

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 15, 2011  
12 8:41 a.m.

13  
14 Members Present:

15  
16 Michael Quinn, Acting Chairman  
17 Peter Buck  
18 Fred Eningowuk  
19 Anthony Keyes  
20 Peter Martin  
21 Elmer Seetot  
22 Tim Smith  
23  
24  
25 Regional Council Coordinator - Alex Nick

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42 Recorded and transcribed by:  
43  
44 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC  
45 135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2  
46 Anchorage, AK 99501  
47 907-243-0668/907-227-5312  
48 sahile@gci.net

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Nome, Alaska - 2/15/2011)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN QUINN: I'm going to call.....

REPORTER: Mike. Mike.

MR. BUCK: Mic.

CHAIRMAN QUINN: Could you just sit  
right next to me?

REPORTER: I could. I could. Just  
leave it on, Mike.

CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

REPORTER: You can leave yours on, then  
you don't have to worry about it, everyone else, on and  
off.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, who's here from  
OSM besides you, Alex?

MR. NICK: Tom.

CHAIRMAN QUINN: You are?

MR. KRON: Tom Kron with OSM.

CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

MS. BROWN: Cole Brown from OSM.

CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, I haven't seen you  
in so long I didn't recognize you.

MS. BROWN: And I just chopped my hair.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah, me, too.

(Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, 8:41 or so.  
2 Let's officially call.....

3  
4 (Laughter)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN QUINN: .....the meeting to  
7 order. Let's see, do you want.....

8  
9 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair, I can do the  
10 roll.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, Alex, you do the  
13 roll.

14  
15 MR. NICK: Anthony Keyes.

16  
17 MR. KEYES: Present.

18  
19 MR. NICK: Peter Buck.

20  
21 MR. BUCK: Here.

22  
23 MR. NICK: Louis H. Green, Jr.

24  
25 (No comments)

26  
27 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I understand Mr.  
28 Green will be participating on line today.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

31  
32 MR. NICK: Tom L. Gray.

33  
34 (No comments)

35  
36 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN QUINN: He's excused.

39  
40 MR. NICK: Tom Gray needed to be  
41 excused because he's traveling out of town and he'll be  
42 participating in the meeting tomorrow.

43  
44 Peter Martin.

45  
46 MR. MARTIN: Here.

47  
48 MR. NICK: Weaver Ivanoff.

49  
50 (No comments)

1 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Weaver is not --  
2 unable to participate.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yes.  
5  
6 MR. NICK: Fred D. Eningowuk.  
7  
8 MR. ENINGOWUK: Here.  
9  
10 MR. NICK: Elmer Seetot, Jr.  
11  
12 MR. SEETOT: Here.  
13  
14 MR. NICK: Michael Quinn.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Here.  
17  
18 MR. NICK: Timothy Edwin Smith.  
19  
20 (No comments)  
21  
22 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Tim should be  
23 here shortly, hopefully.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.  
26  
27 MR. NICK: You have a quorum.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, well, then  
30 welcome everybody to the meeting. I'm a little  
31 disappointed there aren't more people here.  
32  
33 Let's see, introductions. All right,  
34 so Mr. Martin, we'll start with you and we'll go around  
35 the room.  
36  
37 MR. MARTIN: Peter Martin.....  
38  
39 REPORTER: Peter.  
40  
41 MR. MARTIN: Peter Martin, Jr.,  
42 Stebbins.  
43  
44 MR. KEYES: Anthony Keyes from Wales.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Mike Quinn, Nome.  
47  
48 MR. ENINGOWUK: Fred Eningowuk,  
49 Shishmaref.  
50

1 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr., Brevig  
2 Mission.  
3  
4 MR. BUCK: Peter Buck, White Mountain.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. That's  
7 everyone that's here at the moment. Tom -- oh, good,  
8 there's Tim. Was Louis just in that meeting today?  
9  
10 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. My understanding  
11 is the meeting he was in was going to be the next two  
12 days but there were going to be breaks and.....  
13  
14 REPORTER: Tom. Tom.  
15  
16 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. My  
17 understanding, talking to Louis at the airport, was  
18 that the meeting was today and tomorrow, but during the  
19 breaks as much as he could, he was going to call into  
20 this meeting.  
21  
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Okay,  
25 Alex, I would like to put the election of officers off  
26 for an undisclosed amount of time today until both Mr.  
27 Smith is here and into the groove, and I'll hope that  
28 we can conduct it at a time that Mr. Green can call in  
29 so we have the maximum amount of participants available  
30 for that election of officers. So I can't designate an  
31 exact time but if Louis calls in I may interrupt the  
32 meeting and just go ahead and we'll do election of  
33 officers.  
34  
35 Therefore, we move on to adopting the  
36 agenda. Hopefully everybody's seen the agenda. Hello  
37 Tim, have a seat.  
38  
39 MR. SMITH: Good morning. Sorry I'm  
40 late.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN QUINN: It sounds like you're  
43 a little sick.  
44  
45 MR. SMITH: I'm just recovering from a  
46 case of the Nome crude.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, goodness. All  
49 right, so we're going to start going over today's  
50 agenda and see if we need to change anything. And

1 let's see I think that on Page 2 under Alaska  
2 Department of Fish and Game I'm going to add advisory  
3 committee action -- I'll do that after you speak Letty.  
4 I imagine you're the designated speaker today.

5  
6 MS. HUGHES: As of right now.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Okay, so  
9 I'm going to add that. There's something that came up  
10 at the State level that I'd like to bring in front of  
11 this Council and maybe we can get together and also  
12 include a comment. I think we barely have time to get  
13 a comment into the Board of Game on this particular  
14 proposal.

15  
16 Anyone els got any changes?

17  
18 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I would like to  
19 add.....

20  
21 REPORTER: Wait, wait, Tim, your  
22 microphone.

23  
24 MR. SMITH: .....a section on.....

25  
26 REPORTER: Tim.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Turn your mic on.

29  
30 MR. SMITH: Oh, it's where?

31  
32 REPORTER: No -- yeah, right there,  
33 when that red light comes on, it's on, great.

34  
35 MR. SMITH: Thank you. I'd like to add  
36 a -- I hope you can understand me, I'm having a hard  
37 time.

38  
39 REPORTER: No problem, you're fine,  
40 thanks.

41  
42 MR. SMITH: My name is Tim Smith. I'd  
43 like to add a section for considering Regional Advisory  
44 Council action on chum salmon bycatch in the trawl  
45 fishery.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Then we will --  
48 let's see where are we, next meeting date -- we'll add  
49 that under No. 14, other business, Council comment.....

50

1 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yes.  
4  
5 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chair, Item No.  
6 12, agencies and other reports No. 4 under A, Section  
7 A, there'll be some discussion there about salmon  
8 bycatch.....  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, thank you.  
11  
12 MR. KRON: .....groundfish fisheries.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Thank you, Tom.  
15  
16 MR. KRON: That would be the perfect  
17 place for Tim to add that.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN QUINN: You betcha.  
20  
21 MR. KRON: Thank you.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Thank you, again.  
24  
25 All right. Anybody else got anything  
26 they'd like to add.  
27  
28 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chair. No. 9, I'd  
29 like to make a proposal, Change to Federal Subsistence  
30 Wildlife Regulations for Unit 22 remainder and that is  
31 when -- when it comes up, I would like to make a change  
32 from January 1st to February 15th to December 15 to  
33 January 31st.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. So we'll  
36 discuss that as a proposal. Call for change of  
37 regulations.  
38  
39 All right, anything else.  
40  
41 MR. KEYES: Yes. Well, since we're on  
42 this. I want to bring up some concerns and let  
43 everybody here know, due to our weather conditions  
44 nowadays, I barely made it into Nome. We have to look  
45 at our weather factors being our tough choices of  
46 getting on the plane in the future.  
47  
48 Thank you.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I thought I saw

1 something in here, Alex, on.....  
2  
3 MR. SEETOT: 12, A, 1.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, travel procedure,  
6 all right, so, Tony, you get to speak about potential  
7 travel problems at that time, or anyone else.  
8  
9 Okay.  
10  
11 Anything else we want to add.  
12  
13 (No comments)  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. So  
16 then.....  
17  
18 MR. BUCK: Make a motion to accept the  
19 agenda.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Thank you.  
22  
23 MR. MARTIN: Second.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Second by Peter  
26 Martin. Any discussion.  
27  
28 (No comments)  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN QUINN: None heard.  
31  
32 MR. SEETOT: Question.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Question. All those  
35 in favor of the motion say aye.  
36  
37 IN UNISON: Aye.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Any opposed.  
40  
41 (No opposing votes)  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I think that was  
44 unanimous. All right, did that.  
45  
46 Now, open your book to Page 5, we'll  
47 look at the minutes from the last meeting.  
48  
49 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yes, go ahead, Alex.  
2  
3 MR. NICK: Yeah, I want to note that I  
4 -- I want to let the Council know, Council and audience  
5 know that maybe this is probably one of the poor  
6 minutes that I've written because of the very hastily,  
7 but the changes you note will be made.  
8  
9 Mr. Chair.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN QUINN: For the last minutes?  
12  
13 MR. NICK: Yes.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, it looks pretty  
16 good to me. Of course that was six months ago and none  
17 of us can remember anything we did six months ago.  
18  
19 (Laughter)  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, yeah, it's pretty  
22 long, gee, I think they look good.  
23  
24 All right, well.....  
25  
26 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.  
29  
30 MR. SEETOT: Typo on Page 10 the bottom  
31 under public comment, I'm not sure if Mr. Lean wanted  
32 to write down Iguupuk -- Dolly Vardens on the Iquupuk,  
33 if that's appropriate river, that's what I'm thinking,  
34 that he was trying to.....  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN QUINN: That's probably a  
37 misspelling.  
38  
39 MR. SEETOT: I-Q-U-U-P-U-K, I don't  
40 think that's.....  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN QUINN: That would be Iquupuk?  
43  
44 MR. SEETOT: A-G-I-A-P-U-K, that's the  
45 way it appears on the map, that's what I think that he  
46 was thinking about.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Sure.  
49  
50 MR. SEETOT: And also on Page 15, Mr.

1 Mr. Noiƙkuk and Mr. Karkarek's [sic] last names are  
2 spelled incorrectly. Those are the typos that I found  
3 in here.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN QUINN: On 15.

6  
7 MR. SEETOT: Under Bureau of Land  
8 Management.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh.

11  
12 MR. SEETOT: They have that Noiƙkuk and  
13 Karkarek [sic] Herd misspelled, and those were the only  
14 typos that I ran into.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh.

17  
18 MR. SEETOT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Alex, you're  
21 getting that?

22  
23 MR. NICK: Yes, and Tina is.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Elmer, you could  
26 probably help Alex and Tina during a break with making  
27 sure those two names are spelled correctly.

28  
29 MR. SEETOT: Okay.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN QUINN: And Alex the river  
32 he's talking about on Page 10 is A-G-I-A-P-U-K, oh, and  
33 then the other thing you can do is open up the book,  
34 except I don't have one, and see it as well. But,  
35 anyway, okay, any other changes to the minutes.

36  
37 If not, I'll accept a motion to adopt.

38  
39 MR. MARTIN: So moved.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Motion by Peter  
42 Martin.

43  
44 MR. BUCK: Seconded.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Seconded by Peter  
47 Buck. Any discussion.

48  
49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: If not, question --  
2 call the question.  
3  
4 MR. SEETOT: Question.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All those in favor of  
7 the motion say aye.  
8  
9 IN UNISON: Aye.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Opposed.  
12  
13 (No opposing votes)  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Motion carries.  
16  
17 MR. SMITH: Well, I'll abstain, Mike.  
18 I wasn't -- I didn't attend the meeting.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Sure, okay. Action  
21 report, okay, who's got that, No. 7.  
22  
23 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Action report  
24 from the January 18th through 20th meeting in  
25 Anchorage, 2011, that just occurred here a little over  
26 a month ago.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Uh-huh.  
29  
30 MR. KRON: And, again, it's included  
31 there starting on Page 19 to give you a summary of  
32 information from that meeting. I know Tim was there,  
33 others may have been there as well, but, again, this is  
34 a summary of the results from that meeting, just for  
35 your information.  
36  
37 So unless you've got any questions it's  
38 something to look at.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right.  
41  
42 MR. KRON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Thank you, Tom. Does  
45 anybody have any questions.  
46  
47 MR. SMITH: Yes.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.  
50

1 MR. SMITH: It's not a question, it's a  
2 comment. That was the first Federal Subsistence Board  
3 meeting I've attended and my understanding was it was  
4 handled very differently than previous meetings and it  
5 was different than any meeting like it that I've ever  
6 attended and I've been going to meetings like that for  
7 many years.

8  
9 The big difference was people had  
10 plenty of time to participate. You know, I went as a  
11 member of the public at my own expense and I was given  
12 pretty much the same deference as the people that were  
13 sitting at the table. It was really a good system. I  
14 don't know how long they're going to be able to do  
15 that. The problem is it takes a lot of time. But, you  
16 know, I don't know if you've ever attended a North  
17 Pacific Fisheries Management Council meeting, you get a  
18 minute and a half. It's really hard to talk about a  
19 complex issue in a minute and a half, especially if  
20 you're not professional. And I really, really  
21 appreciated the way this one was conducted. And I give  
22 Chairman Towarak a lot of credit for trying a new  
23 method. Because, you know, for years it's been clear  
24 to me that the methods of communication that are used  
25 at these meetings are not appropriate for people from  
26 rural areas, particularly where there's language  
27 problems and where people are non-professional meeting  
28 attenders, and, you know. I do it myself. I get done  
29 with my minute and a half and I think boy I wish I  
30 would've said something different.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yep.

33  
34 MR. SMITH: Well, in this case you had  
35 another chance at it. You could get another bite at  
36 the apple, you could go back and say it the way you  
37 meant it the first time. And I really think this is an  
38 excellent way to handle meetings, if we can do it, if  
39 we can handle the logistics of it. I know it's going  
40 to make the meetings a lot longer. But if the goal is  
41 to get meaningful input from rural areas we're going to  
42 have slow things down. There's just no way of getting  
43 around it.

44  
45 So, I thought it was great and I really  
46 encourage any of the rest of you to go if you can; it's  
47 really worth it.

48  
49 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yes, go ahead.

2

3 MR. BUCK: I also attended that meeting  
4 and it was also my first Federal Subsistence Board  
5 meeting and it was also Tim Towarak's first Board  
6 meeting. But the emphasis was put on rural opinions  
7 and that they're not held off or that we listen to  
8 them, okay, and I think that the meeting went really,  
9 really good, yeah, I enjoyed it.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Tom, did Mr. Towarak  
14 pretty much plan and implement that meeting?

15

16 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. He had a major  
17 role, again, as the New Chair. The Department of  
18 Interior working with the Department of Agriculture  
19 have made some changes to the process. We'll be  
20 talking about some of those later on in the meeting and  
21 they want more input from the Councils as well. But,  
22 again, part of this is to provide a quick summary of  
23 the meeting for you so you can see what happened there  
24 and what action was taken on fisheries proposals.

25

26 They are also implementing a tribal  
27 consultation process to figure out how they're going to  
28 implement that in a meaningful way.

29

30 There's a summary in your book, I  
31 think, on Page 77, of the results from an executive  
32 session the Board had to look at the Secretaries  
33 directions and decide how to implement those. So they  
34 want to be more open, slow the process down, provide  
35 meaningful input for rural users and I'm sure they'll  
36 be pleased to hear that those that attended felt it was  
37 a good process.

38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. All right. So  
42 it looks like we're going to get into some of the meat  
43 and potatoes of the meeting. Wildlife closure review,  
44 Council recommendations. And Cole, you're going to  
45 speak A, Page 32.

46

47 MS. BROWN: Yes, good morning, Mr.  
48 Chair. Members of the Council. My name is Cole Brown.  
49 I'm with the Office of Subsistence Management. And I  
50 will be going over the wildlife closures for Seward

1 Peninsula.

2

3 We'll start with the Wildlife Closure  
4 Review briefing, which is on Page 32 of your books.

5

6 As called for in the closure policy,  
7 which is on Pages 33 through 36 in your Council books,  
8 the Office of Subsistence Management is reviewing  
9 existing wildlife closures to determine whether the  
10 original justification for closure is still consistent  
11 with the Federal Subsistence Board's Closure Policy.  
12 Section .815, (3) of ANILCA allows closures, when  
13 necessary, for the conservation of healthy populations  
14 of fish and wildlife and to continue subsistence uses  
15 of such populations.

16

17 Distribution and abundance of fish and  
18 wildlife populations are known to fluctuate based upon  
19 a variety of factors. Subsistence use patterns are  
20 also known to change in response to factors including  
21 resource abundance and human population changes.

22

23 The Wildlife Closure Reviews contain a  
24 brief history of why a closure was implemented along  
25 with a summary of the current resource condition and a  
26 preliminary OSM recommendation as to whether the  
27 closure should be continued or deleted from the  
28 regulations. Councils are asked to consider the OSM  
29 preliminary recommendation and share their views on the  
30 issue.

31

32 Input from the Councils is critical to  
33 the development of regulatory proposals.

34

35 The current deadline to submit wildlife  
36 proposals is March 24th, 2011. Councils may choose to  
37 work with OSM Staff to develop a proposal, however,  
38 proposals may be submitted by anyone.

39

40 So if there's not any questions with  
41 that we'll continue on with the wildlife closure  
42 reviews that we have for Seward Peninsula.

43

44 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Cole and Tom, where's  
45 Pete and Polly and why isn't one of them here, and  
46 what's your boss' name, Cole?

47

48 MS. BROWN: Chuck.

49

50 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Chuck.

1 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. I can give  
2 you some information on a number of those people.

3  
4 Pete Probasco had intended to be at  
5 this meeting, he was unable to attend and I apologize  
6 for him, he asked me to attend to represent him. I  
7 believe Chuck Ardizzone has jury duty.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh.

10  
11 MR. KRON: Polly, I think, is signed up  
12 to attend about half of the 10 Regional Advisory  
13 Councils. But, again, we will represent OSM and help  
14 you out in any way we can. And if we have questions we  
15 may end up calling back to Anchorage, but we will do  
16 our very best.

17  
18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Well, I'm  
21 used to seeing Helen Armstrong here and a little larger  
22 Staff. And I thought this outfit was getting more  
23 money so I'm kind of surprised that we're not seeing as  
24 much of a footprint here as I did in the past. But,  
25 Cole, you can carry on with Review No. 10-10.

26  
27 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28  
29 Wildlife Closure Review 10-10, the  
30 closure location was in Unit 22B and it was for muskox.  
31 The closure dates were from August 1st through March  
32 15th.

33  
34 Justification for original closure,  
35 Proposal WP01-35 was the result of a multi-year  
36 cooperative effort of the Seward Peninsula Muskox  
37 Cooperatives Group to establish a muskox harvest system  
38 that would be biologically sound in its management and  
39 provide for a continued subsistence uses of the  
40 population. In order to meet these criteria the Board  
41 closed Federal public lands in Unit 22B to non-  
42 Federally-qualified hunters during the August 1st  
43 through March 15th season.

44  
45 Current resource abundance related to  
46 management objective. The current size and continued  
47 growth of the Unit 22B muskox population is meeting the  
48 State's management goals.

49  
50 The resource population trend. By 2010

1 the Seward Peninsula muskox population increased to an  
2 estimated 3,120 animals, that's for the entire Seward  
3 Peninsula. In Unit 22B, muskoxen are well established  
4 west and east of the Darby Mountains as the population  
5 has increased from three in 1992 to about 541 animals  
6 by 2010. The ratios of mature bulls which are four  
7 years and older, has decreased from over 50 mature  
8 bulls in 2002 to less than 40 mature bulls in 2009.  
9 The decline in mature bull ratios along with the  
10 tendency for hunters to select for mature bulls over  
11 younger bulls can lead to a reduced harvest quota in  
12 order to help insure healthy muskox ratios.

13

14 Harvest trend and/or hunting effort.  
15 Unit 22B muskox harvest has varied from nine to 20  
16 bulls and the quota has been set at 16 bulls for the  
17 years 2005 to 2009. The majority of the harvest during  
18 these years was by Federally-qualified subsistence  
19 hunters.

20

21 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
22 maintain the status quo, which is to maintain the  
23 closure.

24

25 The justification is Federal public  
26 lands should remain closed to non-Federally-qualified  
27 users for the conservation of a healthy population and  
28 to allow the continuation of subsistence uses of  
29 muskox. Although the muskox population within the  
30 Seward Peninsula and in Unit 22B continues to grow, the  
31 number harvested is still tightly managed with a quota  
32 system and there's not enough of a harvestable surplus  
33 to support non-Federally-qualified hunters beyond what  
34 is already being harvested by Federally-qualified  
35 subsistence hunters.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Who wrote this, Cole?

40

41 MS. BROWN: I believe it was our other  
42 wildlife biologist Spencer Reardon.

43

44 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. It says tightly  
45 managed with a quota system. What's the current quota  
46 in 22B?

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 MS. HUGHES: Okay, this is Letty Hughes

1 with Fish and Game. To the Chair and to the Board.  
2 22B West has a quota of 23 and 22B East of the Darby  
3 Mountains has a quota of three. And for both of those  
4 areas it's bull only.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Cole, you should come  
7 to these meetings familiar with that sort of  
8 information in my opinion.

9  
10 What was the quota last year?

11  
12 MS. HUGHES: I want to say I believe it  
13 was about 15 if I remember correctly.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I think it was 12.  
16 And the quota actually doubled from one year to the  
17 next.

18  
19 Okay. Anybody have any questions.

20  
21 MR. SMITH: I have a question.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yep.

24  
25 MR. SMITH: I'm wondering why there's  
26 so many unknowns in 2009? I'm referring to Table 1 on  
27 Page 41.

28  
29 MS. HUGHES: Okay, I'm just taking a  
30 look at this really quick to answer your question.  
31 Okay, I do not know why it has unknown down or, you  
32 know, maybe at the time that this was given, it was  
33 very possible that they did not know, but I mean at  
34 this current date we should have updated numbers on  
35 this. So I can get that back to you.

36  
37 MR. SMITH: Can you get those numbers  
38 to us before this meeting is over?

39  
40 MS. HUGHES: I'm sorry?

41  
42 MR. SMITH: Can you get those numbers  
43 to us before this meeting is over?

44  
45 MS. HUGHES: Yes.

46  
47 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, the answer to  
50 one of my questions is right there. I believe 2009 was

1 last year's hunt, correct, Letty, we're actually in the  
2 2010 hunt now?

3

4 MS. HUGHES: That is correct.

5

6 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. So last  
7 year's quota was 11. This year's quota is 23. All  
8 right, here's 22. If you open your book there you can  
9 get an idea of just how much Federal land is involved  
10 in 22B area. And the Darby Mountains divide B into an  
11 East and West hunt area.

12

13 Cole, I probably didn't pay as close  
14 attention as I should have, how often do we review  
15 wildlife closures?

16

17 MS. BROWN: Every three years, Mr.  
18 Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, if we continue  
21 this closure it'll be in effect for three more years?

22

23 MS. BROWN: Or you can open it through  
24 a special action or you can request to put in a  
25 proposal this wildlife regulatory cycle, which is why  
26 we're bringing these up, if you would like to bring in  
27 a proposal then we would write one up and that would be  
28 reviewed within this next regulatory cycle. If you  
29 choose to keep the wildlife closure at this time, you  
30 can still bring up a wildlife special action outside  
31 the regulatory period. So you're not beholden to the  
32 three years.

33

34 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Well,  
35 here's Unit -- on Page 40 here's a graph, I'm sure  
36 provided by the state of Alaska, for Unit 22B muskox  
37 census, and you can see from 2007 to 2010 the  
38 population increased dramatically. I guess that would  
39 legitimize the higher quota.

40

41 I guess, Cole, I'm surprised with the  
42 large increase in the number of animals, the large  
43 change in the quota that you'd still recommend this  
44 closure.

45

46 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chair. There are  
47 several factors, the first being that this was the  
48 first year that that census method was actually  
49 conducted, so to apply that census technique to the  
50 previous years there are a lot of problems with that

1 because of assumptions. So because it's the only year  
2 that that has been -- that census technique has been  
3 utilized, it's a stand-alone figure as 541 animals,  
4 without anything to compare it to. Because it does  
5 seem to be, when you look at the graph, I mean there's  
6 a huge jump in that, so is that part of the new census  
7 technique or is that actually that there are more  
8 animals in that area or were they just being missed  
9 before because of the census technique or are there  
10 actually more animals.

11  
12 In addition to that, while the numbers,  
13 the overall numbers seem to have increased, the mature  
14 bull/cow ratio has decreased.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, now, wait a  
17 minute, you just told me the figure from the last  
18 census is bogus, why is any of this other information  
19 any good.....

20  
21 MS. BROWN: Because.....

22  
23 CHAIRMAN QUINN: .....as well?

24  
25 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chair. Because the  
26 mature bull/cow ratio has decreased over a period of  
27 five years.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, how do you know  
30 that, you can't trust this last year's worth of  
31 information?

32  
33 MS. BROWN: Okay. So.....

34  
35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: If you're going to  
36 tell me.....

37  
38 MS. BROWN: .....if you look at -- if  
39 you look at, Mr. Chair.....

40  
41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right.

42  
43 MS. BROWN: .....let me see where is  
44 it, I'm trying to find out what table it is, well, it's  
45 on Page 39, so Table 1 -- okay, so it is in Table 1.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, Table 1 is on  
48 Page 41 in our book.

49  
50 MS. BROWN: It has -- right, but I

1 can't -- I'm looking at where that is located within  
2 the table, and I personally don't see it so that is why  
3 I think it might actually be a typo.

4  
5 MS. HUGHES: Okay, to the Chair, and I  
6 do want to kind of comment on this as well. Part of  
7 what you're seeing in the increase in number, as well,  
8 is when we decided to do this new line, distance line  
9 transect method, is we also included areas into the  
10 muskox estimate that were not previously, you know, put  
11 in, so we went further east, we went into, you know,  
12 22A, so in previous years, you know, we did not look at  
13 those areas. So what you're also seeing is, you know,  
14 the range expansion with these other areas that we've  
15 looked at for muskox. So, you know, that's just  
16 something else to take into consideration when you look  
17 at this number from the 2010 muskox census, is where we  
18 actually went into the study area.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. But, Letty, the  
21 figure says it's a Unit 22B census count. What does  
22 your increase into Unit 22A have to do with the Unit  
23 22B muskox figures?

24  
25 MS. HUGHES: Well, you are correct, I  
26 was just clarifying.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. And, I  
29 mean, as I said in the beginning, this is probably your  
30 graph, right, Letty, on 22B?

31  
32 MS. HUGHES: Yes, it is the  
33 Department's graph.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Is the 541  
36 figure believable or not?

37  
38 MS. HUGHES: We can say it's a very  
39 good estimate.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: There you go, I like  
42 that, Tim.

43  
44 MR. SMITH: I think maybe a little more  
45 clarification is probably called for. I'm always a  
46 little dubious of population numbers without a  
47 confidence interval, and I see there isn't one. 541 is  
48 an estimate but there's a confidence interval around  
49 that, do you have any estimates of precision in your  
50 population estimate?

1 MS. HUGHES: We do. And I can get in  
2 touch with Tony on that.

3  
4 MR. SMITH: Yeah, it's not a matter of  
5 believability so much as it's a different method. The  
6 methods before were an attempt at a minimum count even  
7 though they should have a confidence interval on them  
8 and they never do because there's no way to estimate  
9 with precision in a direct count method. But this last  
10 one is an entirely different, it's a scientific  
11 sampling method of estimating numbers. It's 541 but it  
12 could be a lot less than that, it could be more than  
13 that, you can't really say for sure exactly what it is,  
14 541 is just the middle of your estimate. And so maybe  
15 the muskox population grew that much, maybe it didn't.

16  
17 The real concern here is, I think, or a  
18 concern is with the bull/cow ratio. You know, muskoxen  
19 are -- they defend themselves against predators and  
20 bulls are very important in being able to do that. And  
21 we're seeing that bears are killing a lot more muskox  
22 than they did in the past, and without the bulls I  
23 think you could expect predation to increase quite a  
24 bit.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN QUINN: My discussions with  
27 Tony in the past have said -- he's always insisted he  
28 has a very high confidence level and if you -- the  
29 title of Figure 2 is census counts, and he's stated  
30 that they actually count animals. Now if that's not  
31 true for the 541 figure then I don't know what to say.

32  
33 We definitely, at least at the State  
34 level, have heard a lot of comment on bull/cow ratios  
35 and I believe that that particular area 22B only allows  
36 bull harvests so whether you harvest a mature bull or a  
37 younger bull, you're still going to harvest bulls and  
38 affect -- at some level you're going to affect the  
39 mature bull to cow ratio. If you harvest a younger one  
40 this year, well, okay, you haven't affected it this  
41 year, but you're going to affect it in later years.

42  
43 Well, you don't need to debate this all  
44 day long. I would like to see information provided to  
45 this Council that's accurate and the people that  
46 present this information to the Council are familiar  
47 with it.

48  
49 Okay, any other questions. If anybody  
50 wants to make a proposal we can -- or a motion, I'm

1 sorry, we can do that.

2

3 MR. SMITH: Mike.

4

5 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

6

7 MR. SMITH: I move to accept the  
8 continuation of the closure and I guess I'll discuss it  
9 if we get a second.

10

11 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, motion's on the  
12 floor.

13

14 MR. KEYES: I'll second it.

15

16 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Seconded by Tony.

17

18 Discussion.

19

20 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I think that there is  
21 a little confusion about it. I agree with you, Mike,  
22 there is confusion about the way this data's presented.  
23 I think that's problematic. You know, I think it's  
24 useful to try a different method of estimating X  
25 numbers, direct counts are getting harder and harder to  
26 do because of the increasing numbers. But I think we  
27 need to be very cautious about just accepting this  
28 number at face value. You know, it's a scientific  
29 sample, there's always a lot of problems in  
30 methodology.

31

32 The biggest problem of all with  
33 muskoxen is, the whole concept that there's such a  
34 thing as a Unit 22B population is flawed, there is no  
35 such thing as a Unit 22B population. That's an  
36 artificial division for convenience of management and  
37 it has nothing to do with muskox populations. And so  
38 we're just taking a snapshot of the muskoxen that are  
39 on this piece of ground at the time they do the census  
40 and it's a whole flawed concept.

41

42 Muskox management will get a lot easier  
43 if we have more muskoxen. There'll be a lot less  
44 conflicts over who gets what if we get the numbers up.  
45 The carrying capacity of muskoxen on the Seward  
46 Peninsula is very high, very high, tens of thousands of  
47 animals, and the sooner we get there, in my opinion,  
48 the less conflict we're going to have.

49

50 MR. KEYES: I have a question for Cole.

1 This is Anthony. Are these animals being counted  
2 through the air, such as using the helicopter or by  
3 foot?

4

5 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair to  
6 Anthony, Mr. Keyes. We do use -- we have a fleet of  
7 SuperCubs, 185s that we use to count these animals.

8

9 MR. KEYES: Using aircrafts such as  
10 SuperCubs and your helicopter I know you're going to  
11 miss some animals because there is some animals that  
12 are in the trees laying down and I think to do your  
13 counting would be easier by foot after you had spotted  
14 them at the air because, you know, you could see only  
15 so much up in the air but when you get on the ground,  
16 on your two feet, you get to see more because there's  
17 some in the willows that are being missed and I'm  
18 pretty sure of that.

19

20 MS. HUGHES: You're absolutely correct.

21

22 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

25

26 MR. BUCK: On Page 38 on the -- for the  
27 muskox 22B, it says the Cooperators Group opposed  
28 muskox hunting in 22B, I would like to understand what  
29 was their opposition for?

30

31 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Where on Page 38 is  
32 that?

33

34 MR. BUCK: If anybody from the  
35 Cooperators Group is here I'd like an explanation.

36

37 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

40

41 MR. SEETOT: I'm on the Cooperators  
42 Group. I think at that time for 22B it was for the  
43 growth of the muskox to set in subunit 22B so that was  
44 pretty much the closure I think at that time if I do  
45 remember correctly.

46

47 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Ken  
48 Adkisson, National Park Service. I currently function  
49 as the Chair of the Cooperators Group so maybe I can  
50 help answer that question if you'll repeat it please?

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.  
2  
3 MR. ADKISSON: What was the  
4 specific.....  
5  
6 MR. BUCK: All of it.  
7  
8 MR. ADKISSON: .....question?  
9  
10 MR. BUCK: All of -- the specific  
11 question was if you look on 38.....  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Peter, actually that  
14 wasn't from the Cooperators unless I'm reading the  
15 wrong one.  
16  
17 MR. BUCK: State recommendations for  
18 original closure, okay.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, okay.  
21  
22 MR. BUCK: And down there the very last  
23 section.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, I see.  
26  
27 MR. BUCK: And the Muskox Cooperators  
28 Group opposed the muskox hunting in 22B, so.....  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, that was in  
31 1998.  
32  
33 MR. BUCK: Okay. Okay. Okay, we can  
34 cancel that then, I'm sorry.  
35  
36 (Laughter)  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN QUINN: That's okay. That was  
39 awhile ago before there were as many muskox as we got  
40 now.  
41  
42 (Laughter)  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN QUINN: We got just enough to  
45 argue over now.  
46  
47 (Laughter)  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. So any  
50 more discussion. If not I'll call for the question.

1 MR. SEETOT: Question.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, the motion is to  
4 support the proposal to continue the closure or is to  
5 support to continue the closure, okay.  
6  
7 All those in favor of the motion say  
8 aye.  
9  
10 IN UNISON: Aye.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Any opposed.  
13  
14 (No opposing votes)  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Motion carries. Okay,  
17 Cole, No. 11. Oh, moose, okay.  
18  
19 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
20 Let's see the next two wildlife closure reviews, WCR10-  
21 11 and WCR10-12 were analyzed together. They were of  
22 the same hunt but a different season so fall and winter  
23 season. They start on Page 42 of your books.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.  
26  
27 MS. BROWN: The closure location is  
28 Unit 22B, west of the Darby Mountains and it is from  
29 moose. The closure dates for WCR10-11 is the fall  
30 season, September 1st through September 14th, Federal  
31 public lands are closed to the harvest of moose except  
32 by Federally-qualified subsistence users. WCR10-12 is  
33 January 1st through January 31st, Federal public lands  
34 are closed to the harvest of moose except by residents  
35 of White Mountain and Golovin.  
36  
37 Justification for the original closure.  
38 In 2002 the Board adopted Proposal WP02-34 and WP02-35  
39 because of the small number of moose available for the  
40 harvest relative to the number of subsistence users  
41 with a customary and traditional use determination to  
42 harvest moose and that's in Section .814 of ANILCA.  
43  
44 Current resource abundance related to  
45 management objective. The ADF&G management objective  
46 for moose in Unit 22B West, that's within the affected  
47 area, is to maintain the population at 1,000 to 1,200  
48 moose.  
49  
50 Resource population trend. As stated,

1 the management objective is between 1,000 to 1,200  
2 moose. The most recent Unit 22B West population  
3 estimate is 570 moose based on surveys at the end of  
4 February 2010. This estimate indicates that the ADF&G  
5 objective is not being met. Calf to cow ratios were 10  
6 calves to 100 adults and the density was .23 moose per  
7 square mile.

8

9  
10 Moose harvested within the affected  
11 area has remained relatively stable for years 2003 to  
12 2008. That's in Table 2. The reported fall harvest  
13 has ranged from 17 to 41 moose, and the reported winter  
14 harvest has ranged from four to seven moose for years  
15 2003 to 2008. Local residents of Unit 22 have  
16 accounted for 69 to 74 percent of the moose harvested  
17 for the 10 years from 1994 to 2004 and 78 to 90 percent  
18 with the data from 2005 to 2007.

18

19 OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
20 maintain the closure.

21

22 Justification. The Unit 22B moose  
23 population west of the Darby Mountains continues to be  
24 low and at a low density. There are no indications  
25 that there has been any increase in the moose  
26 population to justify non-subsistence harvest. The  
27 population is still below ADF&G management objectives  
28 and the harvest is generally taken by local residents.  
29 Therefore, Federal public lands should remain closed to  
30 non-Federally-qualified users for the conservation of a  
31 healthy population and to allow the continuation of  
32 subsistence uses of moose for fall and winter hunts.

33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Thank you, Cole.  
37 Letty, are these tables any more believable than the  
38 last group of tables for muskox?

39

40 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair. As far  
41 as I know, yes.

42

43 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Any questions.  
44 Oh, I'm sorry, speak up a little bit, don't.....

45

46 MR. SMITH: I'm having a hard time  
47 speaking up, maybe my voice will get better by  
48 tomorrow.

49

50 But I'd like to move that we adopt the

1 closure for non-qualified Federal subsistence users for  
2 22B West and we'll discuss it if we get a second.

3

4 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, a motion's on  
5 the floor. Do I hear a second.

6

7 MR. KEYES: Second.

8

9 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Seconded by Tony.  
10 Discussion. Tim.

11

12 MR. SMITH: Yeah, this is sad for me to  
13 see. You know, one of the first things I did when I  
14 came to the Seward Peninsula back in the early '80s is  
15 I did moose studies. I tracked radio-collared moose in  
16 Unit 22B, and all over the Seward Peninsula, and I also  
17 participated in the moose counts in those days. And  
18 things were great, I couldn't believe it. This was the  
19 best place to hunt moose in the state of Alaska in the  
20 early '80s, 22B especially was just remarkable, there  
21 were a lot of moose in the Fish River Flats, and now  
22 there aren't. And the really disturbing thing is  
23 nobody knows why. There's a lot of speculation.  
24 There's a lot of guesses. There's a lot of factors  
25 that may be playing -- having an effect, but we don't  
26 have the foggiest notion, really, what's keeping the  
27 moose population from recovering.

28

29 I personally don't think it's hunting  
30 but I don't know. And we just don't have enough data  
31 on anything that's affecting those moose. And I don't  
32 see any way, if they're going to come back. Provided  
33 we can still have a harvest which I think is doubtful,  
34 I mean I think maybe the best thing to do is to close  
35 hunting completely, but if we're going to have a  
36 harvest I'd like to see what few animals are available  
37 go to the people in White Mountain and Golovin. You  
38 know I've heard a lot of complaints from people down  
39 there that they're getting out-competed by people from  
40 Nome, you know, and people from Nome have better  
41 equipment, maybe they're more ambitious, you know,  
42 they've got more money, certainly, and so they're  
43 getting the moose during the State season. So I guess  
44 what few moose we can allocate for hunting I'd like to  
45 see them go to the people in White Mountain and  
46 Golovin.

47

48 MR. KEYES: This is Anthony. No matter  
49 how much closures that we try to put on each village I  
50 notice that we would have another village go and travel

1 into their village and do the hunting for themselves,  
2 you know, taking away their abundancy for that  
3 villages. That's why, you know, population of the  
4 moose is starting to decline because you have other  
5 villages sneaking into that certain area to do the  
6 hunting because they can't find it in their own area.  
7 That's the biggest main problem that we've been kind of  
8 facing ever since we started this, you know, saying  
9 this village should only hunt but there's always other  
10 villages come sneaking in to do the hunting, you know.

11

12 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Peter.

15

16 MR. BUCK: One of the problems that we  
17 had was in White Mountain for the moose hunting season,  
18 you have a season between September 1st to September  
19 14th and January 1st to January 31st, well, the January  
20 1st to 31st season is in the wintertime and the moose  
21 that we caught during that time was very little fat on  
22 it, during the winter season.

23

24 The other problem that we had with  
25 September 1st to 14th, one year in White Mountain the  
26 water dropped and we couldn't get -- and you couldn't  
27 boat and get your moose in White Mountain where we  
28 usually get our moose because the water was so low and  
29 the qualified hunters from Nome, in that region went to  
30 Council River and got all the moose out of Council so  
31 that's one of the problems that we had before.

32

33 But I think we pretty much worked it  
34 out now, but we'd like to keep this season as it is  
35 right now.

36

37 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Well, Tim, if  
38 you look at the fall season on the Federal side, the  
39 Federal lands are closed to qualified subsistence users  
40 and then you got to look in your Unit 22 book and you  
41 see for moose, all rural residents of Unit 22 are  
42 qualified subsistence users so the Federal system has,  
43 for that fall season, has no way to really pick and  
44 choose between where you live in 22 and if you get to  
45 hunt in that particular hunt.

46

47 Now, if you look at the winter hunt  
48 you'll see that the Federal lands are closed, except by  
49 residents of White Mountain and Golovin, so in that  
50 respect the Federal system does have the ability to

1 pick and choose, and I'm sure you're familiar with the  
2 State season where the permits are only available in  
3 White Mountain and Golovin for the winter hunt.

4

5 MR. SMITH: Right.

6

7 CHAIRMAN QUINN: But everybody can get  
8 the fall season hunt.

9

10 Okay. Any more discussion.

11

12 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Elmer.

15

16 MR. SEETOT: According to the number  
17 results from 1987 with estimated high of about 1,800 to  
18 2000 -- to 570, I think we need to take into account  
19 other factors other than harvest by hunters. We do  
20 have a lot of interior fires, I'm not too sure how much  
21 that will affect the moose that do reside in the  
22 forested areas but the majority that we catch in Brevig  
23 kind of pretty much go through the middle of the Seward  
24 Peninsula and then I would think that the smoke, smoke  
25 and such would kind of affect these land animals. To  
26 what extent I don't know.

27

28 Mortality rates, I would think that the  
29 biologists would take into consideration why there is  
30 such a decline in numbers and then also possibly  
31 predation activity within these areas. Like I said in  
32 previous meetings, we do complain a lot about  
33 predators, especially bears around that area but  
34 hunters themselves really haven't hunted the bears for  
35 at least 20, 30 years, at least, in Brevig Mission.  
36 Because when I was growing up before the TV and Western  
37 technology really came into swing, all the pretty much  
38 land animals were harvested pretty much for subsistence  
39 or their by-products. But the latest technology and  
40 everything, everything is going by the way to the  
41 grocery stores, not much interest by young people,  
42 other than participating in the activities of the  
43 actual hunt itself and not so much processing, you  
44 know, the resource. It's mostly done by the older  
45 generation that crave subsistence foods when they're in  
46 season, crave it more when they're not in season. But  
47 I would think that other factors need to be taken into  
48 consideration when you're looking at the decline of  
49 certain resources other than just saying I think there  
50 were just too much hunters present, you know, just

1 other circumstances come into play.

2

3                   Possibly in this way that it just kind  
4 of works out for a particular year. It might be dry --  
5 dry season for certain plants and other resources, it  
6 might be a bad year when it's so dry for other things.  
7 So -- but that's what we don't usually take into  
8 account, is that we just kind of look at the human  
9 aspect of it without really looking at wildlife does,  
10 you know, in its natural state from birth to death.  
11 That's what we really don't know too much about, only a  
12 very small bit of information that we glean over the  
13 years from people, observations or just by scientific  
14 research and that's something you -- we need to look at  
15 other than the Seward Peninsula has very little Federal  
16 public lands in our portion other than the eastern  
17 portion of Norton Sound. So that needs to be taken  
18 into consideration actual mortality rates, other  
19 factors when the decline of resources are being  
20 questioned.

21

22                   Thank you.

23

24                   MR. KEYES: This is Anthony. I would  
25 like to add on to Elmer's comment here about that we  
26 have to take into consideration that every spring to  
27 summer our weather is getting more warmer, more hotter  
28 and which is bringing out more mosquitos. I noticed  
29 the mosquito population has grown quite a bit on our  
30 moose, caribou, reindeer, you know, the mosquito is  
31 playing a major role on our animals here. And I've  
32 seen through the past years, it's not only human that's  
33 doing the damage on our animals, it's the, you know,  
34 the insects are doing the major play too because if you  
35 go up there on a hot day and you run into these lakes  
36 where there's a lot of mosquitos, they got them on the  
37 moose, the muskox, the caribou and the reindeer, so  
38 other than having say there's wolves, fires, lack of  
39 water, lack of environment, plantation for food for the  
40 animals, you know. That's pretty much what I wanted to  
41 add in for Elmer.

42

43                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: Letty, I notice where  
44 it says that habitat's no longer believed to be the  
45 limiting factor in the population and you talk about  
46 brown bear predation, so that being said, and I  
47 understand that the Board of Game will be discussing a  
48 new bear management policy at the Region 4 meeting, I  
49 think, and I read some of that, it sounded like they're  
50 looking to allow a little few more options on getting

1 people to harvest bears. Does the State have any plans  
2 to increase attempts, or possibilities for bear harvest  
3 in 22B to assist this moose population?

4  
5 MS. HUGHES: To the Chair. As of right  
6 now I do not have an answer for that. If, you know,  
7 proposals come forward before this coming, you know,  
8 Region 5 November Board of Game, you know, it's very  
9 possible, but as of right now what we have in the  
10 regulation book is what we have.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN QUINN: The Department often  
13 makes proposals, what I'm asking you is in your office  
14 is there any plan to maybe possibly submit a proposal,  
15 you could increase the bag limit on brown bears in Unit  
16 22B. I believe if the Board of Game passes this  
17 management policy there'll actually be other avenues  
18 available to you; have the people in your office been  
19 discussing doing something about brown bear predation  
20 on moose?

21  
22 MS. HUGHES: There has not been  
23 discussion on submitting a proposal by the Department  
24 to increase brown bears in Unit 22, however, that does  
25 not mean it's not a possibility or a suggestion.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Cole, Letty  
28 doesn't get the hot seat all by herself. The Federal  
29 side needs to participate in this as well. Has there  
30 been any discussions of proposals from the Federal side  
31 to do something about brown bear harvest?

32  
33 MS. BROWN: Not to my knowledge, no.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Well, ladies I  
36 think we kind of look to your agencies to assist us in  
37 this and it'd be nice to see some proactive efforts on  
38 both your agency's parts in helping the people since we  
39 can't -- all we can do is stop our harvest so.....

40  
41 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chair. Anyone can  
42 bring a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Program.  
43 So if there -- whether it comes through this Council,  
44 whether it comes as an individual, anyone can submit a  
45 proposal if they would like to change the brown bear  
46 harvest regulations.

47  
48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Tim.

1 MR. SMITH: You know, 40 years ago I  
2 don't think I would have imagined myself saying this  
3 but -- and I know it's not on the table for this  
4 meeting, but I think we need to really look at predator  
5 control programs again if we intend to have food  
6 animals here in Alaska. You know over the years I've  
7 come to change my opinions on that. I just don't think  
8 we can have healthy moose populations in 22B without  
9 predator control. It's not just bears. Recently --  
10 you know, like I said I've spend hundreds of hours  
11 flying out there, the latest thing I did I flew caribou  
12 transects for the University of Alaska Reindeer  
13 Research Program, I just criss-crossed the Fish River  
14 Flats every week counting caribou and in that time like  
15 I was able to count moose, too, they're easy to count  
16 when there's snow cover. And, you know, years ago, you  
17 know, I'd go two or three years without seeing a wolf  
18 out there, now it's every time. You know I see it  
19 every -- I could go up there in an hour and find a wolf  
20 pack.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, are you carrying  
23 your gun?

24  
25 (Laughter)

26  
27 MR. SMITH: I don't want to give my --  
28 no, I don't want to give my plane to the State, you  
29 know, that's the problem.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN QUINN: That's a joke.

32  
33 MR. SMITH: Under current regulations  
34 there's nothing we can do about it. And the people  
35 aren't up there anymore, you know, that's another big  
36 change over the years. Because of the cost of going  
37 out you just don't see people out in the country like  
38 there were in the past in an open area like the Fish  
39 River Flats, wolves weren't able to move through the  
40 Flats, somebody would find their tracks, run them down  
41 and get them, well that doesn't happen anymore.  
42 They're fairly -- they're able to operate all over the  
43 Fish River Flats and they're taking a lot of moose.  
44 And the problem with two predators together, bears and  
45 wolves together, there's no way the moose population's  
46 going to come back. And I really don't see any  
47 alternative to predator control programs, you know, and  
48 I know that's not part of this regulation but we can  
49 stop people from hunting but it's not going to do it.  
50 Hunting bull moose doesn't really make that much

1 difference anyway as long as you have enough bulls to  
2 provide for reproduction, killing bull moose doesn't  
3 affect the population and the bull/cow ratios are fine.  
4 It's the cow to calf ratios that are the problem. And  
5 the only way to change that, I think, is through  
6 predator control.

7

8 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Elmer.

9

10 MR. SEETOT: I think I have stated in  
11 the past, you know, for predator control, the  
12 regulations are in place for the residents or for the  
13 people to encourage other people to hunt these  
14 predators, we're the ones that are being affected.  
15 We're putting pressure on State and Federal agencies,  
16 they already have that number in place. We, the  
17 village people, like I said we don't see bear hunting  
18 in our area anymore, we have to be more active in the  
19 management of predators if we want to see our wildlife  
20 resources, ungulates, the moose, the caribou, the  
21 reindeer to be out there.

22

23 We could talk forever on bear  
24 management but it is up to the people in the subunits  
25 to actively hunt in order to get these numbers down,  
26 and that's the main problem.

27

28 I'm a subsistence hunter, when things  
29 don't go wrong, I might be pissed off at that, I'll get  
30 on people that regulate, that's the perspective of some  
31 people, but for me to speak out for my community and  
32 for the subregion, you have to take things that you  
33 learn from actual observation, from people saying that  
34 to you over and over again and from elders, actively  
35 manage the resources so that when it comes down to  
36 predator control, you know, you don't have no, oh, I  
37 think I'll let you leave those alone because we have  
38 only one for the whole state, stuff like that.

39

40 But these resources, we can actively  
41 speak about them but it's for us, as residents, of the  
42 subunit to actively participate or encourage others to  
43 participate in the harvest of these resources. The  
44 more you harvest, the more the resources will be  
45 according to what our elders have passed down. If you  
46 waste the resources or if I want to argue with Peter  
47 Buck on the moose within that area, we could set up an  
48 argument, and then unforeseen circumstance can come  
49 into play, you argue about animal too much, it won't be  
50 there for you, according to what has been passed on

1 down from generation to generation on wildlife  
2 management and techniques learned over the years by the  
3 elders.

4

5                   Western society might have a different  
6 aspect or side of it but they're pretty much  
7 interrelated in the way how we manage the resources so  
8 it's just a matter of people participating in order to  
9 have good control of the resources in their area.

10

11                   Thank you.

12

13                   MR. BUCK: The White Mountain area it  
14 was our tradition the values that we hunt bear and if  
15 they find tracks of a bear they track the bear down and  
16 kill it and that's the way we did it, I mean then it  
17 was just handed down from tradition to tradition, just  
18 to completely do that. And I know that we can't do  
19 that right now but speaking of the bears and the  
20 wolves, predators, the wolves nobody has really told me  
21 that the wolves are doing anything. But I'd like to  
22 talk about the bears and encourage the tribal councils  
23 and the tribal coordinators and the people that do get  
24 bears, that they should develop -- with the technology  
25 that we have that you could develop a website where  
26 that if you do take a bear, you got to know that in  
27 Japan they pay a lot, a lot of money just for the bear  
28 paw, and the bladders and stuff like that. So if you  
29 can get your coordinators to get the hunters together  
30 and then you have a lot of money coming out of that  
31 bear, if you actually have a buyer, that's what I'd  
32 like to see, that way we have -- you know we make money  
33 off of getting rid of the bears plus you're doing a lot  
34 of people a favor.

35

36                   Thank you.

37

38                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, before we can do  
39 that, Peter, we're dependent upon those agencies to  
40 make those things legal because currently they're  
41 illegal.

42

43                   Letty, why isn't 22B West in intensive  
44 management for moose? We are doing all we can,  
45 unfortunately at the Federal level by maintaining the  
46 closure, other than stopping the harvest, but you guys  
47 got a few more avenues available to you?

48

49                   MS. HUGHES: Well, that is a good  
50 question and that's something I would actually feel

1 more comfortable passing on to the area biologist,  
2 which would be Tony Gorn.

3

4 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, well, hopefully  
5 you've heard enough here that we'd like to see a little  
6 more proactive management by the Department on this  
7 area.

8

9 Tim.

10

11 MR. SMITH: I'm glad you brought that  
12 up, Mike. I mean that's one thing that I think we  
13 should consider on the Seward Peninsula is having an  
14 experimental area where we remove predators, you know,  
15 not by killing, but, you know, what they've been doing  
16 is translocating bears from an area and measuring the  
17 effects. And I don't know if 22B would be the best  
18 area for doing that but pick an area on the Seward  
19 Peninsula and let's try it. I mean I think the Seward  
20 Peninsula would be an excellent test area for that  
21 because we've got quite a bit of data over the long  
22 period on the ungulate populations and on the predator  
23 populations and we should -- this would be as good a  
24 place as any to try predator removals. What they do is  
25 they go in and dart the bears, move them to another  
26 area, you know, release them unharmed and just see what  
27 affect that has on reproduction. I think if you did  
28 that in 22B you'd see -- you'd have to do both bears  
29 and wolves but you would see a dramatic increase in  
30 moose calf survival, that would be my prediction.

31

32 The other species that would really  
33 benefit from it would be reindeer, and there's a lot of  
34 data on reindeer fawn survival.

35

36 And so I think it might be within this  
37 Board's jurisdiction to recommend doing an experiment  
38 like that somewhere on the Seward Peninsula.

39

40 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Any more  
41 discussion on the motion.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Someone want to call  
46 the question.

47

48 MR. BUCK: Question.

49

50 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. All those in

1 favor of the motion to continue the closure say aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Any opposed.

6

7 (No opposing votes)

8

9 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Motion carries. Next

10 one.

11

12 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13 WCR10-13, closure location is Unit 22D for that portion

14 within the Kougarok, Kuzitrin and Pilgrim River

15 drainages is for moose. Closure dates from September

16 1st to September 14th except by Federally-qualified

17 subsistence residents of Units 22C and 22D.

18

19 Justification for original closure.

20 The Board adopted WP02-34 revising the moose season,

21 harvest limit and restricting harvest to Federally-

22 qualified subsistence users for the conservation of a

23 declining moose population and to provide Federally-

24 qualified subsistence users with an opportunity to

25 harvest moose on Federal public lands in Unit 22D. The

26 Board also adopted Proposal WP02-35, which further

27 restricted moose harvest to rural residents of Unit 22C

28 and 22D based on an ANILCA Section .804 analysis.

29

30 Population estimates of moose in 22D in

31 2006 were 1,565 moose with a confidence interval of 22

32 percent giving the range 1,208 to 1,929 and in the

33 Kuzitrin River drainage specifically the population

34 estimate was 966 moose with a 29 percent confidence

35 interval, that gives a range of 687 to 1,246, which is

36 still below the ADF&G management goal of increasing and

37 stabilizing the total Unit 22D population to 2,000 --

38 between 2,000 and 2,500 moose.

39

40 In March 2009 ADF&G completed spring

41 recruitment trend counts in Eastern Unit 22D including

42 portions of Kuzitrin, Kougarok and Pilgrim River

43 drainages and classified 700 moose and found seven

44 calves to 100 adults for six percent recruitment.

45 ADF&G conducted sex and age composition surveys in the

46 fall of 2010 and data is still be compiled and will

47 conduct population surveys in the spring of 2011.

48

49 Moose harvest within the affected area

50 has remained relatively stable for the years 2004 to

1 2008 with a fall harvest between 34 to 44 moose. The  
2 State fall season is closed by emergency order when 58  
3 bulls are harvested and the harvest quota for this  
4 portion of Unit 22D is not consistently filled.

5  
6 The OSM recommendation is maintain the  
7 closure. The Unit 22D moose population for that  
8 portion within the Kuzitrin, Kougarok and Pilgrim River  
9 drainages appears to be stabilizing, however, the  
10 population is still below ADF&G management goals and  
11 the harvest is generally done by local residents. The  
12 2008 bull/cow ratio of 33 bulls to 100 cows is much  
13 improved from the 2005 bull/cow ratio 20 bulls to 100  
14 cows which may be attributed to the reduction in moose  
15 harvest due to the closure and due to the harvest quota  
16 that is in place, however the calf/cow ratio in 2008 of  
17 10 calves to 100 cows is still a concern making  
18 recruitment too low to increase the population size.  
19 Therefore, Federal public lands should remain closed to  
20 non-Federally-qualified users for the conservation of a  
21 healthy population and to allow the continuation of  
22 subsistence uses of moose.

23  
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, I guess the  
27 statement that catches my eye in addition, and somewhat  
28 contradicts your support to maintain the closure is  
29 that the State fall season is closed by emergency order  
30 when 58 bulls are harvested and the harvest quota for  
31 this portion of Unit 22D is not consistently filled.  
32 However, part of the reason it's not consistently  
33 filled is because the Department doesn't give us enough  
34 time to hunt and that should be altered.

35  
36 Let's see, Letty, I got to probably ask  
37 you, ANS figures for this portion of Unit 22D and are  
38 we meeting those?

39  
40 MS. HUGHES: To the Chair. I believe  
41 that, you know, the ANS portion is for all of Unit 22,  
42 so we're looking at between 250 and 500 moose.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Any questions.

45  
46 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair, I need to  
47 comment on that. The Kougarok, Kuzitrin and Pilgrim  
48 River drainages, I think right now are being inhabited  
49 by at least three roving wolf packs which kind of  
50 converge around the Davidson River landing area.

1 Pretty much they keep their separate territories but  
2 pretty much they have the same boundary mark.

3

4 As I stated maybe about five years ago  
5 one winter we road the Agiapuk, the Kuzitrin River  
6 drainages, all the rivers and creeks that kind of drain  
7 into them and we counted pretty much over 20 moose  
8 carcasses that were killed by wolves, just within that  
9 one -- so many months I worked, not patrolling but  
10 riding for animals, so they -- they do pretty much  
11 affect the moose population. Last year towards Bunker  
12 Hill we counted about 70 to 80 moose congregated in one  
13 strip so they were being harassed by wolves.

14

15 Wolf harvest right now I think for  
16 Teller and Brevig is that we do not have enough  
17 adequate snow cover and the wolves that do converge  
18 around the Davidson River area, they come down to feed  
19 on Kougarok Reindeer Herd, so that's their food source  
20 that they've been kind of claiming along with the  
21 bears. When you don't disturb their feeding patterns  
22 for a number of years these animals will claim the  
23 reindeer herd as their own and will defend and when  
24 possible defend their food source, so that's what we're  
25 kind of looking at. For the moose population in these  
26 areas I think it's -- like I said, might be constant,  
27 they're migrating to different areas due to maybe smoke  
28 or other activities but moose has been a very important  
29 food source for our people, at least, number one being  
30 reindeer but reindeer being kind of pushed aside  
31 because of their availability, moose is pretty much  
32 predominate meat source that they get -- that they look  
33 forward to within the area.

34

35 But I think that needs -- like I said  
36 predation is a big factor in the numbers.

37

38 We don't use the harvest animals all  
39 the time, it's just a matter of access when -- when the  
40 seasons are right for the residents back home.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, anybody want to  
45 make a motion on this closure.

46

47 MR. SMITH: I have a question first.

48

49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, go ahead.

50

1 MR. SMITH: Does the Department have  
2 any plans to do any of the type of research that would  
3 be needed to determine what the problem is with moose  
4 populations in Unit 22?

5  
6 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair to Mr.  
7 Smith. I think I understand what you're saying. What  
8 we've done the last five years, we just finished up a  
9 project doing, you know, calf weight in Unit 22B and C.  
10 We've done that the last five years. And that's -- and  
11 then other for our basic, you know, composition and  
12 surveys and so forth, as of right now what further on  
13 what we want to do other than habitat surveys, we don't  
14 have any plans.

15  
16 MR. SMITH: Just follow up on that  
17 Mike.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yes.

20  
21 MR. SMITH: Just to follow up on that,  
22 I haven't looked carefully at your calf weight study  
23 data but it seems to me that -- my impression was that  
24 it didn't show that calf weight was a factor.

25  
26 MS. HUGHES: That's correct. And I  
27 don't have the data with me so I'm just going off of my  
28 memory here, that, you know, during that five year  
29 project there was two years of very high snowfall, you  
30 know, like an average of like 112, 114 inches, and even  
31 then, even though the calf weights were a little bit  
32 lower, I mean we still didn't see for the next year  
33 anything that was significant that it was detrimental  
34 to the population. But it's a really good, you know,  
35 base off of trend line that we can use for later on if  
36 we want to go back and look at and see, well, what else  
37 is going on with the population, or we see any changes.

38  
39 MR. SMITH: I'd just like to follow up.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

42  
43 MR. SMITH: I mean I think this is the  
44 root of our problem is, we don't have any useful  
45 scientific information for managing moose. You know,  
46 we know the moose populations are down and not  
47 recovering, we don't know what the problem is. We  
48 really don't know even -- we don't even have good  
49 guesses on what the problem is, except predation, you  
50 know, predation stands out as one thing where, you

1 know, you know that wolves and bears are eating  
2 something and we also know that there are a lot less  
3 prey species out there. There's a lot fewer reindeer  
4 on the Seward Peninsula than there were 25 or 30 years  
5 ago. What else are there, they have to eat something,  
6 they're meat eaters.

7

8 The only thing I can think of that  
9 would have any benefit for our moose populations would  
10 be predator reduction.

11

12 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, I'm still  
13 waiting for a motion.

14

15 (Pause)

16

17 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I can't make one.

18

19 MR. MARTIN: Move.

20

21 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right motion to  
22 support the closure?

23

24 MR. MARTIN: (Nods affirmatively)

25

26 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Do I hear a second.

27

28 MR. BUCK: Seconded.

29

30 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Seconded by Peter  
31 Buck. Any discussion.

32

33 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. To Ms. Cole.  
34 I think how do you -- or maybe to the State, how do you  
35 determine how much moose should be in a certain area,  
36 like subunit 22B? They stated that it should be  
37 between 1,000 to 1,200, is that numbers that can  
38 survive or live on that certain tract of land, like 22B  
39 or is that for the whole subunit, or for the whole  
40 unit, on how much a certain number should be on that  
41 subunit?

42

43 MS. BROWN: Through the Chair. Mr.  
44 Seetot. That is actually an ADF&G objective so I'm  
45 going to have to pass that to Letty.

46

47 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair to Mr.  
48 Seetot. That's a good question. And I think you're  
49 referring to the ANS number. That's actually something  
50 that comes up through the Board of Game of what's

1 amount necessary, you know, for, you know, users within  
2 22. And so that's for all of Unit 22 and then for  
3 management purposes, you know, we break it down into  
4 what would be harvest rate for each subunit such as 22B  
5 or 22D, the Kuzitrin, and then, you know, we also base  
6 it off of, you know, moose surveys as well that we're  
7 doing.

8

9 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

12

13 MR. BUCK: I'm saying probably for the  
14 research being done to study an area of well the unit  
15 that has the least amount of game should be studied by  
16 ADF&G so that we could have our resources right up  
17 there, all the information there so we can make  
18 decisions. But the unit with the least amount of game  
19 should be studied first so that we can know what's  
20 going on.

21

22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Any more discussion on  
23 the motion.

24

25 MR. SMITH: I'd just like to follow up  
26 what you said, Peter. I think we just heard that the  
27 Department's not going to do any of those types of  
28 studies. They're going to continue to do counts and  
29 document numbers as well as possible, but studies to  
30 determine what's causing the numbers to stay low are  
31 not in the near future. I think that's the way I  
32 understood it.

33

34 MR. KEYES: This is Anthony. Maybe we  
35 could make a suggestion for them to start studying the  
36 animals while they're doing the counts during every  
37 springtime.

38

39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, does  
40 someone want to call the question.

41

42 MR. SEETOT: Question.

43

44 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All those in favor of  
45 the motion to support the continued closure say aye.

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Opposed.

50

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Motion carries. Okay,  
4 we'll do the next one for 22D and then we'll take a  
5 short break.

6

7 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
8 WCR10-14 is on Page 50 of your book. Unit 22D for that  
9 portion west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon  
10 Creek and it's for moose. The closure dates are  
11 December 1st through December 31st.

12

13 Justification for original closure. In  
14 May 2002 the Federal Subsistence Board adopted WP02-34  
15 to revise the moose season, harvest limit and restrict  
16 harvest to Federally-qualified subsistence users for  
17 the conservation of a declining moose population and to  
18 provide Federally-qualified subsistence users with an  
19 opportunity to harvest moose on Federal public lands in  
20 Unit 22D. The Board also adopted WP02-35, which  
21 further restricted moose harvest to the rural residents  
22 of Unit 22C and 22D based on an ANILCA Section .804  
23 analysis.

24

25 Current resource abundance related to  
26 management objective. Unfortunately specific survey  
27 data is not available for this portion of Unit 22D,  
28 that portion west of the Tisuk River drainage and  
29 Canyon Creek but only for Unit 22D as a whole. ADF&G  
30 does not have specific population objectives for Tisuk  
31 River drainage due to very poor moose habitat. ADF&G  
32 did conduct sex and age compositions within 22D in the  
33 fall of 2010 and those results are still being compiled  
34 and population surveys in spring 2011 will be conducted  
35 shortly.

36

37 The current survey efforts by ADF&G  
38 combine the Tisuk River drainage with the Kuzitrin,  
39 Kougarok and Pilgrim River drainages with the focus on  
40 the latter, due to the Tisuk River drainage having such  
41 poor moose habitat.

42

43 There has been no reported harvest  
44 under the Federal permit system for this portion of  
45 Unit 22D. The moose population for this portion of  
46 Unit 22D continues to exist in low numbers and at a low  
47 density. While there is little data regarding that  
48 portion west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon  
49 Creek there are no indications that there has been any  
50 increases in moose population to justify non-

1 subsistence harvest, therefore the closure should  
2 maintained.

3  
4 The OSM recommendation is to maintain  
5 the closure.

6  
7 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Any questions. Tim.

10  
11 MR. SMITH: I just have a question,  
12 what land is involved here, what Federal lands are  
13 there?

14  
15 CHAIRMAN QUINN: You got a map there  
16 all rolled up.

17  
18 MR. SMITH: This one?

19  
20 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah. And that should  
21 show you what Federal lands are in that particular.....

22  
23 MR. SMITH: Okay.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah, there's not a  
26 lot but there's a little bit there.

27  
28 MR. SMITH: I see it now. I see it  
29 now, yeah, there's a little bit.

30  
31 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. I think around  
32 that area for around the Tisuk and the Canyon River  
33 area there's very little willows and something for them  
34 to kind of hide in and feed on the -- other than the  
35 river and creek systems around there, that portion is  
36 rarely used by residents of Teller and Brevig, other  
37 than the harvest of wildlife -- I mean other than  
38 harvest of waterfowl due to accessibility and then, you  
39 know, to -- it doesn't support that much moose other  
40 than probably a stopping place, their migration from  
41 one area to another.

42  
43 But there are some moose in that area  
44 but due to the terrain it's really -- I really haven't  
45 used that for moose or muskox harvest because you just  
46 don't, you know, go down there and say oh that terrain  
47 is too rough I can't make it, so we harvest animals  
48 there that are better for us to harvest -- I mean for  
49 -- better terrain, economics, weather factors, those  
50 all come into being and that area isn't -- or hasn't

1 been used by me for -- other than other uses. But I  
2 have harvested -- and moose other than maybe just  
3 during the early fall season when you're berry picking,  
4 you know, when opportunity arises then you'll harvest  
5 something that you haven't harvested for the coming  
6 season but that terrain offers very little brows for  
7 moose other than the ones that are probably there or on  
8 their way to other places.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Any other  
13 discussion.

14

15 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. I'll make a  
16 motion to support the closure for that portion of Tisuk  
17 and Canyon River area.

18

19 MR. KEYES: Second.

20

21 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Motion by  
22 Elmer, second by Tony. Any discussion.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN QUINN: If not call the  
27 question.

28

29 MR. BUCK: Question.

30

31 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Question. All those  
32 in favor of the motion to support the continued closure  
33 say aye.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Any opposed.

38

39 (No opposing votes)

40

41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Motion carries. Okay,  
42 folks let's do about 10 minutes.

43

44 (Off record)

45

46 (On record)

47

48 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, we're back to  
49 work.

50

1 REPORTER: Mike.

2

3 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Back to work, and  
4 Cole, you can continue with 16.

5

6 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
7 Wildlife Closure Review 10-16 is in Unit 22E and it is  
8 for moose. The closure dates are August 1st through  
9 March 15th.

10

11 Justification for original closure.  
12 Federal public lands were closed by the Federal  
13 Subsistence Board due to conservation concerns for  
14 declining moose population and to provide Federally-  
15 qualified subsistence users an opportunity to harvest a  
16 limited number of moose on Federal public lands in the  
17 affected area of Unit 22E.

18

19 The Board adopted WP02-34, which  
20 narrowed the moose season, revised the harvest to bull  
21 only and restricted the harvest to Federally-qualified  
22 subsistence users within Unit 22D and Unit 22E based on  
23 conservation concerns for the moose population and to  
24 provide for the continuation of subsistence uses of  
25 moose on Federal public lands in the units.

26

27 ADF&G plans to conduct population  
28 surveys for Unit 22E in spring 2011 so the most current  
29 population estimates of moose in 22E were conducted in  
30 2006. An estimated 587 moose with a confidence  
31 interval of 18 percent with a range of 420 to 778,  
32 which is well above the ADF&G management goal of 200 to  
33 250 moose.

34

35 The sex and age composition survey was  
36 scheduled in the fall of 2010 and a population survey  
37 scheduled for spring 2011 so we'll have more current  
38 data available soon.

39

40 The recruitment rate in 2006 was 18  
41 percent with 22 calves at 23.5 percent plus or minus  
42 confidence interval.

43

44 The annual harvest in Unit 22E has been  
45 relatively low and hunter effort typically occurs in  
46 the first general harvest season between August and  
47 December. Between 2004 and 2008, the combined average  
48 annual hunter success for State and Federal hunters has  
49 been approximately 42 percent in Unit 22E. Access by  
50 road or river and the use of ATVs and other off-road

1 vehicles allows harvest prior to snowfall although the  
2 use of ATV and other off-road activities is not allowed  
3 on National Park Service administered lands.

4  
5 OSM recommendation is to initiate a  
6 proposal to modify or eliminate the closure. In 2010  
7 the Federal moose season was extended an additional  
8 three months until March 15th and the affects on the  
9 moose population in Unit 22E are yet -- are not yet  
10 known. Even though the harvest of moose by Federally-  
11 qualified subsistence users has historically been  
12 small, the new Federal extended season could result in  
13 a higher harvest, however, the population trend has  
14 shown a high increase of moose in Unit 22E. ADF&G is  
15 scheduled to conduct age and sex compositions, they did  
16 that in the fall of 2010 and we'll know the data of  
17 that soon. Population surveys in spring 2011 will  
18 provide more current information on the moose  
19 population.

20  
21 Therefore, after these are completed a  
22 proposal can be analyzed to determine if the population  
23 is still above management goals and warrants the  
24 removal of the closure on Federal lands.

25  
26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, so.....

29  
30 REPORTER: Mike.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, thank you. So  
33 you're saying we should do the proposal to remove the  
34 closure but there'll be new information available when  
35 that goes before the Board?

36  
37 MS. BROWN: That's correct. Right now  
38 the trend has shown an increase in that unit from  
39 previous census, and so if the trend continues after  
40 this most recent information then most likely the  
41 proposal will show a recommendation to lift the  
42 closure. But we won't know that unless we go through  
43 the proposal process and we can utilize this data that  
44 has just been collected in the fall of 2010.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, when's the  
47 Federal Subsistence Board take on this proposal?

48  
49 MS. BROWN: If you submit the proposal  
50 within this cycle, today, with what we're doing here or

1 in the near future, before March 24th, when the  
2 deadline stops, it'll be next January that the Federal  
3 Subsistence Board will address it.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, almost a year.

6  
7 Well, then we get a chance to go over  
8 it again in October?

9  
10 MS. BROWN: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Letty, what's  
13 different about 22E that things are getting so much  
14 better there but not in some other places, or at least  
15 not as much?

16  
17 MS. HUGHES: To the Chair. You know,  
18 all I can tell you is, I mean, for why we don't really  
19 know, I mean the harvest, overall harvest up there is  
20 fairly low, so there's not a lot of hunting pressure up  
21 in 22E. So we can assume that habitat's, you know,  
22 well, but without doing any further studies, you know,  
23 I can't say.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: At the State level  
26 this hunt is currently a harvest ticket hunt, correct,  
27 the whole of 22E, for moose?

28  
29 MS. HUGHES: That is correct, for  
30 residents.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

33  
34 MS. HUGHES: Non-residents require a  
35 registration permit.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, I see that now.  
38 I'm assuming 22E was a registration permit for  
39 residents at some point in the past, I've forgotten,  
40 when did it become a harvest ticket hunt for residents?

41  
42 MS. HUGHES: I do not know that answer.  
43 From the time I've been here I know it's been a harvest  
44 ticket.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, harvest ticket.

47  
48 MR. GORN: Through the Chair. This is  
49 Tony Gorn. I'm the Unit 22 area biologist. So a  
50 couple things have happened up in 22E. Letty, I think,

1 actually did a nice job in describing partly up in 22E  
2 why the moose population is as high as it is, and other  
3 areas the Seward Peninsula have declined. I mean  
4 partly we really don't know.

5  
6 But one of the things that we did, I  
7 believe it was in 2003, is we worked through the  
8 Advisory Committees, we worked through the RAC, and we  
9 worked with the villages of Shishmaref and Wales to  
10 shorten the moose season. That was after one of our  
11 counts found less than 200 moose up in the area. And  
12 at that point we tried to curtail the harvest of  
13 antlerless moose. Through some meetings with the  
14 communities up there, we began to understand that there  
15 was some level of both reported, but also unreported  
16 antlerless moose harvest so we changed the season and  
17 bag limit to allow -- to continue allow moose hunting  
18 opportunity but only for antlered bulls.

19  
20 And then the second thing you just  
21 asked about registration permits and harvest tickets,  
22 up in 22E that's always been a green harvest ticket.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, it never did  
25 go.....

26  
27 MR. GORN: It's never been a  
28 registration hunt.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, interesting, okay.  
31 Any other questions. Tim.

32  
33 MR. SMITH: I have a question for you.  
34 How much.....

35  
36 REPORTER: Tim. Tim.

37  
38 MR. SMITH: .....impact do you  
39 think.....

40  
41 MR. SMITH: Tim, microphone.

42  
43 MR. SMITH: .....the guided bear  
44 hunting operations out of Shishmaref had to do with the  
45 population there?

46  
47 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Mr.  
48 Smith. At this point I would say it's really had  
49 little effect. There's a couple things going on.

50

1 First of all, that population certainly  
2 does seem to be above our current management goal. You  
3 guys are all familiar with 22E, we're going to go back  
4 there this spring and count moose. It'll be very  
5 interesting to see what we find because 22E does not  
6 have a lot of winter moose habitat. So the idea that  
7 there were 600 moose up there in 2006 was a surprise, I  
8 think to a lot of people.

9  
10 To answer Mr. Smith's question, I  
11 really think at this point the non-resident or the  
12 guided non-resident opportunities had little impact.  
13 And that's probably due just to the remoteness of the  
14 area. Back in 2001 when we had these wide sweeping  
15 regulatory changes related to moose, we immediately  
16 started to see some of the moose hunting effort that  
17 was based on the Nome road system shift into 22E. But  
18 even with that, there's just not that many people that  
19 will put in the miles to get into 22E. You know, it's  
20 remote and it's tough to get to.

21  
22 The other thing that is potentially  
23 curtailing some of the non-resident hunting effort is  
24 even though the population is at approximately 600  
25 moose right now, the non-resident hunting opportunity  
26 is limited to 10 registration permits. So although  
27 there is opportunity there really isn't that much.

28  
29 MR. SMITH: Maybe I didn't state my  
30 question clearly.

31  
32 I was wondering what the guided bear  
33 hunting, what's been the guided bear harvest up there,  
34 or just the total bear harvest in 22E in the last few  
35 years?

36  
37 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Mr.  
38 Smith. I guess as I sit here right now I can't tell  
39 you what just that harvest is. We give out 12 permits  
40 a year for 22E; do you know off the top of your head  
41 what it is?

42  
43 MS. HUGHES: Yeah, through the Chair to  
44 Mr. Smith. For the brown bear guiding up in 22E, the  
45 permits that -- the drawing permit that we give out is  
46 for 22D and 22E, so most of the guiding occurs up in  
47 22D. So the harvest of brown bears up in 22E might be  
48 one or two a year, if that. It's really low.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN QUINN: It's also limited by

1 the Federal land, a guide can't operate on the.....

2

3 MR. SMITH: Oh.

4

5 CHAIRMAN QUINN: .....Federal land  
6 either. There's still no concessions available for the  
7 Federal lands there.

8

9 MR. SMITH: I have another question.

10

11 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

12

13 MR. SMITH: One thing that occurs to  
14 me, if you're going to have an extended moose hunting  
15 season and you open it up to non-local residents, is  
16 there a problem -- is there a possibility that people  
17 will be hunting both muskoxen and moose at the same  
18 time?

19

20 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Member  
21 Smith. I wouldn't use the phrase that it's a problem.  
22 To this point it's an opportunity. But the -- I'll try  
23 to keep this short for the spirit of time here.

24

25 But, you know, what we found with our  
26 muskox hunts, going back to the Tier II days, is that,  
27 I think we had inappropriately set harvest rates too  
28 high in those early years. In some of those years, on  
29 paper, we were suggesting that we could harvest up to  
30 an eight percent harvest rate and I think what we've  
31 seen, what we've quickly found through census efforts  
32 and composition data, is that that's just not  
33 sustainable. So within the last couple years we've  
34 lowered the harvest rates in all areas on the Seward  
35 Peninsula including 22E. And up in 22E right now we're  
36 at a six percent harvest rate. Even at that six  
37 percent harvest rate, we still don't reach harvest  
38 quotas for muskox. So I think that if we were in a  
39 situation where maybe we had moose quotas and lower  
40 muskox quotas that were being met every year, you know,  
41 then we might see a problem, but at this point we just  
42 haven't experienced that.

43

44 It's actually been the opposite.

45

46 What we hear from residents that live  
47 in Wales and Shishmaref is that they'd like to see more  
48 muskox harvested in the area even though we're not  
49 getting the current quota, they're still very open to  
50 muskox hunting opportunity and it certainly seems like

1 the area is -- the residents are also pleased, at least  
2 at this point, with moose hunting opportunity.

3  
4 MR. SMITH: Just one, I'm still trying  
5 to get at -- my concern is I wouldn't want to really  
6 increase the wintertime harvest of moose in 22E. I'm  
7 just wondering potentially, how many additional hunters  
8 do you think would be up there hunting muskox that  
9 would also be qualified to hunt moose if this proposal  
10 were adopted? I mean how many hunters are we talking  
11 about, not only qualified to hunt on Federal  
12 subsistence -- in a Federal subsistence hunt, without a  
13 closure, that would also be able to potentially hunt  
14 muskoxen during the open season.

15  
16 MR. GORN: Yeah, through the Chair to  
17 Mr. Smith. You know a lot of the environment that we  
18 work in is speculation.

19  
20 MR. SMITH: Right.

21  
22 MR. GORN: But I'm really not  
23 comfortable sticking my neck out and guessing how many  
24 additional hunters, you know, we might see. It's just  
25 -- there's too many things that I don't have control of  
26 for me to even make an educated guess. But certainly  
27 the opportunity would be there.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, Tim, actually  
30 that opportunity has been in existence for a little  
31 while now, I believe. Even though there's -- we got a  
32 closure on Federal land, there's plenty of non-Federal  
33 land in 22E that's been available to Alaska residents  
34 from anywhere in the state during a winter season for  
35 both the moose and the muskox so, you know, people can  
36 participate in that hunt for two species, except not on  
37 Federal land. So the question is, in the past, so far,  
38 how much participation have you seen by, we'll say, the  
39 non-local people, in this wintertime, either or both,  
40 moose and muskox hunting?

41  
42 MR. GORN: To the Chair. Certainly  
43 there are examples of falltime combination hunts in  
44 22E. I do not know and I'll make my statement and kind  
45 of look at my assistant, I am not aware of any January  
46 combination muskox moose hunts. Really what we see in  
47 22E for muskox harvest is we're just entering right now  
48 the time of the year when people really start to go  
49 out, you know, days have been short, it's been windy  
50 and cold, for -- since January 1st in 22E, and we're

1 just kind of getting into the time now where days are  
2 going to get longer, there's more light. We see a real  
3 pulse of muskox harvest in 22E really beginning the  
4 last 10 days of the season in March.

5  
6 MR. SMITH: My concern comes in, Mike,  
7 is we talk about extending the moose hunt into the  
8 spring and, you know, January hunting, you got to  
9 really want them, but it's not true in, you know,  
10 March, it's a gentlemen's hunt. I can see people  
11 potentially going up and coming in and hunting with  
12 Clifford and Brian and taking a moose and a muskox at  
13 the same time, which, I think could potentially  
14 increase the harvest quite a bit.

15  
16 You know, maybe I'm misunderstanding  
17 what's proposed, but I wouldn't like to see that  
18 happen. I don't think we should drastically increase  
19 the moose harvest up there.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Let me make sure I'm  
22 going to understand this correctly, though. It's only  
23 the Federal season that is open from August 1st to  
24 March 15th. What I've got here in my book is that all  
25 the State seasons are closed for moose by January 31st.

26  
27 MR. SMITH: Right.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Even if we  
30 remove this closure, a non-local resident won't be able  
31 to participate in a Federal hunt. Now, Tom, am I  
32 correct with that?

33  
34 MR. KRON: Yes.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN QUINN: People who live in  
37 Anchorage and Fairbanks are not Federally-qualified  
38 subsistence users.

39  
40 MR. SMITH: Oh, okay.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN QUINN: They cannot  
43 participate in Federal hunts under any circumstances.  
44 Now, if the State season mirrored the Federal season,  
45 then, of course, they could. So, you know, your  
46 concern is invalid for this particular instance because  
47 the March 15th date isn't available to non-local  
48 people.

49  
50 MR. SMITH: I stand corrected and so I

1 would move then to adopt the motion to remove the  
2 closure.

3

4 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, motion on the  
5 floor.

6

7 MR. KEYES: Second.

8

9 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Seconded. Any  
10 discussion. go ahead.

11

12 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes, this is Fred.  
13 Just a quick discussion on the reporting requirements.  
14 We get our harvest tickets from the State, right, and  
15 that season's closed on January 31st, where do we  
16 report when we do the Federal hunt, between February  
17 and March 31st?

18

19 MR. SEETOT: March 15th.

20

21 MR. ENINGOWUK: Or, yeah, March 15th.

22

23 CHAIRMAN QUINN: That's a Federal  
24 question, the Federal guys get to answer it.

25

26 MS. BROWN: You can report that to the  
27 land manager, the biologist there, or you could report  
28 it to our permit system.

29

30 MR. ENINGOWUK: And do we still use the  
31 State permit?

32

33 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Tom, you better step  
34 in and help here.

35

36 MR. ENINGOWUK: Because I'm not aware  
37 of any Federal permits to hunt moose. Do we use a  
38 State permit?

39

40 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Letty.

41

42 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair to Fred.  
43 Yes, unless otherwise brought up by, you know, the  
44 Federal offices, it would be on the State general  
45 harvest ticket. So you would -- if you were hunting in  
46 February, you know, you would still need to have the  
47 green ticket and you would fill that out and mail it in  
48 as if, you know, you would any other time.

49

50 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I'm going to disagree

1 with that Letty. If you got a green harvest ticket in  
2 your pocket and you notch February something on it and  
3 send it in and the State goes over it, they're going to  
4 say you harvested a moose out of season.

5

6 MR. ENINGOWUK: Uh-huh.

7

8 MR. GORN: Mr. Chair. You're raising a  
9 very interesting point, and, Fred, that's an excellent  
10 question. But actually what's happened in Unit 22,  
11 where -- I'll try to be tactful, but the phrase I'm  
12 going to use is, essentially out here the State  
13 programs eclipse the Federal programs. There's more  
14 State land out here. Often times there isn't a strong  
15 Federal presence, permits are -- Federal permits are  
16 either unavailable or they're difficult to get. So  
17 historically residents have used a green harvest  
18 ticket. It's flat out confusing at times and it really  
19 would be nice if there were Federal permits available,  
20 Federal reporting agencies to report to, but that's  
21 just not always the case. So if a person goes out,  
22 they need something in their pocket, that's what I  
23 always tell them. If you go out, you're probably not  
24 going to get checked, but if you do, you got to have  
25 something in your pocket, take a green harvest ticket,  
26 and report on there. And then what happens is we end  
27 up sorting all that out after the season. You know,  
28 who -- was this moose a State harvested moose or was it  
29 a Federal harvested moose.

30

31 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, that looks a  
32 little problematic because any Alaska resident can use  
33 that green harvest ticket and then you've got the  
34 potential, however, small, of non-qualified Federal  
35 users hunting under a Federal hunt with a green harvest  
36 ticket in their pocket and now whoever's going to  
37 analyze that data down the road has to decide if that  
38 person actually lived in the area and was a qualified  
39 hunter. I'm a little surprised that Mr. Adkisson  
40 hasn't jumped up here because usually the Park Service  
41 deals with some of these Federal permits.

42

43 Cole, go ahead.

44

45 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
46 There's just a couple things I want to clarify to make  
47 sure I understand Member Smith, to make sure we're on  
48 the same page with this.

49

50 The recommendation is to initiate a

1 proposal to modify or eliminate the closure. So if  
2 this doesn't eliminate the closure we have to still go  
3 through the process of that. Within initiating a  
4 proposal, what we can do is to try and clarify what's  
5 been going on here, what has been brought up by the  
6 Council, is that we could put in a Federal permit is  
7 recommended within the proposal for this time, to get  
8 away from it. We have completely restructured our  
9 Federal permit system database, it is completely a  
10 different system, it is much more user friendly. It is  
11 something that can be administered with a lot more ease  
12 than what has been done in the past. So that is  
13 something that when we develop the proposal, if you  
14 guys decide to initiate the proposal, to remove or  
15 modify the closure, we can develop that within the  
16 proposal.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Welcome to the show.

21

22 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23 George Pappas, Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence  
24 Liaison Team. You hit it right, a big point statewide  
25 that we have with the dual management challenges, where  
26 Federal regulations will require a permit but does not  
27 provide a permit. Additionally, Federal regulation  
28 allows -- it basically indicates that if the  
29 restrictions on the State permit are -- it's more  
30 restrictive than the Federal regulations, then the  
31 Federal regulations supersede. The State enforcement  
32 efforts disagree with that. A subsistence permit or a  
33 hunting license, what have you, authorizes exactly  
34 what's in State regulation. Anything beyond that is  
35 not authorized. So we've had challenges statewide in  
36 areas where we have a permit issued; as you said,  
37 someone's hunting in late February with a State harvest  
38 ticket, that's a problem for the State enforcement.  
39 But we don't want to lose the data. Both sides,  
40 Federal and State do not want to lose the data involved  
41 with the hunting.

42

43 So, as Cole just mentioned, if you do  
44 come up with a proposal to modify the season to allow  
45 for additional hunting or what have you, to actually  
46 install some type of permitting system. We're all  
47 trying together towards making sure all the data's put  
48 together and the subsistence user is not at risk in the  
49 field because they didn't understand which permit to  
50 have.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, thanks, George.  
4 My experience with Federal permits is all muskox and  
5 those permits are always given out by the particular  
6 land agency involved.

7

8 Mr. Adkisson. I know you give out some  
9 muskox permits, do you give out moose permits for like  
10 22D, there's some Federal permits there, isn't there?

11

12 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Counsel  
13 members. Ken Adkisson. In terms of the Federal moose  
14 permits, I don't believe there's been a Federal moose  
15 permit issued for a long, long time on the Seward Penn.  
16 Basically as far as I know it's gone strictly to using  
17 State permits. And most of those areas where I think  
18 you'll find language in the regs are probably BLM  
19 lands.

20

21 But in terms of the moose, the question  
22 of the 22E moose, we could issue Federal permits.

23

24 There's some merit to trying to keep  
25 one reporting system and one data source and, you know,  
26 as long as we can work with some of the sort of  
27 fuzziness or loose ends, you know, that have been  
28 brought up, it's probably, you know, worth trying to  
29 stay with that. But if it becomes unworkable for any  
30 number of reasons, we could get, you know, start  
31 issuing Federal permits for that hunt.

32

33 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I know -- just a  
34 second Cole -- I'm pretty sure that occasionally tribal  
35 agencies, like the tribal council or the IRA Council  
36 issue Federal permits in certain areas; apparently  
37 that's not happening in Shishmaref or Wales for either  
38 the moose or the muskox hunts?

39

40 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Yes, we have  
41 tried that a few times and sometimes it works and  
42 sometimes it doesn't work very well. And the question  
43 of where does all of the, you know, getting the data  
44 back and where does it go sometimes can be problems.  
45 The other problem with that is, is that, you know,  
46 since we've gone to this on line system, unless we  
47 still, you know, print up a huge bulk of permits,  
48 without any kind of really, you know, numbers and then  
49 go up and assign, you know, assign them to keep manual  
50 logs, you know, that doesn't seem to work very well

1 with that system of letting, you know, like the IRA  
2 help us assist in issuing permits and for  
3 accountability back into the on line system, so this  
4 year we've stopped working with the communities that  
5 way to try it and see how it worked and frankly it  
6 didn't work.

7

8 So, you know, we're left with how to  
9 get permits back into the hands of those communities  
10 that aren't Nome or aren't road connected or not well  
11 plugged into the system.

12

13 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Go ahead.

14

15 MR. BUCK: Okay, this is the first time  
16 I've heard of the permits for moose in this area. I  
17 think that the -- I didn't know it, I know my IRA  
18 didn't know it and the other IRAs didn't know about  
19 this Federal permit because they had -- we -- I think  
20 there's occasions where they do need Federal permit for  
21 the IRAs especially during potlucks and also providing  
22 meat for the elders. That's what they'd like -- what  
23 I'd like to see. And this is the first time I've heard  
24 of the Federal permit for moose and I'd like to have  
25 the IRAs and traditional councils notified that this is  
26 a possible process.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Cole.

31

32 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.  
33 Buck. I just want to clarify that that was a  
34 recommendation, that is not currently what is being  
35 done. That it is an option to put that into the new  
36 proposal to have this change into a Federal permit as  
37 an option to try and make this an easier process.

38

39 MR. BUCK: Okay, I understand.

40

41 MS. BROWN: So the other thing is that  
42 I would like to inform the Council of what has been  
43 done with the Federal permit system within the last  
44 year. It has been completely overhauled. And, now,  
45 finally, through a lot of effort between the Feds and  
46 the State to talk to each other, with what the  
47 databases are -- before the two databases could not  
48 talk to each other, they were completely different, and  
49 now there's been an memorandum of understanding, that  
50 the information is seamlessly transferred, or will be

1 within the next year, to try and get past this, if it  
2 comes through on a State harvest ticket and it's a  
3 Federal user, and outside of a State season, you know,  
4 what's going to happen with that. This is taking steps  
5 towards that.

6

7 Now, this has just been done so it  
8 hasn't been actually implemented in other areas outside  
9 of, really, Unit 13, it's been a test area, the  
10 Fairbanks area has been a test area, but this is  
11 something that's coming down the road that hopefully  
12 will get to the point where we're not going to have all  
13 these problems of not understanding what one hand is  
14 doing and the other hand is doing.

15

16 Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, Tom, I'm going  
19 to cut you off here. Alex I'd like to add this Federal  
20 permit stuff to the agenda and we're going to discuss  
21 that as soon as finish with this last wildlife  
22 proposal. So at this time let's get back to the  
23 wildlife proposal.

24

25 I think I got a little bit out of order  
26 on the procedure here. And we already have a motion --  
27 I've already forgotten -- we already have a motion on  
28 the floor, but before we go any further with that  
29 motion, I need to follow a step by step procedure to  
30 allow various comments. So we've had the analysis from  
31 OSM.

32

33 MR. SMITH: You still need a second  
34 Mike, you don't have one.

35

36 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, well.....

37

38 REPORTER: Yes, you do. Yes, you have  
39 a second.

40

41 MR. KEYES: I seconded it.

42

43 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Do I?

44

45 REPORTER: Yes, you have a second.

46

47 MR. SMITH: Oh, okay.

48

49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, okay. All right,  
50 so we'll go with -- not yet -- I got to follow this

1 procedure, I think, so that we do it properly.

2

3 All right. So after Cole's analysis we  
4 get comments from ADF&G, Letty, is anything still need  
5 to be said that hasn't already been said?

6

7 MS. HUGHES: To the Chair. To the  
8 Council members. No.

9

10 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I think actually you  
11 get to either -- no, we'll wait until October.

12

13 Okay, go ahead.

14

15 MR. SMITH: You know, I made the motion  
16 to adopt this but I'm assuming, and I guess I need to  
17 clarify, but I'm assuming that this is just to get the  
18 process started and we'll have another chance to  
19 consider it. Because one thing that came out in all  
20 the questions is there's an awful lot of unknowns and  
21 before I would really support allowing non-local people  
22 to hunt in the wintertime and spring up there, I'd want  
23 to know -- have a better idea of what the impact might  
24 be. Because I could see, potentially, you could take a  
25 lot of moose in March if there's going to people up  
26 there hunting in March and the moose season's open,  
27 potentially you could take quite a few moose and I  
28 wouldn't want to do that. But if it's just -- all  
29 we're going to do is create some opportunity for  
30 people, for local people I'm all for it.

31

32 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Alex.

33

34 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I think in order  
35 to be on the safe side I think it would be appropriate  
36 to ask if there's any other agency.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I will. I'm getting  
39 there.

40

41 MR. NICK: .....or organizations.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I got your list.

44

45 MR. NICK: Okay.

46

47 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. So ADF&G's  
48 done. Now, are there any other agencies, I'll consider  
49 that government agencies that wish to comment on this  
50 closure.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. And then the  
4 next, is any organizations, Nome Eskimo, Kawerak,  
5 anybody have any comments on the closure.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I guess there won't be  
10 any written public comments because we haven't got it  
11 into the system yet.

12

13 Okay. All right. So now we're back to  
14 our deliberations and our action. So for the motion on  
15 the floor as to, I guess, we'll make a proposal -- the  
16 motion is to submit a proposal to remove the closure,  
17 okay, any more discussion.

18

19 MR. KEYES: Yes.

20

21 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

22

23 MR. KEYES: My name is Anthony and I'm  
24 from Wales.

25

26 The reason why the number of our moose  
27 has pretty good number up on it right now is because we  
28 don't really go out hunting until towards end of  
29 January to March. Weather condition played a heavy big  
30 role on us within our region last year and this year.  
31 We had now snow up until January. And then when  
32 January came around it got too cold, up to now, which  
33 is holding us back from going out hunting.

34

35 And to throw in a Federal permit --  
36 well, let me back myself up.

37

38 If I were to hunt with a State permit  
39 and I'm on Federal land and I can go no further and I  
40 wanted that moose right there on Federal land, we are  
41 going to get a slap on the hand. so I think as a  
42 suggestion is to start sending out Federal and State  
43 permits to the moose vendors in the village, that way  
44 we don't have to keep coming back and fight for a  
45 Federal permit. Because, you know, the majority of the  
46 land that is up in that region right now is Federally  
47 covered, majority of it. And on my side is the State,  
48 we have State land in our portion of our land.

49

50 What I was trying to say was if Fred

1 carries a State permit and he stumbles on to be on  
2 Federal land, you know, I would strongly suggest to  
3 have two permits at that time of departure of your  
4 village, that way we don't have to go back and say,  
5 hey, I got this in Federal land and I didn't have a  
6 Federal permit, now I'm going to get slapped on the  
7 hand, I think as a suggestion, as I said, I think you  
8 should start sending out Federal and State permits  
9 every year. And not only that when I wanted to go  
10 moose hunting the tickets weren't there yet so I had to  
11 write to Juneau to get my hunting license. So as a  
12 suggestion I would like to see the State and the  
13 Federal start sending out harvest tickets a month  
14 earlier before the season opens because we have to go  
15 through a whole bunch of ordeal just to get a ticket.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Any other  
18 discussion.

19  
20 Peter.

21  
22 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chair. I was  
23 approached by one of our hunters just recently about  
24 the same issue that Mr. Keyes is talking about. and he  
25 had been approached by the State official and told that  
26 the State season is closed but I also told him, that  
27 the Federal season is open. Now, about the things that  
28 Mr. Keyes had just talked about, I think it would be --  
29 I am in favor of what he's proposing. It's not only  
30 the moose season but also the waterfowl too. We always  
31 have a hard time in the summertime or spring when we go  
32 out waterfowl hunting and we need to have a duck stamp  
33 from the State and the Federal. And if these are made  
34 available to our councils in our communities it'd be  
35 very helpful and that way we would not be encountered  
36 by the State or the Federal when we are out in the  
37 field.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Well, we'll get  
40 into a discussion on Federal permits here in a second.

41  
42 A motion's on the floor, seconded.  
43 Some discussion. Do I hear a question.

44  
45 MR. BUCK: Question's been called.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, question's been  
48 called.

49  
50 All those in favor of the motion to

1 submit a proposal to remove this closure say aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Any opposed.

6

7 (No opposing votes)

8

9 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Motion carries. Okay,

10 so let's discuss Federal permits.

11

12 Cole and Tom, let me point out what I  
13 see is the problem here, it's kind of a problem that  
14 doesn't -- well, I could be wrong -- but I'm assuming  
15 it doesn't exist very often, and that problem is a  
16 Federal season outside of the bounds of the State  
17 season. All you got to do is open your book here to  
18 that same thing on 22E and you see that the Federal  
19 season goes from August 1st to March 15th for moose,  
20 but the State season is completely over with on January  
21 31st, so we have a approximately six week Federal  
22 season that's available to Federally-qualified  
23 subsistence users but apparently there's no permit  
24 available.

25

26 Since Peter Martin brought it up, I  
27 checked the 22A thing. Tony and Letty, is the Federal  
28 season January 1st to February 15th for A remainder, is  
29 that any different than the State season?

30

31 MS. HUGHES: To the Chair. For our  
32 State season it's January 1st through January 31st, and  
33 I believe on the Federal side it went through.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: It's February 15th.

36

37 MS. HUGHES: .....February 15th.

38

39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. So the  
40 same problem exists there, and so do you understand  
41 what the problem is?

42

43 All right, Tom, go ahead.

44

45 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chair, and, again,  
46 if you've got your regs book handy, the Handy-Dandy, on  
47 Page 12, second column on the right there provides  
48 general information. Basically Federal law requires  
49 that hunters and trappers have the appropriate State of  
50 Alaska issued hunting or trapping license to hunt or

1 trap under the regulations. And in a number of cases  
2 the Federal government does have permits, which we  
3 provide and require, where those are not required  
4 basically the hunter must comply with the State  
5 regulations. In the case of 22E, that we were just  
6 talking about, the person would have to have a State  
7 hunting license and the green tag with them to  
8 participate in that two month period. There's not a  
9 permit required there at this point. You know there  
10 was discussion here about submitting a proposal. If  
11 you look at just moose, for example, on Page 102 and  
12 103, in some cases, again, over time, based on  
13 proposals that have been submitted, there are Federal  
14 permits required for certain hunts. Take 22D, that  
15 portion west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon  
16 Creek, in that case there's a Federal permit required.  
17 22D, that portion west of the Tisuk River drainage,  
18 Canyon Creek, one bull by State registration permit.  
19 And then if you move up to 22B west of the Darbys, it's  
20 one bull either State or Federal registration permit.  
21 So, again, there's variety here based on how these  
22 issues have developed over time.

23

24 In a number of cases, you know, we  
25 have, through regulations, you know, provided and in  
26 working with this Council, with giving deference to the  
27 Council, we have provided Federal registration permits,  
28 but if they are not a Federal -- if Federal  
29 registration permits are not specifically required,  
30 and, again, the case that we were just talking about,  
31 22E, under Federal regs, all you need is a State  
32 license and the green tag to participate in that late  
33 winter moose hunt up there, to be legal based on our  
34 regs.

35

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Hope that helps.

37

38 MR. SMITH: I got something.

39

40 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

41

42 MR. SMITH: I guess I haven't -- I mean  
43 I have to admit I haven't done my homework here, I just  
44 noticed that it's a one antlered bull and that really  
45 mootifies [sic] the whole issue that, you know, you're  
46 not going to find any antlered bulls in February or  
47 March so we're not going to do anything, really.

48

49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

50

1 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Tim and I went  
2 to college together up in Fairbanks in the wildlife  
3 management program, but, I guess, just some  
4 clarification, he's mostly right. But, again, I think  
5 as people know, some of the yearlings might have their  
6 antlers during that time of year. You know, the big  
7 bulls are going to shed them, but there are going to be  
8 a very small portion that would be available but,  
9 again, it's very limited.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Peter.

16

17 MR. BUCK: On Page 102, 103, you'll see  
18 the Unit 22B on September 1st to September 14, one bull  
19 by State registration permit between September 1st and  
20 September 14th, and then if you go to January 1st to  
21 January 31st it says one bull by either Federal or  
22 State registration permit. The problem I see there is  
23 that in the -- in January there is no fat on the moose,  
24 it's just about gone. And if you get it in September  
25 they've been eating all summer long and they've been  
26 eating all fall and we've got the moose in a real good  
27 condition so I don't see how that -- that.....

28

29 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, Tom.

30

31 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Just, again,  
32 some more historic perspective on the permit issue.  
33 You know essentially the Federal Subsistence Management  
34 Program, you know, over time has tried to essentially  
35 look to the State permit system to address these issues  
36 to the extent that was possible, try to keep it as  
37 simple as possible for the users. The State, you know,  
38 has a large good system throughout the state on these  
39 kinds of issues and initially, again, the Federal  
40 system had not looked to try to put in permits all over  
41 the place for these kinds of issues so we wanted to try  
42 to use the State system to the extent we could. In a  
43 number of places the State, you know, required that we  
44 get our own permits if we're going to do certain  
45 things, you know, if we're going to implement proposals  
46 that were submitted by the Councils and supported by  
47 the Councils and the Board we had to do a permit if we  
48 were going to do it. In other cases, the State has  
49 allowed us, basically to work with their own permits  
50 and their tags, for example. So, again, it varies in a

1 bunch of areas here in Norton Sound and across the  
2 state. But, again, I think there have been changes, as  
3 Cole mentioned, in the permit system, we've got a  
4 better system now than we had and I think there'll be a  
5 better capability to provide these kinds of issues in  
6 the future.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. So  
11 apparently the Federal people are okay with using the  
12 State harvest ticket in this particular case and I  
13 guess the responsibility for enforcement just falls  
14 upon the enforcement people and they got to decide if  
15 the guy's legal to be out there hunting or not. So  
16 does everybody understand that, unless specified in  
17 your season that a Federal permit's required, you're  
18 free to hunt under the Federal regs, with either a  
19 State permit or -- go ahead.

20

21 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chair. And,  
22 again, relative to the issue that you just talked  
23 about, the closure review for 22E moose, you basically  
24 -- it sounds like you're going to be talking about, you  
25 know, the possibility of a proposal here to consider  
26 how you'd want to have it opened it and you could  
27 specify in that proposal that you want to have this  
28 addressed, via a Federal registration permit issue, for  
29 example, depending on how exactly you want to deal with  
30 the closure.

31

32 Because, again, one of the next issues  
33 on your agenda is the proposal, development of  
34 proposals for the wildlife side of things.

35

36 So, thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Tim.

39

40 MR. SMITH: I got a question for you,  
41 Tom. On the mechanics of this, is a person hunting in  
42 a Federal hunt required to report his harvest on a  
43 State harvest ticket?

44

45 MR. KRON: If -- again, if there's no  
46 Federal permit required you're required, again, to have  
47 the State license and the State permit in your  
48 possession on the hunt.

49

50 MR. SMITH: But the question is, are

1 you required to fill out the harvest report and submit  
2 it?

3

4 MR. KRON: Yes. Through the Chair.  
5 Mr. Smith.

6

7 MR. SMITH: Okay.

8

9 MR. KRON: You know, I think, again,  
10 you know, the basis for all of this resolves around the  
11 need to be able to track the harvest, you know, and  
12 that's the most important part of the whole drill for  
13 the, you know, for the agencies. We want to know what  
14 the total harvests are for these populations, spread  
15 across Unit 22 and in all of the different units across  
16 the state by species.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 MR. SMITH: Follow up.

21

22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

23

24 MR. SMITH: Well, you know, this is  
25 probably a minor issue but it might be a good idea to  
26 have a check box on the harvest report to identify if  
27 you're taking an animal in a Federal hunt or a State  
28 hunt because you'd be using the same report,  
29 potentially -- I mean people like to have accurate  
30 data. It would be nice to know whether the animal was  
31 taken under Federal rules or State rules.

32

33 CHAIRMAN QUINN: And that would also  
34 help enforcement.

35

36 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Mr. Smith.  
37 Again, I think that might be a question that Tony would  
38 want to weigh in, to change the green card statewide on  
39 the State side. I don't know if they would be willing  
40 to do that, I doubt it. But, again, I'm sure Tony's  
41 probably seen some green harvest reports come in that  
42 aren't consistent with the State season but, probably,  
43 hopefully, are consistent with the Federal season.

44

45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46

47 MR. GORN: Yeah, through the Chair to  
48 Mr. Smith. I could only imagine what Department  
49 leadership would say about changing our green harvest  
50 tickets.....

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. GORN: .....to track Federal  
4 harvest. So I'm not going to go down that road.

5

6 But what I will say and I think  
7 everybody here appreciates the fact that, you know,  
8 over the years Federal and State biologists have worked  
9 very close to set up seasons and bag limits that mimic  
10 each other. And if you look at the two different  
11 versions of the Handy-Dandy, the Federal version and  
12 the State version, you'll see that across Unit 22 in  
13 almost circumstances, seasons and bag limits are the  
14 same. So the majority of the time hunters are safe if  
15 you're just using a State permit.

16

17 There's just only a couple examples,  
18 down in 22A, where, frankly that moose season in the  
19 southern portion of 22A, that's been changed, I think  
20 at the last three Board of Game meetings. It started  
21 off in December and it just keeps getting kind of  
22 pushed back.

23

24 The example up in 22E for moose, the  
25 State and, I guess that's me, at this point, just is a  
26 little bit uncomfortable sliding that season all the  
27 way to March 15th. That's where we were. You know,  
28 15 years ago that's where we were and we just saw a lot  
29 of antlerless moose harvest. There's not -- there are  
30 antlered bulls out there but there's not a lot  
31 available and what we experienced was just a lot of  
32 cows being harvested and we all saw what happened to  
33 the moose population. So pending what we find here in  
34 the next couple weeks, assuming we can get out and do  
35 our GSPE, I mean maybe we can revisit that. But, I men  
36 the bottom line is that at this point most of the  
37 opportunity, you just need a State permit and every  
38 year it's just a part of doing business, you know, we  
39 end up with a handful of these State permits that we  
40 got to sit down and try to sleuth and try to figure out  
41 was this a State harvest taken out of season or was it  
42 a Federal harvest and most times it's just Federal  
43 harvest on a green harvest ticket.

44

45 MR. KEYES: This is Anthony. What I  
46 was hearing Tim, was, you know, if you carry a State  
47 permit, on that State permit it should have two boxes,  
48 State or Federal, that way the workers on the other end  
49 who receive that paper can look through it and say, oh,  
50 okay, he got it on Federal land, even though it's with

1 a State permit, that way we don't have to fumble over  
2 getting more paperwork done and everything like that.

3

4 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Tim.

5

6 MR. SMITH: Yeah, my reason for saying  
7 that is, as it is now, there'd be no practical way to  
8 determine what the effect of changing this regulation  
9 would be. There'd be no way to tell if it made any  
10 difference at all.

11

12 CHAIRMAN QUINN: You mean our closure?

13

14 MR. SMITH: If we open it, we won't  
15 know if there's been a change because we won't be able  
16 to tell whether the moose was taken under Federal rules  
17 or under State rules, there'd be no way to know. My  
18 concern is, I don't know -- I guess we could tell if  
19 the total harvest increased but other than that we  
20 couldn't tell if it was because more people are hunting  
21 in the State hunt or more people are hunting in the  
22 changed rules for the Federal hunt. I kind of think  
23 that's a problem. I think you should be able to tell  
24 what impact your regulation change has made.

25

26 I mean to me it's -- I agree with Tony,  
27 the easiest way to do it would be to just have a  
28 checked box on something on the State harvest ticket or  
29 harvest report if that's what people are reporting  
30 their harvest on. To me that would be the simplest way  
31 to do it. Otherwise I think you almost have to have a  
32 separate harvest report for the Federal hunt.

33

34 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, to some extent  
35 you can tell by the address on the permit, but I don't  
36 know how much the Department looks at that, you know,  
37 if the addresses are local then -- but the other thing  
38 is that most of the season is a dual season so anybody  
39 who's not from the area during that time is hunting  
40 under State regs and according to the address on the  
41 permit you can tell if non-local participation is  
42 increasing.

43

44 Tony, do you -- Mr. Gorn, do you guys  
45 look at addresses on harvest tickets?

46

47 MR. GORN: Mr. Chair. Like I said  
48 before, every year there's a handful of these that we  
49 have to sort out and we end up -- you know, it takes  
50 time and we end up sorting out what is Federal harvest

1 and what is State harvest.

2

3 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, I think where  
4 you're going is we're looking at removing the closure  
5 so now all these, whoever, these State guys can now go  
6 onto the Federal land and hunt and is there a way, by  
7 looking at addresses on green harvest tickets to --  
8 that you guys can tally up that non-local participation  
9 has increased on Federal lands?

10

11 MR. GORN: Well, be patient with me,  
12 I'm trying to stay with you here.

13

14 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

15

16 MR. GORN: I mean I think that's  
17 something that we'd be able to tell by where that  
18 hunter reported their harvest and then we would be able  
19 to see if it was on Federal or State land.

20

21 CHAIRMAN QUINN: No, we want to know if  
22 that hunter lived in Unit 22 or did not live in Unit  
23 22?

24

25 MR. GORN: Oh, and that, yeah, and that  
26 takes time, especially with the harvest ticket because  
27 unlike a registration hunt it's not -- I'll use the  
28 word, micro-managed, I don't know if that's  
29 appropriate, but it's not tracked as closely as a  
30 registration hunt. Those harvest tickets, they all get  
31 sent to Anchorage and that all takes time, by the time  
32 they're entered, but it eventually ends up getting  
33 sorted out.

34

35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Tim, the other  
36 thing we can do is just look at the historical data for  
37 this hunt, which is on Page 55.

38

39 MR. SMITH: Yeah.

40

41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: And you can see that  
42 participation by all people isn't that high. And I  
43 think if you're familiar with -- I mean the thing that  
44 drives participation in this hunt to some extent is  
45 just the fact that on the Federal land you can't take a  
46 fourwheeler onto the Federal land, and that's going to  
47 stay the same whether we remove the closure or not, so  
48 that's going to be the real limit -- I see, as the real  
49 limiting factor in how many non-local people start  
50 hunting on Federal land, you know, they're going to

1 have to get in a boat in Shishmaref or call up Tony  
2 here and go out the road or something, so, you know, I  
3 understand your concern but so far we don't have a lot  
4 of participation in this hunt.

5  
6 MR. SMITH: Yeah, and I know we're  
7 making a mountain out of a -- or I'm making a mountain  
8 out of a mole hill, but say, for example, somebody sent  
9 the harvest report back and it said I took the moose on  
10 the Serpentine River, well, that could be taken in the  
11 Federal hunt, it could be taken in the State hunt,  
12 there would be no way to know really. I mean that's  
13 probably not a major problem in this hunt because, you  
14 know, you don't expect a big harvest, but it could be  
15 in a different situation. It seems like it's something  
16 that needs to be addressed at some point, a better way  
17 of reporting harvest so you know which hunt the  
18 animal's being taken in.

19  
20 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Peter.

23  
24 MR. BUCK: I'd just like to mention  
25 that we -- somebody mentioned fourwheelers. White  
26 Mountain Native Corporation opposes any fourwheeler use  
27 on the land and so that's not State or Federal  
28 regulations, it's just for the corporation purposes.  
29 So I thought I'd just mention it.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Okay,  
32 well, Alex.

33  
34 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I wanted to give  
35 you a couple of examples, hopefully to clarify Mr.  
36 Keyes' recommendation to use Federal and State permit  
37 with a checked box to indicate the, you know, where the  
38 harvest occurred. I wanted to give you a couple of  
39 examples that occurred in my region, in Unit 18.  
40 There's a moose moratorium, well, actually a couple of  
41 areas were designated as moose moratorium in Unit 18  
42 and the boundary of Unit 18 and 19A was designated as  
43 an .804 situation. Yesterday during the Council  
44 orientation I explained part of that. My personal  
45 experience and my personal observation about use of  
46 State and Federal permits sometimes get complicated in  
47 some areas. In some areas there has to be a drawing of  
48 permits and in some areas there have to be an allocated  
49 number of Federal permits.

50

1                   For example in Bethel area, when moose  
2 moratorium was lifted, under State hunt the permits  
3 were made available to all interested folks within the  
4 state of Alaska versus where Federal permits were  
5 issued only to Federally-qualified users. And that  
6 caused some complications but those complications did  
7 not really emerge. And to answer some of -- maybe to  
8 hopefully qualify -- excuse me -- to hopefully clarify  
9 Tony's suggestion, in some cases when a designated  
10 hunter permit is issued, State green harvest ticket is  
11 not used, only that designated hunter permit serves as  
12 a harvest ticket.

13

14                   And Tom could clarify some of that, you  
15 know, if there's any questions.

16

17                   But my personal opinion on Tony's  
18 recommendation to issue only one permit under State and  
19 Federal that might pose some problems down the road  
20 because it has to be a -- might have to be approved by  
21 the Board of Game and Federal Subsistence Board.

22

23                   Is that okay or not?

24

25                   (Laughter)

26

27                   MS. BROWN: Sorry, we were just  
28 conferring, we had a different understanding of what  
29 Mr. Keyes had said. We thought that he and Mr. Martin  
30 were proposing to have both a Federal and a State  
31 permit, not just one, and then there was discussion on  
32 whether Mr. Smith was trying to get the State permit to  
33 alter theirs, which, as Mr. Gorn said, would be highly  
34 unlikely that they would go for that, but one solution  
35 would be then to just have a Federal permit required in  
36 this area if you're going to be hunting on Federal  
37 lands, then it would be submitted through the Federal  
38 system and that would be a record on whether they were  
39 hunting with that tag. If they're hunting with the  
40 State tag then they submit the State tag on Federal  
41 lands, so that way we would be able to -- whether, you  
42 know, i don't know if Mr. Gorn wants to go through all  
43 the green harvest tickets and do the sleuthing himself.  
44 It may be an option.

45

46                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: Ken.

49

50                   MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Counsel

1 members. Since you seem to be kind of brainstorming  
2 that issue, and the question comes up, well, whether  
3 you're actually going to physically modify a permit,  
4 like the State permit to provide a Federal checkbox, I  
5 mean one simple way and then, you know, the State can  
6 sure object if they have a problem with this, but you  
7 just take the State permit and you're using it for a  
8 Federal regulation or the State harvest ticket and you  
9 take your animal on Federal land and you just write  
10 Federal across the face of the harvest ticket and mail  
11 it in or, you know, dispose of it properly and it shows  
12 up on the State and then as Tony says, every year they  
13 got to sort out a few of these things and then it just  
14 becomes a matter for somebody to, you know, match the  
15 resident community with the -- you know, what's allowed  
16 under the Federal program and you're sort of done. But  
17 it does require an extra step in there, you know, to  
18 check and make sure that somebody's not cheating. But  
19 you're probably not going to get a lot of outsiders  
20 doing it because, you know, they shouldn't be there in  
21 the first place so they're opening themselves up if  
22 they're hunting say in February for a moose and, you  
23 know.....

24  
25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Sure.

26  
27 MR. ADKISSON: .....in 22E on the  
28 Federal lands.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, that sounds like  
31 a good idea to me. You know we've got some of these  
32 Federal permits around here for the muskox season, so a  
33 guy's got to get a State permit and a Federal permit to  
34 -- if he wants to hunt the Federal hunt, which for  
35 muskox has some slightly different rules. But, you  
36 know, if you can take your State permit and keep on  
37 hunting for moose in February and March, that seems  
38 simpler than having to get another permit and Ken's  
39 idea is certainly adequate that the guy can just write  
40 on it.

41  
42 Tim.

43  
44 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I wanted to follow up  
45 on what Tony said earlier, about we're not talking  
46 about opening up hunting -- a Federal hunt for  
47 antlerless moose, are we? You said something about  
48 concerns about the increased harvest of antlerless  
49 moose, you're anticipating that people would just.....  
50

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Non-legal harvest.

2

3 MR. SMITH: .....take antlerless moose  
4 because they were unable to find antlered moose?

5

6 MR. GORN: That's correct, Mr. Smith.  
7 Through the Chair to Mr. Smith. Yes. And, that's,  
8 again, a little bit of speculation on my part but  
9 that's what we saw before. By the time -- certainly  
10 there is a component of the moose population that still  
11 has antlers all the way into March. But by and large  
12 most of them are dropped and what we saw the first time  
13 around, going back 15, 20 years, is that, you know, we  
14 just saw antlerless harvest.

15

16 MR. SMITH: I think that's a valid  
17 concern. Because, you know, I can't remember ever  
18 seeing an antlered moose in March. There may be some  
19 but, you know, I don't see how it's reasonable for a  
20 hunter to go out and find one. I just don't think they  
21 could. And so if the result of this is to increase the  
22 cow harvest, I think it's probably not a great idea.

23

24 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, no, lifting the  
25 closure is not going to increase the cow harvest. The  
26 people who now become legal to hunt on this Federal  
27 land by lifting the closure can only hunt during the  
28 State season. They can't hunt during that February and  
29 March period because that's a Federal hunt only  
30 available to Federally-qualified subsistence users.  
31 So, you know, if the cow season increases -- or cow  
32 take increases it's going to be done by local people or  
33 by a small amount of non-local people hunting illegally  
34 anyway.

35

36 MR. SMITH: I guess that's what I  
37 understood Tony to say is that, that's what he  
38 anticipated is that if you get more hunters out there  
39 then you're going to get an increased antlerless moose  
40 harvest, and I guess that's -- I don't think that's a  
41 particular good idea.

42

43 CHAIRMAN QUINN: No, what I heard him  
44 say was the State had a resistance to going into a  
45 February and March season because they saw antlerless  
46 moose harvest in the past. We don't have a State hunt  
47 during that time. We have a Federal hunt, I assume,  
48 those dates exist because local people asked for those  
49 dates and at some point in the past this Council  
50 responded to those requests. So even if we remove the

1 closure those two months only remain available,  
2 legally, to local people.

3

4 Peter.

5

6 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chair. Even at some  
7 point and somewhere I saw a comment that -- but is  
8 there going to be a proposal by the State for our units  
9 to harvest antlerless moose; does anybody know anything  
10 about that?

11

12 CHAIRMAN QUINN: For where?

13

14 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Peter.  
15 So I kind of missed the part of your question, you want  
16 to know if there's going to be a proposal from the  
17 State for antlerless moose but in what area?

18

19 MR. MARTIN: I think I saw something in  
20 black and white about that.

21

22 MR. GORN: In what area?

23

24 MR. MARTIN: And I don't know if I'm  
25 correct or not but I would like to find out for myself  
26 to clarify that by some State official.

27

28 MR. GORN: So in which area  
29 specifically are you talking about?

30

31 MR. MARTIN: All units. All units in  
32 state of Alaska.

33

34 MR. GORN: Okay, so you want to know if  
35 there's antlerless moose hunting opportunity in the  
36 state of Alaska or in Unit 22?

37

38 MR. MARTIN: All units in the state of  
39 Alaska.

40

41 MR. GORN: Okay, so in Unit 22 we do  
42 have several areas where we have antlerless moose  
43 hunting opportunity. We have antlerless moose hunting  
44 opportunity in Unit 22D Remainder, it's been on the  
45 books for years. The small number of moose taken out  
46 of that area, antlerless moose taken out of that area,  
47 combined with the antlered bull harvest taken out of  
48 that area has worked for decades. The other area where  
49 we have antlerless moose harvest in Unit 22 is Unit  
50 22C, and that's based on very high moose densities in

1 22C and chronically low bull/cow ratios. Locally we  
2 have bull/cow ratios around 11 bulls per 100 cows in  
3 22C and we currently have the highest densities that  
4 we've ever had here. We counted moose here last year  
5 and the point estimate for 22C was like 620 moose. So  
6 for about almost -- oh, boy, nine years now I believe  
7 we've had a limited amount of antlerless hunting  
8 opportunity locally here out in Nome.

9

10 MR. MARTIN: In the remainder of 22A,  
11 we had a season from January 1st to February 15th,  
12 which today is the last day. And this year I know that  
13 during the other years that most of our people who are  
14 hunters did not get an opportunity to get an antlered  
15 moose. And that's why I made the earlier -- earlier I  
16 made a comment in proposing from December 15 to January  
17 31st to make let our people to hunt more easier and be  
18 able to get an antlered moose.

19

20 CHAIRMAN QUINN: We'll take that up  
21 here when we review -- go over potential proposals.

22

23 Do you want to say something?

24

25 MR. GORN: (Shakes head negatively)

26

27 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. All right,  
28 well, I'm going to cut that discussion off, we need to  
29 move on. I'd kind of like to get No. 9 done before we  
30 go to lunch even though we're getting close to a lunch  
31 time. So Cole and Tom, are you handling this?

32

33 MR. KRON: It's the call for proposals.

34

35 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chair. We're just  
36 available to help anyone who wants to draft a proposal.  
37 We have proposal forms, if they want to take something  
38 up, then we will help them through the proposal  
39 process. That's our role here.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. So you've  
44 got the forms with you, you're saying?

45

46 MS. BROWN: Are they back there?

47

48 MR. KRON: No, they're not.

49

50 MS. BROWN: Oh, do you have the forms?

1 MR. NICK: They didn't come from.....  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Can you.....  
4  
5 MS. BROWN: That's okay, we know what  
6 information we need so we can discuss it with whoever  
7 wants to bring it up, either during the session or off  
8 session, at a break, whenever, it doesn't have to be on  
9 record to take a proposal. So we're just opening it  
10 up. If someone would like to bring it up now we can  
11 take that information.  
12  
13 Thank you.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Peter.  
16  
17 MR. MARTIN: Yes, I would like to have  
18 that proposal form.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Alex.  
21  
22 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. On Page 14 and  
23 15 of your Federal book it shows you how to submit a  
24 proposal.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, you're talking  
27 about this one, okay.  
28  
29 (Pause)  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, so, yeah,  
32 how to submit a proposal. Okay, so Peter and anyone  
33 else that wants to submit a proposal work with Cole.  
34 You don't necessarily have to do it today but you can  
35 call her on the 800 number, although I will say from my  
36 experience that you guys are so seldom available when  
37 somebody calls that number that it's almost pointless,  
38 and the.....  
39  
40 MS. BROWN: We have direct numbers too.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, that costs us  
43 money.  
44  
45 MS. BROWN: Oh.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Maybe not now that we  
48 all have cell phones.  
49  
50 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Tony.

2

3 MR. KEYES: Yes, I would like to come  
4 up with a proposal for two places, would be Wales and  
5 Shishmaref on the bear population.

6

7 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Well, I think  
8 what I'm going to do is, you know, you guys work with  
9 OSM office to craft the proposal and submit it and then  
10 in February -- I'm sorry, in October that will be right  
11 here in our packet and we'll go over it, you know, you  
12 guys will get a chance to speak about it as will the  
13 OSM office and we'll all vote to support or not support  
14 it. So just work with them, they're available,  
15 business hours Monday through Friday.

16

17 Go ahead, Tom.

18

19 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. In terms of the  
20 proposals, if the Council wants to actually submit a  
21 proposal as a Council, you could be working on it and  
22 just say, you know, here's generally what we want to  
23 do, we want to deal with bears and this is the general  
24 season and basically charge various people to work with  
25 Cole to flesh it out but the Council then could vote to  
26 support the concept of -- the general concept of the  
27 proposal and then it could be a Council proposal.  
28 Alternately, individuals could submit proposals too, so  
29 it's just your choice. But if you're going to submit  
30 it as a Council it needs to be done through some formal  
31 action at this meeting. But you don't have to have the  
32 final wording in front of you when you vote, you're  
33 just voting on a general concept that the Council would  
34 agree on.

35

36 So, again, either way, as a Council or  
37 as individuals, you can do it either way, and Cole's  
38 available to help, you know, whichever way you go.

39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41

42 MR. KEYES: Yeah, I would take that  
43 approach through the Board members, it'd be much more  
44 feasible and everybody would have a better  
45 understanding instead of having an individual, by  
46 himself go up and say, hey, I need this thing done  
47 because -- we might get a better helping hand from the  
48 rest of the RAC if we were to do it through our Council  
49 members.

50

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Alex, I  
2 was guessing that we would go through the rest of this  
3 agenda fairly quickly; is that guess incorrect, from  
4 your experience?  
5  
6 MR. NICK: It depends on the.....  
7  
8 REPORTER: Alex. Alex.  
9  
10 MR. NICK: It depends on the questions  
11 and answers.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN QUINN: It looks like a lot of  
14 stuff but.....  
15  
16 MR. KEYES: We should take another day.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah, well, I was  
19 wondering if we could get through this whole thing in  
20 one day but maybe not.  
21  
22 Okay, here's what I'm going to do.....  
23  
24 (Laughter)  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN QUINN: .....we're going to  
27 adjourn for lunch since it's noon. I'm going to  
28 request that the people who want to bring proposals  
29 forward just kind of write something down so that you  
30 can present it to us when we come back and we'll,  
31 hopefully, go through it and then vote and turn it over  
32 to them for a little more work at that time.  
33  
34 All right. So if nobody's got any  
35 objections we'll adjourn for lunch and please be back  
36 here at 1:00 o'clock.  
37  
38 MR. BUCK: 1:30.  
39  
40 MR. SEETOT: 1:30.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN QUINN: You want until 1:30?  
43  
44 MR. BUCK: Yes.  
45  
46 MR. SEETOT: Yep.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, by request 1:30.  
49  
50 (Laughter)

1 (Off record)  
2  
3 (On record)  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Everybody's here.....  
6  
7 REPORTER: Mike. Mike.  
8  
9 MR. SMITH: Microphone Mike.  
10  
11 (Laughter)  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah, I know. All  
14 right, everybody's here that needs to be here.  
15  
16 We're reconvene at more or less 1:30.  
17  
18 We were going to take up proposals that  
19 the RAC might want to submit and, Peter, I'll let you  
20 go first. Do you want to talk about what you gave me  
21 here?  
22  
23 MR. MARTIN: Yes. For a new regulation  
24 for.....  
25  
26 REPORTER: Peter. Peter.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN QUINN: You got to turn your  
29 mic on.  
30  
31 MR. MARTIN: Oh, sorry.  
32  
33 REPORTER: Thank you.  
34  
35 MR. MARTIN: Peter Martin, Sr.,  
36 Stebbins. My proposal is for a new regulation for  
37 Stebbins/St. Michael area unit 22 Remainder moose  
38 season from January 1 to February 15, changed to  
39 December 15 to January 31. It's a new regulation. And  
40 due to low catch of antler moose there'd be no impact,  
41 hunters get better chance to get antlered moose, no  
42 effect.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. All right. So  
45 you just want to extend the current -- let's see you  
46 want to do this on the Federal side -- oh, from -- oh,  
47 okay, you want to start December.....  
48  
49 MR. MARTIN: Whoever's in charge --  
50 also State and Federal.....

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: .....15th and end  
2 January 31st. All right. So that's the proposal he'd  
3 like to submit. You got any questions or anything for  
4 Peter.

5  
6 (No comments)

7  
8 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. So there's  
9 no questions. Do I need to be official, Alex, or can  
10 we just kind of say if there's no objection we'll  
11 submit the proposal?

12  
13 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. That's how it's  
14 handled as long as it's captured by the Staff, unless  
15 someone has revisions or recommendation for changes.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Then if there's  
18 no objection from any Council members, I'll instruct  
19 you to work with Mr. Martin on a proposal from this RAC  
20 concerning this change and I'm going to let her have  
21 this piece of paper.

22  
23 (No objections)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: So that proposal will  
26 come from this RAC but we will have the opportunity in  
27 October to review it again and support or not support  
28 that proposal and all the various agencies will have  
29 opportunity at that time to comment on whether they  
30 like or dislike the proposal.

31  
32 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Peter.

35  
36 MR. BUCK: I'd like to add within  
37 proposals like the proposal that we -- or I mean not --  
38 add into proposals where I was like talking about  
39 earlier, you have the hunt in September where there's  
40 no Federal permit added to it and then in January you  
41 have the Federal permit allowed. I would like to see  
42 that -- I'd like to see the Federal and the State get  
43 together and really push subsistence and in order to  
44 push these proposals through they should be a  
45 subsistence priority where a certain percent can be  
46 taken for potlucks and funerals and providing for  
47 elders and that certain percent will be added into the  
48 proposal so that this subsistence priority can go  
49 through.

50

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. I believe  
2 there's already opportunity for communities to do  
3 harvest for traditional ceremonies. I don't believe  
4 there's any avenue to just harvest for one particular  
5 age group but you do have opportunity on the Federal  
6 regs to harvest for things like potlatches. I believe  
7 you have to work with ADF&G on those.

8  
9 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. The regs on  
10 that are found on Page 13 in the Handy-Dandy. And I  
11 know the State has a program as well. But, again,  
12 basically working with the area managers there's  
13 capability to get permits for funerary and mortuary  
14 ceremonies, potlatches.

15  
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Under the State  
19 system, too, you have the opportunity to proxy hunt. A  
20 person over -- I think it's over 65 can designate  
21 somebody else to take an animal under their permit.  
22 I'm not sure if the Federal system has that or not.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN QUINN: You do?

25  
26 MR. KRON: Yes, Mr. Chair. Mr. Smith.  
27 Under your Federal System there is a designated hunter  
28 capability described in the regs as well, and Page 17  
29 describes that. But designated hunter permits are  
30 provided to a lot of the field Staff and are utilized  
31 in many areas of the state.

32  
33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Go ahead.

36  
37 MR. RABINOWITCH: Good afternoon, I'm  
38 Sandy Rabinowitch with the Park Service. In response  
39 to Peter's question I would point out to you, Mr.  
40 Chairman, that the Federal Board has, at least in once  
41 instance that I know of, established a hunt for elders,  
42 and the example that I'm looking at is on Page 57 of  
43 the Federal Book. It's a Unit 11 elder sheep hunt.  
44 And so my only point is to point out that the Board has  
45 done that kind of thing at least once before that I  
46 know of.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I see that,  
49 interesting. Does the person who's 60 years of age or  
50 older have to actually do the hunting?

1 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'd have to look at  
2 it in detail, let me look at it and let you know.  
3  
4 MR. SEETOT: You could see that, joint  
5 permit, it says that. Right there, right on your page.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN QUINN: See Unit 11 special  
8 provisions, oh, a joint permit for a pair of a minor  
9 and an elder. Okay, interesting.  
10  
11 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Peter.  
14  
15 MR. BUCK: I would like to include into  
16 that if you're getting for an elder I would like to see  
17 where the elder's preference be put in that way, if  
18 they wanted to, they could get an antlerless moose or  
19 whatever.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, I imagine that's  
22 going to take a little work. If there isn't a season  
23 for an antlerless moose you're going to have a hard  
24 time getting that. Peter, you know, if you want to  
25 craft a proposal and work with Cole on it and then  
26 submit it, well, we can certainly go over it at the  
27 time, or next October, but, you know, you got to work  
28 within the legal frameworks that are available and  
29 there's a lot of things we all want to do but it just  
30 -- they just won't allow it to happen that way.  
31  
32 All right, now, did Tony and/or Fred,  
33 have a proposal they wanted to.....  
34  
35 MR. KEYES: I'll wait until I get home  
36 and I'll just go ahead and call them from home.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.  
39  
40 MR. KEYES: That way I can get with my  
41 IRA Council members and I'll get their idea what they  
42 need that I could be able to help them out with.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. And, Fred, did  
45 you have anything?  
46  
47 MR. ENINGOWUK: No, not at this time.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. And Mr.  
50 Kron, you just need me or who to say these are okay?

1 MR. KRON: You.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, they're  
4 okay.  
5  
6 (Laughter)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. So that's  
9 proposals. Let me see I didn't make it real clear that  
10 Peter's proposal pertains to Unit 22A Remainder not to  
11 all or whatever, it's a local specific proposal.  
12  
13 All right. Now, we get to move on to  
14 the review and finalize the draft 2010 Annual Report.  
15 Alex handed us each a copy of that earlier today, let's  
16 see, we went over it last October and March,  
17 apparently, so you guys need to look it over and make  
18 sure you're happy with it.  
19  
20 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Uh-huh.  
23  
24 MR. NICK: As you remember in October  
25 meeting you provided topics for your 2010 annual  
26 meeting and then based on the discussions that you had  
27 during the meeting I try to capture the issues  
28 beginning at bottom of the first page through third  
29 page. The first part of the draft Annual Report is  
30 modeled after other Councils like YK, and then the  
31 issues come from your region based on the discussions  
32 that you had in October 2010.  
33  
34 Now is the time to review it, make some  
35 changes, edit, delete or whatever you want to do with  
36 it and then we will work on the final Annual Report and  
37 then the final copy will be reviewed by the Chair and  
38 when it's approved then we'll submit it to the Federal  
39 Board.  
40  
41 Mr. Chair.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Well, does  
44 anybody see anything they want to add, delete, change.  
45  
46 Alex, what do you -- either Alex or  
47 Tom, what do you know about streamlining the Regional  
48 Advisory Council nominations? It's like a year long  
49 process and kind of slows things down if we end up  
50 losing members for whatever reason.

1 MR. NICK: Tom could assist me on this.  
2 Streamlining is an idea that not only Regional --  
3 Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council recommends,  
4 other regions are also recommending that because, you  
5 know, they think it takes too long for members to be  
6 appointed to the Regional Advisory Councils.

7  
8 Tom.

9  
10 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. I think, you  
11 know, all of you are probably fairly familiar with the  
12 process, having gone through it yourself. You're  
13 appointed by the Secretary of Interior but before you  
14 get to that point there's essentially Alex and usually  
15 agency Staff from the various Federal agencies contact  
16 the people that have been nominated or have expressed  
17 an interest and then, you know, provide that  
18 information up through the system, the Federal  
19 Subsistence Board here in Alaska, you know, reviews the  
20 people that are nominated and ultimately the Secretary  
21 makes the decision. But, again, it does take some time  
22 and also, as you know, for various reasons, sometimes  
23 Council members resign in the middle of their term.  
24 But, you know, again, having been through it, each of  
25 you, if you've got ideas as to things that could be  
26 done to streamline, we're all ears.

27  
28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Tony.

31  
32 MR. KEYES: By -- how should I -- did  
33 you by any chance get any applications like from  
34 Savoonga or Gambell because they're on the -- you know,  
35 fishing -- about fish issues I'm pretty sure they would  
36 like to know more about what we're trying to do about  
37 the fish issue and, you know, they're common people of  
38 eating seafood too. So I would like to see Savoonga  
39 and Gambell try and jump on board to, you know, get  
40 their -- get a better knowledge of what we're doing.

41  
42 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Mr. Keyes. We  
43 do have a list of applications that were received and  
44 application period is still open now until 18th of this  
45 month so they have that time, between now and then to  
46 submit application for RAC membership.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN QUINN: We did have a member  
49 from Savoonga in the past, she came to a couple  
50 meetings but I think she missed a couple, I think her

1 term expired and nobody else applied from out there.

2

3

Go ahead.

4

5 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. We would  
6 definitely, you know, encourage all of the current  
7 Regional Council members to talk to people that they  
8 think might be interested, encourage them to submit  
9 applications. You know, our office, OSM pays a  
10 significant amount of money for newspaper ads around  
11 the state. We've got radio ads in a number of places,  
12 both in English and various Alaska Native languages.  
13 So we do a fair amount trying to get applicants, but I  
14 think a really effective way to get applicants is for  
15 the members on the Councils, themselves, to talk to  
16 people they know from areas that may not be represented  
17 and definitely when your term is reaching an end, you  
18 know, we'd encourage you to resubmit an application to  
19 stay on the Council. But, again, the more applicants  
20 the better.

21

22

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Alex, I'm looking at  
25 our roster and I see some seats expire in 2011, those  
26 particular seats need to apply this time period in  
27 order to retain their seat if they're so appointed.

28

29 I'm trying to remember the legal part  
30 of this, there is no actual break up of members having  
31 to be from any one village as long as they're from  
32 within the region; is that correct, I mean we could  
33 conceivably have a Council made up of all Nome members  
34 or all Shishmaref members, depending on who applies and  
35 gets appointed.

36

37

38 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I believe the  
39 appointments of RAC membership is based on knowledge.  
40 And in some areas there's, you know, like Tom mentioned  
41 there's a review of applicants by interagency panel and  
42 then that's submitted to the Federal Board and it's  
43 reviewed by InterAgency Staff Committee before it's  
44 submitted to the Board.

44

45 MR. KRON: Just a general comment in  
46 response, Mr. Chair. I think there would be -- I guess  
47 I've seen and heard a desire to try to have broad  
48 representation across the region to the extent you can  
49 possibly do that but, again, the Federal Subsistence  
50 Program works with the applications that it receives.

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Exactly.

2

3 MR. KRON: But, again, the more  
4 applicants, the broader representation that's possible,  
5 I think the better the program will work.

6

7 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

10

11 MR. KEYES: I talked to several people  
12 to see if they wanted to sign on to be a RAC member and  
13 then it always falls down to this, the money is not  
14 good enough. That's the number 1 answer I always get  
15 from the people I talk to. Even I try to tell them  
16 it's not for the money I'm doing, you know, I'm doing  
17 it for my community but they would still say, well,  
18 with the prices that are, you know, rising every year  
19 and you get to Nome and you want to buy some essentials  
20 and it doesn't go around to fill up a paper bag or a  
21 paper shopping bag, you know, it just -- they downgrade  
22 because the per diem that we receive, it's what's  
23 holding back a majority of those that want to apply.  
24 Believe me I've talked to several people and before  
25 they say anything it's the money, it's too low, we're  
26 not going to go there because the per diem is not good.  
27 And I try to tell them, we're not going there for the  
28 per diem we're going there for the villages that we are  
29 going to represent but, still, you know, they would  
30 still jump on the same wagon and say, no, per diem is  
31 too low.

32

33 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

36

37 MR. BUCK: He took the words out of my  
38 mouth. I was going to mention that when I was in  
39 Anchorage there was a couple of the people, all over  
40 Alaska, and they said the compensation for the meetings  
41 is real low. And they all agree with that. Also I  
42 would like to recommend at least for the RAC committees  
43 that an honorarium be included into our per diem.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Tom.

48

49 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Just a general  
50 response, this question's been asked by a number of

1 Councils. We've sent several requests all the way up  
2 through the Secretary of Interior's Office to see if it  
3 was possible to do this, the answer has come back,  
4 twice, that I know of, that we cannot. You know,  
5 basically we can provide travel and per diem and that  
6 an honorarium is not an option. You know, that doesn't  
7 mean you can't ask again but we've already been told  
8 twice that we cannot.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Well, you  
13 know, there has to be some responsibility upon the  
14 citizens to participate in this program. You cannot  
15 expect for this to be a profitable venture to  
16 participate in. And as someone who's never received a  
17 dime for any of the time I've spent both here and at a  
18 State meeting, you know, I -- I'm taking time off from  
19 work today to attend this meeting and tomorrow, and I'm  
20 assuming that some of you are too, you know, to some  
21 extent this is a volunteer process. And if everybody  
22 sitting here and everybody who might listen or read  
23 this, if you want your community represented then  
24 somebody needs to apply. It's pretty plain and simple.

25

26 I certainly commend the members, every  
27 member here now has been here for two or more years,  
28 well, except for Tim, because he just got on, but the  
29 village guys have all -- some of them -- Peter's been  
30 here for over.....

31

32 MR. KEYES: Decades.

33

34 CHAIRMAN QUINN: He's been here.....

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 CHAIRMAN QUINN: You're getting there  
39 Tony, be careful.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Anyway so Tom, I'm  
44 assuming we're stuck with this process because it's  
45 written into the language of ANILCA and streamlining it  
46 is somewhat prevented by that language?

47

48 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. It's not ANILCA  
49 in this case. The other Federal law that we're under  
50 is the Federal Advisory Committee Act, FACA, you've

1 probably heard of FACA.

2

3 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah.

4

5 MR. KRON: You know, basically it's the  
6 process that regulates the various advisory committees  
7 on the Federal side across the country. And, again, I  
8 don't know all the ins and outs of this but it's my  
9 understanding that that is what a driver in this  
10 process.

11

12 CHAIRMAN QUINN: And does that.....

13

14 MR. KRON: And I'll look to Sandy,  
15 Sandy, if you could help us here. Sandy's been around  
16 the block many more times than I have and maybe he can  
17 help, he's on the Staff Committee for the Park Service.

18

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Sandy.

22

23 MR. RABINOWITCH: Good afternoon,  
24 again. Sandy Rabinowitch. I would modify what Tom  
25 just said slightly. FACA does -- it's important and  
26 we've got to follow all the rules of this other Federal  
27 law, but I don't believe that FACA says you cannot pay  
28 Advisory Committee members. So that's the one.....

29

30 MR. KRON: Okay, thank you.

31

32 MR. RABINOWITCH: .....little tweak I  
33 would make. But I actually was talking with an OSM  
34 Staff just two weeks ago about this, for a different  
35 reason, the compensation question that you put on the  
36 table, that was Ann Wilkinson, and Ann says that she  
37 has checked with the Office of the Secretary of  
38 Interior about compensation for FACA committees like  
39 this one and there's apparently 113, if I'm remembering  
40 the number right, around the country, under the  
41 Secretary of Interior, and she said not one, zero, gets  
42 any compensation. So I believe it's correct to refer  
43 to it as a DOI policy nationwide, that people be  
44 volunteers, you know, like what you were saying.

45

46 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, well, certainly.

47

48 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay. That they not  
49 be compensated. I think there are some advisory groups  
50 to the Federal government where people are compensated.

1 I can't tell you what groups they are, you know, I just  
2 don't know that. But within the Department of  
3 Interior, that 113 or so, it's all volunteer. That's  
4 my understanding of how it works.

5

6 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

9

10 MR. BUCK: I think that Elmer would  
11 agree with me when we first started here, we really had  
12 -- our compensation was way down, from it was -- it was  
13 almost nothing, now, we have something. And I was  
14 wondering what happened to make that process to get  
15 better compensation, what was done to improve our  
16 compensation.

17

18 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Compensation.

19

20 MR. KRON: It's probably the per diem  
21 rates have changed.

22

23 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yeah, I was going to  
24 say I'm not an expert on that but I assume that per  
25 diem rates have gone up, it's really that simple. And,  
26 you know, air -- yeah, per diem rates have gone up,  
27 they're adjusted every year.

28

29 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Can we just forward  
30 Bonanza Fuel's current gas price to you and you'll  
31 raise our per diem rate based on that?

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, actually where I  
36 was going was the selection of members and does that  
37 have to go all the way to the Secretary of the  
38 Interior? This is an Alaska program and, you know,  
39 where's Pat Pourchot and that Kim Elton guy and  
40 whatever, why can't they do some of this work?

41

42 MR. RABINOWITCH: Having been part of  
43 this for about 15 years or so, what I would tell you is  
44 that -- I think Tom just said the application period --  
45 or Alex said the application period's still open. The  
46 panels to review those have already been selected and  
47 they're basically ready to go the day the thing closes,  
48 they'll be done with their work in March, so we're in  
49 February so they'll -- no, I'm sorry, I think it's  
50 April, they're going to be done with their work in

1 April, the applicants come to the Staff Committee in  
2 May or June, I'm on that Staff Committee group, we  
3 usually deal with it within about a two week period and  
4 then it goes to the Federal Board usually at a meeting  
5 in Anchorage in either June or July, so the Alaska part  
6 of the system I think is fairly quick. I mean the  
7 Federal Board will be done making all of its  
8 recommendations by June or July of this year. It then  
9 goes to Washington, D.C. And what I would tell you is  
10 things don't move so quickly at that point.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, I understand  
13 that. What's the possibilities of not going to  
14 Washington, D.C.?

15  
16 MR. RABINOWITCH: My understanding is  
17 that the Secretary has retained -- I'm sure we could  
18 find this in the regs somewhere, the Secretary has  
19 retained the authority to make the choices, to choose  
20 you all.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, he doesn't choose  
23 to delegate it down.

24  
25 MR. RABINOWITCH: So conceptually --  
26 exactly -- exactly right, Mr. Chairman. Conceptually  
27 the kind of thing you would have to suggest would be  
28 that that be delegated down to the Federal Board. If  
29 you did something like that you'd probably speed it up  
30 about six months.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Alex.

33  
34 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
35 Council. I received one application from one of the  
36 members. I'm not going to get into the detail of this  
37 application, but I want to stress importance of what  
38 you put in this one -- in this document. Like Pete --  
39 Peter -- Tom mentioned, I think InterAgency Panel do a  
40 very good job reviewing applications, but it depends on  
41 what you put in this application. You know, when you  
42 put your knowledge in this application, there should be  
43 more detail in that. They want to know what you know  
44 about the resources out here.

45  
46 I think on Page 5 and 6 of this  
47 application, when you submit the application or  
48 nominate somebody, you need to be kind of maybe  
49 specific about what you know or what that person or  
50 individual knows about the resources out here.

1                   If we put maybe one line that probably  
2 might be a minus sign, even though, you know -- for  
3 example if I was a Regional Advisory Council member I  
4 might be reappointed about three terms and if I submit  
5 an application assuming that everybody knows me by then  
6 and then assuming that, you know, when I put one line  
7 of information in this application, they will know who  
8 I am, but that may not be the case.

9

10                   So I would stress that you put more  
11 information on the application of yourself, about  
12 yourself or an individual you nominate.

13

14                   And I was going to mention Tony,  
15 especially Tony, he has concern about membership from  
16 Savoonga and the other village, you are welcome to  
17 nominate somebody from that village if you know who  
18 they are.

19

20                   MR. KEYES: There was one person that  
21 approached me when I was going to college last year and  
22 the individual told me that they had put in an  
23 application and they were -- and I said well our  
24 meeting is coming up here and she said -- and this  
25 person said well I'll probably see you there and I  
26 never see that person here.

27

28                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Well,  
29 we've driven half the people away and they're all gone  
30 now.

31

32                   (Laughter)

33

34                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: So let's get back to  
35 our draft, do we need any more comments or questions or  
36 anything on this draft Annual Report.

37

38                   MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

39

40                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: Alex.

41

42                   MR. NICK: First issue, if I remember  
43 correctly comes from concern about fishery research  
44 that during the discussion of annual report topics  
45 somebody brought up a need for more research  
46 participation, Federal participation on research  
47 programs out here in the region.

48

49                   The second issue comes from, I think --  
50 I believe it's from Seetot's region or subregion that

1 they were having some problems with the bear population  
2 in that area and they want something done.

3

4 Issue number 3 also come from the  
5 coastal areas, probably Seetot again, yeah, they talk  
6 -- you guys talked about problems with petroleum taste  
7 or something.

8

9 MR. ENINGOWUK: Petroleum contaminants.

10

11 MR. NICK: Possible contamination on  
12 fish.

13

14 Number 4, streamlining Council  
15 nomination appointments.

16

17 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair. Go ahead.

18

19 MR. NICK: That's all, thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Peter.

22

23 MR. BUCK: I was just thinking about  
24 the subsistence fisheries resources. Obama made his  
25 speech and he said we have one organization for when  
26 the fish is in saltwater and we have another  
27 organization for when the fish go into the fresh water.  
28 And he's trying to streamline the whole situation now.  
29 If he wants to streamline us then let the subsistence  
30 council take care of the fish resources in the  
31 freshwater and also in the saltwater and make the  
32 regulations for that. I think that would be a good  
33 recommendation.

34

35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah, we don't have  
36 any real Federal regs for saltwater, I guess. The  
37 State does though, I guess, the State has some stuff  
38 for crabbing, some other species, halibut.

39

40 Go ahead, Tom.

41

42 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Basically  
43 the Federal jurisdiction on the fisheries side is  
44 within the external boundaries of the Federal lands,  
45 you know, certain Federal lands, Refuges for example,  
46 National Parks, some conservation areas, BLM for  
47 example, Chugach National Forest. But, again, the  
48 saltwater jurisdiction is very limited. Essentially  
49 the State has management jurisdiction over, you know,  
50 the saltwater fisheries and the critters that are

1 there.

2

3

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5

CHAIRMAN QUINN: Tim.

6

7

MR. SMITH: If I recall correctly, didn't the Katie John case decide that the Federal managers, subsistence managers could extend their jurisdiction to things that impacted a subsistence resource?

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MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. What the Katie John case did was essentially to result in the establishment of the Federal jurisdiction over fisheries in freshwater within these conservation system units that I just mentioned. And, again, that was a Copper River issue so essentially within the Copper River district, within the external boundaries of the Parks that are there, the BLM, I don't think there are BLM conservation units, but it was essentially a Park driven issue on Copper River but it became a statewide issue and, again, that culminated in the late 1990s essentially with the development of fish regs on the Federal side. Prior to that it was only wildlife during the 90s for the Federal Program. But with Katie John the Federal system basically had jurisdiction and responsibility for both fish and wildlife. But, again, that jurisdiction has not extended out into most of the saltwaters across the state.

Again, the coastal areas, the State has jurisdiction on, you know, off shore, you're going to be looking at that issue relative to the North Pacific Council discussion later on in this meeting. But, again, the Federal jurisdiction is within the conservation system unit boundaries.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

MR. SMITH: I agree 100 percent with Peter, I mean I think that's a real frustrating thing for salmon management, is that, you've got different agencies managing parts of the home range of the salmon stocks and they don't really necessarily take into account the actions of the other, the Board of Fisheries manages salmon stocks in State waters, the

1 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council manages  
2 salmon stocks or manages impacts on salmon stocks in  
3 the -- on the high seas, in the EEZ, and it just  
4 doesn't make sense. It's not a workable management  
5 system. You need to consider impacts on the population  
6 throughout its run.

7

8 I don't know if there's a -- you know,  
9 I doubt that we can fix it but I don't think it would  
10 hurt to put some message in there that that is a  
11 program, it makes it impossible to manage subsistence  
12 stocks if they're getting -- taken some place else  
13 outside of your jurisdiction.

14

15 MR. BUCK: I think it goes on back --  
16 earlier years we kept talking about extraterritorial  
17 jurisdiction, and that's -- if we can make regulations  
18 if the fish is passing Aleutian Islands then we can  
19 make regulations for that are down there because the  
20 fish comes up their area, that would be a  
21 extraterritorial jurisdiction but over the years this  
22 has really gone down the drain. We haven't had any  
23 response to it and nobody believes in it anymore so I  
24 kind of sit on that.

25

26 MR. SMITH: Yeah.

27

28 MR. SEETOT: Mike.

29

30 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Elmer, go ahead.

31

32 MR. SEETOT: Concerning number 1,  
33 increase research needed. Do you need to be specific  
34 on the species or the resources that you're going to do  
35 research on. Because I kind of mentioned the pike or  
36 what I think is a pike increase around the Kuzitrin  
37 River area -- Kuzitrin River, the Pilgrim River  
38 drainages -- or the Pilgrim River and Kuzitrin River, I  
39 know that they are full of pike and that beaver are  
40 coming in this way. And, yet, they talk about -- the  
41 Alaska Department of Fish and Game talks about red  
42 salmon decrease that goes to Salmon Lake, silver  
43 salmon, I have no problem with chums because they're  
44 going to the Agiapuk River also. The thing that  
45 bothers me is that when ADF&G talks about salmon  
46 resources, they just kind of think about, you know,  
47 that they're being overharvested, not taking into  
48 account other factors during the life cycle of the  
49 salmon. 2004 there was a big storm, fall storm after  
50 the fish spawn, or after the fish spill out their eggs

1 around the Agiapuk, Pilgrim River, Kuzitrin River  
2 system, even toward Brevig, the spit, what we call the  
3 North Spit, a patch of land that's up right to Teller  
4 and Brevig, that one was at least three-quarters under  
5 water so I was thinking that the water part was very  
6 destructive in that way, yet ADF&G was pretty much  
7 given other factors because salmon didn't go to the  
8 Salmon Lake area for spawning, you know, they were  
9 giving other factors that that -- that they probably  
10 didn't consider rough storms, predation, pikes. What  
11 does beaver dams do to the salmon around that area.

12  
13                   Fast conclusions but not enough  
14 research in that part other than just being there  
15 during the spring and summer months to count the fish,  
16 you know, that go through there.

17  
18                   But other factors do come into play.  
19 Maybe these are the factors that are not being  
20 considered by the fishery biologists because we're just  
21 kind of thinking about certain things when we look at  
22 salmon depletion.

23  
24                   Area M.

25  
26                   You have water temperatures rising.

27  
28                   You have invasive species coming into  
29 an area, yet we do not know what comes into our area  
30 because no research is being done.

31  
32                   So there's a lot of factors that are  
33 not being taken into consideration.

34  
35                   When these species are either  
36 threatened or extinct or others, so that's something  
37 that we need to pretty much look at very much when  
38 resources are not there for the people.

39  
40                   Thank you.

41  
42                   MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

45  
46                   MR. BUCK: I'd like to add with his  
47 because the resource -- the research needs to be done.  
48 I know White Mountain people has always caught the fish  
49 in the river. We had some shortages with silvers and  
50 stuff like that but not a whole lot, but the Nome

1 people have been having a lot of problems all these  
2 years. They cant' get their sockeye. Their resources  
3 are really depleted and it's affected the Nome area,  
4 why didn't it affect White Mountain too. Because I  
5 don't know where your fish are coming from but those  
6 two rivers should be pretty much the same but they  
7 don't know what's happening so the research needs to be  
8 done in that area.

9

10 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Tony.

11

12 MR. KEYES: I would like to make a  
13 suggestion for the Federal Board to come up with a  
14 solution to get an air and water sampling done every  
15 year. Not just month -- you know, not just one month  
16 out of the whole summer. I would like to see it done,  
17 starting from May to fall time is when our fishing  
18 resources are up to par. I'd like to come up with that  
19 strong suggestion of having water and air monitoring  
20 system put into each village to where these -- and have  
21 a RAC member help with the monitoring so that they can  
22 be able to bring it back with them as information to  
23 the rest of the Board members when the year -- the next  
24 year meeting comes, that way we'll all have a better  
25 understanding of what's really is in the air and in the  
26 water and why is our fish not coming to our streams  
27 like they used to.

28

29 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Tom, I'm actually  
30 going to cut you off here, I'm afraid that I need to  
31 keep the meeting moving along.

32

33 I believe that we get a chance each  
34 year to recommend studies, fisheries studies, we've  
35 done that in the past.

36

37 MR. KRON: Yep.

38

39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: And that chance will  
40 come up again next -- each October, I think, so, you  
41 know, if you guys have ideas that you want studied you  
42 can bring that up at the next meeting and we'll explore  
43 that and go forward with some sort of proposal or  
44 recommendation.

45

46 So what I guess I need is a motion  
47 about this draft Annual Report.

48

49 Alex.

50

1 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Council members.  
2 This is only a draft. You could do whatever you want  
3 to do with it. If you want to add or delete portions  
4 of it or suggest other issues, you may do so at this  
5 time.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Well,  
8 everything here came from the last meeting, didn't it?

9  
10 MR. NICK: (Nods affirmatively)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Well,  
13 hopefully we stated ourselves well enough. Has  
14 anything additional -- well, this is an annual report,  
15 when does the date of that annual time end?

16  
17 MR. NICK: If you approve this with  
18 just minimum changes, the reason why I put the  
19 tentative date -- assuming that you would review and  
20 approve this tomorrow, on the 16th, but you could put  
21 the date you want on it. This is just a tentative  
22 date.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, we do an annual  
25 report each year.

26  
27 MR. NICK: Yeah -- well.....

28  
29 CHAIRMAN QUINN: So there's, you know,  
30 kind of like a starting point and an ending point to  
31 that year and our comments should be relevant to that  
32 year.

33  
34 MR. KRON: It's a calendar year, isn't  
35 it?

36  
37 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, so these  
38 are relevant to 2010 and we'll have -- we'll do a new  
39 annual report.....

40  
41 MR. NICK: What will happen is after  
42 you approve your annual report it will be finalized and  
43 the Chair signs it and then submit it to the Federal  
44 Board.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Well, this  
47 is what came out of our last meeting. We're going to  
48 have opportunities at the next meeting to do a new  
49 annual report, you know, where new concerns can be  
50 raised or directions that we want to go. It looks okay

1 to me, does anybody see anything that they're aware of  
2 in the past year to add or subtract from this report?

3

4 MR. BUCK: I'd like to -- can I make a  
5 motion to accept this annual report?

6

7 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Thank you, so moved.

8

9 MR. KEYES: I'll second it.

10

11 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Seconded by  
12 Tony. Any more discussion needed.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

17

18 MR. SEETOT: Question.

19

20 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Question's  
21 been called. The motion is to approve this report as  
22 written. All those in favor say aye.

23

24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25

26 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Any opposed.

27

28 (No opposing votes)

29

30 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Motion carries.

31

32 MR. SMITH: Mike, I'll abstain again  
33 because I wasn't on the Council then.

34

35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, okay, thank you,  
36 Tim. And we are on to our Council Charter Review.

37

38 Alex.

39

40 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. On Page 57 of  
41 your work book you will see your annual report [sic].  
42 As you remember in the past when I first got -- well,  
43 when I first took over the Seward Peninsula you  
44 recommended -- I believe you recommended some changes  
45 and I think it had to do with membership, wasn't it --  
46 removal of a member. I remember that recommendation.  
47 That was -- I believe we.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, I'm starting to  
50 remember this.

1 MR. NICK: Yeah, what happened was your  
2 recommendation went in but I think there's no changes  
3 on this one. This is only for your review, Mr. Chair.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, on Page 59 it  
6 says, removal of members; two consecutive unexcused  
7 absences, the Chair may recommend removal. Is that  
8 common to all RACs.  
9  
10 MR. NICK: (Nods affirmatively)  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, okay.  
13  
14 MR. KEYES: So instead of a member, a  
15 Chairman has the right to.....  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, a member may also  
18 be removed due to misconduct, we're all members.  
19  
20 MR. KEYES: Uh-huh.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Do you  
23 need an action from us?  
24  
25 MR. NICK: This is just.....  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, this is  
28 just for our review?  
29  
30 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. This is for your  
31 review and if you see anything that you want to  
32 recommend any changes on it you may submit those  
33 recommendations at this time.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Certainly I'm  
36 satisfied with it.  
37  
38 MR. KEYES: We should pretty much keep  
39 it as it is.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Any other  
42 -- anybody got any comments, things you want changed,  
43 added, subtracted.  
44  
45 (No comments)  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. We're  
48 going to be satisfied with that Alex. And we'll move  
49 on to agency and organization reports.  
50

1                   Let me pause for a second here. No. 12  
2 looks like it's all OSM stuff; is that right, Tom?

3  
4                   MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. A good chunk of  
5 it is. But then, again, you get down to 12, B, C, D,  
6 E, F.....

7  
8                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, all right, let me  
9 rephrase that. A looks like a whole bunch of OSM  
10 stuff.

11  
12                  MR. KRON: That's correct, Mr. Chair.  
13 And I apologize for that. A lot of this comes out of  
14 the Subsistence Program Review, which you heard a lot  
15 about and the Federal Board is asking for Regional  
16 Advisory Council input on a number of these issues.

17  
18                  CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Well,  
19 where I'm going with this is to skip A and maybe go to  
20 B, C, D and E if the people are here and let those  
21 people do their thing and then they can get out of  
22 here.

23  
24                  MS. TAHBONE: We don't want to get out  
25 of here.

26  
27                  CHAIRMAN QUINN: What'd you say Sandy?

28  
29                  MS. TAHBONE: I said we don't want to  
30 get out of here.

31  
32                  CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, that doesn't  
33 mean you have to, it just means that you can. I see  
34 our highly and paid Preserve Superintendent sitting  
35 there waiting for us to get to her turn so, you know, I  
36 was just trying to speed things up. She could go on to  
37 other more important business than sitting at our  
38 meeting.

39  
40                  MS. POMRENKE: What is more important  
41 than subsistence?

42  
43                  CHAIRMAN QUINN: Good come back, I like  
44 that.

45  
46                  (Laughter)

47  
48                  MS. POMRENKE: I don't mind sitting --  
49 I need to listen to the OSM stuff anyway, so even if I  
50 do go I'll still be sitting here.

1                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Well,  
2 where did Tony and.....  
3  
4                   MR. KEYES: They ran off.  
5  
6                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: They ran off.  
7  
8                   MR. PAPPAS: I'll call them at a break.  
9  
10                  MS. POMRENKE: They probably think that  
11 they had a little time to go back to the office.  
12  
13                  CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, maybe they're  
14 organizing and getting prepared for the next time I  
15 don't like their data.  
16  
17                  (Laughter)  
18  
19                  CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Well, then  
20 hearing that we will move on with A. Is that your  
21 deal, Tom, go ahead, please.  
22  
23                  Oh, Alex.  
24  
25                  MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On  
26 Page 60 of your work book, update on travel procedures.  
27  
28                  Last night during the Council  
29 orientation I mentioned a little bit about this. And  
30 what I'm going to do is I'm going to read this on  
31 record and then I will -- with the help of Tom, I will  
32 explain what changes we are to be expecting starting  
33 from this meeting.  
34  
35                  Travel arrangements.  
36  
37                  All Federal agencies are required to  
38 make all travel arrangements through travel control  
39 center, that's Carlson Travel. All the arrangements  
40 need to be going through me and then I would forward  
41 those travel requests and changes to Carlson Travel.  
42  
43                  All Council member travel arrangements  
44 must be made by OSM Staff. If you amend your travel  
45 yourself, you will not receive any per diem for travel  
46 time after the amended ticket is issued and you may be  
47 liable for the cost of air fare. Now, that does not  
48 pertain to weather like we're having right now. If you  
49 have some problem with travel, you know, due to weather  
50 conditions then, you know, you call me and I would

1 forward that information on to the travel, OSM travel.

2

3                   Therefore, any changes to your travel  
4 absolutely must be made through your coordinator. If  
5 you are unable to contact your coordinator call Durand  
6 Tyler at 907-786-3888 or 1-800-478-1456, and if you  
7 can't contact Durand you may call Ann Wilkinson at 907-  
8 786-3676.

9

10                   I'll stop there before I move on to  
11 travel vouchers for questions you may have.

12

13                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: You wanted to discuss  
14 something, Tony.

15

16                   MR. KEYES: Yes. I went through this  
17 myself, too, when I was at home and then I barely made  
18 it out of my village, barely. Weather is a factor  
19 regardless if you guys say it ain't, it is. A weather  
20 factor. This time of the year our weather is  
21 unpredictable. If I wanted -- if -- I was going to  
22 come here and if I didn't make it yesterday I would  
23 still make all the effort to jump on any first flight  
24 that it's coming to Nome so that I can attend this  
25 meeting. I don't know why they want a specific airline  
26 that we can catch. For instance, what if they have  
27 mechanical problem and they can't come out, if that one  
28 suggested airline was to be picked for me to fly and if  
29 I called in and I say hey I didn't make it in, the back  
30 of my hair would raise. So I would, you know, I would  
31 clearly make it to where it states that catch the first  
32 available flight that you could if you want to attend  
33 the meeting, not just making a restriction of having us  
34 to go by your abiding rules and say, hey, we picked  
35 this airline and you have to use it, what if they don't  
36 come; that's the biggest question. And I'm pretty sure  
37 Shishmaref is in the same boat as I am too so we have  
38 to look at the weather conditions nowadays before  
39 anybody puts this on paper.

40

41                   So, you know, if I were in that sheet,  
42 I would say, catch the first available flight to come  
43 to the meeting instead of just being, you know, I have  
44 to catch a certain flight.

45

46                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: Tom.

47

48                   MR. KRON: Yeah, just some follow up.  
49 Basically the travel per diem system, the Federal  
50 government is going to basically all electronics, it's

1 all linked together, and essentially for the Regional  
2 Council members, you know, again, basically what we  
3 need you to do is to work with Alex. You know the  
4 minute there's a problem, call Alex and he'll  
5 essentially get the word in to get these adjustments  
6 made. The problem we've got is if the adjustments are  
7 not made in the electronic system the whole thing just  
8 falls apart and it affects per diem at the same time.  
9

10 So, again, all we're asking is get a  
11 hold of Alex, and if not Alex, Durand or Ann, but  
12 basically just let us know what's going on and we'll  
13 move heaven and earth to get you to the meetings.  
14

15 MR. KEYES: And there's another thing I  
16 forgot to mention. Sometimes our telephones and  
17 computers will go down for at least a week so to speak,  
18 a week and a half, so I'm in the village that you might  
19 want to come and join me and you might want to see what  
20 electronics is up there.  
21

22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: You can also go see  
23 the electronic internet systems at the various air  
24 services and see how often they fail.  
25

26 Tony brings up a good point. My  
27 recommendation, you know, is your goal is to get the  
28 person to the meeting, okay. And then the secondary  
29 goal, I hope, is to get that person here as  
30 economically as possible. But the first goal is the  
31 priority. Sticking that person with one reservation  
32 with one company with one time does not accomplish the  
33 priority goal. The person in the village needs the  
34 ability to adjust to changes that particular day.  
35 Almost all these villages have two flights per day in  
36 this region, I'm going to limit my comments to this  
37 region, two flights per day with two different  
38 entities, aviation businesses. I recommend that you  
39 give these people the ability to get on whichever  
40 flight they want to get on that day and hopefully  
41 they'll make those choices wisely, you know, if the  
42 weather's good then they can do whatever you want them  
43 to, but if they got to call Alex and they got to call  
44 Durand, well, the weather might have closed in and the  
45 guy ain't going to be here, you know, and the guy on  
46 the ground's got the best ability to look at his  
47 weather forecast and say, well, if I don't get on this  
48 morning flight I ain't getting there or to say, well, I  
49 can't get on -- you know, Bering Air cancelled, but  
50 it's supposed to be 10,000 overcast and 10 miles by

1 4:00 p.m., so I can get on the evening flight.

2

3 So the overriding goal is to get the  
4 guy to the meeting, and economically, I think what I'm  
5 suggesting is the better process because now he doesn't  
6 have to call Alex and Durand and worry and, okay, go  
7 ahead.

8

9 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Personally I  
10 agree with you 100 percent. The challenge we got is  
11 we're working with standards that have been set up for  
12 the Federal government across the country. You know  
13 the travel arrangements for this meeting have to use  
14 that new Federal travel system, your checks come out of  
15 Denver, you know, we're trying to explain the situation  
16 here in Alaska to people in Washington, D.C., and  
17 Denver, and frankly a bunch of those folks, you know,  
18 don't understand very well. I will talk to Durand and  
19 Ann when I get back to see what flexibility we have,  
20 but, again, from what we're hearing is that our options  
21 and flexibility are not what they were in the past and  
22 we're basically being told we've got to do this way,  
23 period, we don't have those options.

24

25 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, per diem's a  
26 separate issue.

27

28 MR. KRON: It's connected. They are  
29 directly connected.

30

31 CHAIRMAN QUINN: The guy's got to get  
32 to Nome before he gets per diem. If he don't get to  
33 Nome he ain't getting it, right?

34

35 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. And, again, what  
36 I was trying to explain is that essentially the per  
37 diem and the travel arrangements are connected  
38 direction in this electronic system. And to the extent  
39 that we deviate from what's in the electronic system,  
40 that's where we get into problems, that's why we need  
41 those changes.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, are you telling  
44 me that a guy who doesn't get on his plane because of  
45 weather might still get a per diem check?

46

47 MR. KRON: No.

48

49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. So it's  
50 separated enough that you know whether the guy gets

1 here or not and you know whether he's going to get a  
2 check or not?

3

4 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. I distributed  
5 checks this morning and those checks went to the people  
6 that are here.

7

8 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, now, you're  
9 making me think that separation doesn't occur and, I  
10 mean, you've got control of the checks, why don't you  
11 have control of the travel arrangements?

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MR. KRON: I have control of the  
16 checks, given that they were mailed from Denver to  
17 Anchorage and Durand gave them to me yesterday morning  
18 and my responsibility is to provide them to the people  
19 around the table here from outside of Nome and they had  
20 to sign that they received them. That's the control I  
21 have.

22

23 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right.

24

25 MR. KRON: Very limited.

26

27 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, I'll bet.....

28

29 MR. KRON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN QUINN: .....Durand can make a  
32 phone call to ERA and Bering Air and say, Tony Keyes  
33 has authorization to travel to Nome on this date on  
34 whichever flight he gets on this date; if he doesn't  
35 get on Bering Air then Bering Air ain't going to bill  
36 you for the flight. Okay, I'm probably going too far.  
37 But you guys can play with this system enough to make  
38 it work a little better. I'm not going to accept the  
39 answer that, you know -- after you just told me you got  
40 checks in your hand, you lost all credibility at that  
41 point with your statement, and you guys can play with  
42 this thing and make it work.

43

44 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Peter.

47

48 MR. BUCK: First of all I'd like to  
49 thank Alex Nick for the coordination that he has been  
50 doing for our organization, he followed Barb Armstrong,

1 and he's doing a good job and he's always asked me  
2 which airline I want to fly with. And the people in  
3 this region fly all over this Nome and to the villages  
4 and they do have preferences for airlines, they have  
5 preferences for who they want to fly, so we have to  
6 keep that in mind if you're going to send one of the  
7 Council members, ask him which airline he'd rather fly  
8 with.

9

10 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, that kind of  
11 goes against what I was just saying.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

16

17 MR. KRON: I need to work on getting  
18 some credibility back here.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: It's an uphill battle.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MR. KRON: But, again, the request --  
27 basically the request and what Alex was conveying was  
28 that if Anthony, again, cannot make his flight, weather  
29 or whatever, basically Durand has the capability to  
30 make changes to get on the next flight, get him on the  
31 next day, you know, and, again, I understand telephone  
32 communications are a problem in this whole mix, but  
33 basically what we need is for Durand to make the  
34 changes in the electronic system to get Anthony from  
35 Wales to Nome. And we're going to do all we can to  
36 make that happen, but we've got to be working through  
37 that system that they imposed on us for the travel  
38 process.

39

40 So that's the request.

41

42 Anyway, when people have various kinds  
43 of problems, we just need them to call Alex, you know,  
44 or call Durand or Ann and we'll do all we can to make  
45 it happen.

46

47 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, Alex, I'm going  
48 to guess that you have a little better understanding of  
49 this problem than people who live in Anchorage and so  
50 we'll just hope that you can work with Durand to

1 increase the options available to any one member to get  
2 here.

3

4 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
5 Council. I do the best I can to make your travel  
6 arrangements. And we make the travel arrangements to  
7 assure that there is room for you to travel far in  
8 advance. Unfortunately sometimes, you know, no matter  
9 how we try there's some little problems to the system,  
10 and from -- you know sometimes there will be -- like in  
11 YK, for example, there would be some problem that the  
12 system could not recognize. One time YK RACs Chairman  
13 was stuck in the airport because he did not have a  
14 ticket and it was not our fault it was the system's  
15 fault that made that happen.

16

17 Anyway, what we're talking about here  
18 is that everything is probably going to be handled  
19 electronically and when the system don't recognize like  
20 -- what was it Peter Buck mentioned, that you should  
21 have flexibility to switch to another airline. Some of  
22 those airlines are not even in the system, computer  
23 system, and if they're not in the computer system then  
24 I also would have problem working with our travel  
25 agency. So it's not easy on our part sometimes and  
26 it's very difficult especially when travel changes are  
27 occurring in some areas, like this area for example.

28

29 I wanted to mention that.

30

31 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah, I'm not  
32 remembering all my aviation stuff either. These guys  
33 don't like maybes they want confirmed reservations with  
34 money in their bank accounts so what I'm arguing for  
35 isn't 100 percent achievable anyway. My credibility's  
36 now suffering.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Tony.

41

42 MR. KEYES: I have another suggestion,  
43 if you guys might bear with me, being a RAC member is,  
44 number 1 a good thing for your village; number 2 is  
45 trying to get your body into Nome so that you can go to  
46 a meeting, but if you cannot make it to a meeting, if  
47 you cannot jump on the plane, would it still be okay to  
48 do it telephonically?

49

50 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Keyes.

1 The answer is yes. And we do that at a number of the  
2 meetings when people are just unable to come.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 MR. KEYES: I wanted to bring that up  
7 so that everybody else would, you know, will get to  
8 know what could happen and what you can do if you are  
9 stranded in the village.

10

11 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

12

13 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Can I move on?

14

15 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah, that's exactly  
16 what I was going to say, Alex, keep going.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. NICK: Okay. The next one is  
21 travel vouchers.

22

23 The US Fish and Wildlife Service  
24 nationwide is preparing to initiate new software for  
25 the Federal financial business management system at the  
26 start of fiscal year 2012, beginning from October 1,  
27 2011, which will extend time when OSM cannot make  
28 purchases or payments. There are two ways that this  
29 might affect you directly.

30

31 One, members who make a last minute  
32 decision to attend a Council meeting may not receive a  
33 travel advance; and, two;

34

35 Travel vouchers for the fall 2011  
36 Council meetings will be delayed.

37

38 And what I want to add is it's my  
39 understanding that the checks and reimbursements will  
40 no longer be mailed directly to Council members  
41 addresses, all checks will be sent to OSM and then on  
42 to the Council members addresses from now on, beginning  
43 from this meeting.

44

45 And what I want to stress at this point  
46 is I've mentioned to you before that when you return,  
47 you need to let me know what day and what time of the  
48 day you return so that I could contact Durand Tyler,  
49 who is the travel guy for OSM and he would figure out  
50 how much per diem you would get upon your return. If

1 you are weatherbound, for example, you know, you may  
2 let me know later when you arrive back home. But as  
3 soon as you return you need to let me know and also  
4 send you travel receipts, like taxi cab receipts to me  
5 or to Durand by fax so that those will be attached to  
6 your travel voucher for reimbursement.

7

8 Peter, you had a comment.

9

10 MR. MARTIN: Yeah, I was just going to  
11 comment doesn't it seem like it doesn't have to be  
12 direct to you, that if we have the phone numbers for  
13 Durand and Ann, couldn't we just give them a call and  
14 say when we made it home?

15

16 MR. NICK: Yeah. Yeah, either me or  
17 Durand.

18

19 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Tony.

20

21 MR. KEYES: What you didn't really  
22 clarify on getting reimbursements back, your  
23 reimbursements will be to and for airport or to your  
24 location, your location back to the airport?

25

26 MR. NICK: Yeah, thank you, Tony. I  
27 forgot to mention that when you return -- rather when  
28 you leave your residence, when you are traveling to  
29 these meetings, that's the time you begin your travel  
30 until the time you return to your residence rather than  
31 on your way home.

32

33 MR. KRON: Just some followup. Again,  
34 what we're looking at, this next fall, and basically  
35 Alex will be working with Durand, probably in July, in  
36 the middle of the summer, to get all the arrangements  
37 for the meeting, to figure out where you're going to  
38 meet, to arrange for the payment of the meeting place,  
39 for the hotel rooms, the airplane tickets, everything  
40 will probably have to be done in July. And what we're  
41 looking at is right around the change of the fiscal  
42 year, you know, and I don't have the exact dates when  
43 they're going to freeze up the system, but pretty much  
44 most of September and a good share of October, we won't  
45 be able to do anything so we've got to get everything  
46 done in advance and then when they get the system back  
47 up, at that point, then they'll start sending out the  
48 checks for the vouchers, you know, the closeout per  
49 diem checks for any taxi cabs and the additional per  
50 diem amounts.

1                   So, again, we're just letting you know  
2 that this is happening and it's governmentwide, it's  
3 not just us in Alaska. It's, you know, the Fish and  
4 Wildlife Service and I believe the Federal government  
5 nationwide. And it's going to impact us, it's going to  
6 happen right during our Council meeting window next  
7 fall and we just wanted to let people know in advance.

8  
9                   So we're going to be planning early for  
10 next fall's meeting and then, again, the final payment  
11 checks going out to all the members will be later than  
12 normal, it probably won't be until the end of October,  
13 for example.

14  
15                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16  
17                   MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

18  
19                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Peter.

20  
21                   MR. BUCK: I have another question,  
22 maybe you know the answer or not, I don't know. But  
23 what is it, one-fourth of our per diem is not delivered  
24 to us until we get to the village, I was wondering, why  
25 is that?

26  
27                   MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Mr. Buck. When  
28 you receive your per diem advance, like for this  
29 meeting, you receive 75 percent of your per diem,  
30 that's the estimated per diem that, you know, assuming  
31 that your meeting will go through tomorrow. Now,  
32 because we might be done early you might end up -- when  
33 you return home earlier you might end up owing  
34 government some money so that the money that's supposed  
35 to come back to you, which is 25 percent of your per  
36 diem that you receive, plus maybe a little more than  
37 that might be deducted from your next advance; that's  
38 the way it works.

39  
40                   It's important when you return to let  
41 us know what time you make it home so that we'll figure  
42 out your reimbursement.

43  
44                   Does that answer your question, Mr.  
45 Buck?

46  
47                   MR. BUCK: I guess so.

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. I'm going  
50 to kind of move things along here. Let's go on to No.

1 2 here, the Secretarial Program Review.

2

3

Tom.

4

5 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Again, Tom Kron,  
6 from OSM. The first item under two is a letter from  
7 the Secretary to the Federal Subsistence Board Chair,  
8 Tim Towarak, that's on Page 61, it is there for your  
9 reference.

10

11 Within that letter is a list of a lot  
12 of items that the Secretary wants Tim and the Federal  
13 Board to work on. And all the items from B on down to  
14 -- actually 2B all the way down through 3 are items  
15 that essentially the Board and Tim are working on at  
16 the request of the Secretary. And, again, as I  
17 mentioned earlier, the Federal Subsistence Board and  
18 Tim are looking for your input along with the input  
19 from all the other Councils, the other nine Councils on  
20 how they should proceed on some of these items.

21

22 The first item, again, you can look at  
23 the letter to Chairman Towarak there, but, again, the  
24 items under B and on down through 3 are all pieces  
25 within that and expansions of that.

26

27 So I'm going to go ahead and move right  
28 down to Bi, expansion of the Board to include two new  
29 members representing rural Alaskan subsistence users.

30

31 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, okay.

32

33 MR. KRON: And I've got a news release  
34 here and a briefing and I'm going to pass them around.

35

36 CHAIRMAN QUINN: He's talking about  
37 this here.

38

39 MR. KRON: This was just announced,  
40 I'll give these to Alex -- the way the Federal system  
41 works, again, the Secretary indicated an interest in  
42 doing this, but the way it has to be accomplished is  
43 through a Proposed Rule, it's called. And the Proposed  
44 Rule was entered into the Federal Register on Friday,  
45 last Friday, so just recently, and it's open for  
46 comment for 60 days and at all of the Regional Council  
47 meetings, and, here, today, we'd like to ask you what  
48 you think about doing this. And I'll briefly, while  
49 Alex is passing these out, I think many of you, if not  
50 all of you have already heard of this, but I'll just

1 give you a brief overview of the situation.

2

3                   The Assistant to the Secretary of  
4 Interior for Alaska, Pat Pourchot, worked with OSM to  
5 develop a Proposed Rule to make this change. The  
6 Proposed Rule was published on Friday, last Friday,  
7 with a 60 day public comment period. The Board will  
8 review the public comments at its public meetings on  
9 May 3rd, 2011; this coming May 3rd, and provide its  
10 recommendations to the Secretaries, the Secretaries of  
11 Agriculture and Interior will make the final  
12 determination on whether or how this change is to be  
13 made. This proposed change would expand the Board to  
14 include two new members. Additional changes to the  
15 regulations are also proposed to clarify the  
16 designation of alternates for Federal agency members  
17 and to increase the size of the quorum to take into  
18 account the two new members. The Federal Subsistence  
19 Board, acting for the Secretaries, is seeking comments  
20 on this proposed regulatory change to expand the Board  
21 to include two public members representing rural  
22 Alaskan subsistence users.

23

24                   And, again, this is the opportunity for  
25 the Regional Councils and this Regional Council to  
26 weigh in with their thoughts as to this proposed  
27 expansion of the Federal Subsistence Board. Do you  
28 think it's a good idea? Do you think it's a bad idea?  
29 Do you have ideas as to how to change it? And I'll  
30 leave it at that, but we are definitely seeking -- the  
31 Federal Board and Tim are seeking your perspective on  
32 this idea.

33

34                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, so I see legal  
37 writing here to change the Federal regulations so that  
38 the voting members of the Board are yada-yada, two  
39 public members representing rural Alaska subsistence  
40 users to be appointed by the two Secretaries. But  
41 other than that you don't have any language as to how  
42 to select those two members.

43

44                   MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. That is correct.  
45 The proposed regulation says nothing about the  
46 selection process for the two members. It only adds  
47 language and increases the quorum. Essentially that'll  
48 be up to the Secretaries.

49

50                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: So everybody just gets  
2 to throw names in the hat and the Secretaries get to  
3 choose?

4  
5 MR. KRON: Again, as we discussed  
6 earlier, you all were appointed by the Secretary and,  
7 again, the Secretary would be appointing these two  
8 additional Board members, should this process move  
9 forward.

10  
11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12  
13 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

16  
17 MR. BUCK: I would like to have the RAC  
18 members -- if the Secretary has a list of people that  
19 he's thinking about appointing, the RAC members should  
20 have that list and the Federal Subsistence Board so  
21 that the recommendations are -- they are given a chance  
22 to make recommendations on the people nominated.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah, I'm aware of  
27 that. You know, all the other members are fairly  
28 specifically mentioned as to who they are and how you  
29 qualify for the membership on the Board. This one's a  
30 little more gray and it looks like a good opportunity  
31 for everybody to argue over who to select on there.  
32 Everybody's going to want their favorite and there's  
33 going to be a lot of unhappy people when it's all said  
34 and done, I'm thinking.

35  
36 MR. KEYES: Better take your guns.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah.

39  
40 (Laughter)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Anybody else want to  
43 say anything -- okay, well, Tom, you had your hand up  
44 first.

45  
46 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chair, again, just  
47 for clarification. All we're talking about at this  
48 point is whether or not they should do it, whether or  
49 not they should add two public members to represent  
50 rural Alaskans. Again, the Federal Board's going to

1 meet in May and review comments from this Council, the  
2 other Councils, any public members or agencies that  
3 want to weigh in and then they, in turn, will pass on  
4 their recommendation to the Secretaries. If this is  
5 approved and adopted, at that point then I would assume  
6 that the Secretary would initiate a request for names  
7 of people that are interested, those names would be  
8 considered and then there would be a selection that  
9 would occur later on down the road.

10

11 The only thing we've got in front of us  
12 right now is just the ability to add two members.

13

14 And, again, the Board is asking  
15 specifically for your input and they're going to  
16 consider that input at the early May meeting.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Just a minute Peter.

23

24 MR. SMITH: Go ahead.

25

26 MR. BUCK: I have another comment on  
27 the third paragraph down for the Federal Subsistence  
28 Board, and it says two public members representing  
29 rural Alaska subsistence users; why couldn't it be two  
30 subsistence members representing rural Alaska  
31 subsistence users?

32

33 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, that's not what  
34 they stuck in there so we're stuck with what's written  
35 there. Two public members to represent -- I think the  
36 assumption is that they will be subsistence users, that  
37 was the whole point of the request by AFN, if I  
38 remember right -- okay, Tom.

39

40 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I think  
41 this is the exact terminology that was in the letter  
42 from the Secretary, that was the way it was worded  
43 there, it was carried over into the Proposed Rule.  
44 And, you know, it is what it is, but it's direction  
45 coming down from the Secretary. The Secretary will  
46 ultimately be making the call on this.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Tim.

1 MR. SMITH: Are you addressing a motion  
2 to support this proposal?

3  
4 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yes, I am, and if I  
5 remember correctly I got some communication from  
6 Barbara and I believe somebody from each RAC will be at  
7 this May meeting; is that correct?

8  
9 MR. KRON: (Nods affirmatively)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN QUINN: So in addition to us  
12 doing a motion and whatever, somebody's going to get  
13 some money to go to this meeting and participate in  
14 this as well.

15  
16 MR. SMITH: Okay, well, Tim Smith, and  
17 I move that the Council support the recommendation to  
18 put two citizen members on the Federal Subsistence  
19 Board.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, so moved, thank  
22 you, Tim.

23  
24 MR. KEYES: I will second that.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, second,  
27 Tony. Discussion.

28  
29 MR. SMITH: I don't see how it could  
30 hurt, you know, it's totally going to be beneficial to  
31 have people, additional people who aren't Federal  
32 employees speaking for subsistence users.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Sure.

35  
36 MR. SMITH: It's not going to -- you  
37 know, they're not going to have a majority vote or  
38 anything, it won't make a profound difference but it  
39 certainly can't hurt. I don't see any reason not to  
40 support it.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Tom, will there be  
43 opportunity at the Board meeting to discuss rewording  
44 this language? I guess where I'm going is I'd like to  
45 see something a little more specific. Right now the  
46 way it's worded we could get two members from  
47 Ninilchik, we could get two members from Barrow or, you  
48 know, I mean like I said the others are specific, you  
49 know, we've got a Park Service person so hopefully  
50 they're knowledge about Park Service and we have a BLM

1 person, well, you know, what are going to end up with  
2 here, two guys who live in Ninilchik and haven't paid  
3 attention to Seward Peninsula issues for their whole  
4 life or two guys that live in Barrow and haven't paid  
5 attention to Ninilchik issues their whole lives, you  
6 know, and I guess so is there opportunity to play with  
7 the wording?

8

9

Okay, Tom.

10

11 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Again, this is a  
12 Proposed Rule, it's proposed wording. And, I guess,  
13 I'm sure, you know, across the 10 Regional Councils and  
14 with public there will be discussion about how to make  
15 adjustments to this wording. But, again, the concept  
16 is to add two additional members of the public. The  
17 Secretary was real specific in the words that he chose  
18 and those have been carried over here, but I'm sure  
19 there will be discussion and opportunity, you know, the  
20 intent -- the plan is that each Regional Council Chair  
21 would be able to be there at the meeting to participate  
22 in that discussion and the decision to explain how  
23 their discussion at the Regional Council, you know,  
24 leading up to that Regional Council's recommendation.  
25 So, you know, I think the opportunity is there.

26

27

CHAIRMAN QUINN: Sandy.

28

29

30 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you for calling  
31 on me and letting me jump into the conversation.

31

32

33 I would stress the point that this is  
34 your Council's opportunity to comment on this, and I  
35 think you can do that in any number of ways.

35

36

37 When the May meeting comes about, your  
38 Council will have met, your Council will have put on  
39 the record whatever you do, and that's all your  
40 representative can really speak to because they're  
41 there representing the Council. So a for example, and  
42 I do not want to put words in your mouth, or anyone's  
43 mouth, but if you thought there should be some words  
44 added to this Proposed Rule, this is really a time, as  
45 a Council, to make that suggestion or maybe multiple  
46 suggestions.

46

47

48 You could also -- so I'm just kind of  
49 thinking out loud, but you might also just have several  
50 things that you're concerned about, you know, like a  
bullet list, and your Council could offer; here's a

1 list of our concerns. So you can be real specific.  
2 You can be general. You can really do anything you  
3 want. But as a Council this is your moment on this  
4 topic. And so I would just really stress that and  
5 encourage you to put on the record, you know, whatever  
6 you all think.

7

8 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Tom.

9

10 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. And, again, just  
11 to follow up on what Sandy said, you know, just like  
12 when you weigh in on fish proposals or wildlife  
13 proposals, you know, the proposed regulatory language,  
14 you change, you add sentences, you change words to make  
15 them make more sense to you; this is your opportunity  
16 to do that and Sandy's exactly right, you know, feel  
17 free, if you think this should be changed, this is the  
18 place to do it and your Chair will be there to discuss  
19 the rationale with the Board.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Tony.

24

25 MR. KEYES: Okay. What I came up with  
26 after reading that, two public members representing  
27 rural Alaskan subsistence users to be appointed by the  
28 Secretary -- what I came up with was -- adding two  
29 elderly Alaskan subsistence users that could be  
30 appointed by the Secretary.

31

32 CHAIRMAN QUINN: You got to define  
33 elderly.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MR. KEYES: Elders, such as 65 and  
38 older. If we have elders attending they'll pull out a  
39 lot of knowledge that we do not see in our papers that  
40 we might have missed.

41

42 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Peter.

43

44 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman. State of  
45 Alaska, Regional Council have two members, which is  
46 appointed by our council, the IRA Council at this time.  
47 And I think it's there -- this idea we'll work for  
48 subsistence -- Federal Subsistence Advisory Board too.

49

50 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Peter.

1 MR. BUCK: The way I see it, the  
2 Secretary's appointing two people, subsistence users,  
3 and we have nothing to say about it. And I'd like the  
4 RAC committees to get together with a list of names,  
5 submit it to the Chairman of the Board with those two  
6 recommendations, make the recommendation to the -- for  
7 the appointment. That's a better process than what I  
8 see here.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, so, you know, if  
11 they approve this language, nothing's going to happen  
12 until it all goes through the process and the language  
13 gets approved.....

14  
15 MR. KRON: Yep.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN QUINN: .....then we'll start  
18 picking names.

19  
20 MR. KRON: Yep.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. So for the  
23 time being, you know, we're just going to approve the  
24 language that goes into the Federal Register for this  
25 new change, however, according to Sandy we could be a  
26 little more picky or offer our own suggestions at this  
27 time.

28  
29 Do you have any desire to alter your  
30 motion?

31  
32 MR. SMITH: Well, I think this would  
33 just be discussion related to the motion will support  
34 it. But these are the considerations that we might  
35 want to see considered by the Secretary. It looks like  
36 the Secretary's not going to relinquish his discretion  
37 in appointing. He may want to take our wishes into  
38 account.

39  
40 I think that the criteria used for  
41 selecting Regional Advisory Council members would be  
42 good to use in these selections too. I think that  
43 knowledge of the resources, and knowledge of the uses  
44 of the resources should be the most important criteria  
45 used in selection.

46  
47 I think Peter's suggestion is going to  
48 be kind of tough because, you know, there's going to be  
49 two people selected for the whole state, chances are we  
50 won't know them. I mean how would we -- how would we

1 know if they get a couple guys from Southeastern or  
2 from, you know, way up the Yukon or something, we won't  
3 know anything about them, I don't know how we could we  
4 even make a call on that.

5

6 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yes, Peter.

9

10 MR. BUCK: I also see that the  
11 subsistence resources all over Alaska are different and  
12 then if you're going to choose two people out of all of  
13 Alaska you're going to be missing out on a lot of  
14 resources that should be considered, so that kind of --  
15 that's what I think.

16

17 CHAIRMAN QUINN: It sounds like a big  
18 job because, you know, the Park Service guy, well, or  
19 girl, their knowledge is like I said Parks. And the  
20 BLM guy's knowledge is BLM. But these two people,  
21 what's their knowledge going to be other than the small  
22 area of the world, or the state that they've lived in  
23 most of their life, yet, they're thrust into a  
24 decision-making process that truthfully requires a lot  
25 of knowledge. I'm a little disappointed with the  
26 wording and I could certainly come up with all kinds of  
27 suggestions to change it but in the long-run I'm not  
28 sure anything would be accomplished myself.

29

30 I can't imagine being one of those guys  
31 and then after a meeting having half the people in the  
32 state mad at you.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I mean I made the  
37 motion, I'm not sure that I really feel that strongly  
38 that it's a good thing. I think it's going to be  
39 impossible to select two people that will really be  
40 able to add an awful lot to the Council -- to the  
41 process, but I mean I don't see how it would hurt  
42 anything.

43

44 CHAIRMAN QUINN: No, it's not going to  
45 -- well, I don't know it depends on your perspective.

46

47 All right, so we've got a motion on the  
48 floor with a second to support this idea and is there  
49 any more discussion.

50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Seeing -- hearing  
4 none, if somebody would like to call the question.  
5  
6 MR. MARTIN: Question.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. All those in  
9 favor of the motion to support the current language  
10 shown before us on this new change say aye.  
11  
12 IN UNISON: Aye.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN QUINN: And any opposed.  
15  
16 (No opposing votes)  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Motion carries.  
19 You're kind of recording this Tom since Alex went  
20 somewhere?  
21  
22 MR. KRON: Yes, Mr. Chair. Again,  
23 Tina's got every word, even our uhs.  
24  
25 (Laughter)  
26  
27 MR. KRON: So she's got it all. And,  
28 again, I will put together a summary of what I heard,  
29 basically you're supporting the current language and I  
30 heard in addition to that, in terms of that discussion  
31 I heard discussion about the need to possibly consider  
32 elderly Alaska subsistence users, knowledge of the  
33 subsistence resources, knowledge of subsistence as  
34 items as items that need part of the discussion.  
35  
36 (Council nods affirmatively)  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I saw a thumb's up. I  
39 think I'm gaining some credibility back here.  
40  
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
42  
43 (Laughter)  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN QUINN: You can tell Pete he  
46 lost all his credibility by not being here too.  
47  
48 (Laughter)  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN QUINN: And I still haven't

1 met Polly, I'm upset with that.

2

3 Oh, well, okay, so does that cover both  
4 items under B or do you need to go through -- oh  
5 there's more than -- oh, heck, what's this next one,  
6 ii?

7

8 MR. KRON: Okay, Mr. Chair, and I guess  
9 would refer -- if people can kind of just open up to  
10 Pages 78 to 80. We realized there was a lot of stuff  
11 here and we thought it'd be helpful to kind of just lay  
12 it out in the table that people could look at as we go  
13 through.

14

15 Again, ii, is just an informational  
16 issue for the Councils. We wanted to just let you know  
17 about it. There's some things -- you know, as you know  
18 the Councils receive deference on the take issue but  
19 there are other things out there like customary and  
20 traditional use determinations, rural, in-season  
21 management issues that have not been granted that  
22 deference. And the Secretary has asked the Board to  
23 look at those issues very carefully and see to what  
24 extent they can also provide deference to the Council  
25 on those other three issues. So the Board is looking  
26 at that right now, trying to see what they can do to  
27 give more deference to the Regional Councils.

28

29 And, again, I just wanted to point that  
30 out as another issue that the Board is looking at.

31

32 So that's ii. But, again, the Board is  
33 not asking for, you know, any recommendation or just  
34 discussion under that issue, but they wanted to let you  
35 know.

36

37 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

38

39 MR. KRON: iii is an action item  
40 though, we definitely want to hear your input on --  
41 they want to hear your input on iii.

42

43 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, let's move  
44 on to iii then.

45

46 MR. KRON: Okay. iii. Memorandum of  
47 Understanding. Again, there's a briefing on Page 65,  
48 the actual Memorandum of Understanding is on Page 67.  
49 And, again this is an opportunity the Board,  
50 specifically, and Tim would like to have your

1 perspective on the MOU. And, again, I'm not sure if --  
2 if people haven't read it before, I'm sure everybody's  
3 probably heard about it, but it might make some sense  
4 if you haven't actually read it, to take a short break  
5 and give people a chance to read it before we talk  
6 about it, but it's your call.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, I'm willing to  
9 do that but I ain't letting you have a break until  
10 3:30, so can we skip iii and move on to iv?

11  
12 MR. KRON: We can do that.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN QUINN: And do you want input  
15 from Councils on that?

16  
17 MR. KRON: Well, we want -- the Board  
18 is seeking -- it's not me -- the Board is seeking your  
19 input on iii and also on iv; I think iv might be a  
20 little bit quicker. Do you want me to talk about iv?

21  
22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Yeah, talk about iv,  
23 and we'll try and quick comment on that.

24  
25 MR. KRON: Okay, very quickly, and  
26 we're on to iv, customary and traditional use  
27 determinations. And, again, this is an opportunity for  
28 the Regional Advisory Councils to weigh in on, at a  
29 very general level, before the Federal Subsistence  
30 Board looks at regulatory changes. It, first, wants to  
31 assess if regulatory changes are even needed. To date  
32 more than 300 C&T determinations have been done. The  
33 decision on C&T has been affirmed by the courts when  
34 they have been challenged. At this point the Federal  
35 Subsistence Board is interested in what the Regional  
36 Advisory Councils think about the existing process for  
37 C&Ts and as so, is asking two very general questions.

38  
39 Is the current process working for you?

40  
41 If not, how or what would you change?

42  
43 And, again, I've been directed to take  
44 very good notes of your discussion and report. And,  
45 again, if you've got specific comments or concerns  
46 about the customary and traditional use determination  
47 process, we would very much like to hear them.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, does anybody  
50 have comments on C&T use determinations? I know we've

1 gone over some of this in the past, Helen Armstrong's  
2 reviewed it.

3

4 MR. KRON: Yep.

5

6 CHAIRMAN QUINN: But some members  
7 weren't here for that.

8

9 Did you want to say something?

10

11 MR. SMITH: Yeah. I've been involved  
12 in C&T findings for -- on the State level, I haven't  
13 been with the Federal level for muskoxen and for chum  
14 salmon. And my concern with the process is it's way  
15 too arbitrary. I'd like to see better guidelines for  
16 establishing C&T findings. And I realize how difficult  
17 that would be to produce. But I'm just real unha --  
18 I'm doubtful with the way things are done. We went  
19 through two C&T findings for muskoxen, the first time  
20 the Board found no C&T, and the second time they found  
21 for C&T with the same data. You know, I presented  
22 information at both of those hearings, gave them the  
23 same historical information in both cases and they did  
24 a 180 degrees opposite. So, to me, it's way too  
25 arbitrary, depends on who's on the Board, and so there  
26 needs to be a better way to do it, I think, a much more  
27 objective way to do it.

28

29 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. What.....

30

31 REPORTER: Wait. Tom. Tom.

32

33 MR. KRON: .....Alex is.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: You turned your mic  
36 off, turn it on.

37

38 MR. KRON: Okay. Mr. Chair. What Alex  
39 is passing out is a list of the eight factors that is  
40 used in the Federal Subsistence Program, and these are  
41 the things that Helen Armstrong was referencing in the  
42 C&T analysis that she has done for this Council. And  
43 it basically goes through, you know, the process, that  
44 you see any time there's a proposal to change or to add  
45 a C&T determination, this is the framework that is used  
46 on the Federal side.

47

48 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

49

50 MR. SMITH: This looks almost exactly

1 the same as the one used by the State but it still is  
2 pretty arbitrary.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, we -- you know  
5 it's a process that's -- well, how do I say it, it's a  
6 dynamic process, it doesn't end, and things change. I  
7 believe, just in my, whatever number of years of  
8 participation, we've actually changed some C&T  
9 determinations, you know, it's more of a regional thing  
10 at the Federal level, or location, than it is at the  
11 State -- well, I don't know, but anyway, you know, and  
12 we certainly have opportunities to change them again in  
13 the future if we see or if anyone sees that use  
14 patterns have changed. I certainly support that. I  
15 don't want it to be a static thing where, because you  
16 had it in the past you have it forever and because you  
17 didn't have it in the past you're never going to have  
18 it.

19  
20 So the Federal system seems to allow a  
21 fair amount of opportunity for change as things change.

22  
23 Did you want to say something, Tom?

24  
25 MR. KRON: No, thanks.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I've been satisfied  
28 with the process.

29  
30 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Peter.

33  
34 MR. BUCK: The one customary and  
35 traditional use that we didn't have in this area was  
36 the muskox until -- until it was introduced and then  
37 now with this process it's been established where we do  
38 have C&T for muskox now since we've had it for what,  
39 not very long now for the muskox, but we never did have  
40 the C&T for muskox before.

41  
42 But I think the C&T was still there.  
43 The families in the region shared with each other and  
44 they took game and they took a certain -- it didn't  
45 matter what kind of game it is, they divide it up  
46 between each other so they had their own C&T. And C&T,  
47 even though we get new species, the C&T will still be  
48 there.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Does that satisfy your

1 need for Council input.

2

3 MR. KRON: If you're satisfied, I'm  
4 satisfied Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Well, I  
7 can certainly see Tim's comments being -- I'd say a  
8 little more valid in areas where things change faster,  
9 there's more people involved, there's also  
10 determinations of rural and non-rural involved and  
11 having more specific guidelines could be of assistance.  
12 From my experience it's worked fairly satisfactory out  
13 here. We've got plenty of information that people in  
14 -- we got fewer people involved altogether over a large  
15 -- pretty large area.

16

17 MR. SMITH: My objection was mostly on  
18 the arbitrary nature of it, you know, I mean it's --  
19 you look at the information but there's really no ruler  
20 to use to decide whether it -- you know, like I said  
21 with muskoxen, the first time it was no finding of C&T  
22 and the second time it was a finding -- a positive  
23 finding of C&T with the same information, the same  
24 historical information. It seems like the process  
25 should be a little more objective than that, but I  
26 don't really have a good way of doing that either. I  
27 know it's really difficult to decide, you know,  
28 particularly with an introduced species like muskoxen.

29

30 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. So where's  
31 my watch, well, it's almost 3:30, so we'll take our  
32 break, about 10 minutes, and come back -- oh, so  
33 everybody's supposed to, if you can read the Memorandum  
34 of Understanding and then we'll give you some comment  
35 on that.

36

37 (Off record)

38

39 (On record)

40

41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I'm going to call this  
42 back to order. So we're going to do the Memorandum of  
43 Understanding. Are you going to give us any more, I  
44 guess.

45

46 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Just real  
47 briefly. And I'll touch on some of the key points  
48 there in the briefing that's on Page 65.

49

50 The Federal Subsistence Board is

1 seeking input from all 10 Regional Councils on the MOU  
2 during this current cycle, and, again, you guys are  
3 first in the 10 cycle meeting this winter.

4  
5                   When the Federal Subsistence Program  
6 expanded into subsistence fishery management in 1999,  
7 both Federal and State entities believed that the MOU  
8 would help with the coordination of subsistence  
9 management between Federal and State programs. As a  
10 result an MOA, a Memorandum of Agreement was negotiated  
11 between the State and Federal team that included  
12 Regional Advisory Council representatives. It was  
13 initiated by all parties in April 2000.

14  
15                   In 2008 the MOU, which is based on the  
16 MOA was developed by a team of State and Federal  
17 officials over a period of about one year and was  
18 signed in 2008. FACA, or the Federal Advisory  
19 Committee Act concerns precluded RAC Members from being  
20 on the development team for that process, based on the  
21 Solicitor's office recommendations.

22  
23                   The purpose of the MOU is to provide a  
24 foundation and direction for coordinated inter-agency  
25 fish and wildlife management for subsistence uses on  
26 Federal lands, while allowing Federal and State  
27 agencies to continue to act in accordance with their  
28 representative statute authorities.

29  
30                   And down to key points.

31  
32                   The MOU helps to address communication  
33 and coordination between State and Federal governments.

34  
35                   Several sections in Title VIII  
36 expressly require the Secretaries to communicate and  
37 coordinate and consult with the State representatives.

38  
39                   The MOU was carefully reviewed by the  
40 Federal team and legal counsel to ensure that the  
41 provisions of Federal law and the Board's obligations  
42 to rural residents as defined in Title VIII of ANILCA  
43 continue to be maintained.

44  
45                   The body of the MOU contains several  
46 references to State law and has prompted some observers  
47 to express concern that the signing -- that in signing  
48 the MOU the Board undermined its obligations to Title  
49 VIII to provide for a subsistence priority for rural  
50 Alaskans on Federal land.

1                   However, the Board's authority, charge  
2 and obligations to rural residents came only from Title  
3 VIII, and any other applicable Federal statutes, the  
4 MOU will not, cannot and does not change that.

5  
6                   And, again, the Federal Subsistence  
7 Board is looking for your input at this meeting. And  
8 the Federal Subsistence Board review period is open  
9 between now and May 1st, and, again, they'll be looking  
10 at your comments and deciding, you know, where to go  
11 from here.

12  
13                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14  
15                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, thank you, Tom.  
16 And hopefully everybody's just as uninformed on this as  
17 I am.

18  
19                   (Laughter)

20  
21                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: I don't know. Tom  
22 there used to be a seat at the table for a -- a non-  
23 voting seat at the table of the Subsistence Board by a  
24 State guy, I believe that's no longer the case; is that  
25 right?

26  
27                   MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. A number of  
28 years ago the State of Alaska specifically asked for a  
29 non-voting seat at the Federal Subsistence Board table.  
30 Based on a document from 1992 it's my understanding  
31 that at that point there was agreement that they should  
32 have a seat, but, again, they didn't ask for one until,  
33 I think it was about five years ago, they were granted  
34 a seat at the table, essentially a -- basically the  
35 Chair that they've occupied has moved around a little  
36 bit. The way things are set up and then Mr. Buck saw  
37 it and Tim saw it there in Anchorage, essentially  
38 you've got the Federal Board essentially where your  
39 table is, Regional Councils on either side, and the  
40 State essentially was to my left right over here on  
41 this side, like where Tina's sitting, that's the way  
42 things are arranged, but essentially it's the -- the  
43 State status in that process is, you know, essentially  
44 they're a non-voting member but they can provide input.  
45 But once the Board gets into deliberations, Regional  
46 Council Chairs or the State, you know, can ask to be  
47 recognized, but it's up to the Board to make that call,  
48 just like it's up to you to make the call whether or  
49 not to recognize me when I put my hand up here at this  
50 meeting.

1 Mr. Chair, thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, so the seat  
4 still exists and somebody sits in it during Board  
5 meetings?

6

7 MR. KRON: That is correct. And I  
8 think we've got some State representatives here that  
9 have sat in one of those seats there and I don't know  
10 if they have anything else to add.

11

12 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
13 George Pappas, Fish and Game.

14

15 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

16

17 MR. PAPPAS: Normally it's the  
18 Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee. This last  
19 meeting we had Director Charlie Swanton, who is the  
20 director of the Sportfish Division because the  
21 Commissioner position, I believe, was vacant at the  
22 time.

23

24 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Peter.

27

28 MR. BUCK: When I was down at that  
29 meeting I spoke with quite a few of the RAC head Chairs  
30 and they -- they were talking about ANILCA and  
31 according to them the State doesn't completely comply  
32 with ANILCA with their policies, so that was my  
33 understanding.

34

35 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Tim.

36

37 MR. SMITH: I notice in the MOU in  
38 4(12) it does seem to accommodate what we were talking  
39 about earlier, about using the moose harvest report to  
40 gather information on subsistence users on Federal  
41 lands. That seems like that could be done under this  
42 MOU.

43

44 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, I don't know,  
45 you're going to have to deal with a bunch of State guys  
46 to get a little checkbox on a harvest ticket, despite  
47 what the Memorandum -- I guess that's a good point.

48

49 MR. SMITH: They've already agreed to  
50 it.

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I mean if we're going  
2 to have an MOU, and we got an MOU and we should all  
3 work together, but that's just our view.

4  
5 Okay, George.

6  
7 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. Good comment.  
8 I just spoke to some folks here during the lunch period  
9 and the permit, the actual statewide permitting system  
10 is going to be evaluated this spring for potential  
11 redesign of the permits, and a recommendation from this  
12 RAC could be sent through OSM to ADF&G to work  
13 something out or some ideas or recommendations; this  
14 would be a good format to voice your opinion and direct  
15 it to the State.

16  
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Would you like to make  
20 a motion.

21  
22 MR. SMITH: I move that we request that  
23 when the State harvest reports are redesigned that they  
24 look into putting a checkbox and a line for identifying  
25 that the animal was taken under Federal hunting  
26 regulations -- subsistence hunting regulations.

27  
28 MR. ENINGOWUK: Second the motion.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, second. We  
31 already discussed this at length, does anybody need to  
32 add anything.

33  
34  
35 (No comments)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Hearing none.....

38  
39 MR. SEETOT: Question.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Question called. All  
42 those in favor of the motion say aye.

43  
44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN QUINN: And all those opposed.

47  
48 (No opposing votes)

49  
50 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, so, Tom, we'd

1 like to see a recommendation from us that review of the  
2 permits involve possible checkboxes for Federal hunts  
3 since we're in effect using them in rare situations for  
4 such.

5  
6 Okay, so you need action from us at  
7 some level. Do you want an official motion and all  
8 that or can we just kind of generally say it looks  
9 okay?

10  
11 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. It's up to you.  
12 I guess we're asking for your perspective and specific  
13 comments, if you want to see changes made.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Does anybody  
16 have any specific comments to the Memorandum of  
17 Understanding? It is pretty important, I'll say, that  
18 this thing is in existence. While there's two separate  
19 entities, we don't hunt on two separate lands,  
20 theoretically, so everybody's got to come together and  
21 make things as easy both for the hunter and the manager  
22 as possible.

23

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Hearing nothing else,  
28 we're aware of the MOA -- MOU and we're satisfied with  
29 what we've seen so far I'll say.

30

31 And, of course, like all this stuff it  
32 is somewhat dynamic and in the future if we want to  
33 make comments we can do so, right?

34

35 MR. KRON: Yes, Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Are we on  
38 five now, rural determinations, and that's just  
39 informational?

40

41 MR. KRON: Yes. Another informational  
42 item. The Federal Subsistence Board is going to have a  
43 work session on April 6th to discuss rural. Again,  
44 we've just completed another decennial census. And the  
45 RAC Chairs are invited to this meeting on April 6th.  
46 They've decided that it's going to be so long and  
47 complex that they need to basically do it face to face,  
48 so they're not going to be teleconferencing people if  
49 they're unable to make it. And the Federal Subsistence  
50 Board is not preparing to make any decisions with

1 regard to the process or regulatory changes until after  
2 it's grounded in rural. You know we've got a lot of  
3 new Federal Subsistence Board members and people just  
4 want to find out about the process and how things work  
5 and what we have right now.

6

7 But, again, just for your information  
8 and, again, the Board Chairs will be invited to a  
9 meeting on April 6th.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, thank you, Tom.  
14 And then you can move on to No. 6.

15

16 MR. KRON: Okay. Mr. Chair. Executive  
17 session policy. And, again, another informational  
18 item, just want to let people know what's happened.  
19 And this was, again, something that came out of the  
20 Secretary of Interior's Review.

21

22 The Federal Subsistence Board is  
23 committed to an open and transparent public process.  
24 Towards this end an executive session summary of the  
25 Board's January 5th, 2011 meeting is included in your  
26 Regional Council books on Page 76. They basically were  
27 working on a bunch of these same issues we've been  
28 talking about at the direction of the Secretary and  
29 trying to figure out how to go on those issues but,  
30 again, they've committed to do summaries of their  
31 meetings when they meet in executive session. And,  
32 again, this is a summary of that meeting, and in the  
33 future they intend to do a summary and provide it to  
34 the Regional Councils so that people know what's  
35 happening.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, okay, I'm a  
40 little confused because locally when we have executive  
41 sessions we don't get to find out squat about what  
42 happens. But you have a nice little list of apparently  
43 the stuff that was discussed. That makes me think it  
44 wasn't really an executive session because executive  
45 sessions are supposed to be secret or something. Am I  
46 -- is my understanding of executive sessions too  
47 narrow?

48

49 Tim.

50

1 MR. SMITH: I think you're talking  
2 about executive sessions conducted by local entities  
3 under the Alaska Public Meetings Act.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I guess so.  
6

7 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I think what the  
8 situation is, is that, this is one of my pet-peeves, I  
9 think the situation is that the local organizations  
10 don't understand the requirements of the Public  
11 Meetings Act and they abuse executive sessions quite a  
12 bit.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, I see, okay.  
15

16 MR. SMITH: And, you know, executive  
17 sessions, it says right in the Act, that executive  
18 sessions are not privy -- are not a way to hide things  
19 from the public and it lays out very clear guidelines  
20 for conducting executive sessions and most  
21 organizations around here violate those routinely.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh.  
24

25 MR. SMITH: You're not supposed to be  
26 able to do things in secret. There are very, very few  
27 situations that authorize an executive session under  
28 the Alaska law. And we were talking about that last  
29 night when Alex was giving us training, is, are there  
30 any circumstances where a Regional Advisory Council can  
31 use an executive session.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, good question, and  
34 what was the end result of that discussion?

35  
36 (Laughter)

37  
38 MR. SMITH: I refer to Alex.  
39

40 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Can I kick everybody  
41 out of the room and we'll let.....

42  
43 (Laughter)

44  
45 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
46 Council. Last night we talked about there are some  
47 certain times that the RAC might consider executive  
48 session and one of the examples that we used last night  
49 was if there's concern about a RAC member or a Staff,  
50 and there would be other Staff invited and maybe others

1 who are not with the agency or whatever not invited to  
2 participate to answer some questions that a RAC may  
3 have. That's what we talked about last night a little  
4 bit.

5

6 Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, thanks.

9 Well, good, I'm glad to see that it looks like the  
10 Subsistence Board is doing things on the up and up. So  
11 next one.

12

13 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Before you move  
14 on, I wanted to explain something that the RAC members  
15 should understand, hopefully, clearly.

16

17 The reason why sometime that might  
18 become necessary is because RAC and the Staff are not  
19 allowed to go on line and talk about privacy issues,  
20 and that's probably one consideration the RAC may have  
21 in the future to go into executive session to talk  
22 about some privacy issues. Because OSM protects your  
23 -- the agency protects your privacy to a certain point  
24 so, you know, we keep it that way too, up to now.

25

26 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Number  
27 vii.

28

29 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Tribal  
30 consultation. I've got an outline of the issue and  
31 process that I need to go through and would refer you  
32 to the letter from Chairman Towarak on Page 74 that all  
33 of the Council members should have gotten.

34

35 Title VIII of the Alaska National  
36 Interest Lands Conservation Act, or ANILCA, provides a  
37 foundational role for the 10 Regional Advisory Councils  
38 in the development of regulations guiding the taking of  
39 fish and wildlife on Federal public lands in Alaska.

40

41 Deference to the Councils ensures that  
42 rural residents have a meaningful role in the  
43 management of fish and wildlife and subsistence uses as  
44 envisioned by Congress. To date because of the  
45 foundational role of the Councils in the Federal  
46 Program as well as the requirements by statutes that  
47 the Board defer to the Council recommendations, the  
48 Federal Subsistence Board has not explicitly consulted  
49 with tribes during the development of regulations.

50

1                   The Administration, by Presidential  
2 Order, has underscored the importance of tribal  
3 consultation across government. Consistent with the  
4 Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture's renewed  
5 emphasis on respectful relationships with tribes, the  
6 Federal Subsistence Board would like to enhance our  
7 government-to-government consultation with tribes. The  
8 Federal Subsistence Board is, thus, initiating steps to  
9 formally incorporate tribal consultation into the  
10 Federal Subsistence Management Program, while  
11 maintaining the established role of the Regional  
12 Advisory Councils.

13  
14                   Toward this end, tribes were invited to  
15 participate in the January 18th through 21st, 2011  
16 Federal Subsistence Board meeting. Invitations were  
17 sent to all Federally-recognized tribes in Alaska as  
18 well as ANCSA corporations. Invitations were two-fold.

19  
20                   Tribes were invited to provide comments  
21 on fisheries proposals;

22  
23                   And they were also invited to a meeting  
24 on the 21st of January to discuss development of tribal  
25 consultation protocols for the overall Federal  
26 Subsistence Management Program.

27  
28                   Each Regional Advisory Council member  
29 was also sent a letter signed by the Federal  
30 Subsistence Board Chair explaining the Board's intended  
31 process and to assure that the Councils -- and to  
32 assure the Councils of their continued vital role in  
33 the program.

34  
35                   And, again, a copy of the letter is on  
36 Page 74 of your book.

37  
38                   While the meeting on the 21st was an  
39 initial discussion session, the Board's goal is to work  
40 with tribes to develop a tribal consultation policy for  
41 the Federal Subsistence Management Program. This will  
42 need to be consistent with the Department's policies.  
43 The meeting on the 21st was generally a listening  
44 session. OSM is preparing a summary of the main points  
45 raised and that will be made widely available.  
46 Development of specific consultation mechanisms will  
47 require further meetings between the Federal  
48 Subsistence Board and tribes.

49  
50                   Main themes expressed at the first

1 session included:

2

3 Tribal traditions in the use of fish  
4 and wildlife predate Western management systems.  
5 Knowledge is passed down through the generations. We  
6 need to listen to traditional knowledge.

7

8 The Regional Advisory Councils, with  
9 all due respect, are not tribes. There is a necessity  
10 to consult meaningful, directfully with tribes.

11

12 The tribes need to be informed of  
13 program developments early on. The tribes need to  
14 partners in the process. Tribal participation in the  
15 Council process needs to be made explicit.

16

17 The current meeting window provides an  
18 opportunity for Councils to receive this update on  
19 tribal consultation and to provide initial perspectives  
20 and feedback.

21

22 And some key points.

23

24 In making this regulatory process, the  
25 Federal Board must follow the recommendations of the  
26 Regional Advisory Council process unless they are not  
27 supported by substantial evidence, violate recognized  
28 principles of fish and wildlife conservation or would  
29 be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence  
30 needs. These three aspects are specifically identified  
31 in Section .805(c) of ANILCA.

32

33 The Alaska National Interests Land  
34 Conservation Act does not provide rights to tribes for  
35 the subsistence taking of wildlife, fish and shellfish,  
36 however, because tribal members are affected by  
37 subsistence fishing, hunting and trapping regulations,  
38 the Secretaries, through the Board, will provide  
39 Federally-recognized tribes and Alaska Native  
40 Corporations an opportunity to consult.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Peter.

47

48 MR. BUCK: During that last day of the  
49 meeting in Fairbanks [sic], tribal consultation was in  
50 process all day long and they should have had

1 documentation of what was said during that tribal  
2 consultation. I haven't yet seen it, and I'd like to  
3 know if they're going to be made available.

4

5 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Mr. Buck. Yes,  
6 the summary isn't finished yet. Again, Tina, was there  
7 with her son transcribing the meeting, the minutes from  
8 the meeting will be available word for word, and they  
9 are putting together a summary, but my understanding is  
10 that it is not complete yet, but, again, it will be  
11 made available.

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Do you need anything  
16 from us?

17

18 MR. KRON: It's up to you if you would  
19 like to make additional comments, you're more than  
20 welcome to do so.

21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Does anybody want to  
25 add anything? Let's see so that meeting was in January  
26 -- I thought you went to the meeting in January -- you  
27 ended up going?

28

29 MR. BUCK: Yeah.

30

31 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, okay, and that was  
32 in Anchorage or Fairbanks?

33

34 MR. BUCK: Anchorage.

35

36 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, okay.

37

38 MR. KEYES: I thought someone said you  
39 went to it.

40

41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I had the option to  
42 go, I declined because I couldn't get away from work  
43 and so I think you had the next option, didn't you?

44

45 MR. ENINGOWUK: No, chain of command,  
46 it went to Peter.

47

48 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh.

49

50 MR. ENINGOWUK: They called me, I

1 called.....

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Well, if  
6 that's -- well, we don't need to say anything else,  
7 we'll have chances to work on this in the future, I  
8 suppose.

9

10 Other.

11

12 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. I'm not aware of  
13 any other. We could move on to Migratory Birds under  
14 the Fish and Wildlife Service if you'd like, Page 94.

15

16 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Oh, well, we've got  
17 three and four, summary of January 5th Board Executive  
18 Summary -- you already did that?

19

20 MR. KRON: Yes.

21

22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Salmon bycatch  
23 in the groundfish fisheries, I know that -- oh, you  
24 wanted something on that but you wanted tonight to  
25 prepare it.

26

27 MR. SMITH: Yes. But I guess we  
28 can.....

29

30 REPORTER: Tim. Tim.

31

32 MR. SMITH: .....it would be fine to  
33 talk to.....

34

35 REPORTER: Tim, your mic, please.

36

37 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Turn your mic on.

38

39 REPORTER: Thanks.

40

41 MR. SMITH: I don't have any objection  
42 to going through these written briefings tonight, but  
43 what I'd like to ask the Council to do is tomorrow is  
44 write a letter expressing the Council's wishes for the  
45 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council action on  
46 limiting chum salmon bycatch in the trawl fisheries as  
47 I understand was done with the king salmon bycatch  
48 fisheries two years ago.

49

50 But it's up to you, Mr. Chairman, if

1 you want to do the written briefings now or we can save  
2 it for tomorrow.

3

4 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, the slight  
5 possibility of finishing this meeting today is looming  
6 on the horizon, so I want to ask my fellow members  
7 here, would you like to see this meeting concluded  
8 today or.....

9

10 MR. KEYES: I would like to go over  
11 Tim's.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN QUINN: .....we can -- if we  
14 work tomorrow we can put a little more detail into a  
15 couple items.

16

17 MR. KEYES: Yes.

18

19 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

20

21 MR. KEYES: Yes, tomorrow.

22

23 CHAIRMAN QUINN: You want tomorrow.

24

25 (Council nods affirmatively)

26

27 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Then we  
28 will save -- you will have your chance to come up with  
29 something tonight in writing that we can all look at  
30 and work on tomorrow, so, now, yes, we can move on to  
31 B, Migratory Birds Co-Management, Tom, go ahead.

32

33 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. If you wanted I  
34 could quickly go through the written briefings today on  
35 the chum and chinook bycatch issue just for.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN QUINN: No.

38

39 MR. KRON: No.

40

41 CHAIRMAN QUINN: No.

42

43 MR. KRON: Okay.

44

45 MR. KEYES: We'll do that tomorrow.

46

47 MR. SMITH: We'll do that tomorrow.

48

49 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, we'll do that  
50 tomorrow.

1 MR. KEYES: No shortcuts.  
2  
3 MR. KRON: Okay, give me a minute.  
4  
5 (Laughter)  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, potentially some  
8 people might not have to be here tomorrow depending on  
9 what we get done now.  
10  
11 MR. KRON: Right.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, so, Mr.  
14 Chairman, the duck stamp issue.  
15  
16 The Migratory Bird Program within the  
17 US Fish and Wildlife Service has provided several  
18 informational items. They can be found in the RAC  
19 books starting on Page 94. And, again, the Migratory  
20 Bird Co-Management Council list is on Page 95.  
21  
22 The briefing document clearly outlines  
23 the duck stamps, duck stamps are required, and that has  
24 not changed. Some groups have raised an issue with  
25 that requirement but the regulation has not changed.  
26  
27 And that's all I've got to say on that.  
28  
29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Any comments.  
32  
33 MR. BUCK: Does Sandy have a comment on  
34 it.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Sandy.  
37  
38 MS. TAHBONE: Sandy Tahbone with  
39 Kawerak. I'm also the representative for Kawerak who  
40 is a partner to the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management  
41 Council.  
42  
43 And the latest on that was last  
44 Congress, both Senator Murkowski and Begich did submit  
45 a bill but unfortunately with the Horizon issue, there  
46 was no action, or it didn't move at all and we have yet  
47 to hear what they're going to be submitting this  
48 session so we will keep you informed, but it continues  
49 to be a hardship on many of our people.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Be more specific,  
2 what's the hardship, or what did the bill said?

3  
4 MS. TAHBONE: Well, what the bill was  
5 trying to do was trying to provide for our harvesters  
6 not to have to purchase a duck stamp, was basically the  
7 intent.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.

10  
11 MR. KEYES: Where it says all hunters  
12 age 16 and over must possess -- must have in possession  
13 a Federal duck stamp; why does it include -- why it  
14 doesn't say anything about 65 and older, we should  
15 leave those elders alone and not even let them even  
16 carry a duck stamp because they've been on this world  
17 longer than we have and they got more knowledge than  
18 the 16 year olds.

19  
20 MS. TAHBONE: Mr. Chairman.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Sandy, go ahead.

23  
24 MS. TAHBONE: Tony, you know,  
25 unfortunately the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management  
26 Council does not -- we don't set these regulations. It  
27 has to take an Act of Congress to change it. If it was  
28 up to the Co-Management Council, we would have dealt  
29 with this years ago. So this is an issue, both at the  
30 State -- you know there's requirements also for State  
31 hunting -- hunting under the State sporthunt  
32 regulations in the falltime. We deal -- right now we  
33 deal with just the spring harvest regulations. We just  
34 propose them to the Service Regulation Committee, we  
35 don't set the regulations, we just propose them within  
36 the frameworks of our Co-Management body.

37  
38 So we, you know, like I said it's going  
39 to take an Act of Congress to take care of this.

40  
41 MR. KEYES: How would we be able to do  
42 away with duck stamps because first of all there's  
43 places that you can purchase them and there's places  
44 that you can't get them.

45  
46 I've heard people having troubles  
47 trying to find duck stamps in various hunting area  
48 places where they want to hunt and they're pretty much  
49 -- to tell you the truth they're pretty much -- pretty  
50 angry about having to possess a duck stamp just to go

1 get one or two ducks to place on their supper table  
2 and, you know, I heard elders from time and time when  
3 this started, I'm very, very, very unhappy.

4

5 MS. TAHBONE: Yeah, that's one of the  
6 issues, you know, that's been raised in part of our  
7 reasoning for trying to push it forward because not  
8 only does it affect the subsistence harvester for the  
9 birds itself, but it also places a burden on the  
10 families that harvest the eggs. So, you know, it's  
11 just one of the Federal requirements and fortunately we  
12 haven't, in our region, not that I'm aware of, no one  
13 has been cited for not having a duck stamp.

14

15 The US Fish and Wildlife Service, they  
16 did have a three year phase in, as they were calling  
17 it, where the first year they would just do public  
18 education outreach regarding the requirement. Of  
19 course, you know, we see little to no education and  
20 public outreach occur in our region, as well as other  
21 regions. And then the second year was they would just  
22 provide a verbal warning, if you will. And then the  
23 third year, which was last season they were supposed to  
24 start citing people. But they kind of held back a  
25 little bit. It is within the Regional Director's  
26 purview to kind of set the law enforcement action  
27 that's going to be taken, so there was no citations  
28 last year; I'm not sure what will take place this next  
29 spring. But they were kind of like holding back to see  
30 what was going to happen with the bill that was  
31 introduced.

32

33 MR. KEYES: Well, instead of having to  
34 wait and wait and wait and wait and having people all  
35 confused and raising eyebrows on this, it's going to  
36 get worse, year to year, as our teenagers are going out  
37 hunting more every year and they're starting to learn  
38 the collection of the birds, but the thing is they  
39 don't know the word, duck stamp. Of course a youngster  
40 like that would get mad if he has to go and purchase a  
41 duck stamp. It's kind of like putting a 16 year old  
42 and a 65 year old together and having competition  
43 between them two, none of them is going to win.

44

45 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman.

46

47 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

48

49 MR. SMITH: Which people would be  
50 excluded under the proposed bill from buying a duck

1 stamp, how would the exclusions work?

2

3 MS. TAHBONE: The way the protocols  
4 that we work under and the regulations that we work  
5 under, all residents, there's several excluded areas,  
6 but all residents fall under the indigenous definition  
7 because under the protocols the indigenous people are  
8 the ones that are eligible, it was to provide for a  
9 legalized spring hunt. So it's everyone that's  
10 eligible to harvest under the regulations would be --  
11 would not be -- would not have to purchase a duck  
12 stamp. This would be for the spring -- the  
13 spring/summer hunt.

14

15 MR. SMITH: But if you wanted to hunt  
16 in the fall you'd still have to have one?

17

18 MS. TAHBONE: Yeah, there is no --  
19 there currently is no -- there are no regulations for a  
20 subsistence fall migratory bird hunt. Currently people  
21 harvest birds for subsistence under the sportshunt  
22 regulations.

23

24 MR. SMITH: So I'm just thinking,  
25 realistically, that wouldn't really exclude very many  
26 people, would it, are there a lot of people who only  
27 hunt in the spring?

28

29 MS. TAHBONE: Well, right now we're  
30 just trying to deal with that, we'll go to the next  
31 level. So like I said it's a whole new -- we're  
32 entering a whole new -- we're looking at what was  
33 submitted and trying to get some strategy to get this  
34 passed first.

35

36 It's -- you know -- and it's all the  
37 processes, all the different regulations that we have  
38 to comply with to put food on the table, it's just  
39 another regulation that we have to deal with if we want  
40 to be legal. And as you know many of our people, you  
41 know, there is very limited dollars that's put into  
42 education outreach, people are just not aware often  
43 times that they're breaking the law. And sometimes,  
44 you know, people, they have to choose between  
45 purchasing a duck stamp or being able to purchase  
46 either ammunition or putting gas in whatever they're  
47 using to go out there and put the food on the table so,  
48 you know, those are really hard decisions that are our  
49 people are being faced with. So, you know, a lot of  
50 times, you know, they have to make the choice, you

1 know, they're going to have to put gas in their machine  
2 in order to go out and harvest and so they, you know,  
3 they're not going to purchase a license or a duck  
4 stamp.

5  
6 MR. KEYES: Okay, something just  
7 occurred to me. For those who are not holding cash in  
8 a bank or in their house or in their wallets and  
9 they're only collecting food stamps, food stamps, under  
10 that category would food stamps, tents, ammunition and  
11 gas could be bought, could there be in any way that we  
12 could -- that a duck stamp could be purchased through  
13 that entity?

14  
15 MS. TAHBONE: There's all kinds of  
16 ideas out there. There were even ideas of our Co-  
17 Management Council purchasing duck stamps, anyways, I  
18 don't want to get into -- I'd be happy to have a  
19 conversation with you, I'd be happy to bring your  
20 thoughts forward. Like I said we're still trying to  
21 move this issue forward and as it gets introduced  
22 there's still room for amendment but it's really  
23 important that with -- at Wales, your representative  
24 that sits on the Bering Straits Norton Sound Migratory  
25 Bird Council, which is our regional Co-Management  
26 Council, is Clyde Auksharok (ph), so he's the  
27 individual that you could move your community's  
28 thoughts and concerns and recommendations forward.

29  
30 MR. KEYES: Yeah, I brought up this  
31 idea because, you know, I've seen in the majority of  
32 the villages during the wintertime, people are more  
33 relying on food stamps instead of cash while it's given  
34 through government, and, you know, all the way up  
35 towards springtime. I wouldn't see no -- you know I  
36 would like to see something that can be, you know,  
37 purchased with -- if they are in need have them  
38 purchase it with their food stamp deal, card, whatever.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, thanks, Sandy.

41  
42 All right, so I guess we can move on to  
43 the Park Service.

44  
45 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council  
46 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. I'll  
47 make this really quick. You've already been provided a  
48 number of handout materials, I'll briefly just touch on  
49 those.

50

1                   One is a series of what we call  
2 resource briefs produced by the Arctic Network  
3 Inventorying and Monitoring Program for the Park  
4 Service. And as you look through those you'll see some  
5 of them are very specific to species like caribou and  
6 dall sheep, others are much more broad in their  
7 application, weather, climate change, terrestrial,  
8 vegetation, large lake communities and ecosystems, and  
9 finally through coastal erosion and contaminant work.  
10 Those are only a few of the vital signs that we're  
11 actually involved in and monitoring and protocols are  
12 currently being developed for a number of others  
13 including muskoxen and brown bear.

14  
15                   You'll find on there, links, too, that  
16 you can go to, web links, to go to the website and find  
17 a lot of the technical papers and the other things  
18 that, you know, provide some of the resources  
19 information that these are developed from.

20  
21                   The other one -- one of your other  
22 handouts is a newsletter provided by the Arctic Network  
23 and basically it covers more current activities and  
24 highlights but there's also some other interesting  
25 pieces of information in there related to a number of  
26 the vital signs.

27  
28                   And then, finally, one of your other  
29 handouts is more specific to Bering Land Bridge and  
30 covers last years and proposed current field projects  
31 for the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, which  
32 covers a wide range of activities from natural  
33 resources, some of which are Park Service sponsored,  
34 others which are being conducted by private  
35 investigators or universities and those kind of folks.  
36 And you'll find web links in there, too, that you can  
37 go to.

38  
39                   The things that I would stress about  
40 some of that is really probably three or four main  
41 points.

42  
43                   When it comes to like the Arctic  
44 Network and Inventorying Monitoring Program, when you  
45 look through some of those, I think you'll find that  
46 collaboration is the key, and that for carrying and  
47 conducting out those vital sign monitoring we're ever  
48 searching ways to do it more efficiently and to partner  
49 with other groups. So, for example, the dall sheep  
50 really started out largely with Northwest Alaska, was

1 moved into the Brooks Range and has now moved down to  
2 cover Denali, and as far south as Wrangell-St. Elias.

3  
4           The climate and weather station  
5 monitoring projects have integrated a number of things  
6 and protocols developed by other network units in the  
7 Inventorying and Monitoring Program, so standardization  
8 is a feature.

9  
10           The other thing about the Inventorying  
11 and Monitoring Program is, is that, it's really  
12 dedicated to developing consistent through protocols  
13 long-term data sets.

14  
15           And then one of the final things about  
16 it, is, data management and data storage so that the  
17 material will easily retrievable and easy to use.

18  
19           In kind of summary to some of that I  
20 would say that a lot of our projects are carried out  
21 collaboratively with organizations like the Alaska  
22 Department of Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife  
23 Service. In many cases we'll work on moose, say,  
24 census project, and we're really not the lead agency,  
25 we simply contribute funds, staff and aircraft support  
26 to do it. And usually whoever the lead organization is  
27 would be the one that produces the -- assimilates the  
28 data, organizes it and produces reports and stuff from  
29 it. In a few other cases we may well be the lead  
30 organization and basically the data set is ours. And,  
31 you know, then how we share that and how we disseminate  
32 that information is pretty much up to us.

33  
34           But you'll find a wide variety of  
35 projects in there and just some of the current things  
36 that we're engaged in or will be engaged in shortly  
37 with shortly wildlife; we'll be working with ADF&G to  
38 complete some muskox protocol work involving the  
39 distant sampling method that ADF&G mentioned to you  
40 earlier. For us, that's a very important shift from  
41 the way that we had been doing muskoxen, which is the  
42 minimum count method, and it's absolutely necessary in  
43 this time of really fiscal constraints that we find  
44 better and smarter ways to work. And in the case of  
45 the muskoxen, as they expand their range and there's  
46 areas that we need to add to our survey area, there's  
47 no way we can continue to continue using something like  
48 the minimum count method, which is so, you know,  
49 intensive and cost demanding of us, and we've got to  
50 find ways to do things cheaper, be able to cover more

1 area and probably as importantly, as ADF&G's already  
2 mentioned to you, the way to develop is a good rigorous  
3 statistical based, you know, estimate where we've got  
4 the confidence limits that we can express so we're  
5 working on that and trying to finish up that protocol  
6 and that will involve working with ADF&G, both in the  
7 Kotzebue area and the Nome office and completing some  
8 things in the northern Seward Peninsula and in Unit 23.

9

10 And then we'll be working with ADF&G on  
11 the moose census for 22E. And then with ADF&G and the  
12 US Fish and Wildlife Service in some moose work in the  
13 Selawik Wildlife Refuge. And then we'll also be  
14 finishing up and providing logistic support to the  
15 three year muskoxen project, which you've been exposed  
16 to in other presentations. And this will be the last  
17 year for field work on that project, and then a year or  
18 so worth of, you know, data analysis and final report  
19 write ups.

20

21 MR. BUCK: Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead.

24

25 MR. BUCK: I'd like to ask a question  
26 of Ken. I look at all these things you handed out, it  
27 looks pretty positive and everything. I was wondering  
28 if you could do a study on bears or beavers and give us  
29 a report on that?

30

31 MR. ADKISSON: Yes, Mr. Buck, through  
32 the Chair. Bears is an interesting one. And all I can  
33 tell you right now is that we are struggling to  
34 complete a bear monitoring protocol and we've got some  
35 problems with getting that out the door. And if you'll  
36 notice in the newsletter you'll see that they actually  
37 did a bear survey for Gates of the Arctic this last  
38 year and that's supposedly the last field work that's  
39 going to be actually done and that data will be put  
40 with the other data from several other bear surveys  
41 that we, and others have participated in to do and the  
42 protocol will be developed from that. So hopefully  
43 once that's done and the protocol's out the door and  
44 people buy off on it, it'll give us a relatively less  
45 expensive and way that we can actually perhaps more  
46 frequently count bears and get you some of that  
47 information you're asking.

48

49 Beavers is kind of a mixed bag. I  
50 think it's been brought up a number of times in various

1 kind of context, especially related to fisheries and I  
2 think, you know, OSM and Fisheries Information Service  
3 can attest to that from the meetings that they go to  
4 and people, you know, are concerned about it, and I  
5 think beavers are sort of a mixed bag. You know they  
6 benefit some species of fish, they're detrimental to  
7 other species of fish and it depends on what your  
8 preferences are. But, you know, there's not much doubt  
9 that, you know, beavers are expanding in numbers and  
10 perhaps range and probably as a result of climate  
11 change and ecological changes that are going on on the  
12 Seward Peninsula, so, you know, much beyond that I  
13 don't know. We don't have any plans to really get in  
14 and study beaver per se. But we have some interesting  
15 challenges like at Serpentine Hot Springs where we've  
16 got a number of beaver lodges that are causing some  
17 issues for us.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Are you ready to post  
20 a bounty?

21  
22 (Laughter)

23  
24 CHAIRMAN QUINN: I'm interested.

25  
26 (Laughter)

27  
28 MR. ADKISSON: I don't know, why don't  
29 you come to see me maybe at a break of something.....

30  
31 (Laughter)

32  
33 MR. ADKISSON: .....and hopefully we  
34 can talk about legitimate.....

35  
36 (Laughter)

37  
38 MR. ADKISSON: .....you know, what's  
39 legitimate trapping and stuff.

40  
41 (Laughter)

42  
43 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Sandy, I have a  
44 question for you. In the past you have spoken on some  
45 study or program to possibly change the regulations  
46 within Parks and Preserves on picking up and use of  
47 things like antlers and various items and what has  
48 happened with that?

49  
50 MR. RABINOWITCH: That's a good

1 question and I've actually got a pretty fresh answer  
2 for you.

3  
4 Over about the past 12 months, six  
5 months, we haven't done much work on the project  
6 because of the workload on the Federal Subsistence  
7 Board, but the past six months we had been working  
8 steadily on it. We have a new newsletter, which I  
9 don't have copies of, we just finished about a week ago  
10 and it sort of updates the status and I'll tell you  
11 what that is real succinctly.

12  
13 The Park Service has four alternatives  
14 that we finally kind of thrashed out through a lot of  
15 scoping with the NPS Subsistence Resource Commissions.  
16 There's not one in your region. There is one over in  
17 Cape Kruzenstern, for example, Kobuk Valley, a little  
18 further away, but there's none in this region because  
19 they're only associated with either Parks or Monuments,  
20 but not Preserves like Bering Land Bridge. We're  
21 actively writing the document, it's an environmental  
22 assessment, you've all heard about EIS', it's kind of a  
23 big document, environmental assessment's a little  
24 smaller and that's what we're writing. We hope to have  
25 that out on the street at some point this summer,  
26 probably late summer and then have at least about a 90  
27 day review period, which would run all the way through  
28 the end of the fall meeting of this group, okay, and  
29 the Subsistence SRCs -- I mean the NPS SRCs. So that's  
30 the goal, the document out in the fall with a long  
31 review period.

32  
33 And unless something changes on me,  
34 there'll be four alternatives.

35  
36 One's the status quo, which is you  
37 can't pick those things up, as you're aware.

38  
39 And then there are three derivations of  
40 being able to pick up things, make handicrafts and use  
41 them.

42  
43 And for those of you who aren't  
44 familiar or new on the Council, in a nutshell, the Park  
45 Service had two different requests to change our  
46 regulations, which currently do not allow people to  
47 pick up things like horns or antlers that are either  
48 naturally shed or discarded by a hunter, and the  
49 requests were to change the regulations so you could do  
50 that.

1                   So that's -- I mean I'm oversimplifying  
2 a little bit, but that's what we're looking into.

3  
4                   We're actually covering horns, antlers,  
5 bones and plants; that's kind of the full span of what  
6 we're looking into.

7  
8                   And pretty much those activities aren't  
9 allowed, we're looking into changing the regs to see if  
10 we can support allowing those, and as I say, we'll have  
11 three different options on the yes part, one option on  
12 the leave it as is on the no part. So that's where  
13 we're going in short.

14  
15                   I'll stop and see if you have  
16 questions.

17  
18                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: You mentioned plants.

19  
20                   MR. RABINOWITCH: Uh-huh.

21  
22                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: Would that forbid the  
23 selling of berries picked on Park Service lands?

24  
25                   MR. RABINOWITCH: You ask a really good  
26 question. The plant part is a little complicated  
27 because the existing Park Service regulations actually  
28 allow collection of plant materials right now, it's  
29 where the plants are different than the horns and  
30 antlers, okay. So -- and I would have to look at the  
31 specific regulations, you know, so I don't want to say  
32 something that's incorrect, but, generally speaking,  
33 subsistence users can collect plant materials for their  
34 own use right now, that's okay.

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: But can you sell it?

37  
38                   MR. RABINOWITCH: It's the selling,  
39 exactly. So if you want to turn it into a handicraft  
40 and sell it, which is what the.....

41  
42                   (Laughter)

43  
44                   MR. RABINOWITCH: .....law -- which is  
45 what the law talks about.....

46  
47                   (Laughter)

48  
49                   MR. RABINOWITCH: .....the statute in  
50 ANILCA, and that's where you've always got to go back

1 to, what does the law provide, okay, so it's the  
2 selling part that's not allowed right now. With horns  
3 and antlers the collecting's not allowed, the selling's  
4 not allowed. With plants, the collecting is allowed,  
5 the selling is not allowed.

6  
7 MR. KEYES: Traditional use of all  
8 dropped antlers, skulls, tusks, anything that is  
9 dropped or, you know, left behind by a hunter, there is  
10 always eventually someone out there to collect  
11 something for their artistical use, which is a  
12 traditional part of their life. It has been ongoing  
13 since our ancestors were here before us, and now we're  
14 laying down the rule that we have to fill out a piece  
15 of paper to pick up a piece of skull, a piece of ivory  
16 and this was -- to us it's free, it's a given --  
17 natural given item to us.

18  
19 Now that you mention plants, too, we  
20 have edible plants, berries, greens, now, if we pick  
21 those, you know, there is some bartering behind these  
22 items regardless if rules are put in place for them. I  
23 never heard of an elder saying I won't give you this, I  
24 won't give you that, they're always pretty much of  
25 saying, okay, I'm going to pick this because I want to  
26 have it for the winter, a majority of our elders now  
27 still pick greens, berries, use them for ceremonial  
28 applications, birthdays and, you know, whatever. I  
29 hate to see an elderly folk, you know, walk out on the  
30 tundra and do all this picking and then turnaround and  
31 see a White individual there with a piece of paper and  
32 say, hey, you have to put that back; this Native  
33 person's going to say, no, this was in my traditional  
34 use for centuries and centuries and centuries of years  
35 passed down from our generation to your generation.

36  
37 It's saddening to see something  
38 happening like that to our indigenous people. I take  
39 it as a wrong step to do, you know, something like  
40 that, after being -- it's out there, it's free, it's  
41 for us to use. You know, I don't see a White -- I  
42 don't see a Native person going to the store and say, I  
43 got to buy these berries because they're on sale, but  
44 having to see an elderly -- elderly folk, old lady  
45 picking their berries, which they do every year,  
46 believe me they do it every year, I hate to see that  
47 person turn around and a White man standing there with  
48 a piece of paper, you know, it tears the heart of an  
49 individual and it will hurt the community. You hurt  
50 one person, one person is connected to the whole

1 community and to the other villages, everybody got  
2 relations in different places.

3

4 I'm not in for that, period.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN QUINN: So have your  
9 alternatives addressed, you know, sale of these items  
10 beyond handicrafts? Sale of berries. Sale of horns  
11 and stuff that's picked up, you know, there are markets  
12 for these things, people in these regions do need  
13 sources of income, you know, I've spoken of this before  
14 to you.

15

16 MR. RABINOWITCH: Uh-huh.

17

18 CHAIRMAN QUINN: And you guys were just  
19 looking at handicrafts, but there are other options  
20 available for people to earn money off of these items.  
21 What are the alternatives going to say, do you know?

22

23 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, I can't tell  
24 you ultimately what it will all say. We are -- let me  
25 try to quickly reframe this again.

26

27 And, first, one thing, you know,  
28 Anthony, what you just said I think I understand what  
29 you say very well, I think you've said it extremely  
30 from your heart and I think -- I mean I can say I think  
31 I get what you're talking about. In terms -- and on  
32 NPS lands right now, understand that in terms of people  
33 gathering things and using them, as you've described, I  
34 believe that's all fine. I don't believe there's any  
35 problem at all. So what we're talking about in this  
36 document would be if somebody wanted to sell those  
37 things, okay, so that's the part that we're looking at,  
38 and on a piece of paper, technically that's not okay.

39

40 I think we also recognize, because we  
41 have a lot of people in the Park Service that have been  
42 here a long time, I think we also recognize that  
43 everything you've just said is completely true and  
44 accurate, completely, no disagreement. The other  
45 little historical fact is, and I'll come back to your  
46 point here, Mike, is that the regulations that the Park  
47 Service now has were basically written in 1981, or they  
48 went on the books in 1981, they were probably written  
49 in about 1980 and 1981, so they've been on the books  
50 for a long time. So we've had these requests to make

1 modifications, liberalize these things and we're  
2 seriously looking into it and trying to be responsive.

3  
4 Mike, back to your point. The edges of  
5 what we're looking at are naturally shed or discarded  
6 horns and antlers, bones from any critters and plant  
7 materials. So there's first the collecting part of it,  
8 then there's the making and selling of handicrafts part  
9 of it. One of the counter balances that we have in  
10 ANILCA is direction to not rise to a level of what's  
11 referred to as a significant commercial enterprise.  
12 You've probably heard those words and that phrase  
13 before. And you probably also know that those words  
14 don't have a -- they're not defined in a regulation, so  
15 if you ask me what does significant mean and so on, I  
16 can tell you I can just look in a dictionary just like  
17 you can and that's what I would tell you I believe the  
18 answer is. So those are the counter balances of what  
19 we're trying to do.

20  
21 We're not getting into food stuff, so  
22 if like somebody wanted to pick hundreds and hundreds  
23 of pounds of blueberries or something and sell them,  
24 that's not what we're looking into.

25  
26 Commercial enterprises generally are  
27 prohibited -- well, I'm not going to say this right,  
28 and maybe, I don't know, Jeanette, if I don't get this  
29 right help me out, but to engage in a commercial  
30 enterprise in an NPS area, you essentially have to get  
31 a permit to do that. Am I on track with that, an  
32 accurate way to say that.

33  
34 MS. POMRENKE: Commercial use  
35 authorization.

36  
37 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay, commercial use  
38 authorization.

39  
40 So -- well, maybe I should stop there  
41 and see if that answered or not.

42  
43 (Laughter)

44  
45 MR. RABINOWITCH: And if not then come  
46 at me some more and I'll try some more.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, you said all the  
49 picking stuff was okay but they can't sell, well,  
50 anybody who's lived here long enough knows that there

1 is some sale going on and it's certainly not a problem  
2 so efforts need to be made by all of you people to  
3 remove the roadblocks to the people that live here to  
4 use the same resources they've been using since your  
5 little studies here show they've been using them and  
6 not just come up with little things like, you know,  
7 letting us sell a few things we make. There's --  
8 everybody's in need in this region of a little more  
9 economic activity and, you know, I hope you'll observe  
10 that and work to increase economic activity out here  
11 within the bounds of what the system can support.

12

13                   You know, you say you can't be a  
14 commercial blueberry picker and seller, well, what's  
15 commercial? So there needs to be an effort to define  
16 that.

17

18                   Both the State and Federal regs, I  
19 believe, say something about customary barter and  
20 trade.

21

22                   MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes.

23

24                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: And some of those regs  
25 include trade for cash at some level. I don't know if  
26 both entities allow that or just one, but there has  
27 been -- and there's been figures tossed out, how much  
28 can you trade for cash?

29

30                   MR. RABINOWITCH: Right.

31

32                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: So when you say that  
33 this process has been going on, it shouldn't be just a  
34 small little thing, it should be something that makes a  
35 significant difference in the lives of the people that  
36 live out here.

37

38                   MR. RABINOWITCH: I could add that so  
39 far in our discussions, this is no guarantee of the  
40 future here, but so far in our discussions we've not  
41 discussed any kind of dollar limits. We just  
42 haven't.....

43

44                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: Sure.

45

46                   MR. RABINOWITCH: .....discussed that  
47 as a, you know, as something that we feel like we need  
48 to bump up against.

49

50                   Yeah, I'll just leave it at that.

1 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Tim.  
2  
3 MR. SMITH: My question is a current  
4 situation, is it allowed to pick up antlers and bones  
5 for personal use?  
6  
7 MR. RABINOWITCH: No. In an NPS area,  
8 no, not currently.  
9  
10 MR. SMITH: Oh, that's not widely  
11 understood.  
12  
13 MR. RABINOWITCH: I would agree with  
14 you.  
15  
16 MR. SMITH: Yeah.  
17  
18 MR. RABINOWITCH: And I completely  
19 believe that. I mean I completely believe that around  
20 the whole state.  
21  
22 MR. SMITH: Yeah.  
23  
24 MR. RABINOWITCH: I don't think it's  
25 unique just to this region.  
26  
27 MR. SMITH: This is the first time I'd  
28 heard of it and, you know, I never would have guessed.  
29  
30 MR. RABINOWITCH: Right. And,  
31 actually, I've heard people say exactly those same  
32 words. And, yeah, I mean, again, some of us have been  
33 around and, yeah, I agree with you.  
34  
35 MR. SMITH: It's much better to learn  
36 these things in a meeting like this than from an  
37 enforcement officer though.  
38  
39 (Laughter)  
40  
41 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yeah.  
42  
43 (Laughter)  
44  
45 MR. RABINOWITCH: I mean, you know, I  
46 could just add maybe a little bit and see if I can get  
47 a smile on anybody's face, but it does seem like one of  
48 the ironies is if you go out and you hunt, you know,  
49 under the Federal regs that we're all sitting here  
50 talking about, then any horns or antlers attached to

1 something that you just shot, it's yours. But  
2 technically on NPS land if you were to see, I don't  
3 know, a moose antler, or a caribou antler or something  
4 laying there and you picked it up, then we'd say, unh-  
5 unh. So, believe me, I understand the irony of that.  
6 But that it is the way it is in our regs at the current  
7 time.

8

9 MR. SMITH: Do you have a projection on  
10 how soon this is going to be addressed and whether or  
11 not you're going to change that because I mean it  
12 really isn't good to have people violating without  
13 knowing they're violating?

14

15 MR. RABINOWITCH: Right. Again, I  
16 repeat, our current goal is to get this document out in  
17 the summertime so sort of August through about end of  
18 October would be a comment period, that's our current  
19 goal.

20

21 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, let me stop here  
22 for a second. With the time being what it is, I'm  
23 going to have Mr. Sparks just do his bit on BLM and  
24 that will probably be the end of the meeting. So if  
25 you State guys want to leave, I won't need you today  
26 but I do want to apologize for you sitting here for so  
27 long. If I had a little more forethought maybe I would  
28 have seen this coming, but I didn't.

29

30 Actually, Tom, I'm not -- you can sit  
31 down but I will ask one more question of the Park  
32 Service, I just wanted to let the State guys know that  
33 they're going to be first thing in the morning, I'm not  
34 going to get to you today.

35

36 MR. KEYES: We're waiting.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, I'm in charge so  
41 you're waiting until I.....

42

43 MR. SMITH: Can I say one more thing?

44

45 CHAIRMAN QUINN: You bet.

46

47 MR. SMITH: You know what you brought  
48 up a really interesting subject about customary trade  
49 and that was a big issue for the Federal Subsistence  
50 Board at the meeting that Peter and I were at. They're

1 going to be setting some numbers and we might want to  
2 get involved in that. In my opinion the numbers  
3 they're talking about are awfully low, you know, like  
4 \$750 a year. And, you know, they're talking about  
5 things like, you know, dry fish and things like that.  
6 There's a lot of people in this area that sell  
7 subsistence caught dry fish and I really think we need  
8 to be involved in the discussions because it'll make  
9 things illegal that are being done fairly commonly now.

10

11 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right. Jeanette,  
12 I kind of got a question for you, maybe Ken will help  
13 you with it. You're the superintendent, right?

14

15 MS. POMRENKE: Yes.

16

17 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. So at our last  
18 meeting I quizzed you about commercial use  
19 authorizations, guide concessions and stuff. I pointed  
20 out that your Preserve is the only one in the state  
21 that does not have any guide concessions and you said  
22 that that was being worked on. What is being done so  
23 far?

24

25 MS. POMRENKE: It still is being worked  
26 on. The Park is waiting for a budget basically after  
27 March 1st to find out if we're going to receive money  
28 to do an environmental assessment for big game guiding  
29 commercial use authorization, to being those again.  
30 Because the Park has not big game guiding since the  
31 mid- to late '80s, it's been a long period of time. We  
32 also have documented in the early '90s when the Park  
33 went out to do public meetings, that certain villages  
34 were adamantly opposed to big game guiding at that  
35 time. Now, those opinions have changed. And so now  
36 we're actively seeking funding for an environmental  
37 assessment. And we'll go through the public process of  
38 getting comment and everything for that. But we're  
39 waiting to see if we've received those dollars yet.

40

41 So that's about it. We've had a pre-  
42 meeting in Shishmaref. We've talked to some people  
43 there. We can have our meetings. It's just to write  
44 an environmental assessment with our small staff,  
45 without funding, it would take us a very long time to  
46 do that.

47

48 CHAIRMAN QUINN: So at one time in the  
49 past there was a guide concession on the Preserve?

50

1 MS. POMRENKE: I think there were two,  
2 maybe.  
3  
4 MR. ADKISSON: It would have been early  
5 in.....  
6  
7 MS. POMRENKE: It would have been in  
8 the infancy of the Preserve.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Ken.  
11  
12 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Ken  
13 Adkisson. I don't remember any really active ones when  
14 I first got here in the mid-80s.  
15  
16 MS. POMRENKE: So there's no record of  
17 active guiding even back then.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Have the other  
20 Preserves in the state done EIS' before they allowed  
21 guiding concessions?  
22  
23 MS. POMRENKE: This is an environmental  
24 assessment, it's not an environmental impact statement.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay.  
27  
28 MS. POMRENKE: So the other Preserves  
29 in the state have had them and throughout Bering Land  
30 Bridge's history they just stopped, there was no  
31 interest in them for a very long time. And when we  
32 consulted with the tribes in the villages they said,  
33 no, they did not want guided sporthunting in the  
34 Preserve so we acquiesced to village needs. And we've  
35 only had a couple requests over -- since I've been here  
36 the last couple years even to hurry our process up, to  
37 get it going. So we're trying.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. I guess that's  
40 as much of an answer as we can ask for.  
41  
42 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Ken  
43 Adkisson, again. Yeah, a lot of the Preserve units had  
44 fairly active guiding activities going on for, you  
45 know, a very long time, like the Noatak, for example,  
46 and basically they just sort of grandfathered that in  
47 and the last time the Noatak National Preserve went to  
48 really redo its concession contract program for  
49 guiding, we actually just sort of squeaked by, and,  
50 again, it was on the basis of just no significant

1 changes were being made and it was just sort of being  
2 grandfathered in. If things were to change  
3 differently, that there were substantial or significant  
4 changes to the program, like an expansion or new areas  
5 within the Preserve might be brought under it or  
6 something like that, very likely that Park -- or Park  
7 Unit would wind up having to do an EA.

8

9 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right, thank you.  
10 Okay, Mr. Sparks, we'll let you go here and then  
11 that'll be the end of our meeting for today.

12

13 MR. SPARKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll  
14 make it short. Good to see Mr. Smith here, new member.  
15 Congratulations by the way.

16

17 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

18

19 MR. SPARKS: Just want to mention a few  
20 things from last fall's report that I gave. Some of  
21 the village corporations we've had some success on the  
22 Koyuk Native Corporation, we're about done with their  
23 entitlement, we do have one section we still need to  
24 transfer to them.

25

26 Unalakleet and Shaktoolik have kind of  
27 taken a step back now. We have some issues with  
28 Unalakleet, with some of the military withdrawals. And  
29 Shaktoolik, we have some issues with some of the  
30 unpatented Federal mining claims still. But we're  
31 making progress with Council and Sitnasauk and hope to  
32 move those two villages forward this year.

33

34 We're going to be active in Unalakleet  
35 at the weir this summer. We have a new fish biologist,  
36 Merland Shelesky (ph). Our subsistence coordinator,  
37 Geoff Byersdorf is going to have a detail out of state,  
38 and I think he's looking to climb the ranks of the BLM,  
39 he's joined a leadership academy and they travel around  
40 the nation and get experience in other areas.

41

42 So that's kind of the two staffing  
43 areas.

44

45 And also last fall I informed you that  
46 Brian Bourdon from my office here in Nome moved on to  
47 Anchorage and he left in the fall, and I don't know at  
48 this point if they're going to fill that position  
49 behind Brian or not.

50

1 I guess the only other thing as far as  
2 the subsistence permits and so forth. I just gave out  
3 one permit, a muskox permit for 22B. The only other  
4 activity that I saw, I've had some phone calls with 22A  
5 remainder moose hunt and whether or not a Federal tag  
6 was necessary. And there's a difference between the  
7 State and Federal seasons, which I'm sure some of you  
8 are aware of there.

9  
10 I also had one on the Port Clarence  
11 Loran Station, whether or not someone could shoot a  
12 muskox on that. That land is withdrawn for the Coast  
13 Guard. And on a withdrawn land, the withdrawal agency,  
14 usually it's the military, not all the times, but  
15 usually, or in this case the Coast Guard, so it's the  
16 Coast Guard's call on that. So, Elmer, if you've got  
17 anybody that's anxious over there, I guess, check with  
18 the Coast Guard and I can talk with you after the  
19 meeting, if you're interested.

20  
21 We haven't had any new special  
22 recreation permits being issued on the Seward  
23 Peninsula. Same folks as before. If we do get a new  
24 one we'll be sure and involve the Council.

25  
26 The only other thing to report is the  
27 Salmon Lake agreement was reintroduced by Senator  
28 Murkowski and Begich and this is the third time for  
29 that Legislation. It's passed the House in the past  
30 but it never made it through the Senate. So we're  
31 hopeful that that'll pass this fiscal year.

32  
33 And that concludes my little talk but  
34 I'd be happy to answer any questions anybody has.

35  
36 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Go ahead, Elmer.

39  
40 MR. SEETOT: In regard to your  
41 reference to Coast Guard, the Coast Guard deactivated  
42 last year but they still do have a five mile radius  
43 around their loran station, which they tumbled to the  
44 ground, but it's still active as a Federal land. I  
45 might have talked to you or someone in Anchorage  
46 concerning artifact digging towards the Coast Guard  
47 loran station. A State Trooper in wildlife, or  
48 somebody with authority went to Brevig Mission and  
49 Teller and talked to those people. I'm not too sure of  
50 what effect, like I say, effect, it will have on the

1 residents, because they will go to any extremes to dig  
2 for artifacts, and that makes a problem, I think,  
3 around that area.

4

5                   Just to let you know if -- I do tell  
6 them about restrictions on artifacting on Federal,  
7 Native and State lands but they still do it anyway.  
8 They say that -- that's my land, you don't -- I have  
9 lived here a lot more than you have so, you know, stay  
10 away from my business, that -- that's what they tell  
11 me.

12

13                   You know, they use more explicit  
14 terms.....

15

16                   (Laughter)

17

18                   MR. SEETOT: .....but, you know, this  
19 is real simple.

20

21                   (Laughter)

22

23                   MR. SEETOT: But -- but that's what  
24 I've been trying to tell them anyways, you know, just  
25 try -- try -- there's consequences if you do get caught  
26 on Federal and State lands if you're not authorized to  
27 do so, that's -- that's what I tell them all the time.

28

29                   MR. SPARKS: Mr. Seetot, through the  
30 Chair. Yes, we spoke last year on that. I went to  
31 Teller with representatives of the regional Native  
32 Corporation and we had a law enforcement officer and a  
33 law enforcement officer from the Coast Guard as well,  
34 so it's ongoing. BLM does not have primary  
35 jurisdiction at the loran station, that's the Coast  
36 Guard and that's because it's withdrawn for their use.  
37 Once they're done with that withdrawal, what normally  
38 happens is they try to give the land back to BLM and  
39 then we make a determination whether or not it's  
40 suitable to be back in the public domain. And if it's  
41 not suitable then generally what happens is the land  
42 gets sold through the Government Services  
43 Administration or GSA for short. There's some  
44 competing land selections at that area, though, but  
45 time will tell how that goes. But, yeah, we're very  
46 much aware of the situation for sure.

47

48                   CHAIRMAN QUINN: How long has that  
49 station been there?

50

1 MR. SEETOT: 1963 it was built because  
2 I remember the people that were there that -- that were  
3 down there.

4  
5 MR. SPARKS: Yeah, the withdrawal's  
6 pretty old. I'd have to look at the case file, but  
7 certainly our lifetime, I'll say that.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN QUINN: '63, well, you can  
10 just go dig in their dump and get artifacts then.

11  
12 (Laughter)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay, anything else  
15 for Tom.

16  
17 (No comments)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN QUINN: It looks like we  
20 didn't need the enforcement officer this year, uh, you  
21 got less activity.

22  
23 MR. SPARKS: I think some of the  
24 changes that were made with the C&T certainly didn't  
25 make that a necessity or there was some concerns that  
26 were brought out a couple years ago.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN QUINN: Well, we just want you  
29 to catch the illegal guides, we don't care about the  
30 C&T part.

31  
32 MR. SPARKS: Yeah, we -- there was only  
33 -- there was one guide that I'm aware, but it was in  
34 the Nugget that he got in some trouble this last year,  
35 BLM did not permit them in our area, he was permitted  
36 out of the Fairbanks district though.

37  
38 And a couple years ago when the  
39 Unalakleet moose hunt happened on Federal lands we had  
40 an enforcement officer there as well as Geoff Byersdorf  
41 and they were there for a couple of weeks and I don't  
42 know that that effort will come back because there  
43 really wasn't much going on.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN QUINN: All right.

46  
47 MR. SPARKS: But if there's -- you  
48 know, anything concerns anybody as far as BLM I'd  
49 welcome a phone call, or at home or it doesn't matter  
50 but as long as we're communicating, I'd appreciate it.

1                           CHAIRMAN QUINN: Okay. Well, with  
2 that, we'll all be back here at 8:30.

3

4

(Off record)

5

6

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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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 163 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically by our firm on the 15th day of February 2011, 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 our knowledge and ability;

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, March 2011.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires:9/16/2014