheries divisions for Fish and
2 Game on the liaison team. It's very simple. The State
3 opposes waste and subsistence is the number one
4 priority in the State's eyes. I don't have an official
5 piece of paper to read from the Commissioner, but the
6 assumption I understand is the lower the cap, the
7 better. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Anyone else.

10

11 MR. ASHENFELTER: Roy Ashenfelter. You
12 mentioned a meeting in Anchorage and paying for
13 participants to come. When and how many people can go
14 to this meeting? Will AC's from the state be allowed
15 to go and be funded to attend?

16

17 MS. HYER: If you look about midway on
18 Page 19, the Office of Subsistence Management will
19 provide funding for a chair of the affected Regional
20 Advisory Councils or a designee. I think anybody can
21 go. It's public comment. But OSM will provide funding
22 for one person to go and carry the message from this
23 RAC.

24

25 MR. ASHENFELTER: I think you
26 misunderstood me. There's two different advisory
27 committees. There's a State advisory committee and
28 there's the Federal advisory committee. The question
29 is, is this funding related to both committees.

30

31 MS. HYER: Excuse me. Through the
32 Chair. No, it's just related to the Federal.

33

34 MR. ASHENFELTER: Since you're the only
35 OSM person here, I assume you're part of the National
36 Marine Fisheries Council organization.

37

38 MS. HYER: Through the Chair. No, I'm
39 not. I'm part of the Office of Subsistence Management
40 and currently we have no jurisdiction over this issue.
41 We just have an interest in it.

42

43 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I think the four or
44 five main regions that were affected by this would be
45 Seward Pen, YK, Southcentral, Western and Eastern
46 Interior and they will be paying for the chair or
47 designee from these regions. So after this meeting
48 probably this Council will poll and see who will be
49 able to come from this Council at the time.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: So after the
2 meeting is done. Am I understanding this correctly?

3
4 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Your chair is
5 interested in fisheries and he should be back from his
6 meetings down south and I will be able to talk to him
7 and be in touch with you by email after I contact your
8 Chair, Tom Gray.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Okay, thank you.

11
12 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. I have one
13 more thing. If this Council is interested, they can
14 compose a letter which our Staff would help with to be
15 submitted during the public process. We would also be
16 available to help with testimony for the public
17 process.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Okay. I guess
20 Barb and the Chair -- I'm just acting chair right now
21 and this is my first time doing it and it's kind of a
22 little problem for me. Thank you.

23
24 Is there any voting that needs to be
25 done on this?

26
27 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I think
28 that's what they're discussing right now.

29
30 MS. HYER: This is Karen Hyer again for
31 the record. I just spoke with Barb and we can follow
32 up after the meeting via email for the letter and for
33 who will attend the meeting.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: That would be
36 fine. Are you done then or is there any more questions
37 for her? We have one.

38
39 MR. AHMASUK: Austin Ahmasuk, Nome
40 Eskimo Community. Nome Eskimo Community has followed
41 this issue very closely. We have submitted comments
42 and I'm not sure what your timeline is, but there is
43 not much time to interact with the council. They are
44 going to take action in April. So in that light I
45 would encourage this Council to look at several things
46 that Nome Eskimo has thought about.

47
48 The range of alternatives and the plans
49 they have are very complicated. The council, as Mike
50 mentioned, is very different from the Board of Game,

1 very different from the Board of Fisheries or the
2 Federal Subsistence Board. In my opinion, they are
3 highly industry oriented and lend lots of consideration
4 to industry viewpoints. I think it's important for as
5 many bodies to make comments on this issue.

6
7 Things that Nome Eskimo has considered
8 is keeping the cap as low as possible, not consider
9 interagency cooperative agreements. What that means is
10 allowing the industry to self-regulate themselves.
11 That's probably not a very good idea. In my opinion,
12 some of the things Nome Eskimo has considered is having
13 a hard cap that when it's met stops fishing.

14
15 The other management plans that they
16 have in place are so complicated that in my opinion it
17 allows the industry to maneuver around it and could
18 allow them to continue pollock fishing and bycatch too
19 many salmon.

20
21 I guess my point is there's not much
22 time. They're going to take final action in April and
23 encourage you to take make comments.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Thank you for your
26 comments. Any more comments. Barb.

27
28 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. The
29 reason why I asked you to bring this bycatch up front
30 first was because Tim Smith had been patiently waiting
31 for this issue to be discussed. I think he wanted to
32 comment, but I can't find him anywhere. Maybe he'll be
33 given a chance once he gets back to make his comments.
34 Thank you.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: So are you done
37 then or do you have any more?

38
39 MS. HYER: No, I have no further
40 comments. It sounds like we'll be following up after
41 the meeting.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Okay. Thank you
44 very much. If there's no more questions or comments
45 for her.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: We're going to go
50 back to WCR08-29, Unit 22D remainder. There was a vote

1 needed for the RAC and now we have a quorum.

2

3 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. We had lots
4 of discussion. I guess what we need is someone to have
5 a motion and then vote on the motion, unless somebody
6 wants to discuss it some more.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: So if I could have
9 a motion from the RAC, we could continue.

10

11 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. I move that
12 for 22D remainder that Federal lands be closed to
13 taking muskox except by Federally qualified subsistence
14 users under these regulations.

15

16 MR. MARTIN: Second.

17

18 MR. BUCK: Question.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Can we go into
21 discussion before question.

22

23 MR. ASHENFELTER: Mr. Chair.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Go ahead.

26

27 MR. ASHENFELTER: I'd like to comment
28 on the discussion. I mentioned earlier to try to open
29 it up to everyone, but that's not what I learned
30 through different people making comments and stuff. I
31 was hoping that the C&T would include Nome residents so
32 that more of the muskox that people don't want in the
33 area can be taken by more people. By including C&T for
34 Nome, you would just limit that to those three
35 residents. I believe Nome, Teller and Brevig. That
36 would be the suggestion I would offer. Thank you.

37

38 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. We have two
39 issues here, I think. It's maintain a closure we
40 currently have or not and then I think what I'm hearing
41 is another issue which we might want to add people to
42 the C&T and that would be a separate proposal on its
43 own, I think is what I'm hearing.

44

45 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. Being
46 that Mr. Ashenfelter would submit a proposal and I
47 think he understands that and that would be a whole
48 different ball game, so it is different than what you
49 are doing here.

50

1 MR. ARDIZZONE: Maybe I can help you
2 out. If the RAC makes a motion to keep the closure or
3 not, that would be what we'd need for the closure
4 review document. Separately from that it sounds like
5 he would like additional people added to the C&T and
6 that's a separate proposal.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Elmer.

9

10 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. Earlier I was
11 talking about in the past 22D was pretty much not
12 divided into sub-areas. Unit 22D is a heavy use area.
13 Unit 22D has a road from Nome to Kougarok for people
14 that have a population of about 3,000. Brevig Mission
15 and Teller, we do not have the financial resources to
16 go play in Nome's background. Even though we have a
17 road system that connects Teller to Nome, we do not
18 have the privilege sometimes to hunt certain resources,
19 gather wildlife resources or plants and whatever that
20 are within 22D.

21

22 The Nome residents have the
23 opportunity. One, they can go to Teller. Two, they
24 can go to the Kougarok or, three, they can go to
25 Council. One is that Brevig Mission has to go to
26 Teller in order to get to Nome. Over the past years I
27 guess I have been saying the resources are there for
28 everyone to use as they do it wisely, resourcefully,
29 environmentally green or whatever they proposed.

30

31 With a combined population, Teller and
32 Brevig, of about 500, our access to some of these hunt
33 areas, sometimes getting there is such a hard time. We
34 cannot depend on the weather anymore. Oil prices have
35 gone up, which in turn have spiked the prices in other
36 commodities. We have lived off the land for many
37 years. Sometimes we have to barter, trade and that's
38 how we get to acquire a taste for food that is not
39 harvested locally. For us to say we should also
40 include Nome residents, I think they would have to go
41 through that process.

42

43 Historically, over the years, Kawerak,
44 was the melting pot. That was about 50 years ago for
45 Norton Sound residents. Most of the people have kind
46 of originated from the Kawerak area. When I said that
47 we should include Nome, I was talking about Unit 22D as
48 a whole unit, not divided.

49

50 As I stated earlier when we had that

1 muskox cooperator's meeting, we said that amount
2 necessary for subsistence was 15 animals, yet we had a
3 quota system of 16 and then it was closed by the State
4 because the majority of them was pretty much taken on
5 State land. We had Federal National Park Service guys
6 saying at least we filled our permits for Teller and
7 Brevig, which were not filled because we were waiting
8 for ideal conditions to hunt our muskox.

9
10 I would go by what the coordinator has
11 suggested, that they fill out a C&T because people from
12 many regions, especially Nome, have used 22D and I
13 really haven't seen any harvest of muskox by our
14 people, meaning Teller and Brevig, within the Agiapuk
15 River system or wherever the Federal lands are located.
16 We kind of use the Agiapuk system just kind of for the
17 harvest of chum salmon during late July, early August.
18 Pretty much I would kind of say the current regulation
19 be as it is written.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more questions
22 from the RAC concerning this proposal?

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Hearing none, how
27 about from the public or agency.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MR. QUINN: Call the question.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: The question has
34 been called. All in favor of the motion say aye.

35
36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Anyone opposed.

39
40 (No opposing votes)

41
42 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Hearing none the
43 motion passes.

44
45 MR. QUINN: Leonard. I just assumed we
46 made the proposal on the C&T, so I'll move that Seward
47 Peninsula RAC make a motion to the Subsistence Board
48 that the residents of Nome be included in the customary
49 and traditional use finding for all of Unit 22D and D
50 remainder.

1 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: A motion for
2 resident C&T for Nome has been made. Is there a
3 second.

4
5 MR. MARTIN: I second it.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: A second has been
8 made. Those in favor by saying aye.

9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: I think I got
13 ahead of myself. I think we need discussion first.
14 Sorry.

15
16 MR. SEETOT: So a C&T finding or
17 process would begin with OSM or with the Staff?

18
19 MR. ARDIZZONE: So my understanding is
20 Mr. Quinn made a motion, which would be a proposal, to
21 add Nome to the C&T for all of Unit 22D.

22
23 MR. QUINN: For muskox and that does
24 not include the D southwest area. The Feds are calling
25 it D Tisuk and that's a separate little management area
26 and we already removed - we made a motion to remove the
27 closure for that area and that's kind of a moot point.
28 We just moved to continue the closure for the D
29 remainder area. If you look in the book, that part of
30 D is considered two areas, D and D remainder.
31 Residents of Nome already have C&T for muskox in the D
32 part. They do not have C&T in the D remainder part.
33 So the motion is to now include residents of Nome in
34 the C&T finding for muskox for the D remainder part.

35
36 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. I have a
37 question.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Go ahead.

40
41 MS. KENNER: Mike, through the Chair.
42 I think I'm confused. Would that include all of 22D or
43 would there still be an area for which Nome did not
44 have a C&T?

45
46 MR. QUINN: Yeah, Nome does not have
47 C&T for the D southwest.

48
49 MS. KENNER: Thank you. Again, Mr.
50 Chair. Are you proposing that all of 22D have C&T for

1 Nome?

2

3 MR. QUINN: No, no. You have the
4 Federal regs right there. Do you see that 22D muskox.

5

6 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair. So the
7 proposal is a little bit broader than that. The
8 proposal would be to add this hunt area to the C&T.

9

10 MR. QUINN: Yeah, that's accurate.

11

12 MS. KENNER: I wasn't quite with you,
13 but now I am. Thank you very much.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more
16 discussion from the Seward Pen or Staff or public.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MR. QUINN: Question.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: The question has
23 been called. All in favor by saying aye.

24

25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any nays.

28

29 (No opposing votes)

30

31 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Hearing none, the
32 motion passes. Barb, so we're on bear claws now?

33

34 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: We're on bear claws
35 now.

36

37 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. That's just
38 a briefing I have for you. It's something we added at
39 the beginning of the meeting. It should be a quick
40 item.

41

42 At the last Federal Subsistence Board
43 meeting the Board addressed a proposal WP08-05, which
44 was submitted by the State of Alaska to refine Federal
45 regulations which, in its view, allowed for commercial
46 sale of handicrafts made from brown bear parts and
47 would create a market for poaching basically. Based on
48 a recommendation from the ADF&G Commissioner Denby
49 Lloyd, the Federal Subsistence Board deferred the
50 proposal to our next wildlife cycle, which is now,

1 pending formation of a working group. The Federal
2 Subsistence Board directed that the work group include
3 representation from the Regional Advisory Councils.

4
5 So basically what we're here today is
6 to see if Seward Peninsula RAC would like to have a
7 member on the working group. Currently Unit 22, the
8 sale of handicrafts made from brown bears is not
9 allowed. That doesn't really matter, but if someone
10 wants to be on a working group to address ways of
11 tracking brown bear claws made into handicrafts, you're
12 more than welcome to participate and OSM would pay for
13 that to occur. There will probably be meetings this
14 summer on this.

15
16 Basically all I need is a yes, I want
17 to participate, no, we don't want to participate and
18 then we can work out who would be the member to go
19 later on.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Does the Seward
22 Pen Council have any discussions in this proposal.

23
24 MR. QUINN: I'll say a little bit.
25 During my time on this RAC I've watched the Subsistence
26 Board increase opportunities for rural residents to
27 also make some money off their harvest, which I saw as
28 a good thing, and I've continued to watch the State
29 oppose that, which I thought was a bad thing. I'd kind
30 of like to see local residents to get something more
31 than just a meal off their harvests since we all know
32 that most of the stuff we need can't be paid for with
33 meat. So therefore I'd be interested in seeing our RAC
34 have a member at this working group.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: My question would
37 be to the RAC committee. I've never heard of anyone in
38 my area making a necklace or anything from bear claws.
39 My question would be to the rest of the RAC, if this
40 was done in their area, I guess it would be something
41 that we as individuals from the different areas need to
42 start thinking of ways of an income that we need to
43 start because there are so many limited jobs in the
44 villages. If you're not working for the IRA or the
45 city or the corporation or in the schools and jobs
46 being limited, I think this would be one of the things
47 that we as a RAC need to start thinking about. That's
48 my own opinion.

49
50 MR. KEYES: Anthony Keyes. I don't see

1 any problem having to -- like they're saying, money is
2 hard to come by. It's not growing on trees anymore. I
3 wish I could find one big hill that had a tree with all
4 the money on it. Like they say, times right here 2000
5 is the worst time I've encountered. As being a carver,
6 a sewer, hunter. I don't see nothing wrong with making
7 handicraft out of bear claws because that's a way of
8 making money in the village. Even the old people used
9 to do that and I don't know why they're trying to stop
10 it.

11
12 Even when I was in Chicago recently I
13 did see some bear claws that were made in the 18 and
14 1900's. Those people, our ancestors, made ways of
15 making money and that was part of their way of making
16 money and I don't see nothing wrong with that. But
17 having the poachers just get the bear claws or the
18 teeth or the head, I would strongly recommend that we
19 have somebody on this to keep an eye on handicraft made
20 by brown bear claws. I am pretty interested in that
21 because that's a way of our commodity.

22
23 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Just for
24 clarification on this one, the issue of handicrafts has
25 been before this Council in the past and in the past
26 it's been voted down to not allow handicraft sales in
27 Unit 22. What I'm kind of hearing now is you might
28 want to submit a proposal since we are in the wildlife
29 cycle to add Unit 22 to allow sales of handicrafts made
30 by brown bear parts. The work group is another issue.
31 That's something that came up how to track those once
32 they are made into handicrafts, but currently under
33 Federal regulations in Unit 22 you can't sell a
34 handicraft made with brown bear parts. Like I said, it
35 sounds like we might be heading towards a proposal
36 here.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: So in other words,
39 it's illegal to make handicrafts out of bear claws.
40 That's with both Federal and State.

41
42 MR. ARDIZZONE: In Unit 22 right now
43 under Federal regulations -- I mean you could make a
44 handicraft, but under our regulations you're not
45 allowed to sell it. We've addressed this in the past
46 and the Council has said no, but it sounds like we may
47 be in a different place now.

48
49 MR. QUINN: I'll make a proposal. I'll
50 make a motion we submit a proposal to allow the sale of

1 handicrafts made from bear claws in Unit 22 and I'll
2 include in this motion that this RAC have a
3 representative at the working group.

4
5 MR. BUCK: Second.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: It's been proposed
8 and seconded. Discussion.

9
10 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. With the
11 Marine Mammal Protection Act, is there any restrictions
12 on polar bear? Because I would think that any claws
13 they get from marine mammals, the polar bear claws,
14 that wouldn't cover it.

15
16 MR. ARDIZZONE: That's a whole
17 different program. That's marine mammals. We don't
18 manage marine mammals. I believe under the Marine
19 Mammal Act Native handicrafts made from those are
20 allowed.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more
23 discussion.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MR. QUINN: Question.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: The question has
30 been called. All in favor by saying aye.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any opposed, the
35 nays.

36
37 (No opposing votes)

38
39 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Hearing none it's
40 passed. So I guess a proposal will be written by the
41 Board then.

42
43 MR. QUINN: Leonard, I got to go. I've
44 got some other stuff to do. Are you guys going to be
45 able to finish today, Barb?

46
47 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes, I will be
48 finished.

49
50 MR. QUINN: I just want to thank

1 everybody for coming and what little time I had here I
2 enjoyed and I hope we are satisfied with our
3 accomplishments when it's all said and done.

4
5 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Thank you, Mike,
6 for being here when you can.

7
8 (Pause)

9
10 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Now we're down to
11 Anthony Keyes' proposal, change to 22E muskox
12 resolution. I think it was also a moose resolution you
13 wanted to change, am I correct?

14
15 MR. KEYES: Yes.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: I guess we're
18 going to Chuck.

19
20 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. What I had
21 written down from earlier on muskox was Mr. Keyes would
22 like to change the season for cows in Unit 22E so the
23 regulation in 22E would read one muskox by Federal
24 permit or State permit and the season would be August
25 1st through March 15th. I believe that's correct, but
26 Mr. Keyes will have to make sure.

27
28 MR. KEYES: Yes, that is what I did
29 say, from August 1st to March 15th, tie in the cow
30 moose with the bull.

31
32 MR. ARDIZZONE: So I guess that's his
33 motion. We would need a second and then discussion.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Do I hear a second
36 to Anthony Keyes' proposed changes in Unit 22E muskox
37 in the regulation and the moose -- are we just
38 discussing the muskox right now, right?

39
40 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right, just muskox.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Okay. Then a
43 resolution to the muskox. Do we have a second for
44 that.

45
46 MR. ENINGOWUK: So moved. Fred.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: A second has been
49 called. So now comes the question -- or discussion,
50 sorry.

1 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair
2
3 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Go ahead.
4
5 MR. SEETOT: ADF&G and National Park
6 Service has a quota system. However, that quota system
7 has not been reached in 22E. There should be an
8 outreach program to at least try to get the required
9 number of muskox in that area. When you're not
10 harvesting the full quota, there are animals within 22E
11 that are going to reproduce to add to the population.
12
13 The other thing, TEK, was that when the
14 hunting pressure is off from these animals, natural
15 mortality, diseases and others would kind of take
16 place. That is under what has been passed on down. If
17 you don't use a resource, it will gradually die down.
18
19 Since there's a lot of interest from
20 hunters within the state, I think the State needs to
21 reach out to the people saying the harvest of muskox
22 has not been reached for a number of years, however
23 they have been close on reaching that number. I think
24 that's where we should begin, by encouraging or putting
25 out to the public that the muskox in 22E are there but
26 the harvest quota has not been reached completely to
27 date.
28
29 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Any more
30 questions, concerns.
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Hearing none. Does
35 Staff have any more comments or concerns. Then all in
36 favor say aye. Wait a second.
37
38 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Leonard, you have to
39 have a question.
40
41 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Question.
42
43 MR. SEETOT: Question.
44
45 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: The question has
46 been called. All in favor by saying aye.
47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.
49
50 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Opposed, same

1 sign.

2

3

(No opposing votes)

4

5

6

ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Hearing none,
motion passed. So now we're on the moose change for
Unit 22E that was proposed by Anthony Keyes.

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MR. KEYES: Okay. I read a letter from
an elderly man from Wales and I also backed up his
concern on trying to see if we can get an emergency
opening until March or open it until the last day of
March due to the price of gas, the weather and price of
food too. Nobody had really gotten any moose and they
are more interested in getting their moose now that the
weather is getting better and starting to warm up a bit
more. I would like to see if I can get a proposal made
to have it stay open until March.

MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. His request
is more of a special action request that can come from
the community to our office. It doesn't have to go
through a Regional Council. I guess you can take it up
and talk about it, which would be fine, but we have the
letter and we can submit that as a special action
request when I get back to the office tomorrow. You
don't have to take action on that. I'll just take what
he told me and the letter he submitted to Barb and
we'll just run it as a special action request.

ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Okay, we'll go
with that route. So that's been taken care of.

MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Yes.

MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
Park Service. I'd point out two things, I guess. One
is a question of what do you do for the rest of this
hunt season or hunt year and the special action may
take care of that, but you also have another regulatory
problem that would probably be best addressed through a
regular proposal. Currently there is a disparity
between the season that's in the State regulations and
in the Federal regulations and you might want to
address that. Currently the State season is longer
than the Federal season by about a month and you may
want to address that through recommending a permanent
regulation change for 22E to align the shorter Federal

1 season with the longer State season.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Are you talking
4 about the moose or the muskox?

5

6 MR. ADKISSON: I'm talking about the
7 moose.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Does anyone on the
10 RAC have any concerns about what Ken Adkisson just
11 mentioned.

12

13 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. I'll just
14 point out what that disconnect really is right now. In
15 the Federal book, the current regulation for moose in
16 Unit 22E is one bull August 1 through December 31st and
17 you'll find that on Page 104 of your regulation
18 booklet. If you go to Page 100 in the State booklet,
19 you'll find for moose in 22E it's one bull August 1 to
20 December 31st and one antlered bull January 1 to
21 January 31st.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: So, Mr. Keyes, do
24 you want to discuss this.

25

26 MR. KEYES: What page did you say this
27 is on?

28

29 MR. ADKISSON: The Federal regulation
30 is on Page 104 of the Federal regulation book. The
31 State regulation is on Page 100 of the State booklet
32 that was handed out to you.

33

34 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I have a
35 question for Ken. So you want to add a January season?
36 Is that the difference between the State and Feds, is
37 the January season?

38

39 MR. ADKISSON: Basically, yes. I would
40 add a month to the Federal season and they can decide
41 what they want to do, if anything, with the antler
42 restriction. This whole thing has a long history that
43 you'll recall for 22E that went from very liberal
44 regulations down to fairly restrictive regulations and
45 then as the population built up there was a desire to
46 add time to lengthen the season again. That was
47 accomplished on the last go round through the State
48 system but was not accomplished through the Federal
49 system.

50

1 MS. KENNER: Was there a proposal?
2
3 MR. ADKISSON: No, there wasn't.
4
5 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Do we have a State
6 person, Fish and Game, who would like to comment on
7 this. Chuck, you're the State, aren't you?
8
9 MR. ADKISSON: I'm the Feds.
10
11 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. George Pappas,
12 Fish and Game. Our wildlife specialist is not here
13 right now. I don't have good input for you, sir.
14
15 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Apparently there's
16 regulations for the State for the reason that Mr. Keyes
17 wants to change the proposal so that they could hunt
18 moose -- be able to get moose at a different time and
19 season when it's allowable for them to go after it. It
20 was brought to our attention through Ken that there may
21 come a problem or something that we may encounter.
22
23 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Ken
24 Adkisson, National Parks. Maybe I can shed a little
25 light on this. I don't want to speak for the State.
26 What sort of happened was the population had built up a
27 little and so there was a proposal put in by the
28 Department to create an opportunity for a limited sport
29 hunt and if you go to Page 100 of your regulation book
30 you'll see how that played out. It's called
31 registration moose sort of that would allow other than
32 non-local people to participate in a moose hunt. That
33 has a very short season of September 1 to September
34 14th.
35
36 What happened at the Northern Norton
37 Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee meeting was that
38 proposal showed up in front of them and there was a lot
39 of discussion and the general feeling was that if you
40 were going to provide that sport hunt opportunity you
41 ought to start restoring -- because the original
42 proposal did not call for lengthening the subsistence
43 season. It just called for adding the sport hunt.
44
45 The discussion at the Northern Norton
46 Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee, and
47 unfortunately Roy is not here to address that, but my
48 recollection it was a lot of discussion among the
49 members there and the basic consensus that came out of
50 that was that if you're going to put in that sport

1 hunt, you ought to give us some of the subsistence hunt
2 back.

3

4 The compromise that came out of that is
5 what you see in the State regulation book.
6 Unfortunately, all of that really took place at a time
7 period too late really with the regulatory cycle to get
8 anything done on the Federal side. We brought it up
9 and began to discuss it at the RAC meeting, but by that
10 time it was really too late to do anything with and it
11 just kind of languished. No special action went
12 forward and definitely no regulatory proposal went
13 forward. So we just lived through a hunt year with
14 that difference on the books and now is an opportunity
15 to fix it.

16

17 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Although
18 Ken has been talking about it in depth, we don't have a
19 motion on the table and if someone would like to add
20 that January season we'll need a motion and then we'll
21 have to have a second and vote on it.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Would someone on
24 the RAC committee like to make a motion. I guess it
25 would be a motion to his.....

26

27 MR. ARDIZZONE: I think the motion
28 would be to add a January 1 through 31 season and then
29 I'm not sure if you want to keep it one bull or one
30 antlered bull.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Mr. Keyes, since
33 it concerns your area, I would like to hear what you
34 have to say.

35

36 MR. KEYES: The reason why I brought
37 this up is that I'm new to this board and I didn't know
38 that I was supposed to make a recommendation by letter
39 two weeks prior to closing. I just found this out last
40 night, so this is why I brought it up. During our cold
41 winter season it's hard to get a moose December to
42 January. August to December we have no snow.

43

44 I was trying to be able to get one more
45 month, which would be March, so August 1st to the last
46 day of March, like we used to have it before. My
47 people out there are hurting and I want to help my
48 people out the best I can. They are suffering. They
49 do want that food, that moose meat. The price of
50 everything has gone up. By the time you get what you

1 want from the store it's all gone. Those people
2 receiving food stamps don't care about the price
3 because they got the free money and we don't.

4
5 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I think we
6 have some confusion going on here again. I think Mr.
7 Keyes is addressing this special action, this letter he
8 would like to see the season extended to March 31st.
9 What Mr. Adkisson is addressing is a permanent
10 regulation change, which would take a proposal to
11 possibly add a January season, which is not on the
12 books right now under Federal regulations, but it is on
13 the books under State regulations. There's two
14 separate issues. The special action we'll take care
15 of. Mr. Adkisson is talking about a whole other
16 proposal for the regulatory cycle.

17
18 MS. KENNER: That's right, Chuck. This
19 is Pippa Kenner with OSM for the record. Mr. Chair,
20 one of the important things to know about the
21 discussion on creating a Federal regulation where there
22 is none now and there is a State regulation is that
23 there would be no difference in the regulations. It
24 wouldn't change the regulations. It would put a
25 Federal season on the books, but that Federal hunt
26 would occur through State regs. The State hunt would
27 follow the stipulations and the State regulation.

28
29 So it would put it on the books, we
30 would have the same liberal hunt that the State has in
31 their regulations, but it wouldn't make any difference
32 in actually when you can and cannot hunt.

33
34 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
35 Park Service. I think we have another problem in 22E
36 and that is the Federal public lands in 22E are still
37 closed to non-subsistence moose hunting, which, by
38 definition, includes anything in the State book. So
39 it's not like somebody can pick up a State moose permit
40 and hunt moose in 22E during that extra month that's
41 provided under the State reg.

42
43 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. The Council
44 doesn't have to take any action on it if they don't
45 want to. It can stay status quo. I don't want to
46 force anything on the Council. I guess Mr. Adkisson
47 was just trying to clarify the difference between State
48 and Federal regulations. It's up to the Council. If
49 they don't want to do anything, that's fine. If they
50 want to, it's also fine.

1 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Still my concern
2 is for the area of the Wales people. So I guess the
3 proposal -- wouldn't it be a lot better if the people
4 from Wales, the city of Wales, wrote the proposal and
5 sent it in?

6
7 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. That would
8 be fine. Wales could submit a proposal before April
9 30th on changing the seasons. It would come back
10 before the RAC next fall and at that time the RAC could
11 endorse it and that would be the recommendation to the
12 Board. It doesn't have to come from here. It can come
13 from Wales.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Anthony, how do
16 you feel about that. It sounds like you're still going
17 to have to wait until next fall for it to come into
18 effect. Do you want it right away?

19
20 MR. KEYES: I would sure like to see
21 that happen, but I think I'm going to have to go
22 through some hurdles to try and get something I need.

23
24 MS. KENNER: Anthony, through the
25 Chair. Were you talking about your emergency order or
26 were you referring to what Ken.....

27
28 MR. KEYES: That was an emergency
29 order.

30
31 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. OSM
32 has acknowledged the submission of a special action
33 request and we will take care of it right away when we
34 get back to the office. We try to respond within 30
35 days. In a situation like this, it would be sooner
36 than that. That's separate from what Ken Adkisson was
37 talking about.

38
39 MR. KEYES: Yes, that is true.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: So in other words
42 your department will just go ahead. We don't have to
43 take a vote on it or anything.

44
45 MS. KENNER: (Nods affirmatively)

46
47 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: All right. Good.
48 Then that solves the problem. Barb, I need you. I
49 guess we're down to 11, new business. We've got A,
50 charter.

1 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman. Before we
2 get any further I would like to pass on from the IRA
3 Council and community of Stebbins and we'll like to
4 extend a thank you for that extension of the moose
5 season from the 7th to the 20th. They are very happy
6 and they have the opportunity to go out and try and
7 catch a moose. Quyana.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Yes, and the
10 village of St. Michael would like to thank the village
11 of Stebbins and the Staff who took immediate action on
12 this. We're really thankful that Stebbins decided to
13 do it because it not only helped them, it helped us out
14 too also. We're thankful for that. Make sure you tell
15 the people there in Stebbins, Peter, that we are
16 thankful.

17
18 MR. MARTIN: We would like you to pass
19 it on to your people in Anchorage. Quyana.

20
21 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay, Mr. Chair. I
22 have 11, new business under charter. Before I do that
23 I handed out some five year and 10 year Council member
24 recognition items out to Mr. Seetot and Mr. Buck for
25 serving for 10 years and also Mr. Savetilik and
26 Mr. Gray for five year service. We needed signatures
27 for your certificates, so those will be coming in the
28 mail to you. Thank you so much.

29
30 Okay, back to the charter. This should
31 be in your folder. The charter comes to you from the
32 Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture. It is
33 reviewed by you every two years. It describes the
34 Council membership and activities and this Council may
35 recommend changes to the Council name, number of
36 members, criteria for removing a member and Subsistence
37 Resource Commission appointments, which this Council
38 does not do. If you have any changes that you would
39 like to make recommendations to on your charter, you
40 would let me know and it would be an action item. If
41 there isn't, then we leave it as it is and you'll see
42 this again in a couple years from now, 2011. Thank
43 you.

44
45 MR. KEYES: I'd like to say something
46 before we really get closed. Being a new member on
47 this committee here, what kind of hurt me was -- I'm
48 going to be truthful about this. Having to smell
49 alcohol on one of our members kind of turned me off and
50 I'm pretty sure if their hometown heard about it, I

1 think that would kind of make him feel bad. Well, it
2 made me feel bad having to have a Council member on
3 alcohol attending our meeting. So I would like to
4 strongly suggest that please, by all means, wait until
5 we are done with what we have to do first. This is our
6 priority. This is what we are here for, to help our
7 people. Not to look down on them, but to help them.
8 Please, by all means, if you need a drink, wait until
9 the meeting is all done because it doesn't show respect
10 to the members on this Board coming here and smelling
11 like alcohol. So, please, I strongly recommend to wait
12 until we're all done and then you can do what you want
13 on your own. Thank you.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: I would like to
16 thank Anthony for that comment. I think that's the way
17 it should be. Like in all our meetings that we have to
18 attend, whether village council, IRA Council or
19 corporation, that's one of the things that needs to --
20 we need to start taking more responsibility for
21 ourselves. Thank you, Anthony, for bringing that up.

22

23 MR. KEYES: Yes. It's a lucky thing
24 I'm not chairperson, otherwise I would tell you if I
25 did smell alcohol on you I would tell you to please
26 leave at the very beginning. Thank you very much.

27

28 MR. SEETOT: In regards to the charter,
29 I know that in the past it used to be \$100,000 on the
30 estimated operating costs. Was this, not revamped, but
31 looked over and then the changes made or was amendments
32 made to this charter without Council review?

33

34 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I think that's the
35 part that they changed because my salary is under that
36 125,000. I've been here with the Federal government
37 for almost 19 years. As you move up in the steps, I'm
38 a 12-8 now and then my salary goes up and then that's
39 why there's a change that has to be put in there and
40 I'm sure that is why it's 125 now instead of 100.

41

42 MR. SEETOT: I was looking at the
43 January 15, 2008 signature. In the past I'm not sure
44 -- I know we did review the charter, but we didn't say
45 that any significant changes would be made. Is it the
46 coordinator that would kind of say, okay, this is the
47 changes that were made at the last meeting and the
48 changes to the charter would be implemented?

49

50 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No. If you want to

1 make any changes right now on this charter, you can do
2 so as a group and then make an action item. Then we
3 would write it up and forward that in and turn it in to
4 our superiors and say this is the change that the
5 Seward Peninsula Council wants to make on their
6 charter. Then it goes through the channel again up to
7 the Federal Board to say whether it's approved or not.
8 Thank you.

9

10 If there aren't any changes that you
11 want to make, you can move on to 12.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: How does the
14 Council feel about the charter? Are you comfortable
15 with it or are there any changes that need to be made
16 to the charter?

17

18 MR. BUCK: I think we can just think
19 about it and bring it up in the next meeting.

20

21 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: There is no next
22 meeting. This is it. I noticed that you guys did
23 mention about alcohol and membership and there is a
24 clause there that says removal of members. This, in the
25 lifetime that I've worked with Fish and Wildlife
26 Service, has only been used once and that was with the
27 North Slope and it's never been used anywhere else. It
28 would come from the direction from you that I would
29 have to deal with that part. I cannot act on my own to
30 go and deal with that problem. That direction would
31 have to come from you to me to work with that problem.
32 Thank you.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: So in other words
35 as board members we could include that into the charter
36 that no one under the influence of alcohol is allowed
37 into our meetings. Can that be put in there in that
38 area or just another thing we could add to the charter?

39

40 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You can do that or
41 it can be a silent vote. It always has been. In the
42 past I've always written letters to you guys asking you
43 and you always understood what I meant because we're
44 Inupiat and we can understand each other in talking to
45 you guys and you heard me last night. I said 8:30 and
46 you understood what I meant. That can be ongoing. I
47 can also talk to the Chair in the meantime regarding
48 this issue that you have brought up before us. So it
49 will be dealt with. Thank you.

50

1 MR. SEETOT: I think when we apply for
2 membership for RACs there's a place for references and
3 that should be a good indicator of who is who. That is
4 a way that wouldn't harm an individual's reputation at
5 the community level or at the hub level, Bethel and
6 those areas.

7
8 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes, they are and
9 the panel members are aware of it. When they do go
10 through the references, they do come up with that in
11 discussion at the meeting. They know about the people
12 who apply for these positions as sitting as the Council
13 members in talking to the references before they make
14 any recommendations. So it is discussed in the panel
15 level. Thank you.

16
17 (Pause)

18
19 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: If there is no
20 further discussion, we can go on to number 12 on your
21 agenda. Thank you.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: So are there no
24 further discussions so we can move on.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Hearing no further
29 discussions, we're down to the next meeting.

30
31 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. To
32 confirm October 1 and 2, 2009, which will be here again
33 in Nome. The way we end up with one day meetings is
34 when we follow the agenda. If it's more than what we
35 have today with hardly issues like this, then I will
36 talk to the Chair and ask him to cut it down to a one
37 day meeting, but if there are more, then it will be two
38 days.

39
40 Usually at this time you already are
41 setting up a meeting for your winter meeting. I was
42 informed before we left by my superiors that that's
43 going to be at bay for awhile. There is going to be
44 some changes at the OSM office. At your fall meeting
45 you'll set up your winter meeting. It's going to be
46 how it used to be before instead of setting up a year
47 out.

48
49 So October 1 and 2, 2009 here in Nome
50 will be your next meeting, your fall meeting. Thank

1 you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: So that's already
4 been set or it would be up to the Chair also, huh?

5

6 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No, these are the
7 days you gave me a year ago to set up and I'm just
8 confirming them with you. That's it. Thanks.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Okay. Then we're
11 down to 13, adjournment. I would like to thank the
12 board members and the rest of the Staff for being
13 patient with me. This is my first time chairing a
14 meeting. I know I made a lot of mistakes and I don't
15 know if I want to do it again.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. KEYES: I, for one, this is Anthony
20 Keyes, would like to thank Ken, especially Chuck, on
21 these proposals that were made and a lot of changes
22 took place today. Thank all the other people that came
23 to attend. Have a safe trip home.

24

25 MR. BUCK: I would like to thank Fish
26 and Wildlife Service for these packets they gave me and
27 Elmer. Thank you.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: I'd like to thank
30 everyone, the Staff, the board members and hopefully
31 next time we will have a quorum so we can change
32 chairs, vice chairs and secretary. I know one thing
33 I'm not going to be, but thank you all for putting up
34 with me today.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. Motion to
39 adjourn.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Motion has been
42 made to adjourn. Do I hear a second.

43

44 MR. ENINGOWUK: Second.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: All in favor say
47 aye.

48

49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR KOBUK: Thank you.
2
3 (Off record)
4
5 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

I, 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 02 through 112 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by myself on the 11th day of February 2009, beginning at the hour of 8:30 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 my knowledge and ability;

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 20th day of February 2009.

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