

1 SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE

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REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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5

PUBLIC MEETING

6

7

October 6, 2006

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9

8:30 A.M.

10

11

Nome, Alaska

12

13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14

15 Clifford Weyiouanna, Chairman

16 Michael Quinn, Secretary

17 Peter Martin, Sr.

18 Peter G. Buck

19 Elmer K. Seetot, Jr.

20 Charles F. Saccheus, Sr.

21 Thomas Gray

22 Vance E. Grishkowsky

23

24 Michelle Chivers, Acting Coordinator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 8:30 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: I'll go ahead and call the meeting to order. Roll call, please, Mike.

MR. QUINN: Peter Martin, Sr.

MR. MARTIN: Here.

MR. QUINN: And I'm present, Mike Quinn. Clifford.

CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Yeah.

MR. QUINN: Peter Buck.

MR. BUCK: Here.

MR. QUINN: Myron. Myron is not here. Elmer.

MR. SEETOT: Here.

MR. QUINN: Charles.

MR. SACCHEUS: Here.

MR. GRAY: Thomas Gray.

MR. GRAY: Here.

MR. QUINN: Vance Grishkowsky.

MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Here.

MR. QUINN: So that's eight out of 10 it looks like and that's a quorum, so we have a quorum.

CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Thank you, Mike. I'd like to welcome everybody to this meeting. After I was notified that Grace had left and since I was the vice chair I tried to have this meeting on a Thursday so that all of us could be home on the weekend because for some of us we have other halves that do subsistence. I don't particularly care for travel like on Saturday morning for all of us. I'm going to air that for the next meeting in February. Hopefully, in the future, for all of us, whether it's the Agency

1 people, you people and us, we stay away from the  
2 weekend so that we can travel on -- like have a meeting  
3 on Wednesday and Thursday and travel on Friday if we  
4 have a two-day meeting. It's crucial for everybody due  
5 to subsistence purposes and other family activities  
6 that we be home on weekends. That's my opinion on  
7 that. I think when we get to the February meeting I  
8 hope the Council members will keep that in mind when we  
9 get those dates set up for that meeting.

10

11 Also, if there's any people that want  
12 to address the Council whenever we go through the  
13 agenda, there are these forms to sign if they want to  
14 make any comments, so remind me of that.

15

16 I've been telling everybody if Tom Gray  
17 becomes the chair we'll have cinnamon rolls and  
18 doughnuts in the room.

19

20 MR. GRAY: I decline.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: I'd like to start  
23 off with Mike, introduce yourselves, and kind of tell  
24 what areas you represent. I think that's very crucial  
25 since a lot of us cover such a vast area here on the  
26 Seward Peninsula, if you would mention where you're  
27 from and what game areas you cover. Mike, do you want  
28 to go ahead and start.

29

30 MR. QUINN: Okay. My name is Mike  
31 Quinn. I'm a sport/comm seat, as the little sign says.  
32 I live here in Nome, hunt around Nome, but I've also  
33 got some property and do some hunting in other areas  
34 occasionally. I do hold an assistant guide license and  
35 have worked as an assistant guide but not for a good  
36 five years or so, but my license is still current. And  
37 that's about me.

38

39 MR. BUCK: My name is Peter Buck and I  
40 represent the White Mountain/Golovin Council, Unit 22.

41

42 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig  
43 Mission, representing at least or supposed to represent  
44 Brevig/Teller and northern part of Seward Peninsula. I  
45 represent the issues that are put out by the people on  
46 the whole Seward Peninsula, not just our sub-unit,  
47 because the whole unit interacts by itself. Thank you.

48

49 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Vance Grishkowsky.  
50 I'm from Unalakleet and representing commercial and

1 sport fishing. I work as a registered guide down  
2 there. I have a small fishing operation and that's  
3 what I'm here for, representing commercial sport.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: I'm Cliff  
6 Weyiouanna and I represent Shishmaref, mostly 22(E) and  
7 have knowledge of 22(E) and 22(D) since also I am a  
8 guide in that area. I think it's very important that  
9 -- Shishmaref is not in a fishery zone and it's always  
10 interesting and difficult for a person like myself when  
11 we have fishing proposals that we depend on people like  
12 people from Norton Sound area to give us some education  
13 on it, so I'm glad to be here and I'm glad all the  
14 agencies are here.

15

16 MR. GRAY: I'm Tom Gray and I represent  
17 White Mountain and I'm a comm sport person. I own a  
18 fish guiding business also, a hunting business. You  
19 name it, I do it. More importantly I represent  
20 subsistence users no matter where we're from. Okay.

21

22 MR. MARTIN: Pete Martin, Sr.  
23 Stebbins/St. Michaels, representing subsistence users  
24 and Councilman for IRA Stebbins.

25

26 MR. SACCHEUS: I'm Charles F. Saccheus,  
27 Sr. I represent the Native Village of Elim and also  
28 the subsistence users of Elim. I call Norton Sound my  
29 refrigerator. When I'm hungry, I go out there and get  
30 it. I also use 22(B) mostly for subsistence hunting  
31 and my people used 22(B) as a tool for their food on  
32 the table and I work for Alaska Beluga Whaling  
33 Committee -- I mean I'm one of the board members, and I  
34 also represent ESK, Elim/Shaktoolik/Koyuk Sea Mammal  
35 Commission and I have a permit to go tag beluga and  
36 also seals and I did a lot of tagging of beluga and  
37 also seal last summer. I love my Native food. That's  
38 how come I'm sitting on this board. I'm glad I see all  
39 you familiar faces in the area. Welcome to the  
40 meeting. Thank you.

41

42 MS. CHIVERS: I'm Michelle Chivers.  
43 I'll be your acting coordinator for this meeting.  
44 Thank you.

45

46 MR. TOCKTOO: My name is Fred Tocktoo.  
47 I work for the National Park Service here in Nome.

48

49 MR. THOMPSON: My name is Mike  
50 Thompson. I'm the new Nome park ranger with the

1 National Park Service.

2

3 MS. ARMSTRONG: I'm Helen Armstrong.  
4 I'm an anthropologist in the Office of Subsistence  
5 Management and I'm on a team that supports this  
6 Council.

7

8 MR. MAGDANZ: Good morning. I'm Jim  
9 Magdanz with ADF&G Subsistence out of Kotzebue and I  
10 cover both Bering Straits, Norton Sound, Kotzebue  
11 regions.

12

13 MR. CANNON: I'm Richard Cannon. I'm a  
14 fisheries biologist with the Office of Subsistence  
15 Management.

16

17 MR. DENTON: Good morning. I'm Jeff  
18 Denton with the Anchorage Field Office of the BLM and I  
19 cover the southern half of the Seward Peninsula and the  
20 22(A) stuff as well as everything from here to Wrangell  
21 and Southeast, so this is a little piece of the pie.

22

23 MR. GORN: Good morning. I'm Tony  
24 Gorn. I work for the Department of Fish and Game in  
25 Nome. I'm the assistant area biologist for the  
26 Wildlife Division.

27

28 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'm Chuck Ardizzone. I  
29 used to be the wildlife biologist for this Council, but  
30 I have moved over to BLM. I'm the subsistence  
31 coordinator.

32

33 MR. ADKISSON: Good morning. Ken  
34 Adkisson, National Park Service, Western Arctic  
35 National Park Lands. I'm the subsistence program  
36 manager as well as the acting chief of natural  
37 resources for four park units and Unit 23 as well as  
38 Bering Land Bridge National Preserve here in Unit 22.

39

40 MR. SPARKS: Tom Sparks, BLM, Nome  
41 Field Station.

42

43 MS. FLAHERTY: Amy Flaherty, KNOM  
44 radio. I'll be here for just a little while this  
45 morning.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: We're supposed to  
48 have somebody here from Nome Nugget too. They'll  
49 probably walk in later. They've been kind of calling  
50 me up as well as KNOM. I appreciate them calling and

1 trying to notify the public so that we don't get  
2 backlash after the meetings of what we've done.

3  
4 Okay. That brings us down to the  
5 review and adoption of the minutes. Is there any items  
6 that need to be deleted or added on to the agenda.  
7 Michelle, do you have any recommendations. No. Is  
8 there any changes on the minutes and adoption of the  
9 agenda.

10  
11 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. We can go to  
12 number 4.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: I mean adoption  
15 of the agenda is what I was trying to say. Adoption of  
16 the agenda. Yes.

17  
18 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chair. Jim Magdanz,  
19 Fish and Game. Under Agency reports, Fish and Game, I  
20 want to briefly update the Council on our work recently  
21 in Stebbins and St. Michael. I'll come after Tony.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Okay.

24  
25 MR. MAGDANZ: Thank you.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Any other  
28 additions to the agenda.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: If not, a motion  
33 would be in order to approve the agenda as amended.

34  
35 MR. SEETOT: So moved.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Motion on the  
38 floor. Is there a second.

39  
40 MR. QUINN: I'll second.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: All those in  
43 favor say aye.

44  
45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Opposed same  
48 sign.

49  
50 (No opposing votes)

1 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Motion carries.  
2 The agenda is adopted. As far as the minutes are  
3 concerned, my recommendation is that since the Council  
4 Members have received these minutes about a month ago  
5 or so and I, myself, when I got them, I was able to  
6 review them and I was able to talk with Mike, our  
7 secretary at the present time, to just recap or if  
8 there's any corrections or additions to those minutes.  
9 So, Mike.

10  
11 MR. QUINN: I'll just open the floor if  
12 anybody saw any discrepancies or anything with those  
13 minutes, let them speak now or forever hold their  
14 peace. Otherwise, I'll move that we adopt the minutes  
15 as written.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: There's a motion  
18 on the floor to adopt the minutes of the last meeting.  
19 Is there a second.

20  
21 MR. SACCHEUS: Second.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Any questions or  
24 comments on the minutes.

25  
26 (No comments)

27  
28 MR. GRAY: Question.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: The question has  
31 been called for. All those in favor say aye.

32  
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Those opposed  
36 same sign.

37  
38 (No opposing votes)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Motion carries.  
41 Thank you. We're down to Item No. 6, which is the  
42 election of officers. Let me just clarify something.  
43 There are some people on the Council whose terms are  
44 going to be up and my term is up in 2007. What is the  
45 procedure of continuing on. The Secretary of Interior  
46 reappoints you or I'm not too clear on that. We do  
47 have some Council Members here whose terms are up this  
48 year. How does that work anyway.

49  
50 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. Currently

1 we're in the process of going through the nominations  
2 for the upcoming year for 2007. Those are going  
3 through the process and should be on their way to  
4 Washington, D.C. now. And then in terms of 2007 we do  
5 have some Council Members here whose terms will expire  
6 and some applications will be provided to those people.  
7 But in terms of the Chair for the meeting, this is kind  
8 of out of cycle because Grace has just resigned from  
9 the Council, so this would probably be just for this  
10 meeting and then you would take up elections again in  
11 your March meeting when you have your new Council  
12 Members on. Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Then the terms  
15 end what month, September, October, July?

16

17 MS. CHIVERS: For the new appointments?

18

19 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: For everybody.  
20 Like those terms that are up for the Council Members.

21

22 MS. ARMSTRONG: When do the terms end,  
23 Michelle?

24

25 MS. CHIVERS: Their terms end -- this  
26 would be the last meeting for those Council Members  
27 whose terms expire this year and if they have  
28 reapplied, then their names are going through that  
29 process currently.

30

31 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. Helen  
32 Armstrong. I just wanted to point out on Page 3 in  
33 your book where the roll call is, under everybody's  
34 name it has when their seats -- the year they were  
35 appointed and the year they will be expiring, so you  
36 know when your term is up. The last meeting of that  
37 year is when your term ends. Every fall we take  
38 applications then for being reappointed and the  
39 coordinator will give out those applications in the  
40 fall meeting so that we make sure there's no problem  
41 with missing it in the mail or something like that. Is  
42 that correct, Michelle?

43

44 MS. CHIVERS: Yes. And for those whose  
45 terms are expiring you do have applications in your  
46 folder.

47

48 MS. ARMSTRONG: And if you want to fill  
49 them out today and give them to Michelle, then you  
50 don't have to worry about taking it home, remembering

1 it. So if it's in your folder those people would be  
2 the ones who -- it would be the 2007 ones, is that  
3 right, Michelle, the ones who have 2007 by their seat?

4  
5 MS. CHIVERS: Correct. Would you like  
6 me to read the names for the people?

7  
8 MS. ARMSTRONG: I think that's a good  
9 idea, yeah.

10  
11 MS. CHIVERS: The terms that will be  
12 expiring at the end of 2007 is Vance Grishkowsky, Myron  
13 Savetilik, Peter Buck and Cliff Weyiouanna. So you  
14 people should have applications in your folder. If you  
15 want to fill those out and hand them to me, I can hand  
16 carry them. Otherwise you can mail them back to our  
17 office. Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Is everybody here  
20 that's sitting on the Council eligible to be on an  
21 executive committee?

22  
23 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, I'm not sure  
24 what you mean by executive committee. Are you talking  
25 about like for the chair?

26  
27 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: The chair, the  
28 secretary.

29  
30 MS. CHIVERS: Yes.

31  
32 MR. GRAY: So Elmer, Charles Saccheus  
33 and myself, this is our last meeting.

34  
35 MS. CHIVERS: Correct, unless you are  
36 reappointed. If you reapply, then you'll be  
37 reappointed.

38  
39 MR. GRAY: How long is this  
40 reappointment process going to happen before.....

41  
42 MS. CHIVERS: It should happen by late  
43 this month or first part of November and the Secretary  
44 of Interior will be sending the appointment letters at  
45 that time.

46  
47 MR. GRAY: Have all of us reapplied?

48  
49 MS. CHIVERS: That I'm not sure.

50

1 MR. SACCHEUS: Mr. Chair. I've got a  
2 question about this board, are you appointed by your  
3 immediate village or are you appointed by this board?

4  
5 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Michelle, do you  
6 have an answer to that?

7  
8 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. We have  
9 applications that people would apply for and you could  
10 be nominated by someone else or you could also apply  
11 yourself. But to answer your question, the decision of  
12 -- you can get nominated by anyone or by yourself, but  
13 the decision is with the Secretary of Interior because  
14 you're appointed by the Secretary of Interior. So it  
15 goes through a review process with a panel of people  
16 from the region, Federal people from BLM, Park Service,  
17 and then it goes through a review, it goes to the  
18 Board, the Federal Subsistence Board, and then they  
19 forward their recommendations on to the Secretary of  
20 Interior. It's kind of a complicated process actually.

21  
22 MR. GRAY: I guess in my case somehow I  
23 think my name got reapplied, but I do know somebody  
24 else in my community applied for that position too.  
25 Whether I fill out my paperwork and send it in or  
26 whether somebody put my name in in my village, I don't  
27 remember. But there is a process for somebody else in  
28 your community to run against you and you guys  
29 advertise that also, I suppose.

30  
31 MS. ARMSTRONG: That's correct. It's  
32 very secret, this whole process, so none of us here  
33 know whether or not somebody did apply from your  
34 village. You probably know, but we don't. Barb  
35 Armstrong does know. She works with it and if you  
36 wanted to make certain your application went in, you  
37 could call Barb and ask her. Generally speaking, if  
38 people have been on the Council and doing a good job  
39 and there's not some big reason, usually people get  
40 reappointed, generally. I can't say that that always  
41 happens. They also look for some kind of balance on  
42 the Council as well.

43  
44  
45 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Kobuk,  
46 who has had this seat before me, had asked if St.  
47 Michael could get a seat in sport. He told me to ask  
48 the board about that.

49  
50 MS. ARMSTRONG: Let me clarify. They

1 wanted to know if they could have a sport hunting seat  
2 from Stebbins, is that what you're saying?

3

4 MR. MARTIN: St. Michael.

5

6 MS. ARMSTRONG: I mean St. Michael.

7

8 MR. QUINN: There's a vacant seat.  
9 Where is that supposed to be from?

10

11 MS. ARMSTRONG: They don't actually do  
12 -- it's not done by village so that there's a  
13 representative from each village because there are too  
14 many villages. There are more villages than there are  
15 seats. In regions like the Yukon-Kuskokwim, they have  
16 52 villages, so they have to do it more by trying to  
17 get some representation broadly. So the Board doesn't  
18 look exactly at making sure each village has  
19 representation. And then there is the need to have  
20 some sport and commercial representation, too. Now  
21 that isn't always true in all regions. For example,  
22 the North Slope, they don't have any commercial or  
23 sport users because they can't find any applicants up  
24 there. So it depends on the region, too, but in this  
25 region it's pretty important to have some other  
26 representation as well.

27

28 So it's not that precise that we want  
29 to get a person from this community who's sport or  
30 subsistence. That's also because the applicants vary  
31 from year to year. Sometimes we won't have an  
32 applicant from a community. You were asking, Tom, about  
33 having two from one community. It does happen that  
34 we'll have two from one community. If they're both  
35 really, really good applicants, then it's not going to  
36 be a hindrance necessarily to have two people from one  
37 community. The Board takes all those things into  
38 consideration and they try to make sure they spread it  
39 out around the region and that you've got  
40 representation from different portions of regions, but  
41 it's certainly not that precise.

42

43 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Jerry Ostner runs a  
44 sports and I was wondering if they could get a sheet  
45 for that.

46

47 MS. ARMSTRONG: Right now nominations  
48 are open. Somebody should nominate him and see what  
49 happens.

50

1 MR. QUINN: I believe Tom's seat is a  
2 sport/comm and his position is up. If he's reapplying  
3 or somebody is renominating him, he may get elected,  
4 but there will be a sport/comm seat open after this  
5 meeting.

6  
7 MR. GRAY: Yeah, but my seat has been  
8 on the street for advertisement to be filled for the  
9 last year, I think. Whoever's name are in for that  
10 seat, if my name is in, whoever's names are in are in.

11  
12 MS. ARMSTRONG: That's correct.

13  
14 MR. GRAY: It's a little bit late. But  
15 on the other side of the coin there's no reason that  
16 Jerry can't fill some of these other seats. You know,  
17 we've got so many seats coming up in '07 and I think  
18 that's the earliest we could get a new person like  
19 Jerry into this system. I think what you need to do is  
20 explain to these people that there's a process and if  
21 they want to get somebody in there, they need to submit  
22 a name to this thing and then follow it up with some  
23 support letters so there's a little more oomph to get  
24 Jerry or whoever into this organization.

25  
26 MS. ARMSTRONG: Peter, the applications  
27 are here right now and you could nominate him today.  
28 You wouldn't even have to wait if you wanted to. That  
29 would be an appropriate thing to do.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Okay. Going on  
32 with the agenda, I personally feel that maybe Barb or  
33 Michelle or somebody should send a memorandum to us,  
34 since there's so many question on reapplying, on the  
35 process of becoming a Council Member for this Board so  
36 that us people can have an idea if we want to run  
37 again, if we want to get out, what is the process. If  
38 somebody else in the community wants to run also, then  
39 we would have some knowledge of the process. Since the  
40 Secretary of Interior is involved, it's just a little  
41 difficult. You just don't go out and vote.

42  
43 Okay. Now what kind of officers do we  
44 got. We've got the chair, vice chair and the  
45 secretary. Is that all?

46  
47 MR. QUINN: Mr. Chair. I'll make a  
48 motion here and see if you guys like it. Since we do  
49 have these seats expiring and we don't know for sure  
50 who's going to be here in February, I'll make a motion

1 that we defer the election of officers until the  
2 February meeting when we have a better idea of who's  
3 going to be here and for how long and we'll just leave  
4 things where they are with you as the acting chair and  
5 me as the secretary and that's my motion. Defer the  
6 election until the next meeting.

7

8 MR. SEETOT: I second the motion.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: What is the  
11 opinion of the Council. Do we agree with that.

12

13 MR. GRAY: That sounds good. If you're  
14 comfortable running the meeting, that sounds good to  
15 me.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Well, I think  
18 Mike is trying to put me on.

19

20 MR. QUINN: I'm trying to make this  
21 meeting go along here.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: This is where I  
24 had some question on the terms that are up and we elect  
25 officers. Are they officers for one month if they  
26 aren't reappointed and then we'll have to deal with a  
27 vacancy? I don't mind running a meeting. I've run  
28 meetings for Bering Straits School District for 30  
29 years, so I have some knowledge of it, except the  
30 Federal format is a little bit different than the State  
31 format. I will need some help on that from you guys if  
32 I make errors and giving me some recommendations.

33

34 MR. SEETOT: A comment on your  
35 discussion earlier on the roles and responsibilities.  
36 I think they're covered in our operating manual or the  
37 manual they send to each Council Member and then pretty  
38 much covers roles and responsibilities of the Council  
39 Members plus the Federal side. It was revised last  
40 year, so I've been getting those manuals pretty much  
41 every two, three years and that would cover most of  
42 your questions and information that you might want.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: My concern was  
45 what was the procedure on being reappointed. There's  
46 some question on when our terms are up and I wasn't too  
47 clear on it. A memorandum will take care of that.

48

49 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. The way I was  
50 appointed, the Seward Peninsula original Council sent a

1 letter to Elim IRA Council and we had it posted up on a  
2 bulletin board for a certain amount of time and nobody  
3 signed up, so I signed my name up there. That's how  
4 come I was appointed. I also got appointed by the Elim  
5 IRA Council to sit on this board and they said it was  
6 pretty important that we have somebody from Elim to  
7 represent Elim and that's how come I'm sitting on this  
8 Board. I also have an alternate for this Board, like  
9 if I'm absent from this Board, we already have an  
10 alternate that will sit on this Board.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Thank you. If  
13 there's no further comments on election of officers and  
14 to delay it until the February meeting when we all know  
15 the terms of everybody and who might be on the Council,  
16 if that's okay, I don't particularly mind being the  
17 acting chair until such time. I think if it's okay  
18 with the Council, then a motion will be in order that  
19 we delay the election of officers until February  
20 meeting so that we'd be on record.

21  
22 MR. GRAY: Mike made that motion and  
23 somebody seconded it.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: All right.

26  
27 MR. QUINN: I'll call the question.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: There's a motion  
30 on the floor to delay the election of officers until  
31 the February meeting, which makes myself as the acting  
32 chair and Mike Quinn as the secretary and a chair is  
33 still vacant. Any further questions or comments.

34  
35 (No comments)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: The question has  
38 been called. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

39  
40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Those opposed  
43 same sign.

44  
45 (No opposing votes)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Motion carries.  
48 Okay. I guess we can go ahead and cover the Chair's  
49 report. I really don't have a report. Would you cover  
50 that, Michelle.

1 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As  
2 you know, Grace did attend that meeting and she's no  
3 longer on the Council, so I'll just kind of give the  
4 Council a recap as to what happened at the May Board  
5 meeting. There were some proposals that were submitted  
6 that the Council made recommendations on, so I'll give  
7 you a brief description of what that proposal was, the  
8 Council's recommendation and what action the Board  
9 actually took.

10  
11 If you turn in your books on Page 14  
12 through 21, Page 14 is the actual letter and then  
13 starting on 15 is the actual description of the  
14 proposals. The first proposal was a statewide proposal  
15 to restrict commercial sales and purchase of  
16 handicrafts made from bear byproducts. The Council had  
17 opposed this proposal and then the Board action was to  
18 reject as recommended. It gives a list of Councils  
19 that actually rejected this proposal, which was Bristol  
20 Bay, Seward Pen, Southcentral and Southeast.

21  
22 Proposal No. 2 was a proposal to  
23 provide for sale of handicrafts made from nonedible  
24 byproducts of wildlife harvested for subsistence uses  
25 excluding bear, which included skin, hide, pelt, fur,  
26 claws, bones, teeth, sinew, antlers and/or horns. This  
27 Council had made a recommendation to support with  
28 modification to remove the redundant reference to bear  
29 in the regulatory language and also to provide needed  
30 definitions of the terms of big game and trophy. The  
31 Board action was to adopt with modification to  
32 essentially do the same thing, to remove the redundant  
33 references and to provide definitions of the terms big  
34 game trophy, et cetera.

35  
36 Proposals specific to this region, you  
37 had Proposal No. 37, which was to close the summer  
38 caribou season in areas of Unit 22, where reindeer  
39 occur. This Council supported with the modification to  
40 change the boundary language to align with the language  
41 adopted by the Alaska Board of Game. The Board action  
42 was to adopt with that modification consistent with the  
43 Seward Pen and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Councils.

44  
45 Proposal 38 was a proposal to change  
46 the winter moose hunt in Unit 23(A)-remainder from  
47 December 1 through December 31st to January 1 through  
48 January 31st. The Council supported this  
49 recommendation. It was their proposal. The Board  
50 action was to adopt as recommended by the Council.

1                   You had Proposal 39, which was to close  
2 the Federal season for moose in Part of Unit 22(A) and  
3 the Council obviously supported since it was their  
4 proposal, but the Board also adopted as recommended by  
5 this Council, so that did pass.

6  
7                   Proposal 40 is to change the moose  
8 season in Unit 22(B) west of the Darby Mountains and  
9 the Council supported this proposal and the Board  
10 action was to adopt it with the modification as  
11 recommended by the Council.

12  
13                   Proposal 41 was to provide for  
14 designated hunter permits for muskox in Unit 22. The  
15 Council recommendation was to support and the Board  
16 also supported this proposal.

17  
18                   Proposals 42 through 52 was to  
19 establish or revise customary and traditional use  
20 determinations for residents of Unit 22 for beaver,  
21 arctic fox, red fox, hare. There's a long list of  
22 items there. The Council deferred this until further  
23 information was available, so the Board action also was  
24 to defer as recommended by the Council.

25  
26                   Proposal 53 requested the motorized  
27 vehicles, including ATV's, snowmachine and boat, may be  
28 used to take wolf in Unit 22. The Council  
29 recommendation was to support the proposal with  
30 modification to adopt the State's language in Unit 22  
31 to align with Federal regulations. The Board action  
32 tabled this until they received clarification of intent  
33 from the Council. So I believe this proposal will come  
34 up again.

35  
36                   Mr. Chair, those were the actions taken  
37 by the Board at the Federal Subsistence Board meeting  
38 in May. Are there any questions on those before I move  
39 on to the next item.

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Are there any  
42 questions.

43  
44                   (No comments)

45  
46                   MS. CHIVERS: Okay. The next item is  
47 the annual report reply. If you look at Page 22  
48 through Page 27, these are issues that the Council  
49 brought forward to the Board and one was the salmon and  
50 trout studies on Unalakleet. The Council requested a

1 study and the response that came back from the Board  
2 was OSM can include a specific request for studies of  
3 salmon and Dolly Varden char in the Unalakleet River.  
4 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is working  
5 closely with the community of Unalakleet in finishing  
6 up the study to distribute coho salmon and they also  
7 have a similar study currently being proposed for  
8 chinook by the ADF&G and the Native Village of  
9 Unalakleet.

10

11                   It looks like the Fisheries Resource  
12 Monitoring Plan is going to offer a call for 2008  
13 asking for monitoring of Dolly Varden char. It looks  
14 like they're looking for qualified investigators to  
15 submit proposals. Issue 2 was Unit 22 moose. It looks  
16 like the Council would like to see a moose census be  
17 completed. The response from the Board was that the  
18 Board is aware of the concerns for Unit 22 moose and it  
19 looks like ADF&G, Bureau of Land Management and  
20 National Park Service have been working cooperatively  
21 to monitor that moose population in the region. It  
22 says that the Board will continue to monitor the moose  
23 population in the region and work with the other  
24 agencies and work closely with the Council to address  
25 these concerns.

26

27                   Issue 3 was sport fishing on the  
28 Unalakleet River. The Council was concerned regarding  
29 impacts of freshwater sport fishing. The response from  
30 the Board was the sport fisheries activities by  
31 nonlocal anglers have expanded over time and harvest of  
32 certain species including chinook and coho salmon are  
33 higher compared to most systems in the region. The  
34 reason they are higher than in other rivers is  
35 Unalakleet has the largest runs and is most easily  
36 accessible compared to most other systems.

37

38                   What the Board recommended is the  
39 Council can, as a body or individual members, ask the  
40 fisheries managers for updates on available information  
41 associated with these fisheries as well as submit  
42 proposed regulatory changes to the Alaska Board of  
43 Fisheries to address those changes.

44

45                   Issue 4 was the Unit 22 wolves. The  
46 Council was concerned about the growing population of  
47 wolves in Unit 22 and the Board is aware of the  
48 Council's concern and willing to work with the Council  
49 to try to find a solution. The current trapping season  
50 runs from November 1st until April 30th. So on Page 28

1 there is a page describing what the Board's policy is  
2 on the predator control.

3  
4 Issue 5 was the Pikmiktalik River  
5 studies and the Board wanted the Council to be aware  
6 that there are ongoing projects in this area. It looks  
7 like there are currently projects ongoing there with a  
8 weir. I'm not exactly sure what the response is there.

9  
10 Issue 6 was the proxy hunting. The  
11 Council wants to learn more about this information on  
12 proxy hunting. So the Board did address that in their  
13 response, giving the State of Alaska hunt restrictions  
14 and then it also gives the State of Alaska's proxy  
15 hunt, what changes are being made in 2006.

16  
17 Issue 7 was the Council size. This was  
18 an item that was brought up when they were going over  
19 the charter at the last meeting. The Council was  
20 concerned that they would like to increase the size of  
21 the membership and the response from the Board is that  
22 the Secretary considers the charter's renewal every two  
23 years, which will be an item brought up later in this  
24 meeting. The Board recognized the Council's desire to  
25 increase the number to 13 because there are so many  
26 communities this Board is representing. However, they  
27 felt that 10 would be an adequate number. There are  
28 other regions that have 10 Council members that are  
29 representing 40-plus communities.

30  
31 The Council also wanted to increase  
32 membership in order to add more subsistence use  
33 representatives and that kind of varies from year to  
34 year when the applications are received and we go  
35 through this whole nomination process. The Board will  
36 continue to recommend candidates who have the broadest  
37 range of knowledge and experience and are most highly  
38 qualified from those applicants.

39  
40 So those were the issues and the  
41 Board's responses. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Any  
42 questions.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Are there any  
45 questions for Michelle on her report on Items A and B.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: If not, thank  
50 you, Michelle.

1 MR. GRAY: I guess I have a question.  
2 They talk about this wolf issue. I'm not real clear on  
3 where it's going to go from here. Is it a dead issue?  
4 Table until they receive clarification. I personally  
5 have a problem with wolves and I come from a village  
6 that we've killed a lot of wolves over time, but  
7 there's resident wolves that are getting set up on the  
8 Seward Peninsula and it's not a good thing for our  
9 resource and we need to address it. Tabling issues and  
10 putting it off year after year is not a solution. We  
11 need to deal with this thing. These guys need to deal  
12 with this thing and they can't be putting it on hold  
13 because it's taking money out of some of our pockets,  
14 it's taking food off of some of our tables and the wolf  
15 problem needs to be addressed.

16  
17 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, if I may offer  
18 a suggestion. At this point when we go through the  
19 process of requesting proposals for a different  
20 species, you can actually take a look at the regulation  
21 for wolf as it stands now and make a recommendation to  
22 make a change to that if you would like.

23  
24 MR. GRAY: The point I was making is  
25 there was a proposal from this board that went forward  
26 and it got tabled. If you look at WP06-53, they tabled  
27 this proposal. Maybe he's going to answer some  
28 questions.

29  
30 MR. ARDIZZONE: I think the Board  
31 tabled the proposal because they looked at the new  
32 State regulations and they looked at Federal  
33 regulations and they couldn't determine what would be  
34 gained or what the difference was between what you  
35 could already do and what the new State regulations  
36 said. So they wanted more clarification on why or what  
37 the difference is between the two regulations that you  
38 see. Then also, if you look on Page 28, the Board will  
39 not or cannot or they believe they cannot endorse  
40 predator control. Their policy basically recognizes  
41 that predators can be a problem but they don't have the  
42 authority to manage predators. It's not like they're  
43 going to go out and do like the State has been doing  
44 and have aerial wolf hunts or something. They believe  
45 that's the function of the land management agencies  
46 themselves, not part of a Board's authority.

47  
48 MR. GRAY: Maybe sometime during this  
49 meeting let's pull up the State's regulations and pull  
50 up this proposal and go through it and see what the

1 difference is so I'm clear on what the difference is.

2

3 MR. ARDIZZONE: Okay.

4

5 MR. GRAY: I don't want this issue to  
6 die. I want the Council to deal with this thing. Like  
7 I say, it's taking subsistence users' food, moose,  
8 caribou. It's taking food away from our people. So  
9 whether it's predator control or whatever you want to  
10 call it, it's still affecting our people.

11

12 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'm not sure what the  
13 State regulation actually does more than what the  
14 Federal regulation already has in place. I mean  
15 currently there's no limits on wolves for harvest in  
16 Unit 22.

17

18 MR. GRAY: This regulation addressed  
19 how you can use vehicles to kill animals. Let's  
20 compare them before this meeting is over.

21

22 MR. ARDIZZONE: Let's talk at a break  
23 and if you feel the need, you can submit another  
24 proposal for clarification sake.

25

26 MS. ARMSTRONG: Can I just add that we  
27 have to be really clear. If the reason a proposal is  
28 being made and it's stated that it's predator control,  
29 the Board won't support it. I just want to make sure  
30 that's understood. If it's not stated that it's  
31 predator control then they'll look at it. You just  
32 have to think about how you make your proposals and  
33 what the reasons are for doing them. That's why  
34 they've developed this policy, so it's really clear and  
35 there is a policy that they will not address predator  
36 control issues.

37

38 MR. GRAY: And that's fine. I can  
39 understand that. On the same token, all of us have to  
40 manage our resource and our resource is what feeds us.  
41 If you want to call it predator control, so be it, but  
42 we're still managing resource somehow and we've got  
43 tools to do that and that's what this is.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Helen.

46

47 MR. QUINN: Can I say something?

48

49 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Go ahead, Mike.

50

1 MR. QUINN: When these proposals get  
2 submitted, the Staff does a recommendation and I  
3 haven't seen the Staff recommendation for this proposal  
4 or we haven't.

5  
6 MS. ARMSTRONG: For the predator  
7 control policy?

8  
9 MR. QUINN: It's Proposal No. 53. What  
10 you've got printed here doesn't say predator control.  
11 It just says use of motorized vehicle.

12  
13 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Quinn, that was  
14 before the Council at the last meeting that was in the  
15 book. There's a whole analysis done on that proposal.  
16 It's not in this book because it was covered last  
17 meeting.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Is there any  
20 other comments? We could probably address that issue  
21 somewhere in the meeting.

22  
23 MR. GRAY: Where would this fit into  
24 the system here somewhere? Where is a good place to  
25 put this agenda item.

26  
27 MR. ARDIZZONE: We can talk about it at  
28 a break and see if we can craft a proposal and then  
29 later on there will be a call for wildlife proposals.  
30 You can actually bring it up, suggest a proposal and  
31 the Council can vote on it.

32  
33 MR. GRAY: Is this something that we  
34 need to submit a new proposal again?

35  
36 MR. ARDIZZONE: I think for  
37 clarification sake it would be best to submit a new  
38 proposal. If you submit what was already submitted,  
39 they're going to come up with the same thing. They  
40 want better understanding of what the proposal is, the  
41 Board does.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Well, we'll plug  
44 it in somewhere sometime today. Item No. 12. You can  
45 get together with Michelle or whoever and give your  
46 opinions. Okay. I'll give you that responsibility  
47 then, Tom. Any other questions on Items A or B on the  
48 report.

49  
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: If not, we'll go  
2 down to village concerns and I'll start with Mike.  
3 Give your concerns to the areas you might know, village  
4 concerns, or just a short report.

5  
6 MR. QUINN: No, I haven't heard too  
7 much concerns. I've got an issue that's already on the  
8 agenda towards the end. Otherwise, I guess things are  
9 okay for me.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: All right.  
12 Peter.

13  
14 MR. BUCK: There was kind of few fish  
15 this summer, but the weather wasn't cooperating. My  
16 main concern is the moose population and hunting season  
17 because our moose season was cut off about three days  
18 early, four days early. My concern is the moose  
19 population and the census, make sure that's done.  
20 That's about all.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Elmer.

23  
24 MR. SEETOT: Not much concerns on  
25 Brevig Mission other than Sub-Unit 22(D) wide use area.  
26 I would think that this use area is used extensively in  
27 the summer months. I just don't go up that way around  
28 Emerald Basin, American River system. I think there  
29 are violations or regulations on State and Federal  
30 land, but I really haven't heard anything lately.  
31 Thank you.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Thank you.  
34 Vance.

35  
36 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: In Unalakleet, over  
37 the summer months, there still was some concerns on  
38 especially the chinook runs, king salmon coming into  
39 Unalakleet. I heard a lot of different things. If I'm  
40 right, there was an emergency closure on it a little  
41 later on near the end of the season. The moose  
42 situation on the Unalakleet River drainage itself I  
43 think is improving. Some of the hunters from  
44 Unalakleet did go down to the open area in 22(A) and  
45 participated in the hunt. I think there was some  
46 success involved in it. I know weather did play a  
47 factor because everybody had to go down on the ocean.  
48 I think they had to park their boats in the mouth of  
49 the river. There's certain days they couldn't go  
50 through the rough water. Logistically it was kind of a

1 tough thing to do, but some people did do it. Other  
2 than that I haven't heard a whole lot of other things.  
3 That's all for Unalakleet.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Thank you, Vance.  
6 Just a couple of concerns from the Shishmaref area,  
7 22(E) and northern part of 22(D) north of Brevig  
8 Mission and north of Imuruk, is the population of ox.  
9 I know the Federal hunt is really trying to cooperate  
10 with the village people on increasing the harvest for  
11 the locals. I believe it was up to 55 or 56, something  
12 like that. I know for a fact that not all the permits  
13 are going to be used, even when the permit system for  
14 muskox was 25 there was always a real low percentage of  
15 harvest by the local people. The ox population is  
16 really increasing fast. I noticed that while I was in  
17 the area of 22(D) on the northern side there's muskox  
18 all over. On 22(E) we're getting an overabundance of  
19 ox, but the Park Service, as well as the Tier II hunt  
20 they're trying to address it, which I'm real proud of.  
21 The only problem we have on the Federal hunts or on the  
22 Tier II hunts is that we're limited to State land and  
23 private land of harvesting those. I believe there's a  
24 meeting on muskox in November here in Nome to where  
25 this could be addressed in a little more detail as far  
26 as the harvest is concerned. I just wanted to bring  
27 that up from those areas, to make sure you let Fred or  
28 Ken or somebody know and send comments out on muskox  
29 because I think the population is really increasing.

30

31 The other issue, the population of  
32 beaver is really increasing, like in the Agiapuk,  
33 American and Serpentine. When they make these dams, I  
34 know they're kind of damaging some areas for  
35 subsistence purposes and I think that seriously we need  
36 to look at the harvest rate for beavers in that area,  
37 south side of 22(E) and northern part of 22(D).  
38 They're new to the area and people just don't know how  
39 to get them.

40

41 The moose population looks good and the  
42 people are satisfied with the moose season from August  
43 1 to December 31st, bulls only. I really noticed while  
44 I'm guiding in those areas in 22(E) and 22(D) I'm  
45 seeing an awful lot of moose calves in those area. I  
46 usually report whatever I see to Tony or Kate Persons  
47 as to what I see in those areas so I can help them as  
48 far as moose count is concerned because it does affect  
49 the subsistence users when I give those reports for  
50 Brevig, Teller, Wales, Shishmaref, especially those

1 villages. I try to help in that area.

2

3                   The bear population, we have an  
4 overabundance of bear population, like on the boat trip  
5 from Shishmaref to Cape Espenberg. There were nine  
6 bears on the beach and the harvest rates were very low  
7 and they're getting to be bad predators for ox now,  
8 too. If something could be done of getting some  
9 hunters in, even on a limited amount, in the Preserve  
10 area from Deering, Espenberg area, that would probably  
11 help the population.

12

13                   We still have some caribou, mostly  
14 bulls, summering in 22(E). The Fish and Game or the  
15 State has a good season on them, so the village people  
16 have actually been very successful in putting meat on  
17 the table. It's decreasing a little bit. Three, four  
18 years ago there used to be thousands of them. Now  
19 there's getting to be groups of only maybe 12 or 14. I  
20 think with what's being done, the dates are good, it's  
21 going to help the reindeer industry get back on its  
22 feet in the future for those areas that have reindeer.

23

24                   Other than that, that's my report, I  
25 believe. Tom.

26

27                   MR. GRAY: Okay. Well, muskox in my  
28 community has been real aggressive in going after  
29 muskox and it's been a positive thing and I'd like to  
30 see that continue. Moose. I spend a lot of time in  
31 the country and I feel that the moose population is  
32 starting to rebound in my country. I'm seeing calves  
33 and so on down there. Hopefully the moose will come  
34 back. I do have a concern with the wolves though. We  
35 have too many wolves and if they start hammering these  
36 moose, it's going to affect that moose population  
37 coming back. Right now I'm seeing moose calves out  
38 there.

39

40                   Caribou. They didn't get too close to  
41 us last year, so the people didn't get a whole lot of  
42 caribou. Some people did but not a lot. Bears. I saw  
43 a lot of bears this year, but I feel in my area the  
44 bear population is coming down, which is a positive  
45 thing for our subsistence users. Hopefully we can get  
46 a bear study to take a look at that.

47

48                   Beavers. I echo Cliff on the beaver  
49 issue. We've got way too many beavers. You know, the  
50 system can justify beavers all they want, but if we

1 can't get rid of them, maybe we need to put a  
2 commercial hunt together or something. I don't think  
3 there's anything positive.

4  
5 King salmon. We didn't have any king  
6 salmon either, so I think the king run all over was  
7 bad. Silver salmon same thing. We had lots of silvers  
8 this year, but next year, down the road, it's a cycle  
9 it's going to go through. Crabbing. We've had trouble  
10 crabbing. I crab every year and we didn't have a lot  
11 of crab until later in the year. Later in the spring  
12 we had crabs, but from December to end of February it  
13 was pretty touch crabbing for us.

14  
15 I think the last thing that this board  
16 needs to address is this mining issue. They're talking  
17 about using cyanide in our country here and I don't  
18 think that's a positive thing for subsistence users.  
19 Something needs to come from this board addressing  
20 that. Okay.

21  
22 MR. MARTIN: Moose, we need to have a  
23 more clear experience to the boundary south 22(A),  
24 exactly what part of Pastolik. There's two in there.  
25 If they can find out about that, exactly where the  
26 boundary is for moose season. That's all I have.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Charles.

29  
30 MR. SACCHEUS: Yeah. 22(B), I'm from  
31 the district of east side of Cape Darby. Our Norton  
32 Bay subsistence gathering was good on crabs. Also on  
33 chum salmon, silver salmon, king salmon. There weren't  
34 too many pink salmon this year. Maybe down the road,  
35 maybe four years there will be more pink salmon. There  
36 was no commercial fishing this year for the past maybe  
37 15 to 20 years.

38  
39 On the land side, caribou hunting was  
40 good. Even the migration was kind of far east of  
41 Koyuk. The moose season is kind of going down a little  
42 bit due to the predators, especially the bears. I  
43 don't think there's that many wolves in our area.  
44 During the spring the bears really get the calves and  
45 sometimes they kill the mother in our area.  
46 Springtime, when the snow gets deep and they have  
47 calves, that's when the bears kind of make our moose  
48 population come down a lot.

49  
50 The beaver population is kind of going

1 downhill. We're kind of hurting in 22(B) east of Cape  
2 Willoughby for moose. There was a little problem this  
3 year catching moose in my area because not that much  
4 moose this year. Otherwise, everybody satisfied with  
5 their subsistence hunt this year, especially on berries  
6 and salmon. That's all I have. Thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Thank you. If  
9 any agencies, when I give you the floor to represent or  
10 the public, if you have any questions, if you did take  
11 notes from the reports that each individual gave here,  
12 you might want to go back and ask us and address the  
13 person that you might want to ask a question on a  
14 certain species that was discussed in the village  
15 concerns. Jim.

16  
17 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chair. Jim Magdanz.  
18 I wasn't quite sure what Mr. Martin was referring to  
19 about moose and boundaries in southern 22(A). Perhaps  
20 he could clarify.

21  
22 MR. MARTIN: I had a question on the  
23 Pastolik boundary, left side of it. When I look at  
24 regulations, the Pastolik drainage is closed? Somebody  
25 told me it would be on the left side of the river and  
26 that's what I wanted to clarify and make sure that it  
27 would be legal to hunt in that area.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Maybe during the  
30 break or something you can get with him and point it  
31 out on the map because we're having a little  
32 difficulty. He knows the area and we don't.

33  
34 MR. MAGDANZ: Right. I believe it  
35 drains into the Yukon, so it's a different game  
36 management unit. We could talk during the break about  
37 why that is and whether it's something we need to  
38 address.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: And then point it  
41 out to him so he can bring the information back to  
42 Stebbins/St. Michael area about what the boundaries  
43 might be on that and maybe get together with Tony. He  
44 might have some knowledge on the boundaries. We do  
45 have some hunters in these communities that are law  
46 abiding and that's what Peter is trying to clarify, is  
47 it the left side of the river or the right side of the  
48 river. So he needs clarification of that.

49  
50 MR. QUINN: Clifford, this is going to

1 come up in the issue I've asked to be added to the  
2 agenda under number 14(B) when we get there. That  
3 boundary will be part of the discussion.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Okay. I just  
6 wanted to have somebody clarify with Peter so that --  
7 we do have a map on our table -- so that he can point  
8 out what creek or what river and find that out. Is it  
9 true the Seward Peninsula doesn't have any fisheries  
10 proposals, is that true? I thank you folks for your  
11 comments before I forget. Before we get down to Item  
12 10 let's have a cigarette break, huh. Tom Gray says he  
13 doesn't smoke, all right. Let's take about a 10-minute  
14 break for now. I'd like to welcome Austin Ahmasuk to  
15 this meeting.

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (On record)

20

21 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Let's get  
22 started. Just for Agency and Council information, I'm  
23 going to break for lunch about 11:30 and restart  
24 somewhere around 1:00. We'll go down to Item 10, the  
25 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. Rich.

26

27 MR. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
28 Council Members. My name is Richard Cannon. I'm  
29 presenting to you today the 2007 Fisheries Monitoring  
30 Program for the Northern Region. For those Council  
31 Members that are kind of new to this process, the  
32 Northern Region takes in a fairly large chunk of real  
33 estate. It's everything north of Norton Sound and  
34 includes the Kotzebue Region as well as the North  
35 Slope, so it's a huge area. Unfortunately, in the way  
36 the money is divided up, it is a very small part of the  
37 overall budget for the Monitoring Program.

38

39 The materials I will be covering can be  
40 found in your Board books on Page 31 through 49. My  
41 report is organized into three sections. First,  
42 beginning on Page 31, provides you with a summary of  
43 this Fisheries Monitoring Program statewide. It tells  
44 you about its history starting in about 2000 and the  
45 procedures used to evaluate the projects, how we make  
46 the decisions to fund which projects. Policy and  
47 funding guidelines are discussed in that section.

48

49 On Page 34, Table 1, if you refer to  
50 that, provides a breakdown of the number of fisheries

1 proposals we received for 2007 statewide. You'll note  
2 that they are summarized by stock status and return  
3 projects. These are their biological studies, things  
4 like towers and weirs, tagging studies. And the other  
5 kind of study are harvest monitoring and traditional  
6 knowledge studies that deal with how subsistence users  
7 interact with the fisheries resources.

8  
9           The last three columns of that table  
10 reflect the recommendations made by our Interagency  
11 Technical Review Committee. With our program, we take  
12 these proposals when they're submitted and have them  
13 reviewed technically by a group of scientists from the  
14 State and Federal agencies, as well as our own Staff.

15  
16           Total funding for 2007 was about \$3.97  
17 million. The total cost of funding all 38 projects  
18 statewide would have been about \$4.14 million. The  
19 cost of the 35 projects recommended will be about \$3.8  
20 million. The TRC's recommended funding will leave some  
21 funds available for projects in 2008 since we won't  
22 quite use all of the available money.

23  
24           In Figure 1 on Page 35 shows the  
25 distribution of funds between Alaska Native  
26 organizations, State and Federal organizations, so we  
27 try and ensure part of our program deals with capacity  
28 building and working with the non-governmental  
29 organizations, primarily Native organizations. We try  
30 and make sure they're involved in these projects.

31  
32           The draft Monitoring Program for the  
33 region begins on Page 36 and discusses the issues and  
34 information needs that have been identified in the 2007  
35 call that went out November 2006. That's the same  
36 process we use every year. There's a call for  
37 proposals that goes out in November. So, for the 2008  
38 program, that call will go out this November.

39  
40           It should be noted that within the  
41 Northern Region the Seward Peninsula Council have  
42 identified salmon and char fisheries as being  
43 priorities. The request asks specifically that  
44 investigators develop a project to collect baseline  
45 information, including harvest assessment and  
46 traditional ecological knowledge for non-salmon as well  
47 as salmon species.

48  
49           On Table 1 found on Page 37 lists 24  
50 projects that have been funded for the Northern Region

1 since 2000. Three of these existing projects will  
2 continue in 2007, including the Pikmiktalik project,  
3 which is in your regional council's area. Fourteen  
4 projects were originally submitted for the entire  
5 Northern Region in 2007. The Technical Review  
6 Committee reviewed these original proposals and  
7 suggested that six be fully developed into full scale  
8 investigation plans. Two of the proposals were  
9 combined into one and these six that had proposed  
10 proposals to work on broad and whitefish and local  
11 knowledge, however it was withdrawn by the proposer.

12  
13 Table 2 found on Page 38 provides a  
14 listing of the proposed funding by project. Table 3 on  
15 that same page lists local hire and matching funds  
16 proposed by each project. The Technical Review  
17 Committee listed its priorities for funding of the  
18 projects at the top of Page 39. From highest at the  
19 top to lowest at the bottom of the list, however the  
20 final recommendation was to fund all four of the  
21 projects. More detailed descriptions of each of these  
22 projects and the Technical Review Committee's  
23 recommendations are found on Page 41 through 48. So,  
24 for each of these projects you'll see more of a  
25 detailed discussion.

26  
27 I'll just kind of summarize each of  
28 them. Project 07-151 is a Northwest Alaska Subsistence  
29 Fish Harvest Patterns and Trend Study. This project  
30 will explore subsistence fish harvest patterns and  
31 trends in the six Northwest Alaska communities of  
32 Ambler, Kiana, Kobuk, Noatak, Noorvik and Shungnak. A  
33 majority of the Technical Review Committee (7 out of 10  
34 members) voted to fund this project. A minority felt  
35 that the budget was too high and that there should be  
36 an agency match.

37  
38 07-105 is a North Slope Dolly Varden  
39 Genetic Baseline Completion. This project will  
40 complete collection and analysis of genetic baseline  
41 information for Dolly Varden populations from the  
42 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the north coast of  
43 Canada that had previously been done under past  
44 projects funded by this program. If genetic differences  
45 are great enough, baseline data can be used to examine  
46 the stock composition of harvests and wintering  
47 aggregations of Dolly Vardens on the North Slope.

48  
49 Project 07-107 is the Hulahula River  
50 Enumeration of Dolly Varden. This project will fund

1 continuation of Dolly Varden counting on the Hulahula  
2 River for an additional year and mainly there to test  
3 some of the assumptions of the project that they can  
4 actually get an accurate count and distinguish other  
5 species on the sonar data.

6  
7 Finally is the project for your region,  
8 which is 07-103, which is the Unalakleet River Chinook  
9 Salmon Radio Telemetry study. Information from a radio  
10 telemetry study conducted in 1997 and 1998 suggested  
11 that about 40% of the total Unalakleet River system  
12 chinook salmon spawning escapement may pass the North  
13 River tower site. This project would allow  
14 investigators to obtain an additional annual estimate  
15 of the percent of the total chinook salmon escapement  
16 passing the North River tower site. If this  
17 relationship holds up, this is an important management  
18 tool for the chinook runs on the Unalakleet. If this  
19 percentage does vary greatly, then we'll know that it  
20 is not a good tool and we'll have to look for different  
21 types of assessment projects for the Unalakleet  
22 drainage.

23  
24 That, in a nutshell, is my report to  
25 you, Mr. Chairman, and I'll open it up for questions.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Is there any  
28 questions.

29  
30 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: I have one question  
31 here. I don't know a whole lot about this radio  
32 telemetry but for them to get this comparison here of  
33 40 percent, do they have a site -- are they comparing  
34 it with another one above the North River?

35  
36 MR. CANNON: Yes, they do. They have  
37 these radio stations or towers located strategically  
38 above the North River tower site as well as in the  
39 mainstem.

40  
41 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Thank you.

42  
43 MR. GRAY: Earlier I talked with this  
44 fellow, Richard Cannon, about our area here and our  
45 subsistence needs and I'm sure all of you guys realize  
46 that over the years chum salmon has fallen in my river,  
47 for example, when Charlie Lien was involved in the  
48 fishery. There was 80,000 chums went by my camp. I  
49 think this year we had 25,000 chums go by. The same  
50 thing with silver salmon. Silver salmon fluctuate.

1 They've crashed. I asked him about the funding, if it  
2 can work in my area, and he explained that it can't and  
3 why. His suggestion was to air in the meeting that we  
4 do need some projects in our region and somebody's got  
5 to step up to the plate, I guess, and help out.

6  
7 I was concerned yesterday. I found out  
8 that the proposal that Kawerak was putting together to  
9 do a big project up at Salmon Lake, Fish and Game  
10 stepped in a couple days ago and said they don't want  
11 to be a player in it, which is basically going to shoot  
12 this funding project down. I'm very concerned about  
13 that. Fish and Game, if they're the ones controlling  
14 these waters and managing the resource funding for  
15 these projects, they need to be players. They've got  
16 to step forward. Jim is here from Fish and Game, but I  
17 would like to see our subsistence guy from Nome in this  
18 meeting. Where is he at?

19  
20 Anyway, we need fishery projects here  
21 that address the fishery. Charlie Lien's got a little  
22 project going on. Tim Smith's got a little project  
23 going on. Somehow we've got to address this fishery  
24 issue. It's sad that the fishery biologist that  
25 addresses this board and works with this board only has  
26 two rivers in this whole region, it's ridiculous, that  
27 he can work with, yet we're here to make  
28 recommendations.

29  
30 We're going to support everything that  
31 happens in these two rivers. So, somehow we've got to  
32 get the big picture work done versus just these two  
33 little rivers. We need that big picture fixed. Silver  
34 salmon in my river, I want to see a change. I've been  
35 harping about this for years. It's going to take  
36 funding and projects to do this. So I'll get off the  
37 soapbox.

38  
39 MR. CANNON: I certainly share Mr.  
40 Gray's concern about the lack of funding for Norton  
41 Sound. Before I went to work for the Office of  
42 Subsistence Management I worked for AYK Fisheries with  
43 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and I worked  
44 with Charlie Lien for 15 years. I saw Charlie build a  
45 program here starting from essentially nothing and  
46 working with Kawerak and different funding sources to a  
47 point where a number of the major rivers in the Nome  
48 area and other subdistricts began to have projects on  
49 them the first time. It's just very disappointing and  
50 very sad to me to see that now that it looks like even

1 what was started may not be able to be maintained.

2

3

MR. GRAY: Clifford, let me just add.

4 The thing that I have a problem with is we have lots of  
5 history and lots of documentation on the fish runs in  
6 this region. You know, 15 years of counting tower runs  
7 at my camp and yet it is doing nothing for my  
8 subsistence users. I mean Fish and Game or whoever can  
9 say, well, we manage, we closed the area according to  
10 the runs, if we don't get a good run they'll close the  
11 fishery down. That counting tower is too far above the  
12 edge of the ocean. By the time the runs hit that tower  
13 it's too late to close the run down below. It's 25  
14 miles upriver. It's a good tool. At least over the  
15 time period they understand how many fish come and go.

16

17 I don't agree with the system that they  
18 use to count the fish, but it's a tool. We need to  
19 fine tune it and go to some of these smaller  
20 tributaries and actually start some incubation programs  
21 and enhancement programs and work on these and get  
22 projects going. This is the only way we're going to  
23 get our fishery back in our ballpark.

24

25 Fish and Game in the last half a dozen  
26 years has closed subsistence fishing to cohos at least  
27 twice that I know of in my river system. That says  
28 something. Somebody has got to step up to the plate  
29 and do something here. I said I'd quit talking, so I  
30 better do it this time.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Are there any  
33 other questions.

34

35 MR. BUCK: I have one comment. This  
36 board sent me down to Area K when they first started  
37 fishing but I couldn't come to a conclusion because I  
38 don't know what happened to the fish after they left  
39 Area K. Monitoring fish from Area K to this area I  
40 think Yukon Rivers have a lot of concerns. This whole  
41 area is concerned between Area K and this area. I'd  
42 like to see maybe not right away, but I'd like to see a  
43 program where they monitored fish from Area K to this  
44 area.

45

46 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chair. You mean the  
47 area down by False Pass, Area M? There continues to be  
48 a lot of work being done on trying to identify stocks  
49 using different methods. There was a tagging study  
50 done one time and found that some of the fish that were

1 tagged ended up coming up into the Norton Sound area.  
2 But more recently there have been a lot of genetic  
3 studies. I just attended a conference on genetic study  
4 of fish in Alaska, so the capability of breaking out  
5 different stock groups is improving now. I can't tell  
6 you that by a certain date or a certain year you'll be  
7 able to know exactly how many fish from Norton Sound or  
8 the chums or chinook, silvers or whatever that are  
9 coming from your rivers are being caught in other  
10 fisheries, but they are making tremendous progress with  
11 that, especially with things like sockeye salmon, which  
12 is becoming a more important species for Norton Sound.  
13 It looks like chinook have a lot of potential for  
14 breaking out into specific rivers. So that information  
15 may be available to the Councils and other concerned  
16 fishermen up in this area in the not too distant  
17 future.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Any other  
20 questions.

21  
22 MR. GRAY: One thing I thought about  
23 after you and I talked was you talked about Federal  
24 waters and State waters. Let's say in my area there's  
25 300 and some thousand acres of Native lands. You guys  
26 don't tie in your programs to Native organizations at  
27 all?

28  
29 MR. CANNON: We certainly work with  
30 Native organizations but the jurisdiction really  
31 depends on the land designation and Native lands fall  
32 under the same category as State lands do, they're non-  
33 Federal.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Well, if there's  
36 no further questions, can you cover Item B.

37  
38 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, yes. The  
39 other item is strategic planning. What that's all  
40 about is our program has attempted to do a better job  
41 of working with local people and other agency experts  
42 on identifying the real important priorities for the  
43 use of these funds and we've completed our strategic  
44 plan for salmon for a number of areas. Southeast,  
45 Southcentral and Prince William Sound area, Bristol  
46 Bay, Kodiak and Aleutians. A plan was done which we  
47 funded for the Kuskokwim and there is a plan that we  
48 are using, although we did not do it we feel it's  
49 adequate for the Yukon.

50

1                   Where we're looking at going now is --  
2 and there was a Norton Sound plan done as well a few  
3 years ago for salmon. What we're thinking about in  
4 terms of strategy is looking at the non-salmon species  
5 now for different parts of the state. The priority  
6 that we're thinking about is to look at the Northern  
7 Region and probably the Yukon or the Kuskokwim for some  
8 of the non-salmon species, the char and whitefish.  
9 What we do is we have a process where we include  
10 Regional Council members as well as species experts and  
11 they have a series of meetings and go through a  
12 prioritization process to really focus on what's most  
13 important to know right now, where do we spend our  
14 money to get the most out of it.

15  
16                   Looking for places to go with this  
17 strategic planning process, I'd say affecting your  
18 region it would be some type of a non-salmon plan that  
19 would start here in the next couple of years.

20  
21                   MR. GRAY: I have a question. You guys  
22 are doing a study with the king salmon on the  
23 Unalakleet River, is that right? You're doing a  
24 counting study or something.

25  
26                   MR. CANNON: We're doing a tower  
27 project for chinook that uses radio tags that looks at  
28 the percent that goes by the tower versus those that go  
29 up into the mainstem Unalakleet.

30  
31                   MR. GRAY: Jim, I guess they're doing  
32 the same thing in my area on the cohos, is that right?  
33 Okay. What I'm after is where do we go from here.  
34 After that project is over with, you get all this  
35 information. Where do you plan on going from there?  
36 What I'm fishing for here is I hate to see all the  
37 typical bureaucracy, get all this information and drop  
38 the bomb and six years later, oh, gosh, we have all  
39 this stuff but we haven't done anything.

40  
41                   MR. CANNON: I think I understand your  
42 concern. I'll speak to the work that's going on on the  
43 Unalakleet. There are two projects that we're involved  
44 in and they both involve using radio tagging. One for  
45 coho, which will be finishing up this year, and then  
46 the one for chinook. The idea there is to see if this  
47 relationship holds up between the fish that are going  
48 past the North River tower and the mainstem. That  
49 tells us that that tower can be used as an indicator of  
50 the run strength going into the mainstem Unalakleet.

1 That's an important management tool, so that has real  
2 day to day utility.

3  
4 Now, with fish, one thing at least that  
5 I've observed is that they're unpredictable. It may be  
6 that that relationship doesn't hold up. So, if we  
7 detect that, then we're going to have to go to plan B,  
8 which means in the case of the Unalakleet we'd probably  
9 look at some kind of a project in the Unalakleet  
10 mainstem as a future funding proposal so we can  
11 essentially assess the chinook salmon or the coho  
12 salmon.

13  
14 MR. GRAY: I'm going to suggest to  
15 Vance you stay on top of this because Fish and Game and  
16 agencies generally collect information and -- you know  
17 what I see coming out of what you're doing here could  
18 be an enhancement project, let's say, or something of  
19 that nature. As soon as your project is over with it  
20 should be part of the strategic planning that has been  
21 done that they automatically roll into some other  
22 project. So, Vance, I'm suggesting that -- and I'm  
23 going to go back to the State and find out what they're  
24 doing with my area because they're doing something with  
25 cohos in my river and I don't know what their plans are  
26 afterwards. The ball doesn't need to stop rolling just  
27 because the project ends. That's what strategic  
28 planning is about, is to carry on. Whether the fish go  
29 in one river or the other is kind of a moot issue.  
30 That dictates where you're going to go do your studies.

31  
32 MR. CANNON: Through the Chair, Mr.  
33 Gray. One thing I might suggest is what we do with our  
34 Regional Councils routinely is in our spring meeting if  
35 you have a specific interest about a project or an  
36 issue that we can come back and talk to you about,  
37 specifically the telemetry work that's going on, its  
38 status, where we're going from that point on. So if  
39 you ask, we can give the Regional Council more specific  
40 information on a specific drainage and a stock of fish.  
41 But that's when we usually will do it, schedule that in  
42 your spring meeting.

43  
44 MR. GRAY: And I think it's important  
45 that you do come in. We've only got two projects that  
46 you're doing, so we need to hear about these projects.  
47 Also, more importantly, I think you need to go to the  
48 communities and say, hey, community, we are doing this  
49 project in your community, what are your concerns, what  
50 would you like to see, and actually get some input from

1 them.

2

3 MR. CANNON: I understand that it's a  
4 very good suggestion. One of the things that I do hope  
5 to do and really will be important is to work with  
6 Kawerak and Stebbins and St. Michael's leadership,  
7 Regional Council members, on the future of the  
8 Pikmiktalik project because that, I think, is uncertain  
9 and we'll need to talk about that more. We've had one  
10 meeting on it already and I know we need to talk about  
11 it a lot more. The same will be true for the  
12 Unalakleet.

13

14 MR. MARTIN: The results on the  
15 Pikmiktalik study, when will that be out? Is this the  
16 last year for Pikmiktalik?

17

18 MR. CANNON: Yeah, that study was  
19 funded for two additional years, so I think it will be  
20 funded again next year. Yeah, it will be funded again  
21 next summer, but that will be the last year of  
22 committed funding for that project.

23

24 One of the things we wanted to talk to  
25 the communities about is the possibility of using  
26 harvest monitoring program as a way of actually  
27 monitoring the status of the fishery. Part of -- well,  
28 what our program insisted on having done this year was  
29 to have the State continue to do subsistence surveys in  
30 those communities and they have done that. Now the  
31 question will be can we use harvest monitoring as a way  
32 of reasonably making sure that those runs are healthy  
33 by just monitoring the harvest and that's the  
34 discussion that we have to have in the communities.  
35 That project is very expensive and if we want to do  
36 something else in the Unalakleet, something else needs  
37 to be done, we can't do everything. We only have a  
38 limited amount of money.

39

40 MR. MARTIN: The monitoring surveys  
41 have begun this year. Is that going to be continuing  
42 again next year?

43

44 MR. CANNON: Mr. Martin, are you  
45 talking about the subsistence surveys?

46

47 MR. MARTIN: Yes.

48

49 MR. CANNON: I'm going to defer that to  
50 Mr. Magdanz. I think he can probably give you a better

1 answer on that than I can.

2

3 MR. AHMASUK: Austin Ahmasuk, Kawerak.  
4 Mr. Martin, the surveys that are being done now are  
5 Fish and Game and North Pacific Research Board funds.  
6 We hope that they'll continue. This year is a little  
7 special. The project that's being done is a pilot  
8 project to test and model various sampling schemes, so  
9 we hope it will continue. It's not in connection with  
10 funding that Mr. Cannon mentioned, but perhaps it could  
11 be in the future. We'll see, but we hope it will  
12 continue.

13

14 MR. MARTIN: The sampling project, the  
15 guy that was working, he ran into some problems this  
16 summer. Did you guys get somebody else to do that or  
17 did you just stop then?

18

19 MR. CANNON: Through the Chair to Mr.  
20 Martin. I'm not quite sure I understand. Problems  
21 with the tower or with the subsistence surveys?

22

23 MR. MARTIN: The guy that was taking  
24 samples had problems with his motor. He told me at one  
25 time he had problems with the motor and I lost track  
26 right after that. I was wondering if that continued or  
27 did you guys get somebody else.

28

29 MR. CANNON: My understanding, I talked  
30 to Karen actually yesterday from Kawerak and she said  
31 the project went very well, so if there were some  
32 problems, they were short term and they must have been  
33 taken care of because I was unaware of any problems  
34 that were serious that jeopardized the project.

35

36 MR. MARTIN: What happens after you're  
37 done with the studies in the Pikmiktalik area?

38

39 MR. CANNON: Well, the purpose of the  
40 studies were to get some idea of the level of  
41 productivity coming out of the system and one of the  
42 things we have to discuss is where we're going to go  
43 with it. If you want to establish an escapement  
44 objective for the Pikmiktalik, that would be something  
45 that you'd have to work out with Department of Fish and  
46 Game and the Federal Subsistence manager and that would  
47 mean an ongoing commitment of funds for that work. If  
48 the decision is that you would use the harvest  
49 monitoring as a way of assessing the sustainability of  
50 that fishery, then the use of the Pikmiktalik project

1 would be to under the level of the size of the runs  
2 that are coming back in. You may want to go back in  
3 every five to 10 years to repeat the project in that  
4 case. But that decision hasn't been made. I know  
5 there's a lot of -- there still hasn't been full  
6 agreement on what the future is going to be at this  
7 point.

8

9 MR. MARTIN: Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Any other  
12 questions.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: If not, I thank  
17 you for your report. That brings us down to Item 11.  
18 Who's the Staff?

19

20 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Chuck  
21 Ardizzone from BLM. I'm going to be covering these.  
22 The individual that was going to do it got sick. I'm  
23 going to be brief and if you have questions I'll try  
24 and answer them. We're going to go over some closures  
25 in our region. This has been done across the state.  
26 There's a closure review. We're going back to review  
27 closures throughout the state and make sure that they  
28 still apply and if they don't apply, maybe we can get  
29 some input from the Councils and changes can be made.  
30 I think this is going to be an action item, like have  
31 the Council's recommendation on what they would like to  
32 do with these closures. There's several options  
33 suggested. I guess we're open for comments from the  
34 Council.

35

36 I'll start with Number 10. It's on  
37 Page 49. WCR06-10, Closure Location Unit 22(B).  
38 Federal public lands are closed to the taking of muskox  
39 except by Federally qualified subsistence users. This  
40 closure was initiated in 2001-2002 season as a result  
41 of a multi-year, cooperative effort to establish a  
42 muskox harvest system that would be biologically sound  
43 in its management and meet the needs of the local  
44 subsistence users.

45

46 The current size and continued growth  
47 of the Unit 22(B) muskox population is meeting the  
48 State's management goals, which are listed on Page 50.  
49 The resource trend. Muskox population has shown steady  
50 growth during the seven survey years that occurred

1 during 1992 to 2005 on Table 1 on Page 50. You can see  
2 in 1992 there was three muskox and then 2005 there's  
3 326 muskox.

4  
5 I'll skip right to the preliminary  
6 recommendation from OSM, which is to make another  
7 recommendation, which means they're not recommending to  
8 maintain the closure or change it. There's another  
9 option they've come up with. The Federal and State  
10 permit allocations are consistent with sound management  
11 principles and the Management Plan, while providing a  
12 preference for subsistence uses over other consumptive  
13 uses of this limited resource in Unit 22(B).  
14 Eliminating the closure would not create conservation  
15 concerns since a harvest quota exists for this hunt and  
16 would still be in place if the closure was lifted.  
17 However, as muskox move on and off Federal  
18 jurisdictions in Unit 22(B), removal of the closure  
19 could jeopardize the Federal harvest allocation for  
20 Federally qualified users holding a Federal permit.  
21 Because the closure and the Federal permit allocation  
22 are tied to larger social issues, it is important that  
23 recommendations to remove the closure be made through  
24 the Cooperators Group.

25  
26 At this time there have been no  
27 recommendations made by the Cooperators Group to  
28 eliminate the closure in Unit 22(B). The Cooperators  
29 Group is scheduled to meet in November 2006 when it  
30 could consider this review and would have the  
31 opportunity to make recommendations to the Federal and  
32 State Boards. Basically the position is the Muskox  
33 Cooperators Group has been doing a really good job and  
34 it's basically deferring the decision to open this or  
35 keep the closure to them and hopefully they'll submit  
36 some proposals if they feel it's needed. But the  
37 Council can also weigh in and give their opinion at  
38 this time.

39  
40 MR. GRAY: Let me get this clear. This  
41 proposal is going to eliminate Federal lines? What is  
42 this proposal doing?

43  
44 MR. ARDIZZONE: Currently Federal  
45 public lands in 22(B) are closed to taking of muskox on  
46 Federal lands except to Federal residents. So if the  
47 closure was eliminated, it would open up Federal lands  
48 to other hunters, people who are not Federally  
49 qualified. Currently it's closed. If there's a  
50 recommendation to remove it, Federal lands would be

1 open to outside hunters. Does that make sense?

2

3 MR. GRAY: It seemed to me we visited  
4 this before and we talked about it in a meeting.

5

6 MR. ARDIZZONE: We probably have. Like  
7 I said, this is a review that's going on throughout the  
8 state of all the closures. We just had to bring it up  
9 again, talk about it and get the recommendation of the  
10 Council.

11

12 MR. GRAY: Well, I have a question.  
13 What would this do to the Federal permits that BLM or  
14 somebody is managing? There's seven permits in the  
15 area.

16

17 MR. MAGDANZ: Jim Magdanz, Fish and  
18 Game. And the Federal Staff jump in if I don't have  
19 this right. Let's assume a State resident got a Tier  
20 II hunt and that person happened to be from Kotzebue.  
21 Well, he doesn't have recognized C&T use for 22(B), so  
22 even though he has a valid State hunt, he can only hunt  
23 on State lands. He couldn't hunt on Federal land as  
24 long as this closure is in place. If you lifted this  
25 closure, then that Kotzebue hunter or an Anchorage  
26 hunter, if he qualified for a State permit, could then  
27 hunt on Federal lands. It's not something that affects  
28 local hunters because you have C&T use. From Kotzebue,  
29 like me, I'd have to pay attention. I couldn't hunt  
30 because I'm not a Federally qualified user in 22(B) for  
31 muskox.

32

33 MR. GRAY: Now I lost you somewhere  
34 here because if I have a State permit, and I do, Tom  
35 Gray has a State permit this year, can I now go on  
36 Federal lands and shoot a.....

37

38 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yes. That's correct.

39

40 MR. GRAY: So the only thing this is  
41 doing is letting outsiders hunt in my area.

42

43 MR. QUINN: No. Can I butt in. This  
44 isn't a proposal, Tom. What you're reading here is not  
45 a proposal. It's a review of the current closure.  
46 Somebody has to make a proposal to change things and so  
47 far I assume nobody has.

48

49 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Quinn is correct.  
50 This is not a proposal.

1 MR. GRAY: Okay. That was my  
2 misunderstanding. I thought it was a proposal going  
3 before us and I'm sitting here thinking what do I want  
4 to support this for.

5  
6 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'm sorry. It is just  
7 a review, not a proposal. You don't have to take any  
8 action if you don't want to. If you want to take  
9 action, this is the time you can submit a proposal.

10  
11 MR. GRAY: And I can understand it in  
12 Clifford's area, but not in my area.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Any other  
15 questions so far. Do you want to go ahead and  
16 continue. If you have any questions on these different  
17 numbers, you can refer to the number later on if you  
18 get some bright ideas. So go ahead and continue with  
19 your next proposal.

20  
21 MR. ARDIZZONE: Okay, proposal -- let's  
22 get this clear so I don't say proposal now. It's a  
23 review.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Review.

26  
27 MR. ARDIZZONE: Wildlife Closure Review  
28 No. 11 is on Page 53 and that involves Unit 22(B) west  
29 of the Darby Mountains the fall season. Federal public  
30 lands are closed to the taking of moose except by  
31 Federally qualified subsistence users.

32  
33 This was initiated in 2003-2004 season.  
34 The original justification was for conservation of a  
35 declining moose population and to provide Federally  
36 qualified subsistence users with an opportunity to  
37 harvest moose on Federal public lands in Unit 22(B).  
38 Currently, the resource population trend, there has  
39 been a 64 percent decline in Unit 22 moose population  
40 since the 1987 census and a 27 percent decline since  
41 1999. The calf/adult moose ratio is 10/100 adults and  
42 the recruitment rate is 9 percent. This low number of  
43 calves is consistent with the calf/adult moose ratio of  
44 10 percent found in fall composition and spring  
45 recruitment surveys in the last decade. The continued  
46 decline in Unit 22(B) is a serious concern and steps to  
47 further protect this population need to be considered.

48  
49 So the preliminary recommendation by  
50 OSM is to maintain this closure. The justification is

1 because there are low numbers and a low density of  
2 moose. There are no indications that there have been  
3 any increases in the moose population to justify  
4 additional non-subsistence harvest. Therefore the  
5 Federal closure should be maintained.

6

7 Any questions on this one.

8

9 MR. GRAY: Do we have any idea how many  
10 moose were taken this fall?

11

12 MR. GORN: Tom, Tony Gorn from Fish and  
13 Game. There's a registration hunt in that part of  
14 22(B) and the harvest quota is 18 and we took 18 this  
15 fall.

16

17 MR. GRAY: So we have five moose for  
18 the winter hunt then, is that what I'm reading?

19

20 MR. GORN: Correct.

21

22 MR. GRAY: And that is for residents of  
23 this region or is that for White Mountain/Golovin?

24

25 MR. GORN: That's for all Alaska  
26 residents and permits are available in Nome and online.  
27 The regular registration permit hunt conditions are in  
28 effect.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Any other  
31 questions on No. 11.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: We'll continue on  
36 with 12.

37

38 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Wildlife  
39 Closure Review 05-12 is also for Unit 22 west of the  
40 Darby Mountains, but it's for the winter season.  
41 Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose  
42 except by residents of White Mountain and Golovin.  
43 This was also put in effect in '02-'03. The original  
44 justification again was for the declining moose  
45 population and to provide Federally qualified  
46 subsistence users an opportunity to harvest the limited  
47 number of moose on Federal public lands in the affected  
48 area.

49

50 As I said earlier for No. 11, the moose

1 population has declined. I don't need to go through  
2 all that. It's exactly the same as the last one. The  
3 preliminary recommendation for this by OSM is also to  
4 maintain this closure. Once again the justification is  
5 to continue subsistence harvest in an area where  
6 there's low numbers and low density of moose and the  
7 status quo should be maintained.

8

9 If there's questions, I'll try to  
10 answer those.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Any questions on  
13 12.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: If not, we'll go  
18 to 13.

19

20 MR. ARDIZZONE: Wildlife Closure Review  
21 06-13 is in Unit 22(D), that portion of the Kougarok,  
22 Kuzitrin, and Pilgrim river drainages. Federal public  
23 lands are closed to the taking of moose except by  
24 residents of Units 22(C) and 22(D). This was initiated  
25 in '02-'03 and its justification was for conservation  
26 of a declining moose population and to provide  
27 Federally qualified subsistence users an opportunity to  
28 harvest the limited number of moose on Federal public  
29 lands in Unit 22(D).

30

31 The management objectives in Unit 22(D)  
32 in this portion are not being met because of ongoing  
33 adverse impacts. A cooperative moose population census  
34 of Unit 22 was conducted between February 23 and March  
35 21, 2006. Analysis of results from the census produced  
36 a combined estimate for the Kuzitrin and Agiapuk River  
37 drainages and separate estimates were produced for the  
38 Kuzitrin River drainage and for the Agiapuk River  
39 drainage.

40

41 The 2006 estimate for the entire census  
42 area was 1,565 moose. The calf/adult moose ratio was 24  
43 calves per 100 adults. The recruitment rate was 19  
44 percent. The preliminary recommendation for this  
45 closure is to maintain the closure. The justification  
46 is that the Unit 22 moose population continues to exist  
47 in low numbers and at a low density. While there are no  
48 indications that the moose population may be  
49 stabilizing and the calf/adult moose ratio is  
50 improving, it would be premature to assume that an

1 improving population trend is occurring. Because 77  
2 percent of the Unit 22 moose harvests reported since  
3 1983 have occurred in Unit 22(D), hunting pressure on  
4 this small population remains high. Therefore the  
5 closure should be maintained.

6

7 If there's questions, I'll try to  
8 answer those.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: You have a  
11 question.

12

13 MR. AHMASUK: For the record, Austin  
14 Ahmasuk. We have all these closures west of the  
15 Darbys. Did any non-local hunt and get a moose in  
16 those closed areas?

17

18 MR. ARDIZZONE: Austin, I can't speak  
19 to that. There shouldn't be any non-local hunters on  
20 Federal lands harvesting moose, but I cannot say for  
21 sure if it happened or not.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Tony.

24

25 MR. GORN: Tony Gorn from Fish and  
26 Game. I can't speak to the exact locations of where  
27 some of the moose were harvested, but I can say that  
28 since the registration hunts have been in place along  
29 the Nome road system, so these are the State  
30 registration hunts, there have been non-local hunters  
31 that have harvested moose in those hunts. Now, to say  
32 exactly where they were standing when they pulled the  
33 trigger is anyone's guess, but there have been  
34 Anchorage residents, Fairbanks residents, et cetera,  
35 that have participated in those hunts.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Austin.

38

39 MR. AHMASUK: Do these closures mean  
40 that they cannot actually attempt to hunt or does that  
41 mean that they are prohibited from harvesting?

42

43 MR. ARDIZZONE: The closures mean that  
44 they're prohibited from harvesting on Federal lands,  
45 but I'm not sure where the lines are. Like Tony said,  
46 it would be up to someone else other than me. They're  
47 not allowed to go harvest on Federal lands.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Any other  
50 questions. Elmer.

1 MR. SEETOT: Even though the percentage  
2 of Federal land is small within the road system, I  
3 think there's a lot of movement of animals from the  
4 road system, whether it's State or Federal, due to the  
5 noise involved, due to the traffic. Once you get that  
6 going year in and year out, you'll see less animals  
7 within the road system or any human activity. I've  
8 seen that with reindeer where they're hesitant to cross  
9 a road. You know, wild animals are hesitant to cross  
10 on manmade structures or stuff like that. I think these  
11 things should be taken into consideration.

12  
13 If you're looking for a harvest level  
14 for a certain sub-unit like Unit 22(D), we in Brevig  
15 Mission/Teller pretty much hunt within our communities  
16 on the western part of the sub-unit; however,  
17 Unit 22(D) is a heavy use area that is pretty much used  
18 by everyone within the state one way or another,  
19 whether it be fish, wildfowl, land animals.

20  
21 To say the harvest levels are low for  
22 the road system because there's just too much harvest,  
23 I guess land managers need to take into account noise,  
24 traffic disturbance and then assume -- to say, oh,  
25 there's not much moose in this area, I think we need to  
26 keep it closed an indefinite period. You have to kind  
27 of balance what is actually taking place and then the  
28 notion that other things are taking place besides just  
29 human activity. You've got a lot of predators that  
30 will wipe out some species in their hunt area and then  
31 some people wonder about predator control, about  
32 subsistence take of animals.

33  
34 I guess when we start arguing about  
35 that we just have to think, oh, I think we just got to  
36 persuade other people to do more hunting during certain  
37 periods to take care of the predators instead of  
38 saying, oh, I guess we've got to rely on the State, I  
39 guess we've got to rely on the Federal managers to take  
40 care of our problem. We, as users within a certain  
41 sub-unit, can take this action. If these things do  
42 persist and we need to change certain things, then we  
43 do it by our own initiative, make sure we follow our  
44 rules and regulations and then also State regulations.

45  
46 But I think the abundance of game has  
47 pretty much been taken care of by people that lived  
48 before me and continue to spread the message around  
49 take only what is necessary. There's always another  
50 season to take these things. Sometimes when these

1 issues come up blame one organization, blame one set of  
2 people because they're the ones that are talked about  
3 the most, but there are other factors. I think when  
4 considering management of game resources that should be  
5 looked at and then make a sound decision from that.  
6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Any comments.  
9 Thank you, Junior. Go on down to No. 14 review.

10

11 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Federal  
12 Wildlife Closure Review No. 14 is also in Unit 22(D).  
13 That portion west of the Tisuk River drainage and  
14 Canyon Creek. Federal public lands are closed to the  
15 taking of moose except by residents of Units 22(C) and  
16 22(D) hunting under these regulations. This was  
17 initiated in 2002-2003 season. Once again the  
18 justification was for conservation of a declining moose  
19 population and to provide Federally qualified  
20 subsistence users an opportunity to harvest the limited  
21 number of moose on Federal public lands in the affected  
22 area of Unit 22(D).

23

24 The 2006 estimate for the entire census  
25 area in Unit 22(D) was 1,565 moose. Calf/adult moose  
26 ratio was 24/100 adults. The recruitment rate was 19  
27 percent. The preliminary recommendation from OSM is  
28 also to maintain the closure. The moose population in  
29 Unit 22(D) Southwest continues to exist in low numbers  
30 and at a low density, while there are no indications  
31 that there have been any increases in the moose  
32 population to justify additional non-subsistence  
33 harvest. Therefore, status quo is recommended.

34

35 If there's questions, I'll try and  
36 answer them.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Any questions on  
39 review of No. 14.

40

41 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. The harvest  
42 rate is pretty low because I know for a fact that we --  
43 I don't think we even used that area southwest for even  
44 moose harvest, you know, due to the terrain, due to the  
45 location. And pretty much combined with the harvest  
46 season dates you can get a moose up to January, but we  
47 on the other side gather other foods, wild berries.  
48 They're only good until the first freeze up, so those  
49 take priority first compared to taking wildlife  
50 resources. We have other species to harvest. I know

1 from my area at least coming from Brevig that southwest  
2 part is used once every 10 years or so because of the  
3 location. I'm not too sure about Teller, but I would  
4 say pretty much the same thing, that area is not used  
5 very extensively except other than maybe winter months  
6 because access to that part is greatly enhanced with  
7 the use of snowmachines.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Any further  
10 questions on 14.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: If not, we'll  
15 continue to 15 under review.

16

17 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Wildlife  
18 Closure Review 06-15 involves Unit 22(D) remainder.  
19 Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose  
20 except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting  
21 under these regulations. It was also initiated in  
22 2002-03. Also for similar reasons as all the other  
23 ones, for Conservation of a declining moose population  
24 and to provide Federally qualified subsistence users an  
25 opportunity to harvest the limited number of moose on  
26 Federal public lands in the affected area.

27

28 The current resource abundance, the  
29 bull/cow ratio continues to meet the ADF&G management  
30 goal of 30 bulls/100 cow moose. In 2002 the Agiapuk  
31 River drainage yielded an estimate of 567 moose.  
32 Analysis of this estimate indicates the population  
33 declined by 40 percent since 1988, but has been stable  
34 since 1997. Analysis of results from the most recent  
35 population census of the Agiapuk River drainage in 2006  
36 produced an estimated 599 moose. The calf/adult moose  
37 ratio was 35 calves/100 adults. The yearling bull  
38 moose recruitment rate was 26 percent. The population  
39 has been stable for 10 years and the recruitment rates  
40 have been higher than in most areas of Unit 22.

41

42 The preliminary recommendation from OSM  
43 is to initiate proposal to modify or eliminate the  
44 closure. The justification for this is this population  
45 has remained stable since 1997, the bull/cow ratio  
46 consistently exceeds the ADF&G management goal,  
47 recruitment rates are consistently high enough to  
48 likely maintain the population, and the harvestable  
49 surplus is not being taken in spite of a five month  
50 season with a one-month cow season and a non-resident

1 season. Because the moose population in the remainder  
2 of Unit 22(D) has improved and is stable, conservation  
3 measures and the opportunity provided by the Federal  
4 closure are no longer necessary.

5  
6 MR. QUINN: Chuck, that wasn't your  
7 original recommendation, correct?

8  
9 MR. ARDIZZONE: I don't know. I didn't  
10 write this, Mike.

11  
12 MR. QUINN: Before this meeting at some  
13 point the Staff recommendation was to maintain the  
14 closure.

15  
16 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Quinn, I can't  
17 argue with you. I'm not aware of an earlier version of  
18 this. I didn't write these.

19  
20 MR. QUINN: Michelle, I asked Barb if  
21 Pete DeMatteo was going to be at this meeting and she  
22 said no, but another guy was. I can't remember the name  
23 she used, but he's apparently not here.

24  
25 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Quinn, Mr. LaPlant  
26 was going to be here.

27  
28 MR. QUINN: That's it.

29  
30 MR. ARDIZZONE: He's home sick with the  
31 flu and I just got notified before I got on the plane  
32 yesterday that I'd have to present these, so I'm not up  
33 to speed. I must apologize.

34  
35 MR. QUINN: Oh, okay. So you weren't  
36 part of this.

37  
38 MS. ARMSTRONG: If you needed us to  
39 call Pete and ask him some questions, we could do that.  
40 He is in the office today. We didn't know until about  
41 1:00 o'clock yesterday that Dan wasn't going to be able  
42 to come. He was hoping his fever would go down but it  
43 didn't. If you want to, we can certainly ask him some  
44 questions over lunch and bring back the information.

45  
46 MR. QUINN: Well, that's all right.  
47 However, now the Staff recommendation is to initiate a  
48 proposal to modify or eliminate. Does that mean the  
49 Staff will do that or is that up to us or some other  
50 person or entity to do?

1 MR. ARDIZZONE: This is the Council's  
2 chance to weigh in whether they feel the closure should  
3 be lifted or not. If the Council feels strongly that  
4 this closure should remain in place, now is the time to  
5 get that on the record and make your suggestions known.  
6

7 MR. QUINN: That's not what I'm asking.  
8 I'm asking if you're going to do that, the Staff.  
9

10 MS. ARMSTRONG: It's generally our  
11 desire not to make proposals that come from the Office  
12 of Subsistence Management. They'd rather that they  
13 were driven by the Council. That's not to say they  
14 wouldn't do it, but I think they weigh in heavily with  
15 what the Council says. The State could also make a  
16 proposal or some member of the public could do it as  
17 well. So it could come from anywhere. And we really  
18 don't want you to feel at all pressured or like we're  
19 trying to tell you this is what we want you to do. Not  
20 in the least. It's just a recommendation. You can do  
21 what you'd like and not take any action on it.  
22

23 MR. QUINN: I'm aware of that.  
24

25 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Any other  
26 comments on 15. Does that answer your question, Mike?  
27

28 MR. QUINN: Well, no, but the two  
29 people who should have been here to answer that  
30 question aren't. I realize Dan is sick, but I asked  
31 Barb to have Pete here and he's not.  
32

33 MS. ARMSTRONG: Pete has some  
34 difficulty with traveling, so it's not a reflection of  
35 his not wanting to be here, but he doesn't travel to  
36 any Council meetings.  
37

38 MR. QUINN: From my understanding, he's  
39 quite active in writing these reviews and Staff  
40 recommendations and it certainly would seem appropriate  
41 that he was at some of these meetings to answer for  
42 what you guys write.  
43

44 As long as I've got the mike, yeah, I  
45 do have another question because I know somebody else  
46 in this room is involved in this, Mr. Sparks. What was  
47 your original recommendation as the BLM manager for  
48 this closure?  
49

50 MR. SPARKS: Through the Chair. Mr.

1 Quinn, I did get a call from Jeff and the first draft  
2 he proposed.....

3

4 MR. QUINN: Jeff, as in Mr. Denton  
5 there?

6

7 MR. SPARKS: No, Pete rather. Excuse  
8 me. The first draft that he had had recommended to  
9 continue the closure and he and I discussed briefly  
10 that this is the only sub-unit where the moose appear  
11 to be healthy and I did express some concerns about the  
12 travel between the game units. This is the first time  
13 I saw this one here today. The other clarification is  
14 the management here is out of Anchorage, not the Nome  
15 area. The field office manager, Gary Riemer, has the  
16 call in collaboration with other Federal agencies in  
17 terms of closures and so forth. So I just want to make  
18 that real clear here.

19

20 One of the things that has come up in  
21 the Nome office that I think this board should be aware  
22 of is there has been some issues with the differing  
23 seasons between the State and Federal system with 22(D)  
24 remainder. One of the issues that's come up is the tag  
25 issue. Some people come in to my office requesting a  
26 Federal tag and we do not issue them. As some of you  
27 may be aware, there's a difference between the State  
28 and Federal season in 22(D) remainder, so that's  
29 something I think this Council should be aware of.  
30 That differing season is unlike almost every other area  
31 where virtually the seasons have been aligned between  
32 the State and Federal systems. So this is one areas  
33 that it's very different. Did that answer your  
34 question?

35

36 MR. QUINN: I want to know why you guys  
37 changed.

38

39 MR. SPARKS: I can't answer that  
40 question. I didn't put the check in the box.

41

42 MR. QUINN: Is that a bunch of  
43 bureaucrats or what.

44

45 MR. SPARKS: Maybe it was from comments  
46 that he received. I don't know. I didn't write it, so  
47 I can't speak to it.

48

49 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Quinn, we'll try to  
50 get a hold of Mr. DeMatteo at lunchtime and see if we

1 can.....

2

3 MR. QUINN: Okay. That would be good  
4 because I'd like to bring this up again when we get to  
5 the items for making proposals. Okay. I'm done.

6

7 MR. GRAY: I'm a little unclear. I  
8 mean this closure deals with Federal lands obviously  
9 and right now even non-residents can go on Federal  
10 lands and hunt. If this recommendation is put forward  
11 by somebody and it's changed -- is somebody asking to  
12 open this back up to a regular hunt again and take out  
13 the registration hunt and that kind of stuff? I don't  
14 understand what's going on here.

15

16 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right now in Unit  
17 22(D)-remainder the Federal public lands, anybody who  
18 is not a Federally qualified subsistence user, whoever  
19 has C&T, can't hunt on the Federal lands. This is just  
20 a review of that telling you guys what's in place right  
21 now. The recommendation from Staff is that somebody,  
22 whoever it may be, may wish to modify or eliminate the  
23 closure, but that would have to come in as a proposal,  
24 which we're all used to seeing proposals coming in,  
25 which would have to come back to the Council, the  
26 Council could put their recommendation in and then it  
27 would go to the Board.

28

29 You don't have to take a stance right  
30 now and you don't have to submit a proposal, but  
31 somebody may submit a proposal. The State, an outside  
32 entity, somebody may submit a proposal based on this  
33 review. Like I said, that will come before the Council  
34 as a proposal at the next meeting if someone does do  
35 that.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Now that  
38 everybody understands No. 15.....

39

40 MR. SEETOT: So you're kind of lifting  
41 the ban because population has gone up is my  
42 understanding.

43

44 MR. ARDIZZONE: The ban is not lifted  
45 until a proposal goes before the Board.

46

47 MR. SEETOT: No, I mean what we're  
48 discussing is this ban can be lifted because the number  
49 of moose are within the threshold.

50

1 MR. ARDIZZONE: The way I read the  
2 analysis is that they feel the population has been  
3 steady and there's enough extra moose to open it up to  
4 outside harvest.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Any other  
7 questions or comments on 15. I guess we'll refer back  
8 to it sometime this afternoon.

9  
10 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: I have one quick one  
11 here. Mike, I'm not real familiar with 22(D) because I  
12 am in 22(A), but what would you like to see on this as  
13 a concerned Board member?

14  
15 MR. QUINN: That's why I say we'll get  
16 to it when we get to the proposal part. I'll bring it  
17 up again and probably make a motion and we can go from  
18 there.

19  
20 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Thank you.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: So sometime this  
23 afternoon we'll refer back to No. 15 that we just  
24 reviewed and Mike will remind us. No. 16.

25  
26 MR. ARDIZZONE: Wildlife Closure Review  
27 06-16 is for Unit 22(E) moose. It was also initiated  
28 in the '02-'03 season and was put in place for  
29 conservation of a declining moose population and to  
30 provide Federally qualified subsistence users an  
31 opportunity to harvest the limited resource in Unit  
32 22(E).

33  
34 A cooperative Unit 22(E) population  
35 census was completed by the ADF&G during March 2006.  
36 An analysis of results from the census produced a  
37 population estimate of 587 moose. The 2006 estimate of  
38 587 moose indicates a 16 percent increase in population  
39 size since 2003; however, the increase is not  
40 statistically significant. Another possibility for  
41 this population increase is interchange of moose  
42 between Unit 22(E) and the northwestern portion of Unit  
43 22(D).

44  
45 I'll skip down to the recommendation.  
46 This one is to maintain this closure. The  
47 justification is that Unit 22(E) moose population  
48 appears to be rebounding based on recent surveys  
49 conducted in March 2006; however, additional surveys  
50 are needed to determine the status of the Unit 22(E)

1 population. To ensure that this increase in moose  
2 population numbers is a continuing trend, it is  
3 recommended that results from a comparable survey at  
4 least one to two years later, in addition to  
5 composition counts which reflect management objectives,  
6 be considered in future management decisions prior to  
7 lifting this closure.

8

9 Are there any questions. I'll try to  
10 answer those.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: I might just  
13 comment that as far as 22(E) is concerned it is mostly  
14 the residents of Shishmaref and Wales that shortened  
15 the season and I was real impressed with that. So that  
16 moose population will increase and it's starting to  
17 show. That was about three or four years ago when I  
18 had a big meeting in Shishmaref. It was actually the  
19 people of Shishmaref that worked with Fish and Game and  
20 the people that were there to shorten the season from  
21 August 1 to March 31st and bulls only. So we're living  
22 with this and the people are satisfied. I'm real  
23 impressed with those residents of Shishmaref and Wales  
24 for making that recommendation to increase the moose  
25 population and it's beginning to show.

26

27 Any questions. Tom. Make it short.

28

29 MR. GRAY: I will make it real short.  
30 I talked with them about this wolf thing and basically  
31 what the State has placed, there is no language in the  
32 Federal part of it that addresses using snowmachines or  
33 ATV's to hunt with, so we are eligible to hunt with  
34 those machines. This is what I've been told. It's not  
35 in the book restricting us. That gives us the right to  
36 use snowmachines and ATV's. So I just wanted to throw  
37 that out with this wolf thing.

38

39 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I just  
40 wanted to add some clarification to that. The original  
41 State proposal that the Council looked at last year the  
42 State was going to allow the taking with ATV's and  
43 snowmachines and that language was subsequently changed  
44 by the Board of Game, which would allow snowmachines  
45 and ATV's to position a hunter to harvest a wolf. That  
46 can already be done under Federal regulations and  
47 that's I think what the Board had confused with.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: I know the  
50 Natives sure always abide by the rules and regulations.

1 I thank you very much for the review and we'll refer  
2 back to that one issue and we'll meet at 1:00 o'clock.  
3 Enjoy your lunch and thank you.

4  
5 (Off record)

6  
7 (On record)

8  
9 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: I guess most of  
10 us are here. I'll call the meeting back to order.  
11 It's eight minutes after 1:00. We'll go on with the  
12 agenda where we left off. I believe we were on Item  
13 12. Michelle.

14  
15 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On  
16 the back table here we do have a form which is a call  
17 for proposals form. The Office of Subsistence  
18 Management is accepting proposals now to change the  
19 Federal regulations for the harvest of wildlife on  
20 Federal public lands. The proposed changes are for the  
21 2007-2008 regulatory year. Proposals will be accepted  
22 until October 20th of this year. So if the Council has  
23 any proposals or anybody in the audience has any  
24 proposals to submit, we will be taking these back to  
25 the office. Thank you.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Any questions on  
28 this form. Yeah.

29  
30 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I just  
31 wanted to mention if you wanted to submit any proposals  
32 as a Council, now is the time to do it. Otherwise they  
33 can get submitted as an individual.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: We don't have any  
36 information that was sent out to the Council on  
37 proposed changes and stuff.

38  
39 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. What the  
40 Office of Subsistence Management is doing is accepting  
41 proposals now. A proposal booklet will be put together  
42 and submitted, sent out to the public for their review  
43 and then those proposals will come before the Council  
44 in your winter meeting. So this is the time to put a  
45 proposal.

46  
47 MR. GRAY: Are these being sent out to  
48 the villages and everywhere in our region so people  
49 know?

50

1 MS. CHIVERS: Yes.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: For your  
4 information, any agency, if you have information that  
5 you want to send out to the Shishmaref area through  
6 radio, use KOTZ, please. You can't get Nome KICY and  
7 KNOM out of Shishmaref. For Wales, Diomedede, Brevig  
8 Mission, that area and down south, it's all KICY and  
9 KNOM. So any information that any agencies might want  
10 to have the public know, please air it out on KOTZ in  
11 Kotzebue because that's what Shishmaref listens to.  
12 Just specifically states that this does affect  
13 Shishmaref area. They do a pretty good job of getting  
14 the information out to the villages. Thank you.  
15  
16 MR. QUINN: Clifford. Since we're on  
17 the proposal part, I was going to make a motion about a  
18 proposal.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Yeah. Do you  
21 want to state whatever.  
22  
23 MR. QUINN: Mike Quinn. In accordance  
24 with the recommendation of the Office Staff and the  
25 biology for 22(D)-remainder, I'll make a motion that  
26 our Advisory Council submit a proposal to align the  
27 Federal season.....  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: What page are you  
30 on?  
31  
32 MR. QUINN: We're back to 06-15, the  
33 review of the Federal closure in 22(D)-remainder.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Maybe after you  
36 make your motion Michelle can read that in better  
37 language. Otherwise it will be all garbled up.  
38  
39 MR. QUINN: Chuck went over it just  
40 before lunch there and that was when I was questioning  
41 him about the stuff going on there. Anyway, currently,  
42 I'm reading from the Federal regulation book. The  
43 Federal lands in 22(D)-remainder are closed to the  
44 taking of moose except by the residents of Units 22(C)  
45 and 22(D). That's interesting.  
46  
47 MR. GRAY: Where are you reading?  
48  
49 MR. QUINN: It's in your booklet there.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Wait a minute.  
2 We've got Mike over there trying to make a motion.  
3  
4 MR. QUINN: I'm trying to give you a  
5 little background for the motion here.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Now your motion  
8 language is all messed up. Maybe you can reword it so  
9 Michelle can write it out so we can act on it.  
10  
11 MR. QUINN: Okay. I move that the RAC  
12 make a proposal to align the State and Federal seasons  
13 and the lands for moose hunting in that area, 22(D)-  
14 remainder.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Is there a second  
17 to the motion.  
18  
19 MR. GRAY: Is this motion referring to  
20 this 15?  
21  
22 MR. QUINN: Yeah. This is the American  
23 and the Agiapuk area. Currently only Federally  
24 qualified subsistence users such as us can hunt there  
25 on Federal land. So if Clifford and Brian are out  
26 there, you've got to watch whether you go on Federal  
27 land or State land with your clients. My proposal is  
28 to change that so that the Federal regulation mirrors  
29 the State regulation and Federal lands are now open to  
30 all users.  
31  
32 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Let me see  
33 if I can clarify this. Currently 22(D)-remainder is  
34 closed to non-Federally qualified users. I think what  
35 Mr. Quinn wants to do is lift the closure and also  
36 align the season dates, is that correct?  
37  
38 MR. QUINN: Yeah. Because there is a  
39 small discrepancy in the Federal season and the.....  
40  
41 MR. ARDIZZONE: So the current season  
42 dates for 22(D)-remainder for Federal hunters is August  
43 1st through January 31st. The State season for  
44 residents is August 10th through September 14th. Is  
45 that what you wanted to align?  
46  
47 MR. QUINN: Yeah. Let's try and make  
48 things more simple and align this area.  
49  
50 MR. ARDIZZONE: Actually there's quite

1 a few different harvests here.

2

3 MR. QUINN: Yes, there is. You're  
4 right.

5

6 MR. ARDIZZONE: So I don't know if you  
7 want to align all these season dates and harvests.

8

9 MR. QUINN: Yeah. So that whoever is  
10 out there they don't have to watch where they go and  
11 when they go there except by what the State's got.

12

13 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair, do you want  
14 me to read what the State regulation is so everybody is  
15 clear.

16

17 MR. QUINN: It's on Page 69.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: The motion was  
20 made. I did not hear a second.

21

22 MR. GRAY: I'll second it for  
23 discussion.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Okay, for  
26 discussion. It was seconded by Tom and it's up for  
27 discussion now. Go ahead.

28

29 MR. ARDIZZONE: Okay. Actually, like  
30 Mr. Quinn said, it's on Page 69, current State  
31 regulations in your book. So the remainder of Unit  
32 22(D) residents, one bull, harvest ticket August 10th  
33 through September 14, or one bull with a harvest ticket  
34 October 1st through November 30th or one moose, however  
35 no person may take a calf or a cow accompanied by a  
36 calf with a harvest ticket December 1st through  
37 December 31st or one antlered bull with a harvest  
38 ticket January 1st through January 31st and then the  
39 non-residents wouldn't apply in this case.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Yeah, for  
42 discussion purposes, that one antlered bull January 1  
43 through January 31, there aren't going to be no  
44 antlers. They're going to be shed, you know. I don't  
45 know how you would recognize a bull with no antlers  
46 January 1st through 31st. I don't know, maybe somebody  
47 knows. We could keep it in there, I guess.

48

49 MR. QUINN: You'll see smaller bulls  
50 that time. I've seen them that late with antlers, the

1 smaller ones. You won't see your trophies with  
2 antlers, but you'll see some smaller one.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Continue. Were  
5 there any other comments you wanted to make?

6

7 MR. ARDIZZONE: I was just trying to  
8 clarify Mr. Quinn's motion by reading it on the record.  
9 But that would also eliminate the closure.

10

11 MR. QUINN: Yeah, eliminate the  
12 closure.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Are there further  
15 questions on this. Peter.

16

17 MR. MARTIN: Stebbins and St. Michael  
18 have a season from January 1st to 31st. We are having  
19 problems getting antlered moose during that time. It's  
20 very hard. It used to be okay when we had it December  
21 1st to 31st. It's much safer and better now from  
22 January 1st to 31st although it is very hard to get  
23 antlered moose then.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: You aren't going  
26 to find antlers in January, that's for sure.

27

28 MR. GRAY: I'll echo that. I've shot  
29 bulls in January in the past and what I had to look for  
30 -- where the horn was, you can actually see where the  
31 horn was on the top. That's the only reason I got a  
32 bull. I'll tell you what, I don't know if you'd call  
33 it a legal moose because I was driving right up next to  
34 it looking at it to see if it had a knob on its head so  
35 I could shoot it. What everybody is saying here, you  
36 know, this antlered moose thing really is an issue. As  
37 long as nobody is getting hammered for citations on  
38 this thing I suppose it can be done, but it's still an  
39 issue. I do have a concern. We're in a registration  
40 hunt here and yet the way I'm reading this thing you  
41 can shoot cows at certain times a year. Is that true?

42

43 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Tony.

44

45 MR. GORN: This isn't a registration  
46 hunt in this area. It's a harvest ticket hunt.

47

48 MR. GRAY: But within that area there's  
49 a registration hunt, is that right? What is this RM-  
50 840.

1 MR. QUINN: That's for non-residents.  
2  
3 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Tom.  
4 In 22(D) there is a registration hunt, RM-840 that  
5 takes place in the Kuzitrin drainage, so that's the  
6 Kuzitrin, the Pilgrim Rivers and the Kougarok drainages  
7 and that's separate. What we're talking about or what  
8 you're all discussing right now is Unit 22(D)-  
9 remainder, which is primarily the American and Agiapuk  
10 drainages. So it's completely separate. What you're  
11 talking about right now is separate from the Kuzitrin  
12 and the Pilgrim and the Kougarok. It's a totally  
13 different thing. You are just discussing the  
14 potential seasons for the American and Agiapuk area.  
15  
16 MR. GRAY: But my point is there's a  
17 registration hunt in the American and Agiapuk area with  
18 Clifford's operation. Is that true?  
19  
20 MR. GORN: No. If you want to make the  
21 relationship that the American and the Agiapuk is  
22 adjacent to the Kuzitrin drainage -- oh, this is a  
23 typo.  
24  
25 MR. GRAY: That's why I'm confused  
26 here.  
27  
28 MR. GORN: That should be RM-842, which  
29 is a non-resident registration permit with an unlimited  
30 amount of permits so we can monitor harvest. It's got  
31 a harvest quota attached to it. This year was eight  
32 bulls. Does that clarify?  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: It should be 842.  
35  
36 MR. GORN: Exactly.  
37  
38 MR. GRAY: But the point I was trying  
39 to make is we still have a resource and within that  
40 resource we have non-resident hunters that are on a  
41 registration permit. That registration hunt is there  
42 for a reason. On the other hand, what I'm reading here  
43 is you can still shoot cows. I don't understand that.  
44 All of us are squawking we don't have enough moose and  
45 yet we have two areas I know of, C and this one, that  
46 you can shoot cows. It doesn't make sense.  
47  
48 MR. GORN: Basically with the American  
49 and the Agiapuk drainage, that area of Unit 22(D), that  
50 moose population has been stable for over 10 years.

1 The bull/cow ratios are at or above our management  
2 goals. It shows consistently high recruitment rates.  
3 When we look at the composition survey results, we see  
4 a stable -- what we refer to as a stable moose  
5 population. So, for that area, everything is still  
6 healthy and we are currently, according to reported  
7 harvest in our village based harvest assessment data.  
8 We are not harvesting at what we believe is a  
9 harvestable surplus. We're harvesting right around 40  
10 moose a year and that's at 7 percent. What we believe  
11 is you could harvest at an 8 percent harvest rate,  
12 which is about 45 moose a year. So that's a little  
13 background information.

14  
15 With regards to the non-resident hunt,  
16 what we saw in recent years was an increase in non-  
17 resident harvest and hunting activity. So what we did  
18 to try to be proactive at the last Board of Game  
19 meeting was take the non-resident hunt, which still can  
20 exist with the current population, but create a  
21 mechanism through a registration hunt to prevent a  
22 rapid, uncontrolled increase in that harvest. So  
23 that's why the non-resident hunt is now a registration  
24 hunt with a harvest quota.

25  
26 MR. GRAY: Okay. I want to put on my  
27 commercial hat now. I represent the guides here. Is  
28 there some goals that we're shooting for so we can get  
29 this registration hunt taken out and we can get back to  
30 having an open hunt again? Does Fish and Game have  
31 some set numbers that they're going to shoot for and  
32 something that the guides can say, okay, we're at that  
33 point now, let's not hold back anymore, we don't want  
34 you to hold our numbers down. You know, the guides  
35 need to get back in the business again.

36  
37 MR. GORN: Through the Chair. The  
38 creation of the registration hunt was actually put into  
39 place to preserve the non-resident hunting opportunity.  
40 As you are aware, if you look at moose regulations in  
41 recent years in Unit 22 non-resident opportunity has  
42 just been completely knocked off the books. So we  
43 looked at this as a way to help preserve what  
44 opportunity currently exists and keep it going. Now,  
45 what would have to happen to increase that. Well,  
46 you've heard several times now for 10 years the  
47 population has been stable. If we ever got to the  
48 point where we just started seeing dramatic increases  
49 in Unit 22(D)-remainder and Unit 22(E), which is  
50 adjacent, then we could start to talk about increasing

1 the non-resident component of the quota. Assuming that  
2 during that time resident harvest also didn't increase.

3

4

5 MR. GRAY: One of the reasons I'm  
6 talking about this is during lunch somebody came to me  
7 and said why is there a non-resident hunt on the Seward  
8 Peninsula when we're not taking care of our people and  
9 I tried to explain to them that this is Federal land,  
10 whatever. It's all a big mix and that's what they  
11 decided.

12

13 The point that I'm trying to dig for  
14 here is Fish and Game can manage that resource in that  
15 drainage. With shooting of cows you're going to be  
16 years and years away from ever getting away from this  
17 registration hunt if Fish and Game wants to. They can  
18 go in there and say, all right, we've got 100 cows and  
19 we're going to take 50 cows out of there and we're only  
20 going to keep 49 and we're going to go backwards for a  
21 while. This cow issue I don't believe in it. If we're  
22 going to regain our moose population, we've got to  
23 protect the cows.

24

25 It's the same thing in the reindeer  
26 industry. You can't kill off -- you may see 100 cows  
27 out there, but maybe only 45 percent of those cows are  
28 productive. Other ones are too young, too old and a  
29 certain percentage of your resources are not going to  
30 produce calves.

31

32 So whenever I see this cow thing a flag  
33 comes up. To me, there's an ulterior motive that the  
34 managers are managing this to hold back the animals or  
35 something. There's got to be some other reason beneath  
36 this thing. What I keep hearing is we don't want to  
37 over-graze, we don't want to damage the environment.

38

39 When I was a kid, there was no moose  
40 here. We went from no moose to 8,000 moose on the  
41 Seward Peninsula and now we're down to 3,000 or  
42 something. It's a vicious cycle, but somewhere in  
43 between we're going to hit a medium here.

44

45 MR. GORN: Again, through the Chair.  
46 Right now, at this moment, unfortunately I'm not  
47 equipped to discuss antlerless harvest from 22(D)-  
48 remainder. I don't have those numbers on the tip of my  
49 tongue. However, there's nothing that says you can't  
50 talk about whatever motion or proposal you're doing to

1 eliminating the antlerless component of the season.

2

3 MS. ARMSTRONG: And then it would be  
4 analyzed and we would get the information that's on the  
5 tip of his tongue.

6

7 MR. GRAY: Anyway, we got away from the  
8 subject. He was talking about antlered moose and I  
9 know Clifford was talking about antlered moose and you  
10 were talking about aligning everybody. We got kind of  
11 away from the subject here.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: We've got a  
14 motion on the floor and it was seconded and we're in an  
15 issue of discussing the motion. Anybody else need  
16 clarification on it. Yeah, do you have a comment on  
17 that motion.

18

19 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chairman. On that  
20 subject I wanted to make sure, because I had promised  
21 before lunch that I would get back to Mike on his  
22 question about why the conclusion had changed. I was  
23 unable to get a hold of Dan LaPlant or Pete DeMatteo.  
24 I did talk to somebody else in the office, Larry  
25 Buklis, who is our policy coordinator. Really, when we  
26 do the drafts, that's what they are, they're drafts.  
27 They go out for review to all the agencies and we get  
28 their comments and there's some discussion and then  
29 revisitation and that's why it changed, because they  
30 looked at the data and said, as Tony was saying, that  
31 the population has remained stable and, therefore, we  
32 should at least entertain the thought about opening it  
33 up and not having the closure. So that's why it  
34 changed. I just wanted to get that on the record that  
35 we did talk to people. Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Any further  
38 questions on the motion that was made.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MR. GRAY: Question.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: The question has  
45 been called for. Before we vote on it do you want to  
46 read it.

47

48 MS. CHIVERS: Correct me if I'm wrong  
49 here, but the motion that Mike made was to submit a  
50 proposal to align the Federal and State seasons. Is

1 that correct?

2

3 MR. QUINN: And remove the Federal  
4 closure.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: You heard the  
7 language of that motion. That's the way it's going to  
8 appear since the motion maker has agreed to it. There  
9 was a second and call for the question. All those in  
10 favor signify by saying aye.

11

12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Those opposed  
15 same sign.

16

17 (No opposing votes)

18

19 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Motion carries.  
20 You're on record there, Mr. Quinn. Thank you to the  
21 agencies for your clarification. That brings us to the  
22 second page on our agenda, which is Item 13, Agency  
23 reports. Where do we start, A?

24

25 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. I want to  
26 apologize for not bringing this up when we were talking  
27 about the Fisheries Monitoring Program. I don't  
28 believe you took an action as a Council either  
29 supporting or not supporting the proposed projects that  
30 we brought before you this morning. Generally we ask  
31 our Regional Councils to do that in the form of a  
32 motion. They were the four projects that I talked to  
33 you about this morning. If you support them, then  
34 somebody would make a motion to support. If you don't  
35 support or you have other comments, then you can make  
36 them more formally.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: That Stebbins  
39 area and Unalakleet area?

40

41 MR. CANNON: Yeah, that was for the  
42 fisheries projects.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Everybody  
45 understand that.

46

47 MR. GRAY: I'll make a motion that we  
48 support those projects with also some strategic  
49 planning to take what those projects produce and go  
50 further with new projects, if that makes sense.

1 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Further planning  
2 of new projects.  
3  
4 MR. GRAY: Further planning of new  
5 projects.  
6  
7 MR. CANNON: I understand your  
8 proposal.  
9  
10 MR. MARTIN: I second that.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: The motion was  
13 seconded. Any further questions or comments on the  
14 motion.  
15  
16 (No comments)  
17  
18 MR. MARTIN: Question.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: The question has  
21 been called. Those in favor signify by saying aye.  
22  
23 IN UNISON: Aye.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Those opposed  
26 same sign.  
27  
28 (No opposing votes)  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Motion carries.  
31 Thank you.  
32  
33 MR. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Okay. US Fish  
36 and Wildlife Service.  
37  
38 MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
39 If everybody would turn to Page 75. It begins our  
40 reports that we need to make. This first one is an  
41 action item. We would like the Council to either  
42 support, have no action or you can support portions of  
43 this. This one is on the proposed rule for reviewing  
44 rural determinations. This does not have any affect at  
45 all on the Seward Peninsula. None of the areas we  
46 looked at were in the Seward Peninsula. So this is  
47 really just bringing you up to date as to what's going  
48 on around the state. I'll just say that some of the  
49 other regions where it wasn't affecting them they  
50 decided not to take any action since it wasn't in their

1 region and that is a possibility.

2

3                   Currently, the Board has been reviewing  
4 the rural determinations in a number of places and  
5 they've held public hearings. We had one in Kodiak,  
6 Saxman, Ketchikan, next week we're having one in Sitka  
7 to take public testimony. ANILCA requires that rural  
8 Alaskans be given priority for subsistence for uses of  
9 fish and wildlife on Federal public lands and only  
10 residents of rural communities and areas are eligible.  
11 So we have to determine what does that mean to be a  
12 rural community.

13

14                   Initially the Board made it's initial  
15 determinations in 1990 and every 10 years the  
16 regulations requires them to review it. Some of you  
17 have been on the Council for a while will remember.  
18 We've had some updates on this as we've gone along. So  
19 we have suggested that there be a few changes. The  
20 reason some of these changes are being proposed is if a  
21 community has a population below 2,500, they're  
22 automatically considered rural. If they're between  
23 2,500 and 7,000, then there's consideration of whether  
24 or not it has rural characteristics. If it has over  
25 7,000, then it's considered nonrural unless it has  
26 significant characteristics of a rural nature. There  
27 are communities that have changed their population, so  
28 we've done this review.

29

30                   We've also looked at how we've grouped  
31 the outlying communities outside of areas. One of the  
32 changes we've proposed is for Prudhoe Bay because  
33 Prudhoe Bay was originally determined to be rural and  
34 the North Slope Council proposed that it be nonrural  
35 because it doesn't have any characteristics of a rural  
36 community because it's an industrial enclave.

37

38                   Another community that has changed  
39 because of population is that Adak has had a 94 percent  
40 drop in population from 1990 and is now well below  
41 2,000. The Kodiak area has been re-examined because  
42 their population is above 7,000. We also looked at  
43 whether we should change how the areas around Kodiak  
44 should be grouped. The same is true for Ketchikan. So  
45 the Board has proposed Kodiak area to be nonrural and  
46 the Southeast region has proposed that Ketchikan area  
47 be nonrural, excluding Saxman, which they've proposed  
48 it to be rural.

49

50                   There was some changes in some

1 groupings because of populations growing outside of  
2 nonrural areas. Point MacKenzie is proposed to be  
3 grouped with the nonrural area of Wasilla and Palmer.  
4 The Fritz Creek East and North Fork Road area outside  
5 of Homer have been proposed to be grouped with Homer,  
6 which is nonrural. And Sterling would be included in  
7 the nonrural Kenai area. Those groupings are based on  
8 a few criteria; whether or not they're road connected,  
9 share a high school attendance area and whether or not  
10 more than 30 percent of the people commute into the  
11 main area.

12  
13                   So those are some of the proposals that  
14 have been made by the Board and it is a proposed rule.  
15 They're seeking comment from the Councils and then  
16 they'll make a decision in a public hearing on December  
17 12th to 13th in Anchorage.

18  
19                   You can take one of these issues and  
20 vote on it and not vote on the rest, you can vote on  
21 all of them, you can take no action. If you want to  
22 have any discussion on that.

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: What's the  
25 opinion of the Council. Since it doesn't really affect  
26 our area, I would just let these Regional Councils on  
27 their own handle the situation. If they want our  
28 support, we could do that at a later meeting. We  
29 really don't know what's going on in Kodiak. That's  
30 their business and they know the area. It would be  
31 nonsense for us to change the wording for their area  
32 when we don't know nothing up here. I would recommend  
33 we have no action on this.

34  
35                   What's the opinion of the Council. Is  
36 that fair enough.

37  
38                   MR. QUINN: Sure. I'll make a motion  
39 we take no action.

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: There is a motion  
42 on the floor for no action on the issue. Is there a  
43 second.

44  
45                   MR. SEETOT: I second.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: A second.

48  
49                   MR. MARTIN: Question.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: The question has  
2 been called for. All those in favor signify by saying  
3 aye.

4  
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: All opposed same  
8 sign.

9  
10 (No opposing votes)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Motion carries.

13  
14 MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
15 The next one is on Page 86. It's just an update. You  
16 don't have to have any action or voting. This will be  
17 before the Council again in the winter. In 1998 we had  
18 a lawsuit filed against the Federal Subsistence  
19 Management Program from the Safari Club International  
20 and one portion of that lawsuit prevailed and that was  
21 on the issue of 30 percent of the Councils being  
22 commercial and sport users of each Council.

23  
24 What the court said in August of 2006  
25 was that the Board didn't provide sufficient  
26 administrative record showing a rationale for this  
27 70/30 split. Therefore they ordered us to stop using  
28 that 70/30 split until they went through the  
29 appropriate administrative process.

30  
31 So, we will be publishing a 30-day  
32 notice in the Federal Register that will explain this  
33 current situation and the rationale for 70/30 and then  
34 the notice will request public comments and we will be  
35 back to the Council in the winter of 2007 asking for  
36 your comments on the 70/30 split. So for this current  
37 nomination process the Board will not be bound making  
38 recommendations to the Secretary that would give a  
39 70/30 split. Just for this time until we get it in the  
40 regulations. Questions.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Any questions.

43  
44 (No comments)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: If not, continue.

47  
48 MS. ARMSTRONG: The next one is on Page  
49 87. This is also an update and not anything you have  
50 to provide an action on. The first one is the draft

1 closure policy. We were just talking about all those  
2 closures we have brought before you and a draft policy  
3 had been presented to the Councils last year during the  
4 winter. As it went through the process, there were  
5 some concerns from some of the Councils, so it got  
6 slowed down a little bit.

7

8                   There's now a subcommittee of the Board  
9 working on the issue and they're coming up with a  
10 revised policy. All of the Councils will be reviewing  
11 that in the near future. There are some Councils, 3 of  
12 the 10, and you're one of them, that would be reviewing  
13 closures during this fall cycle and we just did that.  
14 So we don't have a policy yet on this closure issues.  
15 The State has been asking for this and we are working  
16 on it.

17

18                   Then the next one is the subsistence  
19 use amounts protocols that a draft of the protocol was  
20 brought to the Councils for their review in the winter  
21 of 2006. Many of the Councils were very concerned with  
22 that draft. Currently no further work has been done on  
23 it and they don't have a plan for whether they're going  
24 to go forward with this or not. We're in a little bit  
25 of a stalemate on that one. So the subsistence use  
26 amounts is on hold.

27

28                   The other policy that we're working on  
29 is the draft of the customary and traditional use  
30 determination policy. The purpose of that policy is to  
31 develop a clear, written explanation of the Board's  
32 customary and traditional use determination process.  
33 We have been criticized by ADF&G. They've expressed  
34 concern that some of our findings create a larger pool  
35 of users, which could restrict non-subsistence users  
36 and the Staff is working on developing a policy that  
37 the Board would then follow.

38

39                   There is a lawsuit that was filed by  
40 the State of Alaska for Unit 12 for Chistochina and  
41 Mentasta on their C&T. We don't know what's happening  
42 with that lawsuit either. Right now we're working on  
43 the policy, but the lawsuits could change what we're  
44 doing as well.

45

46                   The next one is on Page 89 and that's  
47 for the Southeast Regional Advisory Council. Right now  
48 they're asking all the Councils to review this and  
49 provide recommendation, but they're interested in  
50 petitioning the Secretary's Office asking that

1 subsistence users not be required to have State hunting  
2 licenses when they're hunting on Federal lands and that  
3 they would have a Federal license. There's nothing in  
4 their proposal that indicates whether there would be a  
5 cost associated with a Federal license or not. This  
6 one we would like to have your comments on. They're  
7 petition is on Page 91.

8

9 I think it needs to be explained. If  
10 you look at the Southeast land, they're almost entirely  
11 hunting on Forest Service lands and they don't have the  
12 mixed land management that we have in this region.  
13 What they want is to not have to have a State license.

14

15 A couple things you need to know and  
16 it's come up as a concern, the State license right now  
17 is \$25, but if you show that you don't have the means  
18 to pay that, it's \$5. So it's not necessarily a cost  
19 issues, it's more in their minds this is a Federal  
20 program, we hunt under Federal regs, why do we have to  
21 have a State license, is the way Southeast Council is  
22 looking at it.

23

24 There is the possibility that more  
25 analysis could be provided than what they've done  
26 already in looking at each region, but that hasn't been  
27 done. I don't know if you want to have some  
28 discussion.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Is there any  
31 comments or questions on this issue.

32

33 MS. ARMSTRONG: Excuse me. I have to  
34 make sure you're aware that if you had a Federal  
35 license, it wouldn't be good on State land. So it  
36 would be only good on Federal land and you've have to  
37 have a State license on State land. So you see it  
38 could be complicated in areas where you'd have to have  
39 two licenses.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Any questions for  
42 Helen.

43

44 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Right now it's  
45 presently State law that we have to have one. So I  
46 guess the Feds are just accepting the fact that there  
47 is a license involved. That wouldn't be up to us to  
48 change it, would it?

49

50 MR. GRAY: Do you have to have a State

1 license to hunt on Federal land? Is it mandated?

2

3 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Yes, yes.

4

5 MS. ARMSTRONG: It is. And what they're asking  
6 is that you not have to have that on Federal  
7 lands.

8

9 MR. GRAY: My personal opinion here,  
10 and I'm a guide, you've got to have permits and this  
11 and that to operate. I don't think us supporting this  
12 is going to do the majority of Alaska any good. It  
13 might do Southeast good, but not the majority of  
14 Alaska. It's going to create a cesspool for the rest  
15 of Alaska, so I'm not going to support it.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: That's my feeling  
18 on it, too. Whenever we're stopped and asked a  
19 question by the State Trooper, I have to take out my  
20 wallet and empty it. That's a driver's license to  
21 guiding license. If we require some of our local  
22 people in the area that they must have a Federal  
23 license, I think it's going to -- I think the State of  
24 Alaska hunting license is good enough.

25

26 MR. GRAY: So I make a motion we don't  
27 support this.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Motion on the  
30 floor not to support. Is there a second.

31

32 MR. SEETOT: Second it.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Further questions  
35 or comments.

36

37 MR. GRAY: Question.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: The question has  
40 been called for. All those in favor signify by saying  
41 aye.

42

43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Those opposed  
46 same sign.

47

48 (No opposing votes)

49

50 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Motion carries.

1 MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 The only other thing that was in that package was the  
3 avian -- I'm sorry, there was another handout, the  
4 update on the Kenai Peninsula Resource Area and  
5 Council. There is a proposal to create an 11th Council  
6 that would be specific just to the Kenai Peninsula.  
7 Right now the Kenai is under Southcentral and it's a  
8 very large area. That doesn't affect this region, but  
9 there is a handout. And there's a handout on the avian  
10 bird flu and what people have been doing with that.

11  
12 So that concludes my presentation, Mr.  
13 Chair. Thank you very much.

14  
15 MR. GRAY: Before you run away can I  
16 put you on the spot.

17  
18 MS. ARMSTRONG: No problem.

19  
20 MR. GRAY: I have a question. Earlier  
21 I brought up this mining issue and where in this  
22 meeting should I bring this up and talk about it.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Other business,  
25 right here.

26  
27 MR. GRAY: Okay. I will bring it back  
28 out then.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Thank you very  
31 much, Helen. I just wanted to comment that I think  
32 these villages are doing a very good job of trying to  
33 keep on top of the avian bird flu because just about  
34 every village is doing their best in sampling in the  
35 right area for a sample of the flu itself. They  
36 actually have door prizes in some villages, giving a  
37 ticket, to encourage those duck hunters that a sample  
38 be taken out. So I'm impressed with that.

39  
40 How about Bureau of Land Management.  
41 Jeff.

42  
43 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
44 Jeff Denton, the Anchorage Field Office for BLM. I'm a  
45 biologist there. I want to try to update you on  
46 several different things. Some are related to  
47 subsistence and some are directly related. First of  
48 all, the Seward Kobuk Resources Management Plan that I  
49 think you guys have been involved in one way or another  
50 over the last couple years, the comment period on the

1 draft ended September 14th or 15th, so now the BLM  
2 folks in Fairbanks are doing this plan. They'll be  
3 processing comments that they've received. I believe  
4 March 15th is when the final plan is to be presented to  
5 the public. That may be subject to change based on how  
6 they deal with comments or protests or appeals that may  
7 occur.

8  
9 Also relative to that there was some  
10 conflict dealing with ANILCA 810 subsistence hearings.  
11 I believe there was a meeting yesterday and Chuck may  
12 know the results of that, how they're going to resolve  
13 the 810 hearings for the Resources Management Plan and  
14 what the nature of the conflict was there.

15  
16 In Unalakleet now the BLM has a local  
17 hire, Fred Ivanoff, so he's going to be working with us  
18 there so we have a closer tie with the people in the  
19 village. He'll be kind of part time and work the main  
20 field seasons. We intend for him to assist with  
21 surveys and some of the things we do when we go to  
22 Unalakleet.

23  
24 Over the past year since we last met  
25 there's been some moose work done, especially 22(A).  
26 We have the closure down there in the middle portion of  
27 that hunt unit and we're putting quite a bit of effort,  
28 both Fish and Game and us coordinating efforts down  
29 there to do surveys and keep an eye on that so we can  
30 assess when we may be able to open that to hunting.

31  
32 We did a spring survey last March and I  
33 also did some fall surveys. One of our people did here  
34 last week and I don't have that all written up, but I  
35 do have some preliminary data. In the closure area we  
36 saw 58 moose is all, but this is fall conditions. We  
37 wanted a sample to see what kind of calf survival there  
38 was through the summer period, if we could get a big  
39 enough sample size to do that and get an age structure  
40 on bulls in that area and potentially bull/cow ratios  
41 as well. Admittedly, 58 is a damn small sample size.  
42 We'll do this survey in the spring again also that we  
43 did last year to do cow/calf ratios to compare them  
44 year to year. We're going to watch this pretty  
45 closely.

46  
47 This fall we only had in the closure  
48 area about 11 calves per 100 cows, which didn't look  
49 too impressive, but it's a very small sample size, so I  
50 wouldn't hang my hat on that. We had 61 bulls per 100

1 cows, however. A fairly good age distribution on  
2 bulls. We have about third yearling bulls of the bull  
3 component, it's the third yearlings, between 36 and 50-  
4 inch spread bulls and a third 50 inches or over. So  
5 there's a fairly good age distribution in bulls out  
6 there that we're seeing. What we see now, reproduction  
7 doesn't look great but we'll have a better idea next  
8 spring when we get a bigger sample.

9  
10                   There was work done last winter also in  
11 22(D) and (E). We assisted or worked with Fish and  
12 Game on doing those density estimates or census  
13 estimates in those areas, so a lot of the data Mr. Gorn  
14 will present BLM basically participated in those  
15 activities, dollars-wise and staff and this sort of  
16 thing. That data we use pretty intensively to do the  
17 management out here.

18  
19                   Other than that I don't have anything  
20 else other than the land conveyance process is  
21 continuing. We're going to see some major changes in  
22 land ownership through the conveyance process. Some  
23 lands will be going out of BLM ownership completely.  
24 Other lands will be relinquished back into the  
25 subsistence land base that are currently selected lands  
26 but they may come back and actually be added to the  
27 lands available for subsistence use.

28  
29                   Over the next two or three years this  
30 is going to be a real dynamic situation up here and  
31 elsewhere in the state as well. We'll try to keep on  
32 top of it with the regulation maps as well as we can.  
33 It's going to be a little confusing and there's  
34 probably going to be changes after the regs are  
35 published that we won't have a good handle on. I don't  
36 suspect there will be a lot of enforcement associated  
37 with those quick kind of changes in public land status  
38 because the general public out there really can't be  
39 aware of those changes that quickly.

40  
41                   That's all I have for now and I'll  
42 answer any questions if you have any.

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Any questions to  
45 Jeff concerning BLM.

46  
47                   MR. GRAY: This muskox lottery that you  
48 guys handle, do you guys decide how many animals the  
49 Federal permits are going to be issued or is that a  
50 cooperative agreement between Fish and Game and you

1 guys?

2

3 MR. DENTON: That is determined by the  
4 Muskox Working Group, which is going to meet November  
5 15th and 16th. That is where those allocations and  
6 those sorts of things are discussed and decided.

7

8 MR. GRAY: Between the State and  
9 Federal permits, how many are available in 22(B)?

10

11 MR. DENTON: 22(B) I know there's seven  
12 Federal permits and 25 State permits.

13

14 MR. GRAY: When you reach what point do  
15 you cut them off?

16

17 MR. DENTON: There's a harvest  
18 quota.....

19

20 MR. GRAY: I know you give out more  
21 permits.

22

23 MR. DENTON: There's a quota. I  
24 believe it's 16.

25

26 MR. GRAY: We've got a lot of animals  
27 in our area. I don't know when you guys visit those  
28 numbers and when you do your surveys, but that 16 seems  
29 kind of small to me. I personally know that bluff herd  
30 for example fractioned into three different herds now.  
31 Hopefully you guys revisit this thing and we get more  
32 animals in our area.

33

34 MR. DENTON: That's going to be one of  
35 the major functions of this working group meeting in  
36 November. That's one of the major purposes, to  
37 reassess population distributions and the harvest we're  
38 going to be looking for and modify those if needed.

39

40 MR. GRAY: I have one other issue with  
41 Fish and Game and that's special recreation permits.

42

43 MR. DENTON: With Fish and Game or BLM?

44

45 MR. GRAY: With BLM. A year or so ago  
46 we got in this special rec permit east of us and we  
47 need to be careful about the special rec permits and  
48 I'm very concerned about my area. When you issue these  
49 permits it has a ripple effect to everybody. It may  
50 not be good sometimes. That's all the deeper I'll get.

1 MR. DENTON: I know the situation  
2 you're speaking of and we take those very seriously up  
3 here in particular because of the situations we deal  
4 with. We have other areas we have far more operators  
5 in probably smaller areas. It's a sensitive issue, the  
6 resources are sensitive up here and we work very  
7 closely with Fish and Game on the status of -- you  
8 know, in some cases for bears, for example, we have to  
9 take into account those objectives and what data they  
10 have on those critters as well and distribution of use  
11 and so on.

12  
13 MR. GRAY: And I think it would be  
14 appropriate to send somebody to White Mountain and  
15 Golovin to look and talk to people that are going to be  
16 affected by this special rec permit that's being issued  
17 and try and justify your reasoning and hear the other  
18 side. I personally know that everybody in that area  
19 opposed that permit and it's kind of the same type of  
20 issue that we have in Shaktoolik and down in that  
21 country. Different animals, different resource but  
22 same issue. I would really suggest Tom or yourself or  
23 somebody go down to White Mountain or Golovin and speak  
24 with the people.

25  
26 MR. DENTON: I think we have a new  
27 recreation specialist there in Anchorage and he's  
28 pretty proactive. I'll bring this message to him so he  
29 can actually do some front-end work or prepare for  
30 front-end work to get that kind of input.

31  
32 MR. SPARKS: Can I make a comment?

33  
34 MR. DENTON: Go ahead.

35  
36 MR. SPARKS: Tom, through the Chair.  
37 That permit that we're discussing is for Mr. James  
38 Smith and BLM just made a decision on that last week.  
39 Both the communities of White Mountain and Golovin  
40 wrote in on the environmental assessment that was done  
41 on that permitting and they're going to have a chance  
42 to protest the decision if that's what they decide to  
43 do. We involve them through the steps of that  
44 permitting process. If you'd like me to come down to  
45 White Mountain to talk to the community, I'd be happy  
46 to do that.

47  
48 MR. GRAY: And this is what I'm trying  
49 to throw out on the table. I think it's appropriate,  
50 especially with a sensitive issue like that, that BLM

1 goes out to this region. It's going to impact this  
2 region very greatly and they need to hear it from you  
3 guys and you need to see. Maybe not only Tom but the  
4 other guys in Anchorage that are players in this thing  
5 need to come to my community and hear the players. You  
6 only heard it from the bureaucracy, city council and  
7 IRA council, but there's other players that are being  
8 impacted here and you need to hear it from them.

9

10 MR. DENTON: So you suggest we have  
11 potentially a couple meetings.

12

13 MR. GRAY: If that's appropriate. I  
14 think you go talk to the people and have a public  
15 meeting. This is a serious thing what's going on here  
16 and it's as serious as Shaktoolik where there was moose  
17 on the table.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: I think as far as  
20 that meeting is concerned you can work with whoever,  
21 IRA or city council and go from there and give us a  
22 report on how the meetings turned out.

23

24 MR. DENTON: I'd suggest too if there's  
25 still a lot of feelings in those communities, you know,  
26 when BLM makes these decisions and they go out, there's  
27 the opportunity for you folks to protest or appeal  
28 those decisions.

29

30 MR. GRAY: And that's coming. It's  
31 going to happen. The feeling that I saw in that  
32 community was that they were let down. The only other  
33 question I have is do you guys have anything to do with  
34 these mining claims that have been in the news up here  
35 and the cyanide stuff. Is any of that on your lands?

36

37 MR. SPARKS: No.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Thank you very  
40 much, Jeff. If there's no further questions, then  
41 thanks for the information.

42

43 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Well, that brings  
46 us down to Tony with Alaska Department of Fish and  
47 Game.

48

49 MR. GORN: I will refer everybody to  
50 some handouts that should be in front of you. There's

1 a five or six page report and the latest caribou map we  
2 just made and a newspaper the Department put together  
3 with the help of BLM that discusses the moose closure  
4 down in 22(A).

5  
6 I'll start off by going over this  
7 fall's moose seasons. In the arm made 40 hunts along  
8 the Nome road system, Unit 22(C), harvested 46 moose  
9 out of 40 and we actually closed the season a couple  
10 days before it would have naturally closed on the 14th  
11 of September. In Unit 22(B) west of the Darby  
12 Mountains we took 18 out of 18 moose and we closed that  
13 area by EO also. In Unit 22(D) we harvested 35 moose  
14 out of 39. In Unit 22(D) southwest we took 4 out of 8  
15 moose. I'll mention that in Unit 22(B) this year the  
16 quota was actually decreased to 23 permits. That's 18  
17 for the fall and five for the winter season compared to  
18 last year. In 22(D) it was increased to 39 permits  
19 this year. Last year it was 33.

20  
21 There will be winter registration hunts  
22 in 22(B) west of the Darby Mountains for five moose and  
23 in Unit 22(D) southwest for four moose. There will  
24 also be one in Unit 22(D) in the Kuzitrin River  
25 drainage for four moose and those are January seasons.

26  
27 The antlerless cow hunts just wrapped  
28 up September 30th. People don't actually have to  
29 report until the 15th of October for those hunts, but  
30 as of a couple days ago anyway we took four out of five  
31 antlerless moose in the Nome and Snake River drainages  
32 and 10 out of 15 in the remainder of Unit 22(C).

33  
34 Jeff Denton mentioned some census work  
35 that we all did last spring. Last spring for the first  
36 time ever we censused Units 22(D) and (E) together.  
37 The estimates for 22(D) was 1,565 moose. The calf/adult  
38 ratio was 24 calves per 100 adults and the recruitment  
39 rate was 19 percent. The estimate for 22(D) is  
40 virtually unchanged since 2002 when we counted almost  
41 1,600 moose. The point estimate for the Kuzitrin  
42 drainage indicates a slight decline although not  
43 statistically significant. The estimate for the  
44 Agiapuk drainage shows a slight increase. That, too,  
45 is not statistically significant.

46  
47 A slight decline in moose numbers in  
48 the Kuzitrin would not be surprising given calf/cow  
49 ratios of 9 to 15 calves per 100 cows found in the  
50 drainage during November comp surveys from 2002 to

1 2004. Composition surveys were not flown in the  
2 Agiapuk since 2002 but calf/cow ratios were  
3 consistently higher in the Agiapuk drainage during fall  
4 surveys prior to 2002. Calf/adult ratios were higher  
5 in the Kuzitrin in both the 2002 and 2006 censuses.  
6 The higher calf/adult ratios found this spring in both  
7 the Kuzitrin and the Agiapuk drainages give us hope for  
8 future population growth in both those areas.

9

10 I won't go through the table, but I  
11 just put in a table that compares the 2006 census  
12 estimates to previous census efforts in Unit 22(D).

13

14 I mentioned that for the first time  
15 this year we censused 22(D) and (E) together. In 22(E)  
16 we found 587 moose. The calf/adult ratio was 22 calves  
17 per 100 adults and the recruitment rate was 18 percent,  
18 which Clifford was mentioning before that they were  
19 seeing an improving moose population in his area and  
20 this census supports that. The 2006 point estimate of  
21 587 moose in (E) indicates a 16 percent increase in the  
22 population since 2003. Although the pre-2003 Riparian  
23 survey data that is in the table above is not directly  
24 comparable to recent census estimates, the data  
25 supports local observations and reports that population  
26 size and calf/adult ratios have increased since the  
27 late '90s. That's when the reg changes took place that  
28 Clifford mentioned earlier in the meeting.

29

30 I'll move on and talk about some wolf  
31 surveys done in the Unalakleet drainage last year and  
32 also take a quick moment to thank Jeff again. Jeff  
33 Denton really helped us out a lot this year, Jeff and  
34 BLM, with getting our work done. I appreciate that.  
35 Last February Jeff and I went down to Unalakleet for a  
36 week and we basically flew the entire Unalakleet census  
37 area in three days of flying I think it was. For the  
38 first time in the nine years I've lived here we had  
39 perfect weather conditions in Unalakleet and we really  
40 just made hay. We flew long, hard days and  
41 sightability was just excellent. There was just a  
42 couple tracks that did not lead us to moose.  
43 Eventually we found moose at every set of tracks we  
44 found.

45

46 Consequently, if you look at those  
47 survey results, it was not a census, they were spring  
48 recruitment surveys, but we found 164 total moose. If  
49 you compare that to our last census in 2005, our  
50 estimate was 123. It was encouraging that we found

1 more moose during the comp survey than the census the  
2 year before. Unfortunately, there was another part of  
3 those flights. We were trying to get a handle for the  
4 first time on wolf abundance in the Unalakleet area.  
5 We didn't find very many wolves, we didn't find many  
6 wolf tracks. We ended up only finding seven wolves.  
7 That kind of meshed with what the locals were saying  
8 from last year. That might be related to the Western  
9 Arctic Herd wintering a little bit north compared to  
10 recent years.

11  
12 I'll talk briefly about a new project  
13 that we did last year in 22(C) and (B) related to moose  
14 calf weights. We went out and darted and weighed 29  
15 moose calves to try to give us another piece of the pie  
16 to figure out what's going on in those areas. Weighing  
17 moose calves is just a really informative project  
18 because it tells you a lot about the health of the  
19 moose calf and the health of the cows and it gives you  
20 some insight on the quality of the moose browse in the  
21 area.

22  
23 Last year wasn't a real severe year for  
24 deep snow. It was an average year I'll say and we  
25 should keep that in mind when we talk about these  
26 results. Basically the upshot of it is we have some  
27 very big robust moose calves in this part of the  
28 country. They're not the biggest in the state but  
29 they're close, which is very encouraging. It's  
30 encouraging in 22(B) because we've just had for over 10  
31 years now a declining moose population. And it's  
32 encouraging in 22(C) where we have real high moose  
33 densities and we're worried about the quality of the  
34 moose habitat and just density issues in general.  
35 Anyway, the average calf weight was 423 pounds. More  
36 comprehensive studies done in other areas of Alaska  
37 suggest calves below 385 pounds are resource limited,  
38 so we're well above that and at this point don't have  
39 to be concerned, but have to keep in mind that 29 moose  
40 calves is not a very large sample size. We want to  
41 repeat this project and build on it and see where it  
42 takes us in the future.

43  
44 I'll move on to muskox news from last  
45 year. In spite of issuing greatly increased numbers of  
46 permits this year harvest remained below the harvest  
47 quotas in our muskox hunts. The below table  
48 illustrates the combined 2005 State and Federal quotas  
49 and harvest. I won't go through all of those, but you  
50 can just kind of look at it and see we were below the

1 quotas except in Unit 22(D) southwest.

2

3

4 On the next page there's another chart  
5 that illustrates the increased harvest quotas in  
6 numbers of issued permits for the 2006 Seward Peninsula  
7 muskox hunts. We were able to do this this year  
8 because of two things. First of all because of a  
9 recommendation by the Cooperators and then as a product  
10 of a Board of Game proposal change. In 22(B) this year  
11 we're issuing four more permits than last year. In  
12 22(C) 14 more permits than last year. In 22(D)  
13 southwest we're issuing nine more. In 22(D)-remainder  
14 we're issuing seven more. In 22(E) the actual amount  
15 of permits that can be issued is unlimited. It went to  
16 a registration permit and there's hunt conditions  
17 associated with it.

17

18

19 There's still a harvest quota of 69  
20 muskox and that's a combined quota between the State  
21 and the Feds. The number of available permits out  
22 there for hunters is unlimited, similar to how we  
23 manage our moose hunts. The last area is Unit 23  
24 southwest. This year we issued eight more permits than  
25 in 2005 and I'm sure when Ken comes up he'll touch on  
26 this stuff a little bit more.

26

27

28 A couple people have mentioned that  
29 next month we're going to have Seward Peninsula Muskox  
30 Cooperators meeting. It's a real important meeting.  
31 It's going to be two days, November 15th and 16th.  
32 There's two basic agenda items, although I'm sure we'll  
33 talk about more things. The first item is to identify  
34 the amount necessary for subsistence by subunit in Unit  
35 22 and the second topic is to begin to identify and  
36 talk about hunt types if the time ever comes that we  
37 find ourselves transitioning out of Tier II like we did  
38 in 22(E). The Agency Staff and the Cooperators and the  
39 general public I think recognize that it's really  
40 important to come to a consensus and have some ideas in  
41 our back pocket when the time comes so we can hopefully  
42 have a successful transition like we did in Unit 22(E).

42

43

44 Along the lines of the Unit 22(E)  
45 registration permit hunt this is the first year of the  
46 hunt. To date there have been 20 State permits issued  
47 and four hunters have reported harvesting muskox. I  
48 suspect additional permits will be issued because much  
49 of the harvest up there takes place during March.  
50 Permits are available in Wales and Shishmaref to all  
51 Alaska residents.

1                   Just a couple more things and I'll get  
2 out of here. Last spring, with the assistance of the  
3 National Park Service, both financially and staff-wise,  
4 we did some muskox comp surveys in 22(D) and we  
5 classified 516 muskox by age and sex and found 16  
6 percent yearlings. These results are encouraging  
7 because the previous spring during the 2005 census we  
8 found a lower percentage of yearlings, 8 percent in  
9 22(D), than we've observed in the past. The increased  
10 proportion of yearlings found in 2006 indicates the  
11 lower calf production or survival observed the previous  
12 year is not the beginning of a trend and lessens  
13 concerns about an impending population decline. During  
14 the surveys the results showed 42 mature bulls per 100  
15 cows and for that stat a mature bull is three years old  
16 or older.

17  
18                   Lastly, I'll just talk about the fall  
19 brown bear harvest. So far during this regulatory year  
20 of 2006 we have 23 bears that have been reported  
21 harvested. The 10 year average reported brown bear  
22 harvest from Unit 22 is 86 bears and last year in '05  
23 we harvested 84 bears, so it was a pretty standard year  
24 for bear harvest.

25  
26                   That's a very fast update on what went  
27 on in Unit 22 last year. I can take questions if you  
28 have any.

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: The floor is open  
31 for questions for Tony. Yes.

32  
33                   MR. SEETOT: Given the harvest numbers  
34 over the years, I think State of Alaska and Federal  
35 government look at the harvest rate, it's a tool that  
36 they use, but I think they're looking at it too close.  
37 Many animals are going unharvested. I think they do  
38 react with other wildlife resources in a way that  
39 either hurt or benefit the surrounding system. To say  
40 that the communities in these sub-units are not hunting  
41 enough, it's just like a reprimand to the communities,  
42 turning off participation by interested hunters. Let  
43 nature take its course. We know predation is out  
44 there. We complain about the animals they eat too much  
45 sourdog in certain areas. If they cultivate without  
46 our interference, let nature take its course. We talk  
47 about these things especially in heavy use areas.

48  
49                   Sub-unit 22(D) is a heavy use area and  
50 resources are there for anyone to use as long as they

1 observe regulations, as long as they observe TEK.  
2 Those that do not go by these routes know by experience  
3 that things do happen circumstantially. TEK, you don't  
4 waste, you don't do this and that. Game will be there  
5 for you. You do the other thing, you waste, you argue  
6 about these animals, stuff like that, the resources go  
7 away. There's a lot of talk about muskox. I have yet  
8 to find an agency, organization that will say to these  
9 committees we will spar verbally with you so that the  
10 resources, especially the muskox in our area can go  
11 away. We talk about that all the time. That's what I  
12 hear from elders, from people before you. You want to  
13 argue about these animals, they won't be there for you.  
14 It might not be in our lifetime, but probably so in a  
15 future time. And to say that, oh, they're not really  
16 harvesting everything for the year does not mean that  
17 those committees found other resources that are better  
18 than the muskox.

19

20                                 What I'm trying to say is that State  
21 and Federal organizations put these harvest limits out.  
22 When they're not taken or the surplus is not taken then  
23 a verbal battle is going on, oh, the range is being  
24 depleted, this and that. I think if you do it in such  
25 a way you combine biological Western standard with TEK,  
26 you know, everything is going to work out. But it just  
27 makes me feel that, oh, the people in these sub-units,  
28 the resources are there but they're not taking  
29 advantage of the harvest limits set by the State and  
30 Federal agencies and basically just saying, oh, we've  
31 got the surplus animals out there and now other people  
32 can get into these activities maybe without really  
33 giving concern to cultural differences between outside  
34 and what we do in our area.

35

36                                 I know that we're not as restrictive as  
37 other places, but still we tend to stick by these same  
38 standards saying certain numbers is being permitted and  
39 then a certain number is being harvested, therefore  
40 there's a fail rate in these sub-units for the game  
41 species. I think you just have to remember that nature  
42 does take its course over the long run. Whenever  
43 you're trying to micro-manage wildlife resources, say  
44 for next year, increase the harvest rate for muskox,  
45 they might run into some kind of virus or something  
46 might happen that will pretty much decrease or  
47 eliminate that population.

48

49                                 I think it's just something that one is  
50 on the State side and one is on the Federal side, we

1 need to take everything into consideration instead of  
2 just saying everything is going for the human side and  
3 that's where we kind of base our harvest levels, is  
4 pretty much for our use, without really taking into  
5 account other circumstantial stuff that takes place.

6

7 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: I'd like to say a few  
8 words, too.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Go ahead.

11

12 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Tony, this report is  
13 very detailed and it's easy to follow and it's obvious  
14 that you and Jeff and everybody put a lot of work into  
15 it. I think it's great to have all this information.  
16 I think it was a good job and well done. There's a lot  
17 of good facts here and that's what we need to help make  
18 these decisions. I think it was a very good report.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Also, us people  
21 on the Council, I know there's three or four of us  
22 guides. When I get out, I usually try to get a hold of  
23 Tony or Kate and let them know when I see ox  
24 populations, you know, whenever I can get to them.  
25 Just trying to help out. This is one area where we can  
26 help out and it helps the whole Seward Peninsula out as  
27 far as the harvest is concerned when we do that. I'd  
28 really like to thank you for all your efforts.

29

30 Any other questions for Tony.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: If not, thank you  
35 very much. Are you on the agenda, Jim?

36

37 MR. MAGDANZ: I seem to remember a  
38 motion to amend way back when. Mr. Chair, Jim Magdanz.  
39 May I proceed?

40

41 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Sure.

42

43 MR. MAGDANZ: Thank you. I just want  
44 to update you briefly on the harvest survey projects  
45 and other projects in the region. Stebbins and St.  
46 Michael asked us over a year ago if we would extend our  
47 customary trade surveys into those communities this  
48 fall. We did in early September. Pauline Hunt surveys  
49 18 households in St. Michael and Addie Pete surveyed 15  
50 households in Stebbins. I reviewed those. They're

1 excellent. I've coded them for data entry and they're  
2 being entered in the computer database now. We'll be  
3 doing an analysis on those and add it to the other  
4 communities we've done. We should have a report for  
5 you in February on that project.

6  
7 Austin Ahmasuk of Kawerak has submitted  
8 a proposal to the Board of Fisheries to provide for  
9 customary trade in State regulations, so we'll be at  
10 the Board of Fisheries meetings in January in  
11 Anchorage, so we may actually see some positive changes  
12 we hope in customary trade management for the region.  
13 So thanks to the Council for your support for that.

14  
15 Wildlife Conservation Division funds a  
16 survey of big game harvest in three communities this  
17 year and Kawerak is doing that work. Our division is  
18 providing some data support for that, but Kawerak is  
19 taking a bigger lead in that project. My understanding  
20 is Brevig has been surveyed. Teller and Elim are  
21 underway. Austin might have more information about  
22 that. And Kawerak is doing their own analysis and  
23 their own write-up on that project for the first time,  
24 so we're real pleased with their progress.

25  
26 I just want to briefly mention that  
27 Kawerak is also doing the biggest subsistence harvest  
28 survey effort in this region to date in all the  
29 communities around here and we're very supportive of  
30 their efforts there and look forward to seeing the  
31 results. Mr. Chair, thanks.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Thank you. Any  
34 questions to Jim.

35  
36 MR. GRAY: Don't run away.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: It's not about  
39 mining again, is it?

40  
41 (Laughter)

42  
43 MR. GRAY: Fishing. I was at Kawerak  
44 the other day and I was very surprised that Kawerak had  
45 worked a long time putting a proposal together to send  
46 to some funding source to do a project on Salmon Lake  
47 something. All of a sudden Fish and Game has pulled  
48 out of this thing and said they don't want to be  
49 involved. This project is going to go by the wayside I  
50 understand. I feel that that's not right for our

1 subsistence users, it's not right for programs. Fish  
2 and Game needs to be involved in these projects. If  
3 they're not involved in a project, it's probably not  
4 going to get the right permits and get to the right  
5 place so we can get some stuff done.

6

7                   You look at the fishery industry on the  
8 Seward Peninsula right now and we're in a crisis. We  
9 heard from the other guy this morning that he's got two  
10 rivers that he deals with and that's the Unalakleet  
11 River and the Pikmiktalik River. Fish and Game, the  
12 State of Alaska basically does the rest of the rivers  
13 from my understanding. We need projects on these  
14 rivers, so how can we get to this point?

15

16                   MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chair. I think that  
17 project Commercial Fisheries Division was involved in  
18 that and I wasn't, so Jeff Estensen is here if you'd  
19 like Jeff to address that.

20

21                   MR. ESTENSEN: Let me introduce myself.  
22 My name is Jeff Estensen. I'm with ADF&G here in Nome.  
23 I'm one of the research biologists here. I apologize  
24 for not being here this morning. We had a little mix  
25 up in communication about having someone from fisheries  
26 comm fish division here, so again I apologize to the  
27 Committee members and Mr. Chairman.

28

29                   Regarding the Salmon Lake proposal,  
30 that is actually still in the works right now and Fish  
31 and Game has not pulled out of that proposal. As a  
32 matter of fact, Gary Todd right now, my supervisor, is  
33 working at the Fish and Game office trying to come up  
34 with something that can be turned into we're all  
35 working together. As a matter of fact, I'm actually a  
36 co-investigator on that proposal, too.

37

38                   The thing that's going on right now is  
39 that we're really excited about this proposal because  
40 it brings NSCDC and it brings Kawerak and it brings the  
41 Department in together to do what we all consider to be  
42 meaningful research. Salmon Lake is obviously very  
43 important because it's an emerging commercial fishery  
44 and it also has subsistence pressure on it. The  
45 problem is that the funding source that we are trying  
46 to approach to provide funding for this project, we are  
47 just confident that the cost of this project as it  
48 stands right now is not going to fly. Basically what  
49 we're trying to do is cut this thing down to a point to  
50 where we know it's going to get funded. So that's

1 where we're at with Kawerak and NSCDC but Fish and Game  
2 has not pulled out of this project.

3

4 MR. GRAY: I'm glad to hear that it  
5 hasn't pulled out of this project, but the proposal  
6 needs to go forward even if the proposal is for \$10  
7 million. The system needs to understand that this is a  
8 big project. If there's only \$500,000 out there to do  
9 a portion of that project, that will be addressed at  
10 the funding time. It's up to all the players involved  
11 to find the rest of the money and find a source. The  
12 heartache that I have is nobody is paying attention to  
13 subsistence needs on the Seward Peninsula as far as  
14 everybody is studying, studying, studying. We've got  
15 all these fish towers out there, everybody doing  
16 subsistence surveys, you name it we've got it, but we  
17 have a resource that is crashing and nobody is doing  
18 any enhancement programs and nobody is even thinking  
19 about it. We've got to get to that point. Salmon Lake  
20 is a good example of an enhancement program that  
21 worked. They took a few thousand fish and turned it  
22 into 50,000 fish or whatever.

23

24 I was just shocked a second ago. You  
25 said a commercial fishery. We need 100-200,000 fish  
26 before you start talking commercial fishery. You look  
27 at White Mountain, they have 5,000 silvers going by the  
28 tower and they have a commercial fishery. That's  
29 ludicrous. You need large, large numbers even just to  
30 get by subsistence. So your baselines need to be  
31 addressed.

32

33 When we talk about projects and  
34 funding, just because a funding source says -- just  
35 because Fish and Game thinks they're not going to  
36 approve a \$10 million project, that request needs to go  
37 forward anyway no matter how much money is available  
38 there. I don't know if I'm making sense here. I've  
39 been a mayor forever and I understand projects and I  
40 understand funding and I've talked with commissioners  
41 and I've dealt with this and that. It all comes  
42 together in the end, but you've got to put your first  
43 step forward and you can't stop in mid-stride.

44

45 I was shocked when I went to Kawerak  
46 the other day and they were fuming because you guys had  
47 slowed this process down and we need it to go forward.  
48 We needs lots of projects on the Seward Peninsula, not  
49 just Salmon Lake.

50

1 MR. ESTENSEN: Yes, I'm not going to  
2 disagree with you at all that we do need projects to  
3 look at our fisheries. I'm a research biologist up  
4 here and I understand that. That's my job to do  
5 research. Again, I will say that regardless of what  
6 the perception is of Fish and Game's involvement in  
7 this particular proposal, we're doing what we feel we  
8 have to do to make sure this proposal gets funded. If  
9 it goes forward and it doesn't get funded, then it may  
10 not get funded ever by AYK SSI. The approach we're  
11 taking with the Salmon Lake project is that let's get  
12 it right the first time and let's make sure we get this  
13 thing sharpened down, let's critically look at all the  
14 components, what is the best possible information we  
15 can gather at the cheapest price. As someone who has  
16 put a lot of proposals in and had a lot of projects  
17 funded, to put a proposal in for one species to AYK SSI  
18 that has, comparative to the Yukon and Kuskokwim area,  
19 a relatively small subsistence harvest and to ask for  
20 almost one quarter of the money they have available,  
21 that's not going to get funded, so we have to make sure  
22 that we're making the best proposal at the lowest cost.  
23 That's what Fish and Game is doing right now.

24  
25 Like I said, I agree with you 100  
26 percent. We need projects up here, we do, and I'm  
27 working with OSM now to try to get something going on  
28 the Unalakleet River on chinook salmon. I think this  
29 is the first OSM project with commercial fisheries and  
30 I'm glad we're actually expanding out into new funding  
31 sources. NSI money just ran out and now we're funding  
32 ourselves relying on AYK SSI and I'm glad we're able to  
33 tap into OSM a little bit here.

34  
35 MR. GRAY: And I don't know enough  
36 about this funding source. I do know 15 years ago  
37 Charlie Lien came to me and wanted to put a fish  
38 counting tower on my property. About five years ago I  
39 went to Fish and Game and said I want to see some goals  
40 and objectives on the cohos, you agreed that we're  
41 going to work on a coho run, what's going to happen.  
42 In the end I kicked them off my property because they  
43 had no goals. Here we are 15 years later. We need  
44 some good goals, strategic planning, that we're talking  
45 about. We need some solid what are we going to do  
46 about the fishery in our region. To me, somebody has  
47 to get off the dime here and get some enhancement  
48 programs.

49  
50 To walk away and say there isn't enough

1 money in that pot, we have to sharpen our pencil,  
2 that's fine if you've got a better place to go to.  
3 You've got strategic planning. This year we're going  
4 to get a quarter of that money and we're going to do a  
5 quarter of the project, but we're going to keep going,  
6 we're going to keep running and it's going to be a 10-  
7 year project. Somehow you guys with Kawerak and with  
8 some of the leaders in this community -- well, I'll get  
9 off the bandwagon here.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Let's talk about  
12 the issue.

13

14 MR. ESTENSEN: You brought up your  
15 opinions and your points and I don't know how much --  
16 do you want to turn this into strategic planning for  
17 research up here or whatnot. I will tell you that the  
18 projects we have in place in my opinion as a fish and  
19 game biologist are well thought out, our objectives are  
20 well defined. We do the best we can to monitor  
21 escapements of populations using the best tools we  
22 have. In terms of enhancement, there is enhancement  
23 programs. We, as a department, have taken the stance  
24 that we are not going to do enhancement, but I think  
25 we've done an adequate job of supporting the  
26 enhancement that's going on right now. I've been out  
27 helping Tim Smith on more than a few occasions. I've  
28 helped Charlie Lien do his egg takes. I think the  
29 Department is taking a stance with that. We're not  
30 going to jump into this head first and say let's put  
31 10,000 fish in the river. We have to evaluate the  
32 methodologies and we have to see if it's working. If  
33 it is working, then we'll take another step.

34

35 MR. GRAY: And I agree with a certain  
36 amount of studying. I say move slow, let's not ruin  
37 the natural resource we have. But 15 years later and  
38 we're still studying. Something's got to change here.  
39 Look at the Nome resource here. You guys went to a  
40 Tier whatever and issued permits to the Natives of this  
41 community and said fight amongst yourself who gets them  
42 because we have managed this fishery into nothing.  
43 There is no fishery. That's not right to this region.  
44 I won't say any more, I promise.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: I think issues  
47 like these some sort of written proposal should be  
48 submitted and we can go from there and work with some  
49 sort of a document that the Council can look at and  
50 then either support or not support what is going on.

1 Was there anything else you wanted to say.

2

3 MR. ESTENSEN: The reason why I wanted  
4 to come up was discuss an OSM project we're going to be  
5 doing in the Unalakleet River drainage. I'm sure  
6 everybody is aware that the chinook salmon population  
7 in the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet River have been  
8 anything but acceptable. There's a growing concern  
9 amongst the residents of the area, Fish and Game  
10 biologists, about the populations. Right now they are  
11 currently stock of yield concerns.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Those were  
14 discussed this morning.

15

16 MR. ESTENSEN: Forgive me for not being  
17 here. The proposal that we're putting in is to  
18 basically do radio telemetry and mark and recapture  
19 methods to examine the proportion that are going up the  
20 North River past the tower there. Much like we've done  
21 for coho and chum on the Fish River. What this will  
22 allow us to do is to take these proportions, expand the  
23 tower count out by that proportion to give us a  
24 drainage wide escapement. This will help us better --  
25 this work was done a few years ago and we're  
26 re-examining it to see if these portions remain  
27 consistent over changing abundances and over time.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: If there's no  
30 further questions, thank you.

31

32 MR. ESTENSEN: Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Ken, if you don't  
35 mind, can we have a little break in case you get long-  
36 winded.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: We'll take a 10-  
41 minute break then. I'm worried about Ken.

42

43 (Off record)

44

45 (On record)

46

47 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Could we get  
48 going again. Okay. I stopped before I got to National  
49 Park Service report and I'd like to give the floor to  
50 Ken.

1 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair, Council  
2 Members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. I'm  
3 trying to follow the Chair's instruction and make it  
4 pretty short. I don't have anything written, but run  
5 through a few things that will maybe interest you.

6  
7 We have had some Staff changes. For  
8 the Nome Office of the Park Service here we've actually  
9 added a new interpretive ranger. Her name is Nicole  
10 Andler and she'll be doing a lot of our public  
11 education outreach, that sort of activity and  
12 interpretation for the Park. She's actually in White  
13 Mountain in relation to some school activities there.

14  
15 The other addition to our office is  
16 Mike Thompson, who introduced himself this morning, and  
17 he's our new protection ranger and he's filling another  
18 long-term vacant position with us. Mike just returned  
19 from Kotzebue for several weeks up there working with  
20 the staff essentially doing boat, aerial patrols in the  
21 Noatak area in relation to monitoring hunting activity  
22 where they have some very severe user conflict issues  
23 going on in relation to utilization of the resources.  
24 Mike got a good introduction to things up there.  
25 Unfortunately we're going to lose him here pretty  
26 shortly for several months to an extended law  
27 enforcement training session that's required, but he'll  
28 be back in the spring, so you'll see more of Mike  
29 around.

30  
31 Moving along to some of the activities  
32 the Park has been involved with, Vance already  
33 mentioned the chinook or king situation on the  
34 Unalakleet. The Park Service, as superintendent for  
35 Western Arctic National Park Service, is the designated  
36 Federal agent for in-season decision making for the  
37 Federal Subsistence Fisheries Management Program. In  
38 that capacity we actually did have to issue a special  
39 action to protect the king run in the Federal waters of  
40 the Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River. That involved a  
41 closure that went into effect July 10th. When the runs  
42 continued to improve, that closure was just maintained  
43 through the core of the season and expired on August  
44 1st. That was basically a restriction in method and  
45 means through gear, fishing was limited to beach  
46 seining in the river, which allowed folks to keep other  
47 species of fish and give them a chance to return the  
48 kings to the river. That action was taken in  
49 conjunction with the restrictive actions the State had  
50 taken in State-managed waters and was identical to the

1 action that was required in 2004. So the king run was  
2 pretty dismal.

3  
4 I might also mention we still haven't  
5 filled the Federal fisheries manager position, which we  
6 hope to fill this year. We do miss Charlie for sure.

7  
8 Other wildlife activities that we've  
9 been involved with, Tony mentioned our cooperative  
10 activities with other agencies including ADF&G in doing  
11 moose surveys in the northern Seward Peninsula and the  
12 muskoxen composition work. I might also add that along  
13 with some of the muskoxen composition work that we were  
14 involved in we also started collecting urine samples at  
15 the same time to look at a new process to identify and  
16 better understand body condition of ungulates through  
17 analysis of the nitrogen content. Because if that  
18 works that will be a perhaps effective and relatively  
19 cheap way of getting at some of the things where we  
20 don't have maybe a lot of habitat information or  
21 carrying capacity or other ways to judge what's going  
22 on with the health status of the critters. We'll  
23 probably have more to say about it down the road.

24  
25 The other thing we tried to do this  
26 spring was for the first time get a quantitative brown  
27 bear count for 22(E) for Bering Land Bridge. Had we  
28 been able to successfully pull that off it really would  
29 have been the first quantitative information on brown  
30 bears really in this area since the mid to late '80s  
31 around 22(C) and parts of B. Unfortunately we were  
32 flying out of Quartz Creek this spring and we really  
33 ran into some severe weather problems and then one of  
34 our pilots sustained a non-flight-related injury, so  
35 this was a bust in that we didn't get the results we  
36 wanted because we couldn't get the number of units that  
37 we needed to do to count to get a really good  
38 statistical estimate. The good news is we were trying  
39 out some new techniques and we did get enough of the  
40 units that we did survey resurveyed to be pretty  
41 comfortable with our sightability estimates and the  
42 fact that the process works. So we'll probably be back  
43 next year or the year after and give it another shot  
44 trying to get the bear estimate.

45  
46 We've also been very active with our  
47 limited staff and I might point out we only have for  
48 four Park units one wildlife biologist currently. In  
49 addition to doing the work down here, the Park was  
50 heavily involved up in Unit 23 working with ADF&G, US

1 Fish and Wildlife Selawik Refuge and BLM and others in  
2 doing moose counts in 23 and then also sheep counts and  
3 heavily involved in muskox work up that way.

4  
5 Regulatory work. Just making sure that  
6 the Federal muskoxen proposals went through. It always  
7 turns out to be interesting and takes up time of the  
8 Staff and those were all successful. Those in our  
9 case, in the Federal system, those were the ones that  
10 were mentioned earlier related to the designated hunter  
11 provisions as well as making other adjustments in the  
12 program. Our Staff also looks at all the closure  
13 reviews that were presented to you earlier and makes  
14 comments on them and that sort of thing.

15  
16 The thing I would say about the  
17 muskoxen -- first, before I get onto that, let me talk  
18 about the permitting process. I'd like to thank Fred  
19 Tocktoo on our staff here who over the last number of  
20 years has been very active in working with the  
21 communities on the permitting issues related to the  
22 Federal and State muskoxen hunts. He works closely  
23 with ADF&G going out to most of the villages on the  
24 peninsula that are involved in the Federal hunt,  
25 providing information to the villages. In some cases  
26 actually holding clinics, especially in 23, where we  
27 provide information on both the State and Federal  
28 processes for a number of reasons. To ensure that the  
29 villagers adequately fill out their permit applications  
30 so they can compete and get some of those State  
31 permits. It's a lot easier for those people to be able  
32 to hunt closer to home on State-managed lands than it  
33 is to have a Federal permit that's hard for them to  
34 utilize by having to travel longer distances and so  
35 forth.

36  
37 This year some of Fred's time also went  
38 into trying to explain differences in the new hunt  
39 strategies. Tony mentioned the transition in 22(E)  
40 where we moved out of Tier II into a Tier I  
41 registration hunt and the effects of that and then also  
42 trying to explain to people how the Federal Designated  
43 Hunter Program works so that we can take advantage of  
44 that.

45  
46 Just briefly on the number of permits.  
47 Tony and Jeff already mentioned the 22(B) situation.  
48 22(D) we're pretty much limited in the number of  
49 Federal permits there by guidelines provided to us by  
50 the Muskoxen Cooperators Group and we only issued six

1 Federal permits there. You may not be too interested  
2 in 23 southwest, but it's part of the whole program.  
3 There we issue about a third of the permits to the  
4 Federal side. Again, by guidelines provided by the  
5 Cooperators, we issued five permits to the villages up  
6 there. Then in 22 (E) currently there are a total of  
7 24 Federal permits out, eight of those for Wales and 16  
8 to Shishmaref. Theoretically those two are unlimited,  
9 but the demand just hasn't been there because a lot of  
10 people are getting the State permits. So far we've had  
11 one muskoxen reported by Shishmaref on a Federal  
12 permit.

13

14 The last thing I guess is the upcoming  
15 Muskoxen Cooperators meeting that was mentioned to you  
16 for the 15th and 16th of November. That's a public  
17 meeting and it's open to everybody. So if you're in  
18 town I'd encourage you to go. The Federal Subsistence  
19 Program has been very good about helping us in the past  
20 by supporting some of the Council Members, you folks,  
21 to come to the meetings. ADF&G uses its local Fish and  
22 Game Advisory Committee system to bring people in and  
23 sometimes some of us just bite the bullet. I'd really  
24 encourage you to go.

25

26 This is probably going to be an  
27 important meeting since the Board of Game did ask  
28 specifically for recommendations on determining the  
29 amount needed for subsistence by the sub-units. Along  
30 with what Elmer says, it's hard to get into these  
31 discussions about how many animals do you have and who  
32 can get them and all that and sometimes it gets pretty  
33 grim and we try to avoid it. Let me just say there's a  
34 lot of folks out there in the greater world outside the  
35 Seward Peninsula who would love to hunt muskox and the  
36 State Board of Game is particularly interested in  
37 opening it up and creating an opportunity for those  
38 folks.

39

40 So this is an important meeting to go  
41 to and contribute to those determinations. If the  
42 allowable harvest doesn't meet the ANS, you're pretty  
43 much required under the State system to have a Tier II  
44 hunt. If you have a surplus of animals that can meet  
45 subsistence needs, then you're pretty much required to  
46 move out of Tier II into something else. The first  
47 step out of that would be like the Tier I registration  
48 hunt like we implemented this year in 22(E). I would  
49 encourage you to go to that. That's basically all I've  
50 got.

1 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Any questions or  
2 comments for Ken. I first met Ken Adkisson here when  
3 we had our first Cooperators meeting for ox. There  
4 were representatives from all over and we had a guy  
5 from Buckland who was sitting next to me and Ken was  
6 really explaining the muskox and how we were going to  
7 handle the situation, so Ken opened the floor to the  
8 public and the guy from Buckland raised up his hand and  
9 he stands up. He says, you know, before the moose came  
10 we had good willows and now we've got sticks. Now  
11 we're talking about muskox and pretty soon I won't have  
12 no more tussocks to sit on.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: That was the  
17 first time I met Ken. I would encourage anybody to go  
18 to that muskox meeting in November because it's going  
19 to affect different game areas on that due to the  
20 growth. I've been satisfied with the work the Park  
21 Service has done both Kotzebue and Nome and working  
22 with Fish and Game to help the subsistence purposes in  
23 our area. So thanks a lot, Ken.

24

25 MR. ADKISSON: My pleasure.

26

27 MR. MARTIN: You mentioned Nicole  
28 Andler. What educational program is she using?

29

30 MR. ADKISSON: It varies a lot. A lot  
31 of what she'll do is work to help explain a lot about  
32 what the Park Service is, does, about the resources,  
33 she's work with other organizations to help do that.  
34 Some other things are more directly related, like in  
35 the schools, and those have to be tailored to the  
36 curriculum guides and things that are set up by the  
37 school system so the programs help the school district,  
38 for example, meet its educational goals. Any more  
39 it's so darn hard.

40

41 MR. MARTIN: Is she going around the  
42 region, the Bering Strait region?

43

44 MR. ADKISSON: It will vary. Right now  
45 she's new, she's getting her feet on the ground. She  
46 went to one of the in-service session in Unalakleet for  
47 the district and try to meet people. Right now she's  
48 mailing out educational kits to the school and trying  
49 to respond if someone invites her to the schools. If  
50 you're interested, just give the Park a call.

1 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Thank you, Ken.

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: You're welcome. My  
4 pleasure.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Austin, were you  
7 going to make any report on Kawerak or are you just  
8 here for the pleasure of it. Maybe you could just give  
9 us a real brief report of your responsibilities in that  
10 position.

11

12 MR. AHMASUK: Sure thing, Mr. Chairman.  
13 Austin Ahmasuk, subsistence director. I work under  
14 Rose Fostik behind me here and I work in the Natural  
15 Resource Division and I manage the subsistence program.  
16 There's two of us, myself and Eric Trigg, special  
17 research analyst. What we do is provide a level of  
18 advocacy for our constituent tribes. We have presence  
19 at various meetings, such as this, other statewide  
20 meetings. A really significant component of what we do  
21 is subsistence harvest surveys. We think we have a  
22 really special program. Our program is looked upon, I  
23 feel, statewide as a very good, active program. We  
24 take great pains to control our data and go to fairly  
25 great lengths to ensure Kawerak authorship of various  
26 things.

27

28 This year I manage a number of grants  
29 that we apply competitively for or some that are just  
30 flat out agreements that agencies initiate with  
31 Kawerak. I manage two migratory bird grants. I manage  
32 an egg collection grant, which looks at seabird egg  
33 contamination in various places throughout our region.  
34 I manage a North Pacific Research Board harvest survey  
35 grant which we're administering this year. And  
36 administer a fish and game grant that is a companion  
37 grant that Mr. Magdanz mentioned earlier and they work  
38 together. We just finished a customary trade survey  
39 and the project is complete. Its results go to the  
40 villages and they go to various places statewide and  
41 hopefully they do their job of advocacy for our region.

42

43 In a nutshell, those are things that I  
44 do and things that I'm doing this year. So thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: My  
47 recommendation, Austin, would be I know Kawerak always  
48 has meetings and stuff and they pretty much represent  
49 the same villages we represent. If there's anything on  
50 subsistence proposals that your board is discussing or

1 the community is discussing, if you could put us on the  
2 mailing list so we could get a copy of those proposals,  
3 even if you have a draft to where this Council can help  
4 Kawerak or your agency in securing funding or whatever,  
5 please put us on the mailing list. Thank you for your  
6 report. I know you're always here at the meetings and  
7 I thought I'd give you the floor this time.

8

9 This gets us down to other business,  
10 Council charter. What is that?

11

12 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair and Council  
13 Members. If you would turn to Page 97 of your book  
14 there's a copy of the charter for the Seward Peninsula  
15 Council. The charters were signed in October of 2005,  
16 so the next review will occur in 2007. The Regional  
17 Advisory Councils are reviewing their charters at their  
18 fall meetings and may submit requests for a change in  
19 their charters. The Board will meet in June 2007 to  
20 discuss requests for changes to the charters and  
21 develop its recommendations to the Secretary. The  
22 Councils' requests and the Board's recommendations will  
23 be forwarded to the Secretary immediately following the  
24 meeting in June of 2007.

25

26 The Council did submit a request in its  
27 annual report to increase its membership to 13 in order  
28 to include members from more of the Seward Peninsula  
29 communities; however, the Board believes that 10  
30 members provides adequate representation for the Seward  
31 Peninsula region.

32

33 The other changes that can be made to  
34 the charter are changes to their name, Subsistence  
35 Resource Commission appointments and the criteria for  
36 removing a member. Hopefully the Council members have  
37 had time to review the charter, so if the Council would  
38 like to make a recommendation on changes to the  
39 charter, now would be the time to do so. Thank you,  
40 Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Thank you. Any  
43 comments.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: If not, we'll  
48 move on. Yukon- Kuskokwim Delta Proposal 30  
49 discussion. Staff. Who's the Staff?

50

1 MR. QUINN: Clifford, I'll take that  
2 because I'm the one that asked it be put on the agenda.  
3 Unit 18 is currently closed to the taking of moose  
4 except by those with a C&T determination and, of  
5 course, only the people who live within Unit 18 can  
6 have the C&T. This is all going to be in relation to a  
7 proposal that was submitted last year and was deferred  
8 by the Subsistence Board. As hopefully all of us know,  
9 our area covers people who do have C&T for some of Unit  
10 18. Mr. Martin asked about the Pastolik River and I  
11 assume there are people in Stebbins who like to hunt  
12 there, but legally they can't unless they go on private  
13 land. None of us here can hunt on that land. But Unit  
14 18 along the Yukon River has absolutely the best moose  
15 population in this state. They've got high cow/calf  
16 ratios, high bull/cow ratios. They've got a cow  
17 season, a long bull season. It's just a really good  
18 moose population. Our brethren down in Unit 18 still  
19 want that area closed even though they have this good  
20 moose population. So I wanted to make a motion. It  
21 was Proposal WP06-30 submitted by a man in Bethel to  
22 open this part of Unit 18 to all users, just like we  
23 did for 22(D).

24  
25 I spoke to various people involved with  
26 Unit 18, the refuge manager Mike Reardon, the ADF&G  
27 biologist in Bethel, everybody is pretty much in favor  
28 of this area being open. There is no biological reason  
29 to keep it closed. It's just the people that live  
30 there don't want to have to compete with the rest of  
31 us.

32  
33 Anyway, I move that our RAC support  
34 Proposal WP-30. It's supposed to be resubmitted to the  
35 Board this fall and I'd like to see it supported by our  
36 RAC because some of our users have some traditional  
37 ancestral use of that area.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Your motion that  
40 you made would be in support of the desires of the  
41 Council in that area?

42  
43 MR. QUINN: No. That proposal would be  
44 an objection to the desires of the Council in that  
45 area. So far they have not been in favor of opening  
46 the area and that's the only reason it's remained  
47 closed.

48  
49 MR. GRAY: But his concern is, and he's  
50 got a valid concern, is we have users in our area that

1 would utilize that area. Stebbins/St. Michael people  
2 could utilize that area. If they need to be included  
3 in that traditional C&T area, that might be amenable to  
4 that group down there.

5  
6 MS. ARMSTRONG: That could be another  
7 proposal which you could do. You could make a proposal  
8 to give St. Michael/Stebbins C&T for a portion of Unit  
9 18. They already have it for caribou and I think black  
10 bear, so they have gotten it before. That would be  
11 separate from this, two different analyses, but it  
12 would accomplish some of that.

13  
14 MR. GRAY: I guess the other argument  
15 would be if we supported what he's talking about, if it  
16 didn't pass, then as another resource we could come  
17 back whenever and submit a new proposal getting the C&T  
18 changed for these guys.

19  
20 MR. QUINN: Part of the reason I want  
21 to support this proposal is because there's a lot of  
22 opportunity there to do just what you and you and you  
23 are doing and that's make some money off the resource  
24 and I see that as a good thing. They have a very  
25 healthy moose population. There's opportunity for  
26 local people down there, subsistence users, to do very  
27 similar to what's done in Unit 22. I see it as a shame  
28 that they're denied that opportunity because some of  
29 the people don't want others in there. Most of it is a  
30 refuge, so it's not like there's going to be a guide  
31 there overnight, but there's transporter opportunities.  
32 Once it becomes open, then the refuge will make it  
33 available to guides. So it's not like overnight a  
34 swarm of guides and transporters are going to drop in  
35 on there, but there's opportunities for local people to  
36 harvest the moose and make some money off of the moose  
37 as well.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Is that a motion?

40  
41 MR. QUINN: That's background on my  
42 motion. That's why I want to support this proposal WP-  
43 30.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: So your motion is  
46 to support that.

47  
48 MR. QUINN: This proposal, yeah. That  
49 proposal opened that area to all users. It's not a  
50 change in C&T. That would also align the area with the

1 State season because the seasons are the same, just who  
2 can hunt. So if this proposal passes it will all be  
3 the same and everybody can hunt wherever they want.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: There is a motion  
6 on the floor. Is there a second to the motion.

7  
8 MR. GRAY: I'll second.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: There is a second  
11 on the motion. Is there further questions or comments.

12  
13 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. This is  
14 Helen. I just wanted to make sure you know this was  
15 deferred from last year, so it will come forward and be  
16 in the proposal book that will come out in November and  
17 then there will be a new analysis done and then it will  
18 be brought back to the Councils in the winter meeting  
19 so that you would have the opportunity at the winter  
20 meeting as well to hear a full review of what the  
21 analysis says. At this point you can support it if  
22 you'd like, I'm not saying you can't, but there will be  
23 this official opportunity time at the winter meeting  
24 when the Board will be seeking comments.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Is there any  
27 further comments on the motion.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 MR. QUINN: Question.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: The question has  
34 been called for. All those in favor signify by saying  
35 aye.

36  
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Those opposed  
40 same sign.

41  
42 (No opposing votes)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: You got your  
45 wish. We'll make sure that we have that on the agenda  
46 for the February meeting so that if it -- it will  
47 probably surface up again with some language on that.

48  
49 MR. GRAY: The thing is though a lot of  
50 this land, looking at this, this is all Fish and

1 Wildlife land down here, so there's a lot of  
2 restrictions on it.

3

4 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Yes.

7

8 MR. MARTIN: Yeah, when I get back I'd  
9 like to set up a meeting with St. Michael and Stebbins  
10 for putting up a proposal for what we just brought up  
11 earlier. I'd like to have the right to cross over when  
12 the seasons are open to do some hunting for St. Michael  
13 and Stebbins. We are -- if the Council wishes to do  
14 so, we could have a proposal up.

15

16 MS. ARMSTRONG: This Council could make  
17 that proposal, you could go back and have people in  
18 your community do it, an individual could do it. It  
19 just needs to be in by October 20th, so if you want to  
20 make sure it gets done, this Council could make the  
21 proposal today and then it would be all taken care of.

22

23 MR. MARTIN: I'd like to have that.

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Thank you. Well,  
27 we'll go on down to Tom Gray's Mining operation.

28

29 MR. GRAY: I don't know how it got  
30 labeled Tom Gray, I keep ranting and raving about this  
31 thing.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Well you brought  
34 this subject up.

35

36 MR. GRAY: I did.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: You must have a  
39 little concern about it.

40

41 MR. GRAY: And I do. I brought it up  
42 because I've been reading about it in the Nome Nugget  
43 and I don't know anything about mining and all this  
44 stuff, cyanide I guess they're talking about cyanide.  
45 But I do know I was at a AFN meeting 15 years ago and  
46 this guy was ranting and raving about heavy metals in  
47 his river from the Red Dog Mine. And I'm very  
48 concerned that we're going to have that same problem in  
49 Nome, Alaska. And I don't know if it's appropriate for  
50 this board to get political and write letters saying we

1 oppose heavy metals. The understanding I have about  
2 this thing -- this cyanide thing is if they don't use  
3 it they make X amount of money. If they do use the  
4 cyanide they make several million more, it's a money  
5 thing. And when it comes to subsistence there's no  
6 money involved in that, we shouldn't even be  
7 considering money. And for an oil company or a mining  
8 company or whoever it may be to come into our region  
9 and develop something, you would think that they would  
10 work with the subsistence users, with the local people  
11 to protect whatever we have that needs protecting.  
12 When it comes to big business they don't -- big  
13 business doesn't care about -- and I shouldn't say  
14 this, I guess I'm going to get myself in a jam again.  
15 Big business is unfeeling I guess or how can I say  
16 this, business is business as usual and I don't think  
17 this cyanide thing is going to be good for this region.  
18 And I really think that -- personally I think it's  
19 appropriate for this subsistence board to write a  
20 letter stating that whoever it maybe, this is wrong we  
21 don't want this in our region.

22

23 So other than that, you know, I don't  
24 know. I'm throwing it out for comments here before we  
25 go too far.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Yeah, I just  
28 don't know how -- I know I've been reading in the paper  
29 too and it's difficult to -- to actually say and want  
30 to do much if it was in writing maybe it would be  
31 something we could study as how we might want to  
32 support or not support it or just leave it out or  
33 support it, it's hard to say.

34

35 MR. QUINN: Clifford.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Yeah.

38

39 MR. QUINN: Austin you've been involved  
40 in this a little bit, who would you suggest we write to  
41 or why don't you give us a little guidance because I  
42 know you're more familiar with it.

43

44 MR. AHMASUK: Okay, thank you Mr.  
45 Chairman. Well I think that if this Council wants to  
46 be informed about the mine, there's a lot of  
47 information that you'd have to weed through. And  
48 myself since approximately the first of May until the  
49 end of July I was pretty much reading things about the  
50 mine day in and day out. So it's really high burden to

1 go through. There's, you know, snippets of information  
2 that this Council could review and look at that isn't  
3 so involved there are actually State and Federal  
4 responses to permits and such. I think that if you  
5 wanted to get more information about the mine that it  
6 may be appropriate to have Noble Gold officials here  
7 and speak to you perhaps. I would be willing at a time  
8 whenever you decide to also make comments, I could make  
9 a lot of comments now, I don't know how you want to do  
10 that, I mean I could make a lot of comments right now  
11 about it. You know the kinds of questions that loom  
12 out there are you know, how effective is the cyanide  
13 destruction, how effective is the design of the tailing  
14 storage facility, how effective is the acid base  
15 accounting that they've done at Big Raw and Rock Creek,  
16 how effective are their water quality studies, how  
17 effective is their wildlife and fish assessments.

18  
19 Those kinds of things, there's a whole  
20 slough of issues that I, you know, my name's been in  
21 the paper a lot, that I and others have really thought  
22 long and hard about and the fact of the matter is that  
23 a portion of my concerns have made their way into  
24 permit conditions. And so what's of concern there is  
25 well what if I would have never said anything, Noble  
26 Gold and the agencies would have went forward with  
27 plans that were not appropriate or that didn't take  
28 into consideration some things.

29  
30 The one -- for myself the one thing  
31 that really got me on this whole thing is this. What's  
32 most important to me is the subsistence and the life  
33 that I grew up with here. You know, I've dealt with a  
34 mine or two and they are not the most friendly type of  
35 person, they generally have a hatred for people who  
36 have concerns about issues. But Noble Gold, on their  
37 lands, they don't allow subsistence, they say it in  
38 their mining plan documents, they don't allow it and  
39 that's horrible in my mind. Our Native corporation, we  
40 let them and others do subsistence on our lands  
41 generally with not much concern, but they don't allow  
42 subsistence on their lands and that's what was the  
43 thing that really boiled my blood and was the primary  
44 reason why I got involved in this whole thing and  
45 dedicated many hours of research and so.

46  
47 In terms of what you can do, I think  
48 that letters are appropriate to the mine that, you  
49 know, that after maybe you did some review that you  
50 have concerns. And so that may be, you know, it may be

1 as simple as we've read what we've heard in the Nome  
2 Nugget and from those we have concerns, that may be  
3 appropriate to Noble Gold or something.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Yeah, I think  
6 that perhaps we need a little bit more review on this,  
7 because if in the future if it gets into litigation and  
8 or our Council name is on there, where do we find the  
9 time and money to be involved in some sort of a  
10 litigation that some organization might put against the  
11 company, the mining company. And this is something --  
12 I've been involved with organizational litigations and  
13 we got to back up our information. I think some sort  
14 of a review would be more adequate and maybe work with  
15 Austin and they see how we could come up with some  
16 proper language so that when a litigation comes about  
17 in 10 or 15 years and our name is in there then we'd be  
18 in sad shape.

19  
20 Yeah you have a comment.

21  
22 MR. AHMASUK: Yes, I do, just a real  
23 quick one.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: You can rest  
26 assured that I am looking at every detail, I have just  
27 about all those 2,000 pages of documents in my head, in  
28 my memory and I've made very significant comments and I  
29 can assure you that I'm looking at them very closely.

30  
31 Thank you.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Thank you. Go  
34 ahead.

35  
36 MS. ARMSTRONG: I wanted to add to, two  
37 things. If you write a letter which you're allowed to  
38 comment on things that have to do with subsistence  
39 issues in your region and environmental impacts to  
40 subsistence would fall into that category. But the OSM  
41 office wants to read the letter and review it before it  
42 goes out, they just have this policy about that. And  
43 it's not a big deal it's just they have a little  
44 protectiveness over it. And the other thing is you can  
45 put it in your annual report as a concern that you just  
46 want to say you're concerned about it and not that, you  
47 know, I mean it's documented and other regions have  
48 done that as well, that sort of thing, put into their  
49 annual report.

50

1                   So what I would do is that Michelle and  
2 I will tell Barb that this would be an annual report  
3 issue that you're concerned about and you know, it  
4 could be in there.

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Yeah, I think at  
7 this present time it would be more appropriate for us  
8 to submit our concerns in writing, as far as that mine  
9 is concerned and go from there. If in the future that  
10 this Council wants to go on further, after working with  
11 perhaps Austin and other organizations to support the  
12 subsistence users then this Council can go further on  
13 other than the support -- you have a comment?

14  
15                   MR. CANNON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The  
16 other Council, the other fisheries area that I work  
17 with is the Kuskokwim and the Western and Yukon  
18 Kuskokwim-Delta councils have in the past have asked  
19 for presentations by agencies and the mining company  
20 that they are working with in the Donlan Creek area.  
21 And so your Council could take this similar action in  
22 the way of just getting a briefing by either the  
23 agencies that are permitting the operation or from the  
24 company themselves, to inform you about their  
25 operations and whatever precautions that they're taking  
26 to mitigate or to deal with some of the concerns you  
27 have.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Okay, thank you.  
30 Perhaps I could work with Barb sometime next week, get  
31 a hold of her and see how we could.

32  
33                   MR. GRAY: Yeah, and I think that's a  
34 good idea Cliff, if we you know, I don't -- I don't and  
35 I don't think any of us know enough about this  
36 process.....

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Yeah, see that's  
39 the problem.

40  
41                   MR. GRAY: .....to write letters or be  
42 whatever or whatever. The concern that I have though  
43 is mining is -- whether they have cyanide out there or  
44 not, or whether they have -- or whatever it may be  
45 mining is going to impact our industry in one way or  
46 the other. Our subsistence users, maybe it could be a  
47 simple as everybody goes to work and they have money  
48 and they don't have to go subsistence hunting anymore,  
49 mining is going to affect our people up here. I don't  
50 want to see another Red Dog Mine up here. If there's

1 going to be mineral destroying watersheds and  
2 waterways, gosh that pretty disastrous. So if we could  
3 get whoever's handling these permits and whoever's  
4 applying for them, if we could get some light on this  
5 situation then we could make a comment one way or the  
6 other I think.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Well, we could  
9 probably just keep on top of it and go from there.  
10 Yeah, you have a comment.

11

12 MR. DENTON: Yeah, Jeff Denton with the  
13 BLM. I know this situation, it's not nearly as big but  
14 the Pebble Mine project also in Bristol Bay is very  
15 similar and there's been several years of effort both  
16 by the mining companies, the subsistence Councils down  
17 there, as well as all the village corporations and  
18 regional corporations. Everybody is extremely well  
19 informed down there, it sounds like to me the company,  
20 you know there needs to be some outreach from both ends  
21 of things here, so people can get up to speed on this.

22

23 You know I deal with Donlan Creek and I  
24 deal with the Pebble Mine and, you know, to some degree  
25 these are all on State lands or somebody else's lands  
26 but there's infrastructure roads access that cross  
27 Federal lands that also are parts of those whole  
28 activity planing things.

29

30 So I advise you to get very well  
31 informed and actually get a working relationship with  
32 those folks that are going to be doing these potential  
33 developments, to, you know, get right on top of it.

34

35 Thanks.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Yeah, I would  
38 just instruct the, or Staff that the AFN resolution --  
39 at the AFN meeting if there is a resolution against  
40 Pebble Mine and if there's a mention about this one  
41 that we do get a copy that resolution. I'm sure  
42 somebody's going to throw it out on the floor, from the  
43 floor when AFN have their convention, as a resolution.  
44 It would be very good for us to get a copy of it so  
45 that in case they do we can support that resolution and  
46 then try to stay our butt clean out of a lawsuit in the  
47 future.

48

49 That's what I'm getting at. Okay.

50

1                                   Okay, I have a -- it's not really on  
2 the agenda, but I want to read you guys something here.

3  
4                                   United States the Department of the  
5 Interior and the name is here. I would just like to  
6 read it.

7  
8                                   We would like to thank you for  
9 you help support and  
10 participation in voicing your  
11 concerns of your constituents,  
12 the people of the Seward  
13 Peninsula while serving as a  
14 member on the Seward Peninsula  
15 Regional Advisory Council.

16  
17                                   As you leave we want to  
18 compliment you on your  
19 commitment and contribution as  
20 a regional Council member.

21  
22                                   You have served the members of  
23 your community and the region  
24 with distinction and insure  
25 your needs were well  
26 acknowledged in the  
27 implementation of Title VIII of  
28 ANILCA. The 10 regional  
29 Councils are all an intricate  
30 part of the process to conserve  
31 healthy populations of fish and  
32 wildlife and to provide for  
33 subsistence use on Federal  
34 Public lands.

35  
36                                   The principle success of the  
37 Federal Subsistence Program has  
38 been a strength of the regional  
39 Council system and an  
40 interaction between the  
41 Councils and the Federal  
42 Subsistence Board on important  
43 matters related to the  
44 subsistence practice and  
45 resources with in each of the  
46 10 subsistence resource  
47 regions.

48  
49                                   Please accept this small token  
50 of appreciation for your

1 outstanding service and a job  
2 well done with my signature as  
3 Cliff Weyiouanna and Peter  
4 Probasco, I think.

5  
6 And I'd like to present this to  
7 Charles Saccheus Sr.

8  
9 Here you go, you know accept this, it's  
10 a certificate of appreciation for you and we thank you  
11 for your services.

12  
13 (Applause)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: And we thank you  
16 and we congratulate you for your services there.

17  
18 Just a reminder Kotzebue, KOTZ, the  
19 Alaska State Troopers and other agencies are really  
20 announcing that all boats must be registered in 2007  
21 otherwise Alaska State Troopers are going start fining  
22 and giving out certificates in 2007. So for the  
23 subsistence boat owners when we get back, let's tell  
24 them, let's have them find registration forms, I've see  
25 some down at the DMV when I got my license, they have  
26 those applications and the Troopers are warning people  
27 now but they say in 2007 both in the Nome region and  
28 Kotzebue region if a boat is not registered and they  
29 will have to option of imposing a fine for the boat  
30 owner. I just want to tell everybody that, when you do  
31 go back you tell them subsistence users, boaters that  
32 it might be cheaper to try to get a registration for  
33 our boats, before 2007 otherwise we'll be in serious  
34 problem.

35  
36 Okay. Confirm meeting -- confirm  
37 February 20, 21, winter meeting in Nome. Does somebody  
38 got a calendar or is there a calendar in our packet.

39  
40 MR. GRAY: I saw a calendar in the back  
41 of this thing.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: I have a problem  
44 with having a meeting on a Friday. I'd like to if it's  
45 okay with the Council that we travel on like a Monday  
46 and the meeting on Tuesday or Wednesday or have a  
47 meeting on Wednesday and Thursday and travel on Friday  
48 for the purpose of if our other halves are working  
49 sometimes they like to travel on weekends, wintertime  
50 and summertime for subsistence purposes or fall time.

1 So what is the date, or what days are those, February,  
2 20, and 21, anybody got a problem with that, Tuesday  
3 and Wednesday of 2007, hopefully we'll be alive, in  
4 2007, only a few more months, all right. Is that okay  
5 with the Council.

6

7 I do usually have muskox guiding  
8 sometimes but I'll just find my assistant to take my  
9 days for it.

10

11 MR. QUINN: I got a question on that  
12 one Clifford.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Yeah.

15

16 MR. QUINN: It says here the day before  
17 that is President's Day, and Michelle is that a day  
18 that all Federal Employees have as a holiday.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: What's that?

21

22 MR. QUINN: And you guys probably don't  
23 want to travel on that day, so that means you won't be  
24 here bright and early Tuesday morning for our meeting.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Oh, yeah.

27

28 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: President's Day,  
31 what is that a Federal holiday?

32

33 MS. CHIVERS: It is a Federal holiday,  
34 but it's at the wish of the Council, if the Council  
35 wants to have a meeting the day after a holiday that's  
36 totally fine.

37

38 MR. QUINN: But all you guys got to be  
39 here Monday night, right.

40

41 MS. CHIVERS: That's true, but it's at  
42 the wish of the Council.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Well, I know for  
45 those Federal workers can we move that to 21 and 22 and  
46 travel on Tuesday. Oh yeah, I think that would be  
47 better in case we have girlfriends, wives or boyfriends  
48 that work for the Federal Government and we would  
49 interfere with their Federal work. And that would work  
50 with you Federal people wouldn't it, I mean I wouldn't

1 have you travel on your day off, oh I feel sorry for  
2 you.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: But I recognize  
7 this as a day a lot better then I do Columbus Day.

8

9 MR. GRAY: You're taking their double  
10 time away from them now.

11

12 MR. QUINN: Some of them kind of wanted  
13 travel.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Let's make  
16 tentative plans for the February 21st and 22nd and  
17 travel on Tuesday.

18

19 MR. GRAY: I move.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Okay, is there a  
22 second.

23

24 MR. QUINN: Second.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: All those in  
27 favor say aye.

28

29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Those opposed  
32 same sign.

33

34 (No opposing votes)

35

36 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Motion carries.  
37 Establish date for the fall meeting.

38

39 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: And I guess  
42 October.

43

44 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. In each of  
45 the Council members packet I did put a new calendar in  
46 there which gives a updated listing of the meetings  
47 that are already currently scheduled, which shows the  
48 new meetings that for Kodiak/Aleutians and Bristol Bay,  
49 those are new additions since the book was printed.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: What days are the  
2 2007 meeting dates, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,  
3 Friday.

4  
5 MR. GRAY: Where did you put it?

6  
7 MS. CHIVERS: It's inside your packet.

8  
9 MR. GRAY: Oh, no wonder I can't find  
10 it.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: October, BB,  
13 Dillingham is on October 1 and 2, what's that?

14  
15 MS. ARMSTRONG: Bristol Bay.

16  
17 MR. GRAY: This is a tough time, when  
18 is AFN next year does anybody know?

19  
20 MS. ARMSTRONG: It's usually somewhere  
21 after the 23rd, that's usually when it is.

22  
23 MR. GRAY: I would suggest around the  
24 16th, 17th, 18th, somewhere it there it freezes up in  
25 my country and I don't have beluga nets in the water  
26 generally, it's hard for some of us to make this  
27 meeting. So this first part of the month people are  
28 still boating and stuff and it's a tough time of year  
29 for us to come. November would be better.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: November would be  
32 better all right. No?

33  
34 (Laughter)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: And then for the  
37 Bering Straits School District we got a week off  
38 possible on the 15th a whole week off.

39  
40 MR. GRAY: People are traveling.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Yeah we call it  
43 AFN.

44  
45 MR. GRAY: It's the 23rd this time.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Yeah, but it  
48 varies, it's usually the third week in October, what is  
49 this stuff. It's almost the third week probably be the  
50 same way for the way the Bering Straits School District

1 works, take a week off, they call the AFN thingy. How  
2 about the second week.

3

4 MR. GRAY: It's better than this week,  
5 I'll tell you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Yeah. How about  
8 10 and 11. How about you Mike you're comments on next  
9 year, October 10th and 11th, that would be on a  
10 Thursday.

11

12 MR. QUINN: That's so far away it's  
13 hard for me to say anything. Would it -- just not.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: You could walk  
16 home.

17

18 MR. QUINN: I could walk home.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: 10th and 11th it  
21 is.

22

23 MR. QUINN: Yeah, 10th and 11th is.....

24

25 MR. GRAY: Or 11th and 12th.

26

27 MS. ARMSTRONG: No.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: No, 12th is on a  
30 Friday.

31

32 MR. GRAY: Oh, that's September I'm  
33 looking at.

34

35 MR. QUINN: 10th and 11th, do we want  
36 to schedule a two day or one day meeting.

37

38 MR. ARDIZZONE: I was going to say Mr.  
39 Chair, it's usually a fisheries meeting in the fall.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: As we get closer  
42 to -- after the February meeting we can do this to.....

43

44 MR. GRAY: The fish cycle proposal ends  
45 the 19th it says.

46

47 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right, what I'm saying  
48 in the fall it's this type of meeting, it's a fish  
49 cycle meeting so there's usually not a lot of  
50 proposals, it's usually a one day meeting.

50

1 MR. QUINN: It's one day meeting.  
2  
3 MR. GRAY: So we travel on.....  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Like on tuesday.  
6  
7 MR. GRAY: Tuesday, meet Wednesday and  
8 go home Thursday.  
9 MR. QUINN: Might even be able to go  
10 home Wednesday.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: There's another  
13 way we could do it, is to travel Monday morning, and  
14 start it at 1 o'clock and then finish up on Thursday  
15 [sic], and try to go home Thursday [sic] evening, that  
16 would only be one night.  
17  
18 MR. QUINN: That sounds like a pretty  
19 good idea.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Start it at 1:00  
22 o'clock and we try to travel because there's a lot of  
23 morning flights and we can come in on the morning of  
24 the 10th and start the meeting at 1:00 o'clock and try  
25 to schedule it, get going and then we should be able to  
26 finish up the morning of the 11th.....  
27  
28 MR. GRAY: I second.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: .....and go home  
31 in the evening, a one nighter.  
32  
33 MR. GRAY: You moved?  
34  
35 MR. QUINN: I move, so moved.  
36  
37 MR. GRAY: I Second.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: All those in  
40 favor, say aye.  
41  
42 IN UNISON: Aye.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Those opposed  
45 same sign.  
46  
47 (No opposing votes)  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Motion carries.  
50

1 MR. QUINN: Now Helen's going to shoot  
2 us down.  
3  
4 MS. ARMSTRONG: No, I think it's a  
5 great idea, I was going to say if you wanted to do that  
6 for your winter meeting as well if it's easier for you  
7 to start a meeting at 1:00 o'clock that's not a  
8 problem. And the winter meeting probably will be.....  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: We'll see how  
11 everything goes.  
12  
13 MS. ARMSTRONG: And the winter meeting  
14 probably will kind of like be a day and a half,  
15 probably it probably won't be a full two days.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Yeah, you know,  
18 that winter meeting I've never hardly ever been to it.  
19 But this time I got to be there I guess, but let's keep  
20 that the same for now.  
21  
22 MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Item Number 16.  
25  
26 MR. GRAY: What's that one?  
27  
28 (Laughter)  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Adjourn.  
31  
32 MR. QUINN: I move we adjourn.  
33  
34 MR. SEETOT: Second.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: All those in favor  
37 say aye.  
38  
39 IN UNISON: Aye.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Those opposed  
42 same sign.  
43  
44 (No opposing votes)  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN WEYIOUANNA: Meeting is  
47 adjourned, and thank you very much the agencies,  
48 Frederick Tocktoo for his cooking, thank you for your  
49 biscuits.  
50

1  
2  
3

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 114 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD-PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters on the 6th day of October 2006, 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 by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 16th day of October 2006.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph P. Kolasinski  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08